

# direction

A quarterly publication of Loyal Christian Benefit Association

Spring 2015

Spring 2015 Vol. 15 Issue 1

Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come. - Robert H. Schuller

## In this Issue:

125th Anniversary History

Beneficiary Information

Scholarship Deadlines!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year marks LCBA's 125th anniversary! To commemorate this anniversary, I thought I would give a little background and history of what LCBA is (a fraternal benefit society) and how it came to be. Look for more in the next few issues of *Direction*.

A fraternal benefit society is now incorporated under section 501(c)8 of the IRS Code. I say now, because LCBA and many other societies pre-date the IRS! To qualify as a society under the code:

- It must have a fraternal purpose
- It must operate under the lodge system; and
- It must provide for the payment of life, sick, accident, or other benefits.

Fraternal societies, like the Freemasons, Elks, Eagles, etc. have been around for centuries, but John Jordan Upchurch is credited with developing the first modern insurance fraternal in 1869, in Meadville, PA.

Mr. Upchurch was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and promoted a change that would create insurance benefits to members of the order. Each member had to pay \$1 upon joining. That fee would create a fund that would then provide each member with a \$2,000 death benefit. Once the fund was depleted, each member would be assessed another \$1.

LCBA was founded on a similar principle, each member would pay dues and be entitled to a death benefit. As time progressed people's needs changed and some people wanted/needed more death benefit. Eventually the assessment method was retired and members were allowed to pay dues in relation to the amount of death benefit they wanted and according to their age – the start of the legal reserve system that all insurance companies and 501(c)(8) organizations use today.

Today, women are insured as easily as men, perhaps more so given their longer life expectancies. Studies have been conducted placing a dollar value on even stay at home parents and that value is, not surprisingly, impressive. When you combine the stay-at-home value with the normal women-earned

income, it is easy to understand why families need insurance on the female member AND why insurance companies are fighting for their business.

In 1890, women could not vote and, after marriage, most women did not work outside the home. There were no insurance companies willing to underwrite and insure women so creating their own association was about the only way to provide protection for families that understood the hardship that stems from the loss of a mother. Not only the financial strain but also the emotional and physical strain associated with keeping a family together when one parent is lost.

125 years ago, in the small town of Titusville, PA, a small group of women came together to formally incorporate an idea, a growing movement, that would help change America. They incorporated the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association, which is thought to be the first insurance society (and the 2nd formally incorporated) owned and operated by women and solely for the benefit of women, and in the case of the LCBA, specifically for Practical Roman Catholic women.

Incorporation allowed them to build a better framework, a set of bylaws, whereby the members would understand their rights and responsibilities of membership. We still operate under a set of bylaws today. Each member has certain rights and responsibilities to make sure that they and all members receive the benefits they deserve.

Once incorporated, the women of LCBA took to churches throughout the land proclaiming the benefits of LCBA. LCBA was one of the initial women's rights movements. LCBA women were speaking about LCBA from Roman Catholic pulpits in the late 1800's. If you know Church history, that alone was amazing. By 1910, just 20 years later, without the internet or even telephone in many areas, the membership had grown to over 117,000!

More to come in the next issue,

**Douglas Tuttle, President & CEO**

### **Direction**

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Attn: Michael Mursch  
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Communications for publication will not be admissible unless accompanied by the name and address of the writer. Contact us at the above address or at:

814-453-4331 –or– 800-234-LCBA (5222)  
Hearing Impaired Relay Service:  
Dial 711  
Fax: 1-888-316-0471  
<http://www.lcbalife.org>  
email: [info@lcbalife.org](mailto:info@lcbalife.org)

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**LCBA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>!**

Have a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild? Are they going to camp this summer? Are they attending a Christian school next year? Are they working on their college degree? As a member of LCBA you are offered many scholarship options!

**holiday closings:**

**Good Friday:**

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Day After Easter:**

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day:**

Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

**business hours:**

Monday - Friday:

8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

**check us out on:**



**Facebook**

[facebook.com/lcbalife](https://facebook.com/lcbalife)



**LinkedIn**

[linkedin.com/company/lcbalife](https://linkedin.com/company/lcbalife)



**8 THE WHY & HOW OF NAMING BENEFICIARIES**

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**125TH ANNIVERSARY OUTDOOR TRIP**

Join LCBA on an 8 day hike along the Appalachian Scenic Trail.

