At CMBA’s Tenth Annual Meeting in June, I tried to jazz up my remarks by incorporating technology in the form of a real-time audience survey. I asked the question, “Name something you’d like CMBA to offer during the next 12 months.” Answers were submitted by text message and were to display in a world cloud behind me.

We knew we were on slightly tenuous ground by including an interactive component to the meeting. But we tested, tested, and tested, all without incident. What could possibly go wrong?

Of course, something did, and even though quite a few attendees participated, their responses didn’t magically appear on screen as planned. I was forced into a quick ad lib, and the presentation continued. Remember this tale next time you’re preparing a closing argument that depends on technology.

Fortunately, the actual responses were collected by mentimeter.com, and the world cloud accompanies this article.

As you can see, the two most popular responses were “fun” and “networking,” with “socials” running a close third. It turns out that you’re in luck, because the fall CMBA calendar is chock full of events where members can network, be social, and have fun. Here are just a few of the offerings:

On September 15, we will hold our 3rd Annual Small and Solo Expo, co-sponsored with our friends from the Akron Bar Association. This day-long program focuses on concerns unique to attorneys who practice by themselves or in a small firm environment. In addition to a first-rate set of presentations, there are abundant opportunities for networking and relationship building.

During our Greener Way to Work Week (September 26 to 30), we will convene our first-ever CLE on the fascinating subject of bicycle law. Our speaker, Steve Magas, comes to us from Cincinnati, where he represents bicyclists and family members of bicyclists who have been injured or killed. “Bike Law 101” is scheduled for September 27 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., and you are welcome to attend in your very best set of cycling shorts. The next day, September 28, we will gather for our Greener Way to Work Luncheon.

October brings our 16th Annual Halloween Run for Justice, coordinated by the fantastic team at the Bar Foundation. This year, the course moves to the West Bank of the Flats (yes, there may be hills involved!), where the Jacobs Pavilion at Nautica will serve as race headquarters. You don’t want to miss this chance to don a costume, get some exercise, and socialize, all while supporting the Foundation and our Justice For All pro bono programs. Be sure to join us on Saturday, October 28.

Late October and November pack a real CLE punch. The 44th Estate Planning Institute is set for October 27, while November 1 will mark our 10th Annual Special Education Law and Advocacy Update. November 2 and 3 are set aside for the 60th Annual Cleveland Tax Institute. And, the 39th Annual Real Estate Law Institute will be held November 9 and 10.

For those of you who only recently joined the profession, our renowned New Lawyer Boot Camp is scheduled for December 5, 6, and 7.

Finally, throughout September, October, and November, join us for Wellness Wednesday, each week at noon. Spend an hour escaping from the rigors of our demanding profession and focusing instead on improving your own health and well-being. It will help prepare you for our exciting, first-ever De-Stress Fest on November 17.

For more information on any of these programs, please visit the Calendar page accessible on www.clemetrobar.org or call the CMBA at 216-696-3525. And, for cutting-edge bar news and legal developments, make sure you’re following @CleMetroBar and @DClayCMBA on Twitter.

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