

GENESEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING
JUNE 4, 1997 AT WALLI'S SUPPER CLUB

ATTENDANCE: 36

Jeff Cyphert, President, called the meeting to order at 12:40 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jennie E. Barkey, Administrator
Genesee County Friend of the Court

Ms. Barkey said the office of the Friend of the Court was established in 1919, operating with only one person to serve one judge. From that point we have grown to where we are today, handling 41,000 cases in 1996 and collecting \$72,000,000 in Genesee County. She explained that her office handles paternity cases, divorce cases, nonsupport cases, at well as many others. Friend of the Court is responsible for enforcing orders from the Judges. Genesee County has the second highest case load and the lowest number of employees.

Ms. Barkey explained there are two areas that dictate what her office must do:

1. Law - If person is two or three weeks late with payments, there is now an interest rate charged.
2. Circuit Court Judges - The Judges state what they want done in the cases they oversee.

If anyone's circumstances change, when it involves finances, it is important for them to obtain another Court Order to have the previous order changed.

The three (3) major functions of the Friend of the Court's Office are as follows:

1. Collection and Disbursements of funds for all cases.
2. Enforcement of the Orders by the Judges. Genesee County has the only Prosecutor in the State who will prosecute for those who do not pay child support. If one is found guilty for nonpayment, he/she can go to prison.
3. Enforcement of visitation works in different way. Unfortunately, we receive

many complaints that the parent did not pick up the child for their visitation. We can only enforce visitation rights if a parents tries to get the child and is denied.

We investigate the issues for the judges in domestic disputes. They tell us what they want investigated and what we give them is simply a recommendation. The judge does not rubber stamp the recommendations from the Friend of the Court. We also have staff in the Court House who are referees. The judges will send some of their cases to the referees to hear. When the referee hears the case, it is important that people go to the hearings just as if they were going before a Judge. The judges respect the referees and put a lot of weight in their recommendation.

Ms. Barkey said her staff includes an enforcement and investigative division and financial staff. The phone calls received by her office are about 1400 per day. The phone system is new, but there needs to be more bodies in the office to answer the calls. People can access account information over the phone.

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Ms. Barkey discussed the divorce situations and the way children are sometimes forgotten by their noncustodial person. She touched on legislation for Family Court.

Ms. Barkey entertained a question and answer period.

Mr. Cyphert thanked Ms. Barkey for her presentation to the members.

Announcements:

Jeff Cyphert said in Lansing, there was a discussion regarding personal property tax. More input is needed from the local Treasurers.

Ginger Spencer gave a report from the monthly Treasurer's meeting at the County.

The County will attempt to prepare for printing of the tax statements by June 20th. When your books are balanced, call Nancy at the County and let her know.

Paul McShane, County Treasurer's Office, said Mr. Kildee would like to have a Survey Review Committee and he is asking for volunteers. There needs to be a cross section of Township, Village and City representatives. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please see him after the meeting.

Jeff noted that anyone who needs to sign the 911 Communication Agreement, please see him after the meeting.

Nomination of Officers:

Cheryl Azelton said the Nominating Committee has a slate to present to the membership.

President - Jeff Cyphert
Vice-President - Janet Johnston
Secretary - Cheryl Ladd
Treasurer - Sandy Wright
Program Committee - Diane Fortune, Cheryl Azelton and Jerry Stadler.

No further nominations were offered.

Moved by Bill Walworth, seconded by Sarah Bachmann to accept the nominations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff stated there would be no July or August. He asked everyone to think about guest speakers in the upcoming months and wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Secretary

CML