



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2010

Current Board Members:

Susan Lewis, CLA - President
Jeanne Jackson-Heim, ACP – President-Elect
Amanda Nelson, CP - 1st V.P.
Sarah Hall, CP - 2nd V.P.
Rhonda Hoadley - Secretary
Jane Fisher, CLA - Treasurer
Jayme Bjorklund, CP - NALA Liaison

Regional Directors

Region 1 – Vacant
Region 2- Vacant
Region 3- Kristi Fields, CP
Region 4 – Vacant
Region 5 – Andrea Syvrud, CP

President's Message Susan Lewis, CLA

Happy Fall Law Members:

I cannot believe that the summer has gone so fast. It is time for the new school year to start and for LAW's 2010 Fall Seminar. LAW is off to a great year and I want to thank everyone on the Board for all of their valuable time and effort.

Please watch for your fall seminar brochures. Amanda Nelson has put together a great agenda and wonderful educational speakers. The seminar will be a great opportunity to get your educational credits as well as an opportunity to connect with other people in the profession.

I would like to thank Kristi Fields for agreeing to be the Region 3 director and Andrea Syvrud for agreeing to be our Region 5 director. LAW, at the time of this newsletter, does not have any other regional director positions filled. If you know of someone that is willing to take on that position, or if you are willing to take on a regional director position, please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

I would like to thank Dawn Fiscus for agreeing to be our Student-School Outreach Liaison. Dawn will be working closely with Rhonda Hoadley to

get the word out to the students at LCCC and Casper College about LAW and the legal assistant profession.

Please feel free to contact me or any one on the Board if you have questions or concerns regarding LAW.

One last note, please consider asking your office colleagues to become a member of LAW this year. Remember, we are only as strong as our membership!

Susan Lewis, CLA
President

President-Elect Jeanne Jackson-Heim, ACP

It's hard to believe LAW has celebrated its 20th anniversary! It was great fun to attend the spring seminar in Sheridan and find myself at a place in my life where I have time to increase my involvement in LAW once again. Although not a charter member, I have been an active LAW member continuously since 1994 when I obtained my CLA designation. For those of you who don't know me, I worked at a Jackson law firm for 14 years and served several terms as Region 1 Director. I am also a Past LAW President, and I was in my second go-round as President-Elect when we moved to Idaho in 2003.

The bylaws at that time required LAW officers to be actively working as legal assistants, so I

had to resign my position on the board. While at the meeting in Sheridan, I noticed (to my great joy) that the bylaws had been changed to eliminate that employment requirement. Since no one had accepted a nomination for President-Elect, I raised my hand to run for the job! It has been a lot of fun picking up where I left off, getting up to speed with LAW's activities, and networking with old friends and new. I appreciate the opportunity and the confidence placed in me.

My paralegal training and experience have proven invaluable to me in my present position as

Executive Director for the Idaho Real Estate Commission in Boise. I don't think anything prepares you for life more than the organizational skills and legal knowledge that come from being a paralegal. I would like to see LAW continue its outreach to paralegals in government agencies and non-traditional roles because I think many of us have branched out away from the law office.

As Chair of the Bylaws Committee, it will be my duty this year to present any bylaws changes to the membership for the annual meeting in April. The Board of Directors is presently reviewing the bylaws to see if any changes are warranted this year. If you have any suggestions for bylaws changes, or you just want to say "hi", please e-mail me at jeanne@jackson-heim.com.

1st Vice President **Amanda Nelson, CP**

Dear LAW Members:

I would first like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your First Vice President for this year. I am looking forward to the challenge ahead of me. My goal this year is to provide quality seminars and educational opportunities at a low cost to LAW. As you can imagine, the most difficult part is finding quality speakers and topics that are available during the selected seminar date. I highly encourage all members to contact me with any suggestions or ideas about speakers. If you would like to make a presentation or if your employer has an area of specialty you feel would be beneficial to the members, please do not hesitate to contact me!

I would also like to take the opportunity to personally invite you to the Fall Seminar which will take place in Casper, Wyoming on September 25th. We have a great line-up of speakers and the opportunity for you to receive 6 hours of CLE, including 1.5 hours of Ethics. I hope you will strongly consider attending. Also, Region 3 will be hosting a Friday night social hour on September 24th. I hope to see all of you there!

Amanda Nelson, CP
First Vice President

SEE YOU IN CASPER SEPTEMBER 25TH
Call Amanda Nelson with any questions

2nd Vice President **Sarah Hall, CP**

Hello everyone, I am Sarah Hall and I am the new 2nd Vice President this year. This will be my second year on the Board and I am excited to keep serving the organization. The most important item in my department is membership renewal. As you may know the renewals are due on September 1, 2010. Some of you have already renewed, but there are still people that have not. Please do this as soon as possible, we want to keep our membership growing. Also, if there are others in your offices that are not members please encourage them to join.