**9**

### To Read Online or Not to Read Online?

More and more people are reading their newspapers and magazines online, which is good news for trees, but what does that mean to you? Here at LCBA we are always looking for ways to keep our members informed, save money and help the environment. One of the ways we can do this is by offering our members the opportunity to read *Direction* magazine online. If you would like to sign up please email Michele King at [kingm@lcbalife.org](mailto:kingm@lcbalife.org).



### Where do you belong?

Interested in becoming more active in your member Branch but aren't sure which one you belong to? Or maybe you have a group of active volunteers and want to start your own Branch to help raise funds to support your community? If you answered YES to either of these questions please contact Michele King at [kingm@lcbalife.org](mailto:kingm@lcbalife.org) or 800-234-5222 ext. 226 for help!

### Road Scholar Winner



LCBA President & CEO Doug Tuttle with Road Scholar Winner Eileen Jefferys.

### Upcoming Branch Events and Meetings

#### APRIL 2, 2015

Branch 654 (Salem, OH) - Monthly Meeting  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

St. Paul's School Gym | East State Street, Salem OH

#### APRIL 11, 2015

Branch 49 (Erie, PA) - Indoor Yard Sale  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Bethany Outreach | 254 East Tenth Street, Erie PA

The sale will benefit The PA Wounded Warriors Project. Please drop off clothing and small household items to the Bethany Outreach Center Monday, April 6th through Friday, April 10th from 8:00 AM - Noon.

#### APRIL 19, 2015

Branch 1155 (Findlay, OH) - Dishcloth and Bake Sale/Meeting  
9:30 AM

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 750 Bright Rd., Findlay, OH

#### APRIL 21, 2015

Branch 1557 (Ephrata, PA) - Monthly Meeting  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Udder Choice Restaurant | 1812 W. Main St, Ephrata, PA

#### APRIL 25, 2015

Branch 654 (Salem, OH) - Annual Spring Card Party  
7:00 PM

St. Paul's School Gym | East State Street, Salem OH

Cards (or bring your own board game), Prizes, Refreshments. Tickets are available at the door.

#### MAY 1, 2015

LCBA Scholarship Applications are DUE!!

#### MAY 19, 2015

Branch 1155 Meeting  
7:00 pm

Hostess: Anne Sweigart

#### JUNE 16, 2015

Branch 1557 (Ephrata, PA) - Monthly Meeting  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Udder Choice Restaurant | 1812 W. Main St, Ephrata, PA



## Oh the Places You've Gone!

Branch 1155 President Ruth Bihn on Showboat Branson Belle, 11-6-2014.

Snap your picture with a copy of *Direction* while on your travels and email us where the picture was taken and who is in the picture to [direction@lcbalife.org](mailto:direction@lcbalife.org) for a chance to win a \$25 Visa gift card! Sorry, only e-mailed entries will be accepted. We will have a new drawing every quarter so keep sending those photos in!



## Fraternalist of the Year Award applications are due by April 10, 2015!



### BROOM Award

First let me start by saying THANK YOU to all of our active Branches that embraced, begrudgingly at first, the new BROOM Award point system. Many of our branch leaders had never really used email and were intimidated with sending everything via email (calendars, meeting minutes, photos). As the year progressed, however, they found it to be an easier, more efficient way to communicate with the Home Office. Sure, we had a couple of tense “why isn’t this working for me, the file won’t attach or I can’t even find my email” calls, but we got through it and I think many of our branch leaders are using their email a lot more to communicate with everyone!

Please remember you can still earn points for 2014 with your FOY nominations. After we receive all of the FOY nominations we will tally up all of the points accumulated throughout 2014 and will be announcing the 2014 BROOM Award winners. Don’t forget that instead of the top prize being \$500 with the new point system you have a chance of earning \$2,500 for your Branch!

Look for your 2015 BROOM Award packets! All active Branches please submit a list of your meetings for the year and any events you have scheduled so that you can earn as many points as possible for 2015. If you have questions or need more information please contact Michele King at [kingm@lcbalife.org](mailto:kingm@lcbalife.org) or call 800-234-5222 ext. 226.



branch  
49  
(Erie, PA)

Putting together 120 valentine gifts for the Community Corrections Center.



