

August 8, 2013

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Colleague and Fellow Member:

Several years ago, it was a common refrain that a local Bar Association wasn't very important because it never did anything. Well, we have been doing things, doing things successfully.

Thanks to Ramona Sullivan, the Summer Picnic was a well-attended success. Over 50 people attended - from infants to octogenarians. Ramona's planning turned it into a really fun family affair. From her standpoint, it was truly family. She chained Nathaniel to the grill - he's really talented around charcoal - and her daughter Kat took my two granddaughters under her wing.

Attendance was also up for the Peoria baseball trip. Due to some last minute illnesses and Bob Auler's granddaughters arriving about two months early - obviously he wasn't on the bus - we had a few vacant seats; but, the new format worked out well and it was a great evening. Andy did a great job putting it together, truly working his butt off.

The presentation by Katie Blakeman on August 2nd regarding what's new in the Clerk's office was well attended. Katie was informative and a lot of questions were answered. While we all know a number of problems still exist and so does Katie, I would urge anyone who has any constructive criticism to share it with her. She is lawyer friendly and knows that her office must operate in an efficient manner to make the entire local Court system function as it should.

Pay attention. Our annual Softball Game and Kegger is right around the corner. The game is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 24th at Dexter Field. Dexter is located on Kenwood Drive behind Central High School. The Kegger will be at my house, 1009 Ross Drive in Champaign started at around 6:30 p.m. and lasting as long as people want it to last - neighbors excluded. Beer, brats and hot dogs will be on the Bar Association. It would be good if everyone brought a salad, side dish or dessert. For those of you who want to participate in the ball game, please call Andy Hatch at 356-2577 if you are under 45. If you admit to being over 45 and still want to play, please call me at 352-7676. Please call early so the coaches can know who will be available and possibly hold a practice or two. By the way, it's been 2 years since the old guys lost.

We will be holding a mixer on November 11th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at - in all likelihood - Jupiters at the Crossing. Other than the fact it's your dues, that means free food and drink. The annual Holiday Dinner/Dance - Christmas Party is set in stone for December 18th. By now you all know the drill. Social hour is at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by more social hour and a live band. It may be a pain; but, please put this on your calendars now and try, try, try to avoid any conflicts. If you cannot avoid the conflicts, you need to resolve them in favor of attending the party. I do not like mentioning this but, please be prepared for the sticker shock. This year it will be \$60.00 per person, something we cannot avoid because of increased costs.

You should have received Alyx Parker's email about our CLE program for August 29th at the Regency Ballroom in Savoy. Lunch is at 11:30. Program starts at noon. \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. That means get your dues in. Speakers will be Lindsay Yancos of the PD's office and Scott Bennett of the State's Attorney's office. Their topic will be "intro Criminal Law Practice in Champaign County for the non-criminal practitioner." Is there another kind? If you plan on attending, please RSVP Alyx by August 22nd.

The reports on the health of Andrea Bergstrum and her new daughter are positive. I wish the report on the health of Harvey Welch was better. Please remember Harvey in your thoughts and prayers. I will do my best to get you a more positive report on Harvey next month.

John Gadau, President