



THE ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS • PARALEGALS
CONTINUING EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

AFFILIATES BRIEF

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

By Debbie Overstreet, ACP

NALA Affiliated Associations

Director

Happy New Year everyone! Your Affiliated Associations Secretary is taking some time off so I am flying solo for this edition of the Affiliates Brief.

I want to thank each of you for submitting your bi-annual reports and affiliate news. From reading your reports and news briefs, I find that many of you have been busy in your communities. As I mentioned in my November-December Facts & Findings article, I know of no better way to observe the true spirit of the

holidays than to give of our time, funds and resources to help others. I hope that each of you continue giving back to your community throughout the year. Please feel free to send in your activities each quarter for publication in the Affiliates Brief.

"PLANNING AHEAD"

By Debbie Overstreet, ACP

You may have taken a few weeks off over the holidays, but it's already time to start thinking about the 2012 NALA Convention in Omaha, Nebraska!

While planning the agenda for your next association meeting, remember to include nominations for the 2012 Affiliated Associations Award.

Each year a member or committee of your organization may be recognized for their contributions to the goals and programs of the affiliated association, such as working with bar associations on behalf of paralegals in the area, assisting with and organizing CP study groups, and developing pro bono or other community involvement programs for the affiliate. These examples serve only as a guideline. Your association may set its own standards for recognition. The affiliated association may designate one recipient for the award each

year. There is no selection process for this award by NALA. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2012.

Nominees will receive a framed award at the membership awards presentation held during the Annual Meeting of Affiliated Associations scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2012. Nominations received by the May 1 deadline are automatically considered for the National Outstanding Contribution Award.

You may also want to consider nominating a member of your association, committee or another association for the National Affiliated Associations Achievement Award. The nominee must have played a significant part in creating, developing, and/or promoting an important and distinctive program which positively impacts NALA or the paralegal profession on a nationwide basis for a minimum of three years.

This is a short synopsis of the criteria for the awards. [Click here](#) for detailed descriptions and application forms for the 2012 Affiliated Associations Award Program. I look forward to receiving your applications.

AFFILIATE NEWS

Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc.: AAPi had three service projects. In September they collect new and used Halloween costumes for the children at “Our Place” – a YWCA domestic violence shelter. In October they helped member Ann Riley, CP establish a food bank for Jefferson County Conservator’s Office. For November-December they adopted “Annie”, an older child under the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program.

Fairbanks Association of Legal Assistants (FALA): In July, FALA offered a series on Discovery in civil and criminal procedure, including inadvertent disclosure and discovery tips. We also hosted our annual fundraiser picnic in July. FALA raised over \$600! All money brought in at the picnic is used to fund our student and professional scholarship program. In October, FALA, in cooperation with the Alaska Court System, offered a CLE on the Court’s required property division spreadsheet. As our holiday community service project, FALA is donating items to the Women’s Center at the Fairbanks Rescue Mission, which provides services for women and children in crisis. FALA is donating personal grooming items in individual bags for 40 women and children. We are also donating \$500 in movie tickets to the Center. Finally, FALA is still working with the Anchorage Association of Paralegals to develop a voluntary registration program through the Alaska Bar Association. After several meetings, FALA and AAP came up with a joint definition of “paralegal” and eligibility

requirements to become an Alaska Registered Paralegal. The proposal is slated to be heard by the Board of Governors in January 2012.

Maricopa County Association of Paralegals: MCAP is pleased to announce its name change from Legal Assistants of Metropolitan Phoenix (LAMP). The impetus for the name change was the increasing confusion associated with the term “legal assistant” and the ever-expanding demographics of our members. Additionally, 2012 marks MCAP’s 25th anniversary as a non-profit corporation in the Phoenix area. MCAP was formed in 1987 to provide a local affiliate of the NALA and to offer quality, affordable CLE for paralegals and paralegal students. MCAP is proud that its mission has remained unchanged during the past 25 years, and will continue into the future. Any questions regarding MCAP or MCAP membership should be directed to Monica Rapps, CP, Second V.P. (Membership), at: Email: mrapps@gustlaw.com, Website: www.azlamp.org.