Another note on membership renewal: The renewal process is now done completely through the website. I have had several inquiries on the process so here are the steps:

1. Log in to the LAW website
2. Under your name, click View Profile
3. On your profile there should be a grey button that says RENEW
4. Follow the steps for renewal
5. Send a check to the P.O. Box

After renewing, you will receive an e-mail stating your status is "Pending". It will stay like this until we receive a check and you will again receive an e-mail stating the fee has been paid and that your status is now "Active".

I hope that this has cleared up any questions there are about the renewal process. If you still have any further questions, I am happy to help. Please contact me at shall@bslo.com and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

I look forward to the upcoming year serving as your 2nd Vice President.

Sarah Hall, CP
Second Vice President

REGION 3 NEWS **Kristi Fields, CP**

Dear Region 3 Members:

I'm excited to start this Fall as your Region 3 Director. We have a lot of exciting events happening in our Region this Fall! Mark your calendars and plan on attending this Fall's LAW Seminar in Casper, September 25th. As Region 3 will be hosting this Fall's Seminar, let's show everyone how hospitable we can be and plan to attend our social event that will be September 24th for bowling! Also, we will be having our annual LAW/CC lunch September 29th from 11:30 – 1:30

in Room 217 at Casper College. Please plan on attending and bring your favorite dish to share. We will also need volunteers to bring sub sandwiches or chicken, chips and hors d'oeuvre trays. Mary will be providing the place settings and drinks again this year.

Thank you all for your support and I hope to see everyone at the Seminar September 25th and for bowling September 24th!

Kristi R. Fields, CP
Region 3 Director



Secretary
Rhonda Hoadley

Hello LAW Members, I'm so excited to be your Secretary for the year, thank you for your confidence in me. Things are gearing up all around us, and the Fall Seminar is just a month away. If anyone in the Cheyenne area plans on going and would like to carpool, please let me know! I love to get together with the other members and meet new people. If you haven't been to a seminar because you "wouldn't know anyone there," that will change 5 minutes after you walk in the door. I strongly encourage everyone to go to Casper you can meet other people in our profession, and have fun! It's a great way to get re-energized about what we do.

If you have any news that you would like to submit for our next newsletter, please feel free to contact me at rjchamblin@yahoo.com. We'll see you in Casper!

TO SUBMIT YOUR LAW NEWS
CONTACT RHONDA HOADLEY
rjchamblin@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Jane Fisher, CLA

Just a quick thank you to the membership for electing me to the position of Treasurer (once again). I've been receiving a trickle of membership renewal checks in the mail up to now. Thank you for those of you who have sent these in. I imagine I'll be seeing a lot more in the next two weeks as the deadline is fast approaching. For those of you who have yet to renew your membership, this is a friendly reminder to do so quickly. Enjoy the remainder of the nice summer weather we've been experiencing. I look forward to seeing everyone at the seminar next month.



NALA LIASON
Jayne Bjorklund, CP

Hello fellow paralegals! Thank you for nominating me as the NALA Liaison for Legal Assistants of Wyoming this year. Paralegals, educators and exhibitors from across the nation met in Jacksonville, Florida, for the 35th Annual Convention and Exhibition, July 14-17, 2010. The NALA membership meets annually to elect directors, consider amendments to the association's bylaws, and learn about the state of the association. Members hear reports of the NALA President and Board of Directors, and receive an overview of the association's financial standing. I was elected by you, the membership of Legal Assistants of Wyoming, to represent our affiliated association this year at the annual meeting. The hospitality of NALA's affiliated associations in Florida contributed greatly to this key anniversary event that featured a full educational program, vendor exhibition, business meetings, and social events. The Central Florida Paralegal Association, Gulf Coast Paralegal Association, Northeast Paralegal

Association, Northwest Paralegal Association, and the Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc., were key participants and contributed to the planning and success of social events throughout the convention.

There were 28 vendors in the exhibits hall on Wednesday and Thursday, and 29 NALA affiliated associations had displays in the hall on Friday. Lexis-Nexis provided the convention tote bags this year, and Cengage Learning was a key sponsor. Attendees at this year's convention also donated several hundred dollars in cash and personal products for the USO in support of US military troops worldwide. The goods were collected and presented to Bob Ross, Chief Development Director of the Greater Jacksonville Area of the United Service Organizations (USO) during the annual meeting on Friday.

In addition to the business, the members gather to honor recipients of the NALA awards. This includes the NALA Founders' Award, and the NALA President's Award, as well as awards conferred to NALA affiliated associations and members for their stellar contributions to the paralegal profession.

