

## **PBA Outreach to Children Committee Holds Retreat July 16-17 to Focus on Goals**

PBA President Ken Horoho joined Pennsylvania's Secretary of Public Welfare and nearly 20 lawyers, judges, therapists and social services professionals for the inaugural meeting of his Outreach to Children Committee at the Harrisburg Hilton July 16-17. Horoho shared with the group his vision to "protect, educate and motivate" children and outlined the various task forces he has set up for his year as PBA president, noting that this focus group was his most important effort. He explained how the various people on the Outreach to Children Committee — representing the mental health and social services professions and the justice system — all have expertise to reach young people, both this year and beyond.

The two-day retreat began with an extensive review of the statistical picture of children presented by Frank Cervone, executive director of the Support Center for Child Advocates in Philadelphia. Cervone painted a vivid picture of the needs of children in Pennsylvania, which was reinforced in follow-up reports by Judge Kim Berkeley Clark and Judge Thomas Ling, who discussed the systems they have developed in their counties (Allegheny and Bedford, respectively) to respond to these issues.

Closing out the first day's discussions were Dr. Martha Mattingly of Pittsburgh, who provided a therapist's viewpoint on assisting children, and Tina Nixon of the Dauphin County YWCA, who shared information on the ways social services can help children.

Secretary of Public Welfare Estelle Richman joined the group for its second day at breakfast and gave a detailed presentation on the state of children in the commonwealth. Richman said her goal is to put the juvenile justice system out of business, stating that the real need is to keep children out of the system and in school. She suggested that the influence of the PBA might be best used to create more integration of services. She commended Horoho for his vision in setting up the initiative and said she looked forward to working with the PBA to make a difference for the children of Pennsylvania.

Committee co-chairs Cheryl Young of Montgomery County and Steve Turner of Dauphin County called the retreat a success and said that the committee would be meeting again in September.