Central Florida Paralegal Association: CFPA held its “Denim and Diamonds” Annual Holiday Party on December 2nd. We all put on our best denim, added some holiday glitz and our dancing shoes and had some fun. Members met the new Executive Committee (President Peonca Grier, CP, FRP; Vice-President/President-Elect Leslie Irick, CP, FRP; Second Vice President Anne Hughes, ACP, FCP, FRP; Secretary Karen Higgins, FRP; Treasurer Andrea Boykin, FRP; and NALA Liaison Nancy Jordahl, CP, FRP) and Board of Directors (Marisa Green, CP; Janet Jackson, ACP, FRP; Victoria Rariden; Cassie Snyder, CP; FRP John

Starks, FRP; and Caroline Wilkerson), enjoyed some great food, drinks and music. A highlight was “speed dating” with our Patron Members/Holiday Party sponsors. We sold raffle tickets and held a silent auction in which all proceeds went for the benefit of our fourth quarter charity, Harbor House (provides safe shelter, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, and emotional support, and legal advocacy for thousands of domestic violence survivors and their children each year). We also collected items on Harbor House’s wish list.

Northeast Florida Paralegal Association (NEFPA): The Northeast Florida Paralegal Association, in partnership with local educational institutions, is pleased to offer a CLA/CP Review Course to all aspiring paralegals and paralegals who want CLE credit in the northeast Florida area three (3) times this term prior to each exam window. Every two months, NEFPA engages in fundraising and the collection of donations for that specific organization, and following the drive delivers those funds or goods to the organization. Such worthy organizations include Wounded Warrior Project, Hubbard House and No More Homeless Pets. Each year, members and officers of NEFPA join the Young Lawyers Section of the Jacksonville Bar Association for its annual “Holiday in January” project to insure that foster children who entered the system during the holidays receive bicycles (with safety gear) and toys. This year’s event, scheduled for January 7, 2012, has for many years been a tremendously successful and heartwarming project for all who participate. In July 2005, members of NEFPA commenced a

new project, the Missing Link Legal Assistance and Mentor Program which involves members of NEFPA and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) together with attorneys of the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid office and attorneys of the Family Law Inns of Court in Jacksonville. Under the guidance and supervision of the volunteer attorneys, volunteer legal assistants/paralegals aid domestic abuse victims, referred from assisting agencies, through the process of separating themselves from their abuser. This ongoing project has presented a great opportunity to make a real difference and possibly to save lives. Finally, NEFPA is honored to assist military reservists, through collaboration with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, in offering estate plans and wills for military members and their families. NEFPA will be assisting in a Saturday project scheduled for February 4, 2012.

Northwest Florida Paralegal

Association: NWFPA hosted its first ever membership driver and mixer, adding several new members. The Naturalization Committee assisted with the quarterly naturalization ceremonies, providing refreshments and welcoming the new citizens and their families. The Summation Committee worked in cooperation with the Escambia Santa Rosa Bar Association (ESRBA), educating local attorneys on the proper use of paralegals, contributing to the ESRBA's bi-monthly newsletter by writing a column called *The Bottom Line*, and networking with local legal professionals. NWFPA held its Christmas social December 13, 2011, to include a charity auction to benefit the Children's Services Center. Stay tuned for our next affiliates update as

we detail all of the exciting things the NWFPA has in store for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Southeastern Association of Legal

Assistants: SEALA membership sold raffle tickets for a BBQ charcoal grill with Lisa Shinaberry, CP organizing the raffle. Lisa's husband built the grill and the materials were donated by his company. SEALA raised over \$2,000 from the purchase of raffle tickets with proceeds going to the association's annual Christmas Wish Fund for families affected by cancer. SEALA's annual seminar entitled "Staying Savvy with SEALA" was held on Saturday, October 22 at the Georgia State Coastal Bar Offices in Savannah. SEALA held another Social at LuLu's Chocolate Bar on November 8 and they held their Annual Thanksgiving Basket Brigade for needy families on November 17. This year we had four families participate and several of the members and law firms also adopted some of the families at Christmas and gave them much needed clothes and gift cards for future use. In December SEALA held its Annual Christmas Wish Wrap, raising an additional \$500 for the cancer families and the much loved Cookie Exchange Social and Luncheon. SEALA has had a busy year and looking forward to 2012.

