

Legal Advocacy Fund
Report to Board for 2015
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As of the close of the year (January to December 2014) the Poughkeepsie Branch has donated a total of \$1,074.00 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. This **includes** Rib Fest volunteers, personal donations, and the proceeds from the basket at Convention, table decoration sales, memorial donations and donations made to the Evvie Currie fund. (LAF in New York State).

Our branch was well represented at the convention. We were 6th in total NYS LAF giving and 5th in Evvie Currie Giving Circle in 2014. This year we created a "Purse" to auction off at the convention. Our designer purse donated by Maria DeWald and filled with items by Marcine Humphrey brought \$75.00 in the LAF silent auction with individual member donations brought our total donations at convention totaled \$160.00.

We continue to use the "Rib Fest" as our major LAF fundraiser and Sharon Clarke (previous LAF chair) has continued to organize this event for our branch.

- As LAF Chair I worked to coordinate my articles in the Branch with Public Policy Chair since much of the issues/work/research overlaps.
- I have handed out materials about LAF, written articles, and spoken to new members whenever possible. As a board member I attempted to attend as many programs, annual meetings and events as possible to act as an ambassador for our branch.
- I receive the LAF Express and check for updates on cases on the national website. I have also reviewed and updated the Branch Website.
- With so many members I think our contribution to LAF should be greater and suggest we consider additional ways of adding to our annual total donation.

It has been a pleasure serving. Nancy Myon, State LAF chair, is a joy to work with.

General suggestion:

I think, with so many new members stepping into leadership positions, we need to have an official board training each year to review the bylaws, working rules, and website. Also, we need to do something to make sure our members read the Newsletter!