

1998 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE AND NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Cleveland Law Library Association will be held on Monday, April 20, 1998 at 11:30 a.m. in the Law Library, 404 Cuyahoga County Courthouse. Agenda items include the election of three trustees to serve three year terms from 1998 - 2000, and the Librarian's report.

SUPPORT HB 702 AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS

Help us hold the line on dues increases by urging your state legislators to pass HB 702.

Introduced by State Representative Ann Womer Benjamin and now before the Ohio House Committee on Local Government and Townships, the bill would amend the existing statutes providing funding support for county law libraries, some of which carry monetary caps last amended in 1939 and 1959. The bill proposes to bring those caps to present day value and specifies a method for adjusting them annually by changes in the consumer price index. Also, the bill requires that municipal traffic fines be included in the distribution scheme, and imposes a monetary cap on the total state and municipal traffic fines payable to the county law library.

Most of our members are probably not aware that Cuyahoga County's law library is the only one in the state dependent on dues income for a substantial amount of its operating funds. This is because the statutory funding scheme, relying primarily on state traffic fine revenue, operates to our disadvantage in a county where most traffic citations are under municipal codes. With the largest attorney population in the state and the largest court system, Cuyahoga County's statutory law library revenue falls behind that of Franklin, Hamilton, and Stark counties. HB 702 will capture some of that lost municipal fine revenue, and provide a more realistic level of funding for our law library.

Would passage of HB 702 mean we would no longer charge dues for membership to the Cleveland Law library? Probably not. Those of us involved in drafting the proposal were careful to suggest capping state and municipal traffic fine contributions at levels close to existing successful budgets. The bill's passage would guarantee us annual statutory income at a level slightly less than last year's total income from statutory fines and penalties, membership dues, and service fees. Clearly dues and service fee income would continue to be important factors in the law library's finances, although the proportion would decrease.

The Ohio State Bar Association supports HB 702. We urge you to contact your representatives and friends in the Ohio General Assembly and ask them to pass this bill.

CLELAW.LIB.OH.US

Now that we've arrived at a point where the phrase "www....com" has achieved near universal understanding, we'd like to remind you that we do business on the web, too. Bookmark our page at clelaw.lib.oh.us. We'll point you to some of the best and most reliable Internet sites that we use to answer your reference and research questions. We also post local information: court rules, judicial directories, forms and information from county and local government agencies. We post syllabi of Sixth Circuit, Ohio Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court decisions on date of issue, point you to full text of the most recent Eighth District Court of Appeals decisions, and post or point you to the latest high profile state and federal legislation.

You've probably discovered that change is the operative word of the Internet Age, and maybe you feel as though you can't always keep up with it. Count on us to maintain our web research expertise for you, and, when you have a few

moments to spare and would like to refresh your skills, we are pleased to share our knowledge with you.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Individual memberships in the Law Library Association belong only to the member in whose name the membership is purchased. They do not confer membership or service privileges to employees or associates of that member. If you want to provide the fullest library access to all the employees of your firm, please call our Business Office for a quotation for a firm subscription.

Members who have reached the age of sixty-five and who have been members for at least twenty years, are entitled, upon application, to status as Senior members and a reduced membership rate of twenty-five percent of the regular assessment. Senior members over the age of seventy with at least twenty-five years of membership do not pay an annual fee.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY OPTIONS

The Library has several different delivery options available to our members. They are:

- Same Day:** **\$4.00 - Downtown.**
 \$10.00 - Greater Cleveland.
- Overnight:** ***FedEx* charges apply.**
- U.S. Mail:** **Postage charges added to your account.**
- Fax:** **\$2.00 / document, plus \$.45 / page for documents over two pages,**
 or \$2.00 / document if source material is in electronic format.
- E-Mail:** **\$2.00 / document.**



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