The Central Illinois Paralegal

Association (CIPA) has elected the following CIPA members who will be sworn into office at the December meeting: President-Gale Grant; Vice President-Celeste Poole; Secretary-Nichole Byers; Treasurer-Denise Risinger; NALA Liaison-Martha Ross, ACP. Under Gale Grant's leadership, CIPA has changed its monthly meeting format to increase emphasis

on networking. CIPA's membership covers a wide geographical area, spanning across central Illinois and encompassing Peoria, Bloomington, Champaign-Urbana, Decatur and other regional cities. Getting to know one another can be challenging with members located across such a distance, so the association has sponsored informal gatherings of membership at various locations in central Illinois. These events have been very successful and other social events for the coming year are already in the planning stages.

Western Iowa Tech CC Association of Legal Assistants (WITCC ALA):

Greetings from Western Iowa Tech CC Association of Legal Assistants. The first NALA affiliated association in Iowa. Even though we are barely one year old, we have kept busy with activities. Thanks to the efforts of our advisor and main instructor, Rosanne Lienhard, JD, and Laurie Minchew, JD, Research Specialist - Government for WestLaw, we have held bi-monthly seminars on campus in the use of WestLaw's resources. In April this year, in conjunction with Iowa Legal Aid and local attorneys, we held a free legal clinic for low income people in the community covering landlord/tenant, power of attorney, and family matters. The second annual clinic is being planned for next April. During the month of November we held a canned food drive for the local Gospel Mission, and a rag and towel drive for the humane society will be held this coming January. We would like to hear from any other affiliates out there and what you are doing.

Western Kentucky Paralegals: WKP held a school supply drive for

underprivileged children in July. In August and September members donated non-perishable items for the food bank, and for December WKP collected donated items and purchased gifts for girls home residents.

Nebraska Paralegal Association (NePA): In addition to their Fall Seminar and monthly meetings, NePA participated in two Relay for Life activities this year benefitting the American Cancer Society.

Paralegal Association of Northwest Ohio (PANO): Another great opportunity for PANO members to interact and give back to the community. This year we selected two charities, **The Northwest Ohio Food Bank** and **The Beach House Family Shelter**. The Northwest Ohio Food Bank feeds thousands of hungry Northwest Ohioans each year with food donations provided by the community. The Beach House Family Shelter helps homeless women and families regain independence through positive changes and programs focused on education, employment, and life management. Each paralegal is asked to bring two non-perishable food items as well as a \$5 donation.

Central Oklahoma Association of Legal Assistants: COALA collected containers of personal items for children and held a quilt raffle with the proceeds benefitting Positive Tomorrows, a non-profit organization that provides free education and cares for the special needs of Oklahoma City homeless children.

Houston Association of Bankruptcy Paralegals (HABP): In addition to their November meeting and seminar,

HABP hosted their Annual Holiday Party and Charity Drive on December 9, 2011, benefitting the Star of Hope, a local organization to help the homeless of Houston.

Houston Paralegal Association (HPA):

Houston Paralegal Association is excited to announce its new and improved website at: hpatx.us. We can also be found on Facebook! Check it out! HPA is also pleased to announce its annual Spring Seminar – A Step in the Right Direction -- on April 20, 2012, at South Shore Harbor in League City, Texas. We welcomed our new board as of September 1, 2011: Rudy Cueller, President; Christina Ladyman, CP, President-Elect; Linda Carrette, CP, 1st VP; Jessie Olivio, 2nd VP; Roberta Taherivand, 3rd VP; Kelly Corbin, ACP, Secretary; Charie Turner, Treasurer; Carla Valenzuela, CP, Parliamentarian; Rhonda Harshbarger, CP, NALA Liaison.

JL Turner Legal Association-Paralegal Division (JLTLA-PA): The officers for the 2012 membership year were elected at the Annual Meeting held on November 12th. The newly elected officers are Toya Walker, President; LaKisha Camese, Vice President/President-Elect; Sheila Jones, CP, Secretary; Wilfried Sare, CP, Treasurer; Loren Gilbert-Smith, Parliamentarian; Monique Scott, Historian; Vivian Duren, Membership; Celestine Foley, Events Planning-Fundraising; Carla Dennis, Director & NALA Liaison. The Section held its 2nd Holiday Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at Belo Mansion on December 1st. Several members of the Section were recognized and presented with awards for their commitment and dedication to the association in 2011. The Section

concluded its Scholarship Essay Contest and awarded a scholarship to student member, LaKisha Camese. The 2011 Frederick Barrow Paralegal Award was presented to Toya Walker, 2012 JLTLA-PS President.