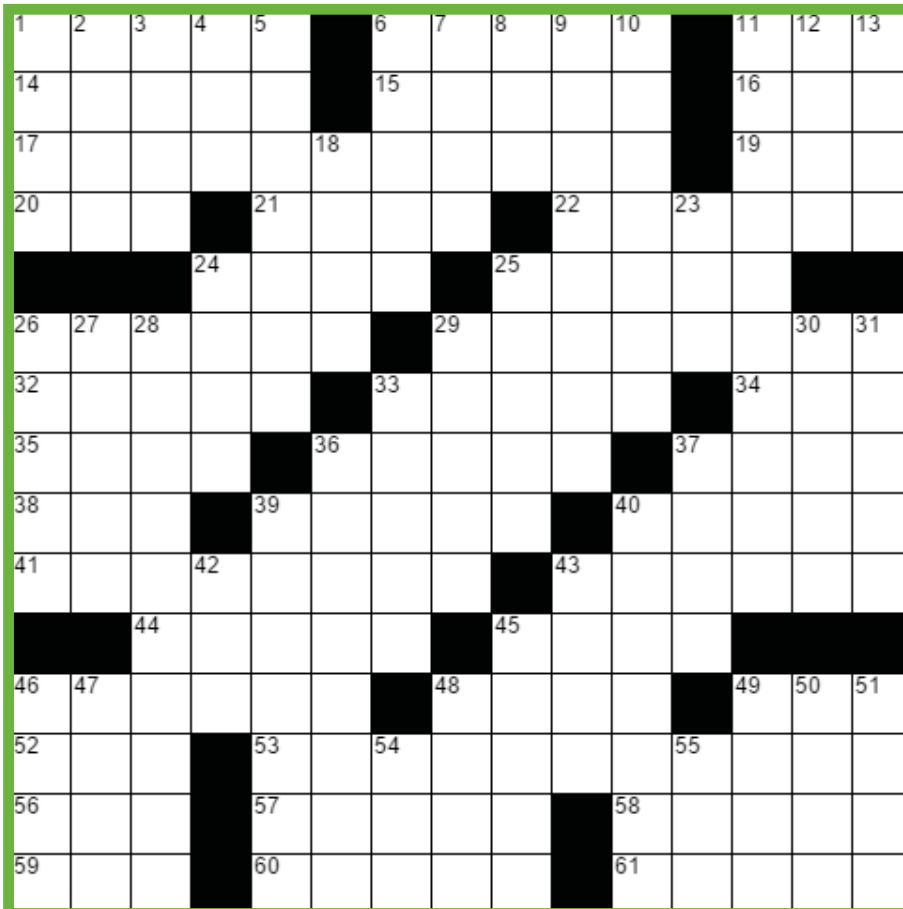
branch  
1155  
(Findlay, OH)

Ruth Gulliford giving Monsignor Mike Hohenbrink a \$1000 check, profit from dishcloth & bakesales.

### 8 Reasons to Give Us Your Email Address:

1. We can use it to thank you!
2. Stay updated with the latest news.
3. We don't believe in spam.
4. Less postage, less paper.
5. You can easily forward along any news you get.
6. You can always unsubscribe.
7. We will never sell your email address.
8. You can find out about scholarships for you, your children, grandchildren and even your great-grandchildren!

# CROSSWORD



## DOWN

1. Malay dagger with a wavy blade
2. First-class
3. Golf stroke
4. Exploit
5. Worldly
6. Employees
7. One of two equal parts
8. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
9. Literate
10. Liberty
11. Process of maturing
12. Spoken
13. Second letter of the Greek alphabet
18. Brief
23. Needlefish
24. Retained
25. Goddess of tillage
26. Pardon
27. Best of a group
28. Harmony of sounds
29. Verily
30. Silk fabric
31. Excrete
33. Assembly rooms
36. Doleful
37. Part of skeleton
39. Malevolent
40. Related by birth
42. Portable bed
43. Set of clothing
45. Brawny
46. Church recess
47. Alcoholic beverage
48. Harvest
49. River sediment
50. Having no money
51. Old Indian coin
54. Tear
55. Burdensome charge

## ACROSS

1. Ruined
6. Ledge
11. Crowd
14. Awake
15. Potato
16. Part of verb to be
17. Interpose
19. Make lace
20. Become firm
21. Lace collar
22. Flat roofing tile
24. Cut made by a saw
25. Tree
26. Of late occurrence
29. Speak at length
32. Run away with a lover
33. Seraglio
34. Drag
35. Aromatic herb
36. Ventured
37. Liquid secreted by the liver
38. It is
39. Grasps
40. Loses heat
41. Aztec temple
43. Poem of 14 lines
44. Short letters
45. Enormous
46. Subsides
48. Undoing
49. Mineral spring
52. Writing instrument
53. Planting of forests
56. Not sweet
57. Eskimo boat
58. Claw
59. Before
60. Maverick
61. Beyond what is usual





APPLY ONLINE AT  
WWW.LCBALIFE.ORG

Have a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild? Are they going to camp this summer? Are they attending a Christian school next year? Are they working on their college degree?



