

Presidential Message Thomas R. Theado

Thank you for permitting me to serve as the President of our Bar Association for this coming twelve months.

I am very pleased to inform you that the Lorain County Bar Association will be in good hands this coming year - that is, the collective hands of the members of our Executive Committee, in which resides the decision-making authority on the policy and practices of the Bar Association. We have been favored with a very talented assembly of hard-working and conscientious individuals who have agreed to serve with me on our Executive Committee -

- Tim Lubbe - who is this coming year's Vice-President
- Barb Butler - this year's Treasurer
- Kurt Anderson - this year's Secretary
- Judge Joe Cirigliano
- Andrea Kryszak
- Jennifer Riedthaler-Williams
- Frank Janik
- Dan Gibbons

I very much look forward to working with these fine lawyers.

The nearly-monthly meetings of the Executive Committee are open to Bar Members. Come and see what we do, and bring your complaints and compliments whenever you wish. We are in the process of re-setting the Committee's meeting times, so please call the Bar Office to learn the place and time of the Executive Committee's next meeting whenever you intend to attend.

Our Bar Association will be undertaking some new tasks this coming year, the groundwork for which was laid this past year during the just-concluded term of our outgoing President, Sherry Glass. For example, Kurt Anderson has been honcho-ing a 'Wills for Heroes' event, a community-outreach and citizen-service project, where Bar Members will assist first-responders, such as policeman and fireman, in the preparation of wills and related instruments. You will be hearing more on this within the next few months. Judge Cirigliano has had discussions with the Lorain County Medical Society, which should lead to a joint meeting of the Medical Society and the Bar Association this Fall. But, for me, I have only two goals this coming year -

1. To provide more and better Member Benefits, and
2. To improve the Bar Association's finances.

Improving our Member Benefits will not be easy. Right now we have a very good Bar Association. And for that we have to thank dozens of past Presidents, and scores of hard-working Executive Committee Members, past and present, and a staff that's simply exceptional - Tammie Blansett, who is terrific, and our Executive Director, Jeannie Motylewski, who is absolutely extraordinary.

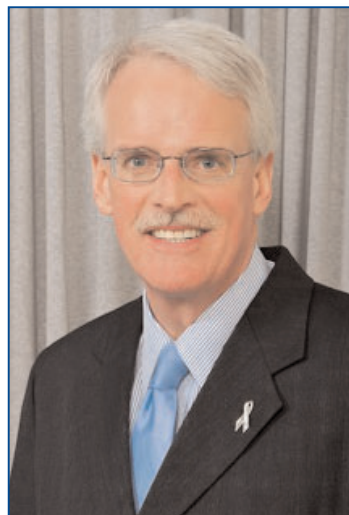
Do you know that your contact information is available to the public on our website, at www.loraincountybar.org? I would think that any lawyer would want to make it as easy as possible for future clients to find an attorney, but only a very few of our Members placed their contact information into our website's Member Roster. I am happy to report that we have placed into that Roster the contact information for all of our Members who had not done so themselves.

In the past twelve months, our Bar Association offered 18 separate CLE courses and seminars - for a total of 44.75 CLE hours - every hour of which was offered either at a discounted rate or free to Bar Members. The Bar Association's offices are in The Robinson Building at 401 Broad Street in downtown Elyria. We have a conference room that seats ten or so, which is available to Members free of charge, for depositions and meetings and such, but please call first to assure that the room is available when you want it.

Bar Membership brings with it a host of additional membership benefits, of which you may not have known many but all of which provide valuable perks to our Members. A complete listing can be found on our website, and here's only a quick run-through of some of the highlights:

- The Legal Times, our Association's newsletter which had been published quarterly but which we intend to publish every-other-month this coming year.
- Our Lawyer Referral Service, which in its first year of operation matched more than 700 potential clients with participating Bar Members.

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- Committees and Sections, allowing Bar Members to participate in a wide-ranging assortment of practice-focused groups - and, unlike many other bar groups, without having to pay any additional fees.
- Social events throughout the calendar year, ranging from black-tie-appropriate dinners to golf outings and sporting events.
- A Mentorship Program, which matches more-experienced Members with newly-admitted Members for valuable advice and guidance.
- Discounted membership in the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, with free access to Fastcase and loads of additional CMBA benefits.

In addition, membership in the Lorain County Bar Association brings with it a whole host of discounts and services provided by local commercial establishments:

- Bobel's Office Products offers our Members a variety of discounts
- David Paul Photography - 15% off on family and senior portraits, and 10% off on weddings
- Elements Salon - 15% off all services
- Super Printers - 10% discount for Bar Members
- Kathleen Hopkins Court Reporters - 5% discount on your total bill
- Mama Jo Pies - a \$20 gift card for \$15
- Massotherapy Arts Center - 10% off all services
- Miller & Proffitt Insurance - a discount on disability income insurance
- Puffer's Floral Shoppe - 10% discount on all local orders
- Ridge Cleaners - 10% off its usual rates
- Ryan-St. Marie Insurance - competitive rates on professional liability insurance packages
- Spring Valley Golf Club - 18 holes of golf plus a cart for only \$25
- Slutzker's Quick Print - 3% discount on all services
- Vandemark Jewelers - 15% off all regularly-priced items and repairs

It will be a challenge to improve on these Membership Benefits, but we have already started to try. For example, Tim Lubbe and Kurt Anderson, as the incoming Vice-President and Secretary, will start looking for those improvements with a review of our committee and section structure, in order to provide recommendations on how we can improve on that structure.

It will also be difficult to improve on the Association's current financial picture. At the present, the Association is well-positioned to face the fiscal challenges which we presently can foresee. This past year our Association adopted an austerity budget, crafted to have the Association survive should we lose our Grievance Committee in the Supreme Court's reorganization of the State's grievance procedures. I am pleased to report that our normal operating expenses through the first eleven months of the past fiscal year (the last reporting date for which data is now available) have come in under the projections of that austerity budget. But we need to improve our revenue sources. I have asked Tim Lubbe and Barb Butler, as the incoming Vice-President and Treasurer, to look at the whole of last year's budget, and to make recommendations for improvement.

Okay, so there you have it - the program for the coming twelve months - delivering more and better member benefits while making more money. Those are the goals on which I, and the rest of your Executive Committee, will be working this coming year.

The LCBA would like to offer a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the following attorneys that worked at our free legal advice clinic on July 21, 2011: Attorneys Jim Deery, Barbara Butler, Zachary Simonoff, Lisa Swenski and John Jurco. These attorneys volunteered their time to answer questions for individuals that would otherwise have no access to legal assistance. The small amount of time you spent with those people meant the world to them. Thank you very much for your dedication to your profession and to your community. Additionally, we would like Patricia Sweeney for volunteering to do in-takes at the clinic and the the Avon/Avon Lake Community Resource Services for hosting our clinic.