Food Drive

Get ready — it’s almost time for the third annual Food From the Bar food drive and the second annual exciting hunger luncheon. Mark your calendars now for the food drive to be held May 9-20. Further information on the hunger luncheon kicking off Food From the Bar will be in your Bar Association mailings.

Last year’s food drive was extremely successful. More than 40 firms participated and 4,100 pounds of food and over $15,000 were collected for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Although the donations were considered extremely generous, because the food bank distributes over 19,000 pounds of food per day to hungry persons in our county, our donations barely fed our county’s hungry for one day. We can do even better this year if every law office in the county participates in Food From the Bar.

Start planning now. Many offices are putting together special incentives to encourage participation. A few ideas to help you on your way are:

* Send several people from your office to the hunger luncheon, then have a short meeting upon their return so they can tell others about the things they heard, learned and experienced about hunger in our county.

* Set up a contest rewarding those who donated the most food and/or money with prizes such as theater tickets, sporting event tickets, gift certificates, “donation dollars” which the person can spend on one free hour of work (to come in late, leave early or extend lunchtime).

* Have a party or a barbecue and require all guests to bring canned foods.

* Take everyone in your office on a field trip to the grocery store or Price Club to buy canned foods, then treat them to ice cream or frozen yogurt afterwards.

* Split your office or your building into teams and plan an event at the end of the drive where the team that donated the most food and money is treated to refreshments or dinner by the other team.

This year, for the first time, the Contra Costa Food Bank will deliver food barrels to the participants who are unable to pick up at the food bank. Barrels also will be placed in the Bar Association offices for those who wish to participate, but do not think they can fulfill a barrel or who do not have the office space for a barrel. So there’s no reason why you cannot participate! Start planning now and keep a lookout for sign-ups for the hunger luncheon and the food drive.

Wiley W. Manuel Award

The State Bar of California Board of Governors adopted a resolution in December 1993 urging California lawyers to provide 50 or more hours of pro bono service to low-income clients. In an effort to recognize California’s many volunteer lawyers, the State Bar of California created the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services. This award recognizes those lawyers, law students, paralegals and secretaries who have completed 50 or more hours of pro bono service on behalf of low-income clients.

For more information or to receive an application, please call the State Bar at 415-561-8200.

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the trend to sole practitioners prevails, or whether the large law firm component predominates.

Because Board Highlights will be a totally new concept, this Editor will take the first pass (actually no one else wanted to meet the deadline between our January 22, 1994 board meeting and the January 31, 1994 deadline for this March issue, so the buck stopped here). Thereafter, the task of writing will be assigned to the elected Secretary of the CCCBA. Thus, the name and content of the column may change, but the intention will remain the same — to open lines of communications between your Board and its electorate, and to encourage interaction and feedback on items that come before us. If we tried to get a consensus from members on every issue, nothing would ever get done in a timely fashion. However, we feel that you should know the types of things that come before the Board so that you will be encouraged to participate (maybe run for Board election), or send in your thoughts.

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