Did you know that you can help with the cost just by being a member of LCBA? LCBA offers Scholarship Benefits to help our members and their extended families subsidize the ever growing costs of education. Every year LCBA gives away over \$20,000 through its Scholarship Programs.



### Camping Scholarship

LCBA will award ten \$200 camping scholarships each year via a lottery to children (ages 5 to 16) to attend a camp of their choice. Camps may be recreational, nature, sports or special interest oriented.



### Elementary/Secondary Scholarship

Twenty scholarships of \$200 are awarded each year via a lottery. Student applicants may attend any accredited Christian elementary or secondary school in the United States and must be entering kindergarten to 12th grade.



### Post Secondary Scholarship

This program provides for a maximum of five \$2,500 one-year scholarships for students attending or entering an accredited degree or certificate granting institution and working towards their first degree/certificate. The scholarship may be used to cover any post-secondary education expense.

Wouldn't that be a great thing as a grandparent to call your grandchild to tell them you entered them into LCBA's Scholarship contest and they won \$2,500 towards their college tuition? Or as a parent not having to worry about whether or not you can afford to send them to camp this summer?

**A full description, eligibility requirements and application forms can be found at [www.lcbalife.org/benefits](http://www.lcbalife.org/benefits). If you have any questions please contact Michele King at [kingm@lcbalife.org](mailto:kingm@lcbalife.org) or 800-234-5222 ext. 226. But hurry, applications are due to the Home Office by May 1, 2015.**

*"My husband Stanley and I have made our pre-need arrangements using LCBA along with my sister Marion who passed away last year. We have 16 grandchildren most of whom attend Christian schools. During the last several years we have entered several of them in drawings for scholarships offered by LCBA. They have received 13 scholarships totaling \$2600 over the years. This has been financially helpful to their parents. This is only one of the many benefits to membership in LCBA. I most heartily recommend enrollment in LCBA."*

**Shirley & Stanley Widomski - LCBA members since 2008**



LCBA  
 PO Box 13005 • Erie, PA 16514-1305  
 800.234.5222 • www.lcbalife.org

THIS FORM CAN ALSO BE  
 FILLED OUT ONLINE AT  
 WWW.LCBALIFE.ORG

# Scholarship Application

Mail completed application to the address above or email to outreach@lcbalife.org.

<b>SCHOLARSHIPS APPLYING FOR</b>		You may apply for multiple scholarships on one application.	
<b>CAMPING</b>	⋮	<b>ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY</b>	⋮
		<b>POST-SECONDARY</b>	

<b>APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>			
Applicant Name			
Date of Birth		LCBA Qualifying Certificate	
Insured Name <i>(if other than applicant)</i>			
Relationship of Insured to applicant			
Parent/Guardian Name <i>(if under 18)</i>		Phone	
Address			
City		State	Zip

<b>SCHOOL INFORMATION</b>		<b>FOR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP ONLY</b>	
Name of Institution			
Enrollment Date			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Phone		Tuition	
Please remember to send your photograph and a copy of your high school transcript or post secondary institution transcript if already attending <i>(if applicable)</i>			

<b>CAMP INFORMATION</b>		<b>FOR CAMPING SCHOLARSHIP ONLY</b>	
Name of Camp			
Dates Attending		Cost	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Contact Name		Phone	

<b>ESSAYS</b>	Please use the box below or attach separately.
<p><b>You must write a 50-word essay for elementary/secondary and camping scholarship:</b>  <i>"How my child would benefit from attending Christian School" or "How camp attendance will benefit my child"</i></p> <p>No essay is required for post-secondary scholarship.</p>	

If my child/grandchild is a winner, I give permission to LCBA to use his/her name and/or images to promote LCBA and its scholarship programs. *(See LCBA's privacy policy online for complete details.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



# The Why & How of Naming Beneficiaries

*Have you checked the beneficiaries of your life insurance policies recently?*

Most people know that a Life Insurance or Annuity policy allows a named beneficiary to receive the proceeds upon the passing of the insured or annuitant. However, who should be named is something that deserves some attention. What if you have the wrong beneficiary listed?

Well, the simple answer is that having the wrong beneficiary named can lead to unintended consequences. The Primary Beneficiary(ies) will receive the proceeds upon submission of the claim after the insured's death. The Contingent Beneficiary(s) will only receive the proceeds if the Primary beneficiary has died before the Insured. If you name multiple beneficiaries, you are able to select how the proceeds are distributed.

