

MRWBA Legislative Committee Report  
2010-11  
Melanie Friend, Chair

Local Legislators Address Full House at Annual Legislative Luncheon

More than 70 members and guests attended the Legislative Luncheon on April 13, 2011, at the Bull & Bear Club to hear six local legislators discuss the results of this year's session. Our panel of speakers included Senator John Watkins; Senator Henry Marsh; Delegate Jennifer McClellan; Delegate Bill Janis; Delegate Manoli Loupassi; and Delegate Betsy Carr.

This year, the General Assembly saw a total of 2,692 bills introduced. Of those, 1,599 passed both houses. As of the date of this report, the governor had approved 874 and vetoed three. The local legislators each spent a few minutes discussing bills they patroned that they believed had an especially important impact on the people of the Richmond area or on our membership in particular. The primary focus of the question-and-answer session at the conclusion of the legislators' individual presentations focused on filling of judicial vacancies and the anticipated redrawing of judicial districts.

The luncheon received approval for one CLE credit, with written materials which were compiled by the Legislative Committee in the form of a Legislative Report on bills introduced in certain areas of interest to our membership. The topics covered by the Legislative Summary Report included Courts and Attorneys; Criminal Law, Domestic Relations, Education, Healthcare and Insurance; Juvenile Justice and Minors; Labor and Employment; and Welfare. Because of the short session and the timing of this year's Legislative Luncheon, which occurred after the reconvened session of the General Assembly, we had the opportunity to include the final results of most legislation in the CLE materials.

The committee chair thanks the members of the Legislative Committee for their hard work to ensure a thorough Legislative Report and a successful luncheon. The 2010-2011 Legislative Committee included the following members: *Tessie Barnes Bacon; Adalyn Brugger; Kristin Collins; Cynthia Comer; Katherine Gray; Jessica Lambert; Christy Monolo; Katie Payne; Mary Burkey Owens; Jessica Stankus; Shannon Taylor; and Jessica Thompson*. A special thanks as well to board members who volunteered to assist on the day of the luncheon.