The **North Texas Paralegal Association (NTPA)** was eager to step up and show some good ole' southern hospitality to our national legal community at the 36th Annual "NALLAS" Convention held in Plano, Texas on July 27-30 as well as to our statewide legal community at their 30th Annual TAPS Convention in Fort Worth, Texas on October 5-7. Both events were big successes and we hope all the attendees felt welcomed and were enriched by a wide offering of current and applicable CLE topics and as we say in Texas, "Ya'll come back and see us again real soon, ya hear?" Our next event was NTPA's Annual Holiday Luncheon at The Belo on December 15, 2011 with guest speaker Dallas Morning News columnist, Steve Blow. Check out NTPA's website at www.ntparalegals.org for future scheduled events.

Southeast Texas Association of Paralegals: SETAP held its Annual Texas Paralegal Day Luncheon on October 20, 2011, at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Caryl McBroom was voted Paralegal of the Year by the membership. The speaker was Javan Johnson, Ambassador for the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas, who spoke on *Advancing the Profession Through Ethical Conduct*. The spring seminar for SETAP entitled *How to Grow and Enrich the Paralegal* will be held April 20, 2012 in Beaumont, Texas. Some of the

speaker topics for the seminar include Child Advocacy, Ethics, and Understanding Trial Tactics. SETAP held its annual Christmas Luncheon on December 15. Every year SETAP undertakes a charitable organization, and this year will be collecting gifts for CASA. In addition, SETAP has begun a fundraising project, compilation of recipes for a Cookbook which is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2012.

Paralegal Association Permian Basin: PAPB has been busy in their community. Members provide snacks and other items requested by Childrens Advocacy Center (CAC); clothing and other gifts for CAC and Child Protective Services' "Giving Tree" at Christmas; volunteer for Casa de Amigos legal clinic on a monthly basis or when held; and donate to various charities in lieu of gifts to outgoing presidents, some speaker gifts, and in lieu of flowers for funerals of members' families or others in the local legal community.

West Texas Paralegal Association (WTPA): As we begin our new fiscal year, we are attempting to find ways to increase our membership and increase involvement of the current members. This association has been based on providing professional and informative CLE. In order to have better attendance, we will be moving the bi- monthly meetings from Saturday mornings to Wednesday evenings. The Executive Committee is formulating ideas on more community exposure and involvement for our paralegals, including invitations to potential members, administering our own web page, providing a CLE review course, and volunteering.

Richmond Paralegal Association (RPA): On September 21, 2011, past and present board members met with members for an informative, fun evening to discuss RPA behind-the-scenes in order to increase membership on our board. From this event, we recruited new volunteers to serve on the 2012 board. Amy Hill, ACP, former Chairperson of the NALA Certifying Board and former NALA President, addressed attendees at our Paralegals' Week Reception on October 5, 2011. Amy is a fantastic speaker and we enjoyed how she tied in her history of the Richmond area with the members of our organization. At this reception, RPA awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to members of RPA enrolled as students in local paralegal programs.

Virginia Peninsula Paralegal Association: VaPPA members collected school supplies for all ages for the Salvation Army at the August 9 membership joint meeting. This was a tremendous success. VaPPA members volunteered at the Salvation Army's offices in Hampton with their application screening process for the Toys for Tots Holiday Assistance Program. This involved the evenings of October 27, November 10, November 17, and December 1. In addition, for the third consecutive year, we chose to support the Salvation Army's food bank and the Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula in lieu of adopting a family during the holidays. We collected canned goods and individual donations at our November 8 membership dinner meeting. The canned goods were delivered to the Salvation Army, while the donations were sent to each organization as allocated by the

individual members. The Salvation Army reports that the donations we collected provided 960 meals for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

KEEP IN TOUCH!



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