One common problem occurs when a Beneficiary dies and no Contingent Beneficiary has been named. In this situation, with a policy from a commercial insurance company, the proceeds would then go into the estate of the insured to be distributed as directed by his or her will – if he or she has one. This usually causes an increase to attorney's fees and taxes. As a Fraternal Benefit Society, LCBA has established bylaws to help avoid this. You may easily find how LCBA handles these situations in Article 6 of LCBA's Bylaws on our website: [www.lcbalife.org](http://www.lcbalife.org).

When parents purchase life insurance and choose to name their minor children as the beneficiaries, there are

potential unintended problems that can arise here as well. If a guardian has not been provided for in a will, the court will appoint one, which brings with it fees for attorneys and court costs. Beyond not having control of who will raise the children, this may also tie up the funds for a period of time and potentially create a financial hardship for the children. There are ways to avoid this, but require much more space than is available in this article.

LCBA has a large number of members that are insured/owners of policies that were purchased when they were young by their parents. Now 40+ years later their parents are still listed as beneficiaries even though they may be in a nursing home or have been deceased for years. It is a good idea to be sure you have

current beneficiary listings to help the claims process go as you intend.

It is also good to note that the beneficiaries that you have selected can be changed if you, as owner of the policy, decide that it is appropriate. Family dynamics change over time and some circumstances do warrant making a change. Marriage, divorce, and/or the death of a beneficiary are a few examples of why a beneficiary change might be necessary or desirable. Please call our LCBA Agency with any questions you may have on the subject at 800-234-5222.



**by Kirk Dietrich**  
**LCBA Agency Supervisor**



# LCBA 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Outdoor Trip:

Appalachian National Scenic Trail in PA | August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

LCBA is planning an outdoor trip along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail open to LCBA members ages 21 to 35 with space limited to 15 participants. LCBA Board member, and experienced hiker, Karen Balaban will lead a 62.5 mile hike in Pennsylvania on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) and will be joined by Anne Sweigart, Board Member and registered ER nurse. This supported hike will allow you to “slack pack” while you trek across ridges, cross the Susquehanna River, stroll through the Cumberland Valley, and hike the rolling hills of South Mountain to our final destination at the Ironmaster’s Mansion. A combination of camping and overnight lodging will be provided.

## ITINERARY

**Day 1:** PA-325 to PA-225 (9.5 miles)

**Day 2:** PA-225 to Duncannon (8.1 miles)

**Day 3:** Duncannon to Darlington Shelter (11.4 miles)

**Day 4:** Darlington Shelter to PA-74 (12.3 miles)

**Day 5:** PA-74 to PA-94 - Mt Holly Springs (10.8 miles)

**Day 6:** PA-94 to Pine Grove Furnace SP (10.4 miles)

**Day 7:** Explore Pine Grove Furnace State Park  
All participants will engage in a half-day fraternal project.

Activity Options at Pine Grove Furnace State Park:

- Hike to Camp Michaux (WWII POW camp)
- Visit the A.T. Museum
- Swim in Fuller Lake
- Hike to Pole Steeple

**Day 8:** Return Travel Day



**\$150 / person**

Price includes 4 breakfasts and 5 dinners, water, overnight lodging / camping fees, speakers and presentations.

Registration and payment must be received by June 1st. Make payable to LCBA and mail to:

LCBA  
ATTN: Michele  
PO Box 13005  
Erie, PA 16514

### Hikers will need:

- Hiking apparel
- Footwear
- Gear
- Sleeping bag
- Tent (can share)
- Snacks, lunches, 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners

Please visit [www.lcbalife.org](http://www.lcbalife.org) for full gear checklist.

For more information  
visit [www.lcbalife.org](http://www.lcbalife.org)





## Christmas Children

A BIG thank you to our employees and National Branch 1556 for their generosity in providing five Erie children with Christmas presents. There's nothing more special than spreading Christmas cheer to those in need.



## LCBA Anniversaries



## Certifications



Outreach Support Specialists Christy Hansen and Samantha Mizikowski received a *FLMA Level 1 : Insurance Fundamentals* certification.

## New Fax Numbers

Please note the changes to our fax numbers and update your records.

**Claims:** 888-230-5222

**Outreach:** 888-382-2716

**Sales/Agency:** 888-316-0418

## LCBA Christmas Party

LCBA held their annual Christmas party on December 19th.



"Our youth now loves luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, they show disrespect for elders, and they love to chatter instead of exercise.

