As you read this I will have completed nearly half of my year as your president. It is hard to believe that so much time has passed since I took office in May at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh. So now you may ask, "What have you done so far for the PBA?"

Well, to answer the question, following the annual meeting, the PBA Board of Governors met in a retreat to discuss my plans and my expectations of your PBA zone governors. We spent hours in fruitful discussion of what I expected regarding my plan to start an “epidemic” of membership in the PBA. Each zone governor was provided a copy of Malcolm Gladwell’s book *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. (And if you haven’t read it, you should.) Gladwell outlined how small things — removing graffiti from New York subway cars, replacing broken windows, etc. — could create the framework for exponential changes in society. My message was that small things can make a difference. Your reaching out to friends and colleagues who are not PBA members and soliciting them to join what I feel is the best bar association, with the most benefits, is a small thing that can pay off in a big way for your association.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday. Let’s all reflect on the meaning of the season, including the camaraderie we share in this great profession and in our valued association.

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though I do not practice family law, I met many lawyers I know I can call on should a client need assistance in this area.

Later in the summer I attended the Solo and Small Firm Conference and the Young Lawyers Division Summer Meeting/New Admittee Conference. I was in awe of the programming. At the solo conference I renewed bonds with friends and established new ones. And, again, the CLE was incredible. For anyone who isn’t currently using InCite, the PBA’s free legal research program, the presentation on it by Jim Wells and Brett Woodburn made it clear why this benefit continues to receive rave reviews and represents the true value of membership. Where can you get, as just one of many member benefits, a tool providing access to virtually all the research resources needed in your practice?

At the YLD conference I attended the first meeting of the 2013-14 Bar Leadership Institute. Chaired by Kathy Manderino and Chuck Eppolito, the institute brings together 11 young lawyers for instruction in how the PBA operates and the paths to leadership in our association. The excitement shown throughout the weekend was amazing, and the diversity of the group was wonderful. Especially rewarding for me to see were those who have chosen my practice area, solo. Deciding to practice as a solo in today’s economy is brave. I commend these folks and the many other young lawyers who have elected this practice area. I also want to remind everyone who has made this decision that your membership in the PBA provides many ways to solicit help, especially through the Solo and Small Firm Practice Section listserv. Whatever your area of practice, make sure you are signed up for your committee or section listserv.

As you are reading this I will have attended several bench-bar programs with local county bar associations. The oppor-
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opportunities presented by these events are priceless. Imagine being able to spend a day with members of your bench and to interact informally with them. My own county held its biennial bench-bar on Oct. 11, bringing together two-thirds of the members of the Franklin County Bar Association for a full day of CLE and some socializing. To me the event epitomizes what our local bar associations provide to their members. The local bars, in partnership with the PBA, provide everything lawyers in Pennsylvania need to practice successfully.

In September PBA President-elect Frank O’Connor, PBA staff and I met with the leaders of the Pennsylvania Conference of Trial Judges, helping your leadership and staff renew ties with this organization representing all trial judges across the commonwealth. We discussed ways our organizations can work together to promote justice and how the PBA can help the judiciary, which cannot speak out on many issues in which it has an interest.

We have just held the first of several membership recruitment meetings designed to reach out to those lawyers who, for whatever reason, are not PBA members. The response to our first event was impressive, and attendance was so large that we had to move the event to a bigger venue. Attendees received 1.5 CLE credits and were able to meet many members of the PBA, our staff and leadership, and judges and to get a real understanding of what we are all about. I believe the “epidemic” has started.

The staff is now finalizing plans for the PBA Midyear Meeting at Frenchman’s Reef & Morningstar Marriott Beach Resort in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. If you have never attended a midyear meeting, I invite and encourage you to take a close look at the meeting brochure. This meeting is a real opportunity to take several days to “get away from it all,” relax, participate in CLE and make new friends. The resort is fantastic, and the PBA’s conference package includes hotel accommodations, meeting registration and an inclusive meal and beverage plan.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday. Let’s all reflect on the meaning of the season, including the camaraderie we share in this great profession and in our valued association.

Forest N. Myers
PBA President

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