



ERIC CONOVER/Standard-Speaker

The Local Government Issues Committee of Leadership Hazleton, Class of 2003-2004, presented the November program during a full-day session at Hazleton City Hall. The planning committee for this program was comprised of the following people, seated, from left: Sheila Kay Alberston, C. Jeffery Mason, Robert Benjamin, Robert Tracy and standing at left: Lena Kotansky, facilitator, Economic Development Office, City of Hazleton. Also standing are, Bob Skulsky, center, executive director of Mountain Council of Governments and the Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership, who served as a guest speaker; and Denise Corcoran, Leadership Hazleton, executive director.

Program on local government issues presented to Leadership Hazleton

The Local Government Issues Committee of Leadership Hazleton, Class of 2003-2004, presented the November program during a full-day session at Hazleton City Hall.

The goal of the day was to explore several programs throughout the area that foster discussion with law enforcement and local officials pertaining to regionalization.

The day began with class members hearing from Bob Skulsky, who spoke about C.O.G. (Council of Government). Skulsky is executive director of Mountain Council of Governments and the Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership.

Joe Yannuzzi then followed with further information on COG. Yannuzzi is chief finan-

cial officer for Crossroads Computers Inc. Yannuzzi was the originator of the Mountain Council of Governments and is the president of COG. He also is a Hazleton city councilman.

The group then heard from Jim Philips, representing the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Force, who spoke about the pros and cons of regionalizing.

The group then broke for lunch, which was sponsored by Leader Data Processing and General Mills and provided by Genetti's.

The afternoon session began with a tour of City Hall, including a tour of the police station by Officer John Leonard, Hazleton Police Department. Leonard has been with the Hazleton City

Police Department for over eight years and is assigned to the patrol division as the shift officer in charge.

He is also a member of the local SWAT team and the Crime Prevention Unit. The group also saw a K-9 demonstration, which was presented by Officer Greg Rossi and his partner, Bart. Rossi has been with the Hazleton Police Department for seven years and the K-9 unit for 5½ years. Bart is a 6½-year-old black German Shepherd who is a cross dog, which means he is both a patrol and a narcotics dog.

The planning committee for this program was comprised of Lena Kotansky facilitator, Economic Development Officer, City of Hazleton, Sheila Kay Albertson, Robert Benjamin, C. Jeffery Mason and Robert Tracy.

Leadership Hazleton is a nine-month leadership-training program sponsored by the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. The class meets monthly to learn about, discuss and explore various aspects of life in our community.

Class members and their sponsors are as follows: Sheila Kay Albertson, United Way of Greater Hazleton scholarship recipient; Amilca Arroyo, Quebecor World Hazleton Inc.; Robert Benjamin, Aktion LLC; Joseph Gasper, Luzerne County Community College; Janet Gasser, Hazleton Area School District; James Landon, Greater Hazleton Health Alliance; Donna Lithkousky, PPL Electric Utilities; David McCarthy, First Federal Bank; John Manna, T. Verrastro; C. Jeffery Mason Jr., Leader Data Processing; Dorothy Minnig, PNC Bank; Jacqueline Mistiszyn, Mountain City Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation; Courtney O'Donnell, CAN DO Inc.; Marian Papinsick, St. Luke Village; Patricia Paterick, Greater Hazleton Health Alliance; Patti Peters, Penn State Hazleton; Candice Polchin, General Mills, and Robert Tracy, General Mills.

For additional information about the Leadership Hazleton program, contact Executive Director Denise Corcoran at 455-1508 or e-mail leadership@hazletonchamber.org.