"Children are now tyrants. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up their food, and tyrannize their teacher."

*A shocking condition!*

But relax . . . what you just read was written by Socrates in the year 400 B.C.



*Things haven't changed that much in 50 years... or 2000.*

This is an excerpt from the April 1965 edition of *Cheer*, an old local Erie business monthly publication, focusing on the habits of modern youth. Sound familiar? More familiar than you may think.

## LCBA's Funeral Pre-Arrangement Funding Plans Now Available in Florida and Kentucky!

Many of you are aware that LCBA provides products specifically designed to fund funeral pre-arrangements. Until recently we've been offering these products exclusively through a network of almost 500 Funeral Homes in Pennsylvania and Ohio. We're pleased to announce that these products are now available in Florida and Kentucky as well. If you live in Florida or Kentucky and are considering making funeral pre-arrangements in the near future, tell your funeral director that you'd like to fund your arrangements through LCBA. If they're not familiar with us, tell them to give us a call at 800-234-5222 or check us out online at [www.lcbalife.org](http://www.lcbalife.org).

If they are unwilling to cooperate and work through LCBA, you may have the option of dealing directly with us – just give us a call at 800-234-5222 and we'll be glad to work with you to complete your funeral pre-arrangement funding.



## Are you being Admitted or Observed?

As you may be aware, in order for Medicare to cover Skilled Nursing Home care and Physical Therapy or Rehabilitation Services, a person has to be admitted to a hospital for at least three full days. Recently, because of reimbursement policies instituted by Medicare and insurance companies, many hospitals have started to admit people under an "Observation" status. Basically this means that although the person is staying in the hospital, it's for observation purposes and is considered as being an OUTPATIENT for billing purposes- so they are not really admitted to the hospital! This comes into play if the person should need to be admitted to a nursing home or require physical therapy and rehabilitation services after their hospital stay.



So what can you do about this? If you or a loved one are going to be staying overnight at the hospital, ask how you (or they) are being admitted – as a true admission, or under observation status. If under Observation Status, it's your right to protest and insist that they admit you as a "regular" admission. The admitting physician may object, but if you explain why, he or she should be willing to admit you as a "regular" admission.



## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014 & 2013

Assets	2014	2013
Bonds	\$171,448,708	\$176,546,805
Common & Preferred stock	293,163	296,179
Real estate	1,725,004	1,755,656
Certificate loans	1,062,261	1,107,611
Cash & cash equivalents	672,267	199,190
Short term investments	3,655,230	1,313,342
EDP equipment	55,328	78,668
Income due & accrued	2,201,266	2,299,917
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$181,113,227</b>	<b>\$183,597,368</b>

## Liabilities & Surplus

Certificate reserves	\$164,180,167	\$166,656,061
Deposit-type contracts	7,237,190	7,329,525
Certificate claims	291,229	530,724
Provision for dividends	712,982	668,601
Advance premiums	193,103	200,539
Investment reserves	2,462,075	2,488,494
Accrued general expenses	200,184	186,993
Other liabilities	487,150	428,167
Unassigned funds	5,349,147	5,108,264
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Surplus</b>	<b>\$181,113,227</b>	<b>\$183,597,368</b>

## Summary of Operations

Years ended December 31, 2014 & 2013

Income	2014	2013
Life insurance premiums	\$6,942,645	\$7,435,967
Annuity premiums	8,645,072	9,170,864
Net investment income	8,573,256	8,709,489
Other income	379,854	46,678
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,540,827</b>	<b>\$25,362,998</b>