During the March 6 meeting of the NALA Board of Directors, the board voted to recommend two amendments to the NALA Bylaws for approval by the membership during the 2010 Annual Meeting. The amendments affect the method of counting members to determine a quorum at the annual meeting, and reflect the current practice of refunding membership dues to members who choose to resign their membership. The articles involved and the reasons behind the amendments are as follows:

Article III, 3.13

This amendment changes the method of determining a quorum at the annual meeting. Instead of counting the number of people who appear in person or by proxy at the meeting itself, the amendment allows the quorum to be determined by the number of members who cast votes, in person or by proxy, while the voting polls are open. The amendment does not change the quorum requirements, only the method of counting.

If approved, this amendment addresses the problem of establishment of a quorum at the meeting when members vote but attendance at the meeting is short of the quorum requirement. The amendment has been reviewed by NALA counsel and NALA parliamentarian.

Article III.3.21

The NALA bylaws currently state that if a member resigns his or her membership, the dues are not refundable. As a practical matter, typically, if a member resigns and requests a refund, the request is honored by our staff. This bylaw amendment is recommended as a housekeeping amendment so that the bylaws will reflect our current practice.

Voting polls opened on Thursday, July 14, 2010. Active NALA members in good standing 45 days prior to the NALA Annual Meeting were eligible to vote. The following are your new NALA 2010-2011 Board of Directors.

President

Karen Greer McGee, ACP
Shreveport, Louisiana
kmcgee@la2nd.org

Advanced Paralegal Certification Board Chair

Melissa A. Vander Weide,
ACP
Orlando, FL
lvanderweide@broadandcasel.com

Region I Director

Janet Holmgren, CLA
Lafayette, New York
jholmgren@riehlmanshafer.com

Region VI Director

Melissa J. Hamilton,
ACP
Bismarck, ND
mhamilton@nd.gov

First Vice President

Ann L. Atkinson, ACP
Omaha, NE
ann.atkinson@kutakrock.com

Certifying Board Chair

Karen L. Trumpower,
ACP
Phoenix, AZ
ktrumpower@krplc.com

Region II Director

Debby J. Sawyer, CP
Raleigh, NC
dsawyer@ymwlaw.com

Region VII Director

Karin M. Scheehle, ACP
Phoenix, AZ
karin.scheehle@gknet.com

Second Vice President
Kelly A. LaGrave, ACP
Lansing, MI
klagrave@fosterswift.com

**Continuing
Education Council
Chair**
Christine E. Porter,
ACP
Portland, OR
cporteracp@gmail.com

Region III Director
JoAnne Sorrentino, ACP
Boca Raton, FL
ioanne.sorrentino@finra.org

Region VIII Director
Terry L. Halstead, ACP
Stevensville, MT
halsteadter@cs.com

Secretary
Cassandra Oliver, ACP
Tulsa, OK
cassandra.oliver@williams.com

**Professional
Development
Committee**
Annette R. Brown, ACP
Missoula, MT
annette@rmef.org

Region IV Director
Elizabeth H. Nellis, ACP
Jenks, OK
bnellis@sbcglobal.net

Region IX Director
Joan E. Wiley, ACP
Las Vegas, NV
jwiley@nevadafirm.com

Treasurer
Jill Francisco, ACP
Huntington, WV
jfrancisco@huddlestonbole.com

**Affiliated Associations
Director**
Debra L. Overstreet, ACP
Broken Arrow, OK
debra.overstreet@usace.army.mil

Region V Director
Julie D. Hunt, CP
Paducah, KY 42002-1246
juliehunt@saladinolaw.com

I truly enjoyed attending the NALA conference and meeting new people belonging to organizations like ours. I was introduced to a variety of ways to recruit new members and am very excited to implement these ideas into our organization. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent LAW at this year's NALA convention. The 2011 NALA convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska and I will be planning on attending this one as well. Once you go, you'll want to go every year! I hope that more members of LAW will try and attend as well.



MEMBER NEWS:

Wendy Soto Wins Primary Election

Wendy Soto won the Primary Election on Tuesday August 17, 2010 for Laramie County Clerk of District Court for the First Judicial District. Wendy is a CLA and founding member of LAW. Wendy is currently the Court Administrator for the Wyoming State Board of Equalization. Wendy will run against Sandy Landers in the General Election in November. Congratulations Wendy!

REGIONAL DIRECTOR INFORMATION

Thank you, Andrea Syvrud and Kristi Fields for volunteering as Regional Directors. If you would like to get to know Legal Assistants in your area, becoming a Regional Director is a great way to get started. Please feel free to contact any of the board members for more information.

Legal Assistants of
WYOMING
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