

The Washtenaw County Bar – It's Where You Belong

Fall is in full swing. Snippets of the *The Victors* drift from band practice at Elbel Field. The daily parade to and from the elementary school includes strollers, dads, and dogs. And downtown in the WCBA office, Kyeena Slater and Kelley Lindquist are busy answering questions, coordinating events, and making things happen. Without people who excel at making things happen, the world would move at a much less productive pace. Thanks to Kyeena, Kelley, and many other people, we had a productive summer and we have a full Fall ahead.

Late summer highlights: We finished the 2017-18 Bar year in July with 675 members, including 37 new members. Kyeena and Kelley report that most of our new members join online without any previous contact with the Bar office. This statistic suggests that the website is working well and reducing administrative time previously spent on applications. Members are also renewing online at a much greater rate than previously, another time saver. An additional tool under consideration is a voluntary automatic renewal option. I set a personal goal of 725 for this Bar year because I believe we can help that many more lawyers in our county connect and practice successfully. We are a place they can belong.

Thanks to golf chair Eddie Drukis' people skills and persistence, the annual golf scramble on July 27 set a record for attendance and for money raised. Changing the venue to Stonebridge after a few years at Lake Forest also brought in fresh foursomes. The first place team of Nicole Mackmiller, James Fraser, and Kris Mackmiller tied with one of the Conlin, McKenney & Philbrick teams at 11 under par, but won using the tiebreaking process. That Conlin, McKenney team included Andy Sugerman, Matt Rettig, Jeff Klein, and Mark Wagenshutz. Nicole Mackmiller hit the women's longest drive and Jeff Klein hit the men's. Closest to the pin awards went to dart throwers Jackie Garris and Will Wallbank. Gorgeous weather, 23 teams, 88 golfers, and \$6,900.00 raised for WCBA operations added up to a winner of a day.

New this Fall: In addition to our annual Constitution Day classroom visits, WCBA/WLAM tailgate, and Bias Awareness & Inclusion Week, our Fall events include participating in the Purple Run 5K on October 27. This 5K run on North Campus benefitting SafeHouse combines the wellness theme we started last year with a young lawyer's recent suggestion to have more non alcohol-centered social events. It also brings together a larger cross-section of the Bar. WLAM Washtenaw Region is a sponsor this year and the Prosecutor's Office is a returning sponsor. As a past, sporadic at best, jogger trying to lead by example, I challenge you to participate in some way. I also hope that this will be the first of a few runs (with walking options) this Bar year that culminate in some fun for the Dexter-Ann Arbor run at the end of May.

Did you hear the one about the lawyer who walked into a bar....? Well never mind that, we have a new punch line and it's a *Lawyers Out For Blood Drive* competition. Around Halloween, of course. All I can say is start eating more spinach and watch your emails for the details.

By the way, stay tuned for details on an association merchandise website where you will be able to purchase a wide variety of WCBA branded gear! You can thank Dan DuChene and Kristin Davis for making this happen in time for autumn weekends, walks, runs, and gift giving.

Cheers from the Bar,

Elizabeth