## Member Benefits

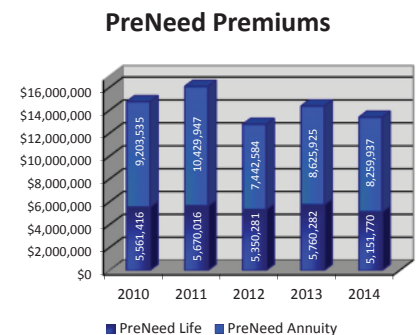
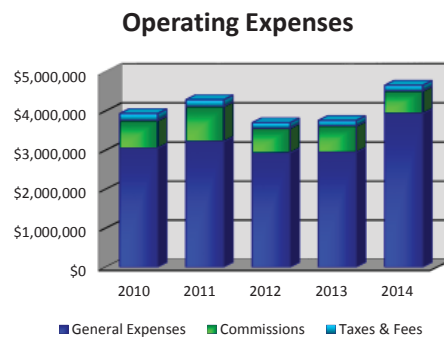
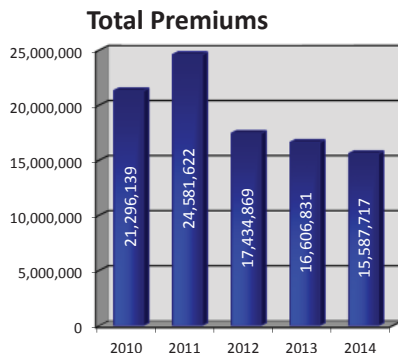
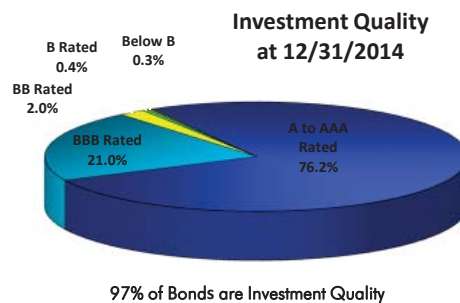
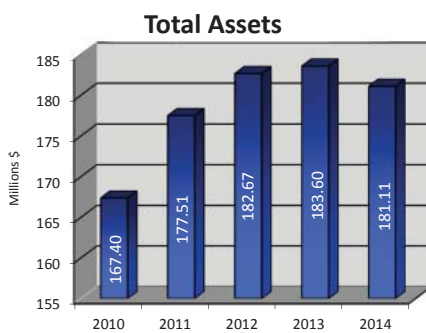
Death benefits	4,470,646	4,116,649
Life & annuity benefits	17,500,033	14,743,931
Reserve changes	(2,475,894)	1,597,184
<b>Total Member Benefits</b>	<b>\$19,494,785</b>	<b>\$20,457,764</b>

## Operating Expenses

Commissions	565,080	661,134
General expenses	3,938,946	2,952,065
Taxes	149,049	141,851
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>4,653,075</b>	<b>3,755,050</b>
<b>Total Benefits &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,147,860</b>	<b>\$24,212,814</b>

## Net Gain from Operations

Investment capital gain (loss)	(2,725)	(70,159)
Dividends incurred	(782,208)	(667,804)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$391,966)</b>	<b>\$412,221</b>



## FINANCIALS - ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - HIGHLIGHTS

By Ross W. Aresco, VP-Finance/Treasurer

- \* LCBA grew surplus by 241K in 2014 and improved its Risk-Based Capital ratio to 449% from 360% in 2013. Despite the consistent challenges from a low interest rate environment, the financial strength of the Association has continued to improve without sacrificing efficiency or service quality. In 2013 and 2014, significant investments were made in a new Medicare Supplement product line and the expansion of LCBA's territory into seven new states. We also increased branch matching funds, improved sales and marketing efforts, and began efforts to develop new product offerings.
- \* Overall portfolio investment quality is high with an average rating of "A" and 97% of bonds are investment grade. As anticipated, reinvestment rates remained low in 2014, leading to a reduction in book yield.
- \* Efforts to expand LCBA's PreNeed market remain underway and are showing promise.
- \* General expenses were budgeted to be up approximately 10% in 2014 in accordance with LCBA's growth strategy and ended up slightly under budget. Expenses appear significantly higher in 2014 due to the statutory accounting for the termination of LCBA's pension plan. This resulted in approximately \$700K of expense and a related offset to surplus, the net effect being an expense of approximately \$90K. Overall, expenses remain well-controlled as LCBA continues to grow.

# FRATERNALS GIVE BACK



# GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN

- [fraternalsGIVEback.org](http://fraternalsGIVEback.org) -

*Show your support of LCBA and the fraternal business model!*

The American Fraternal Alliance is supporting a Congressional Resolution that reaffirms the value and validity of the fraternal business model. The purpose of this initiative is to raise awareness of the many contributions Alliance member societies make to the financial well-being of their members, as well as the quality of life within the communities in which those members live and work.

House Congressional Resolution 19, introduced in February 2015, is sponsored by Rep. Paulsen (R-MN) and Rep. Kind (D-WI). Our objective is to recruit as many co-sponsors for the Resolution as possible among members of the U.S. House of Representatives in advance of any significant debate on reform of the U.S. Tax Code. It is important that the Alliance secure wide ranging support for the measure. Please contact your U.S. Representative by registering on this site and asking for their support of House Resolution 19.

