



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

Brought to you by the

Carolina Center for Civic Education

"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"

25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON: RESOLVE TO JOIN US AT REGIONALS!

By Phil Entzminger

CCCE Greenville Regional Coordinator



"Not life, but good life, is to be chiefly valued." -Socrates

Out With the Old.....

2016 is gone. Oh, the drama. There was the cancellation of *CSI: Cyber*, the last in the *CSI* franchise. American boxing legend Muhammad Ali died at the age of 74. John Hinckley, Jr. was released from a psychiatric hospital. Then there was the election.

2017 is now upon us, in all its glory. And with the New Year comes resolutions. Whether you want to lose some weight, stop drinking sodas, or spend less time on Netflix, society yearns to turn a better leaf with each passing year.

Let me pose some questions, and really think about this: How many of you resolved to do more community service? How many of you decided to give back to your community? Sure, it is important to keep oneself physically and mentally balanced, but what about the needs of society in terms of our leaders of tomorrow?

In With the TARDIS.....

In ancient Greece, it was generally stated that both society and state were merged into one entity – the “polis.” Under this *polis*, the Greek people supposedly had no sense of their own individuality aside from their role in the community well-being. Yet Greek history also demonstrates people with a highly-developed sense of rugged individuality as persons *distinct from* the community. Even in our modern society, individuals should take care of themselves but also remain mindful of the delicate balance of community well-being.

These days, community service is succinctly defined as the act of volunteering one’s time to help others in need. Typically, this volunteering takes place through a recognized channel, such as a nonprofit organization (Carolina Center for Civic Education, for example). Community service is an act of giving back to your community as a whole, volunteering your time to help the modern-day *polis*. And the act of giving up your time for the benefit of others has ripple effects throughout the entire city-state.



Moreover, in *Where’s the Learning in Service Learning?* Janet Eyler and Dwight E. Giles declare “immersing oneself into service learning and serving others has many positive effects, both academic and personal.” Not only does surrounding yourself with people and learning how to work together as a group help you improve relational skills, but also volunteering reduces stress, increases appreciation of other demographics, and allows young people to find others and interests to which they can relate.

Here’s the Pitch.....

Lawyers are notorious for many things, some good and some bad. Fortunately, most of the lawyers I have worked with over the years are known for their willingness to give back to the community. Initially I thought, “Maybe it’s something here in the water of Pitt County.” However, as I have volunteered with mock trial events throughout North Carolina and beyond, I am faced with the same service-above-self attitude. Most lawyers have a fierce propensity for wanting to help out their local communities.



I have been involved with Mock Trials since 2006, having volunteered in a number of roles, including judge, juror, regional coordinator, attorney advisor, and camp instructor. I thoroughly enjoy participating because it is my job as an attorney to give back to the community and help the budding litigators of tomorrow. As an Assistant District Attorney who primarily handles juvenile delinquency matters, I can attest how refreshing it is to see young people involved in our court system in a positive way.

For 25 years, the North Carolina Advocates for Justice has sponsored the *only* statewide high-school mock trial

competition in North Carolina. Through this program, countless students have learned to speak with confidence, work as a team, and develop life-long leadership skills. This year, regional competitions will be held in cities across North Carolina. That's right, coming to a city near you is an opportunity to scratch one more of those resolutions off the list. One more opportunity to commit yourself to the ideals of the community. On **February 4, 2017**, you have the opportunity to spend a few hours giving back to your community. Lawyers and non-lawyers, there is always a place for you at the High School Mock Trial Competition.

Denouement.....

Let's review. The Greeks were all about the careful balance between self and community, with a slant towards the good of society. Volunteering is an excellent way to substantially help yourself and others. And, a great way to volunteer for the betterment of your society is coming up on February 4, 2017. If you are already signed up to help, please tell your colleagues and keep the ripple effect going.

Good luck to all of the high school teams who have devoted their time and energy toward this day. Your hard work will pay off; your parents, guardians, coaches, and attorney volunteers are all rooting for you.

Happy 2017.



Editor's note: Want more information on volunteering at Regionals? Visit our website at <http://www.ncmocktrial.org/competitions/regionals> or contact CCCE State Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com. You'll be glad you did!

CALENDAR 2016 – 2017 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Regional Competition
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due
State Finals Competition
National Championship, Hartford, CT

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017
Weds., Feb. 22, 2017
Fri. – Sat., March 10-11, 2017
May 11-13, 2017

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 – 2017 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!

| | |
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| State Finals: | Rudolf Widenhouse |
| Asheville: | Melrose Law, PLLC |
| <i>Supporter:</i> | 28 th Judicial District Bar Association |
| Fayetteville: | Britton Law, P.A. |
| <i>Supporter:</i> | Cumberland County Bar Association |
| Gastonia: | The Sumwalt Law Firm |
| Greenville: | Hardee & Hardee, LLP |
| High Point: | Manger Law Firm |
| Pittsboro: | Glenn Mills Fisher & Mahoney, P.A. |
| <i>Supporter:</i> | Durham County Bar Association |
| Raleigh: | Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, and Maurer Law, Co-Sponsors |
| Salisbury: | Rowan County Bar Association |
| Wilmington: | Shipman & Wright |

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - partnering with CCCE to host our State Finals!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 – 2017 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSOR!

Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina

IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Special thanks to our 2016-17 Regional Coordinators and CCCE Board Members: Asheville Regional Coordinators Mark Melrose and Marion Parsons-Groat, Fayetteville Regional Coordinator Rebecca Britton, Gastonia Regional Coordinators Holden Clark and Daniel O'Shea, Greenville Regional Coordinators Jeffrey Cannon and Phil Entzminger, High Point Regional Coordinator Rich Manger, Pittsboro Regional Coordinators Liz Barber and Robert Jessup, Raleigh Regional Coordinators Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados, Salisbury Regional Coordinator Darrin Jordan, Wilmington Regional Coordinator John H. Anderson, Jr.; and CCCE Board Members Gordon Widenhouse, Rebecca Britton, Rich Manger, Bradley Bannon, Adrienne Blocker, Christine Scheef, Brooke Schmidly, Mark Sumwalt; Bill Powers (*ex officio*) and David Henson (*ex officio*).

Special thanks also to our 2016-17 Site Coordinators:

Asheville: Brett Pinkston, ***Charlotte area:*** Beverly K. Moore, ***Fayetteville:*** Tanja Shurling and Karen Kueny, ***Greenville:*** Jessi Cannon, ***High Point:*** Rose Pratt and Jane Goeke, ***Pittsboro:*** Patti Clapper and Lakisha Chichester, ***Raleigh:*** Michelle Keely and Sandra Strickland, ***Salisbury:*** Emily Applewhite, and ***Wilmington:*** Brandy Jo Lea and Christi Wert.

*****If you are interested in supporting or learning more about the NCAJ High School Mock Trial program, please contact Sue Johnson, State Coordinator, at sueheathjohnson@gmail.com, or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Mock Trial Committee Co-Chairs, at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com or mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com.***