

2010 Legal Aid Golf Classic

On June 11, 2010, The Legal Aid Golf Classic was hosted by the Montgomery County Bar Association at Bellewood Golf Club in North Coventry Township, Chester County, near Pottstown.

On a beautiful mostly-sunny morning, ninety-three (93) golfers arrived for a continental breakfast on the porch of the clubhouse. The rear of the red-brick Georgian-style mansion with whitewashed columns was the perfect setting for coffee, danish and meeting up with one's playing partners. The Bellewood clubhouse was built in 1964 and features a two-story entrance hall with free standing spiral staircase and elegant woodwork and furnishings. The 171 acre property was once the estate of Mr. Edward Gruber, a local businessman and entrepreneur. The property was later purchased by two other local businessmen (Vince Piazza and Charles Tornetta) in 1998 with the intention of creating the world-class golf facility that it has become.

A better day could not have been selected for the event. The temperature was perfect. The sun was not overpowering and the slight breeze made the day away from the office most enjoyable. The Bar Association staff must have an "in" with Mother Nature.

The golfers took to the course after the ceremonial blowing of an air horn (the shotgun must have been out-of-service). Bellewood Country Club plays anywhere from 5,357 yards from the Gray tees to a challenging 6,825 from the championship Black tees. Thankfully, the golfers supporting Legal Aid played a scramble format from a more manageable distance of 6,400 yards. The front nine has a links feel to it. The rolling layout is picturesque. The back nine is more wooded and tree-lined, and presented more hazards to those who like to spray their tee-shots.

There were a number of contest holes as part of the outing. The following golfers won individual awards:

Hole #3 Straightest Drive: Charles Mandraccia Hole #6 Closest to the Pin (Male): David Ladov Closest to the Pine (Female): Julie VanDuyne Hole #9 Longest Drive (Male): Bob Harrington Longest Drive (Female): Julie VanDuyne The team championship went to the foursome of C. Kellerman, D. Harrington, B. Harrington, and D. Keightly with a round of 60, finishing 11 strokes under par. Congratulations!

Every tee box reflected a sponsorship, whether it be local law firm, individual attorney, or a company that provides service to our legal industry. Those that could not play were still able to provide most needed financial support. A few members of the bench were spotted on the course as well.

Afterwards, all were invited back to the clubhouse dining room for a luncheon featuring all of the backyard favorites, burgers, dogs, chicken, beans, salads and refreshing drinks. Raffle ticket prizes in the form of gift cards and restaurant certificates were also presented during the luncheon. Many local businesses supported Legal Aid by providing those prizes.

For those members of the bar that enjoy playing golf, this is an event that should not be missed. For those who were not able to play this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next year's event and be sure to make time to get out and play for a good cause!

The Montgomery Bar Association would like to thank all of its members and the 40 plus sponsors who helped support this year's 2010 Legal Aid Golf Classic