**Visit [fraternalsgiveback.org](http://fraternalsgiveback.org) to send a message about the value of the fraternal business model to your U.S. Representative and Senators.**

By registering, you will also send letters to your U.S. Senators, raising awareness and helping spread the message:

***Fraternal GIVE Back!***





# Christ is Risen!

**Archpriest Michael Senyo**  
*Dean, Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral*  
Pittsburgh, PA

Contemplating this great Feast of all Feasts in our Orthodox Church, we are called to accept the challenge to live this Feast of Holy Pascha, and to keep the joy of the Resurrection with us always. Pascha is to be lived and celebrated as the heart of our Christian lives, so that we can constantly proclaim, in and through all aspects of our being: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Following His Resurrection and until His Ascension, our Savior appeared several times to His disciples. He assured them He was alive. He repeated to them that He had to return to His Father. He told them He would remain with them always by promising them the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Some had doubts about all of these things. One of them was the disciple Thomas, who had missed the initial appearance of the risen Christ to the other the disciples. He said: "Unless I place my finger in the print of the nails and his pierced side, I will not believe...." Eight days later, Jesus appeared again - seemingly especially for Thomas- who then exclaimed and confessed: "My Lord and my God!" Let us marvel at this doubt and not be critical of it. We need to remember that Thomas was a twin (his name in Greek means "twin") and he understood well that people are often mistaken for another, so his desire is to confirm for himself that it is indeed the Risen Christ. His doubt is an affirmation of the truth.

There is great difference between doubt which leads to knowledge and doubt which is skeptical. The Church teaches us that faith leads to understanding. We are called to think about our faith, especially if our desire is to grow in our faith, and life and spiritual understanding. We have to use our faith to come to a knowledge of the eternal mystery revealed in Christ.

Isn't this radically different than what is generally taught in today's world? The world says: Accept nothing until you have satisfied yourself, until it becomes acceptable on your terms, and your terms only. Equally wrong is the attitude that all one needs is an unquestioning faith, that all we need to do is believe, and all will be fine. Let us be reminded, through the deeds of Thomas, that God has given us minds and that we are to use them, in the proper manner, to grow in the faith, to grow in our understanding, and this constant desire to grow and to learn is to be

manifested in our manner of living: a growth in faith, life, and spiritual understanding.

The actions of Thomas can inspire us to grow in many ways. One example is that Thomas didn't simply want to see Jesus for himself, to give Him a hug and be satisfied with that. No, Thomas specifically asks to see the signs of his death- the nail marks, the wounds in the side. Thomas firmly establishes that Jesus is the Risen One is also the Crucified One and that the Crucified One is not bound by death. We tend to think that Christ died because He was human, but as God was somehow able to get Himself out of the tomb alive. If that were simply the case, what hope then is there for us - we are not God. We would still be bound by death. No, it is by His death that He has destroyed death - so that He can return to us risen from the dead. To become like Christ, then, does not require something super-human from us. It requires that we use our death in the way He has. How will we die? Will it be with our hearts attached to the things of this world? Or will it be a death that we can embrace even now, while we are yet alive, assured in the eternal life promised by Jesus Christ through His resurrection from the dead? We can do this through living as He did, for others- in love, in mercy, in compassion, in sacrificial service.

Another example Thomas gives us comes through the words of Jesus Himself: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." It isn't enough to see the Risen Christ. Thomas also had to be assured that He was also the Crucified One. Jesus taught His disciples that he had to suffer before entering His glory. The Apostle Paul teaches us that we no longer know Jesus through the flesh, but according to the Spirit (2 Cor 5:16). The Scriptures read to us through our liturgical celebrations assure our very presence at these events. They are not something of the past for us to recall and think about. We stand in the very same place as Thomas and the rest.

Let us accept fully what we have learned through the Holy Pascha: that we, today stand encountering the Risen and Crucified Lord, Who through His passion enables us to become sharers in his Body, to become His Body in this world- the Church- bringing His gospel of salvation and comfort to all those who would hear, and inviting them also to "come and see."

## Loyal Christian Benefit Association's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trip!

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**ALL INCLUSIVE STAY IN THE RIVIERA MAYA!**

- OCTOBER 10 - 17, 2015 -



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*(You must be an LCBA member or sharing a room with an LCBA member to book and travel on this trip.)*

\* Pricing is based on double occupancy and available from the following gateway cities: Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Philadelphia, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, Phoenix, Detroit, & Newark. Alternative gateways may involve an additional cost. | \*\* Complimentary golf does not include cart or club rentals | Trip insurance is recommended but not included in pricing. A valid US Passport is required for travel to Mexico. Must be valid for six months following the trip.

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[lcbalife.org](http://lcbalife.org)



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