

Legal Assistants of
WYOMING
Est. 1990
NEWSLETTER

Hello

2021!

2020-2021 LAW Board

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Amanda Nelson, ACP

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fight for
the things that
you care about,
but do it in a way
that will lead others
to join you.

- RUTH BADER
GINSBURG

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As 2020 comes to a close, and many of us still hold out hope for a better 2021, I wanted to hopefully write a few words of encouragement. Although it appears that we are wrapped in constant negativity and the state of our world and nation is questionable at best, I encourage everyone to step back for a moment and look at the blessings that exist around us daily. Life may not be unfolding how we hoped it would, but there are many lessons we can take with us as we move forward. I'd like to share a few of the lessons I have learned over the past months:

1. I love people! I love interacting with people on a very regular basis - and I don't mean interacting with people in an artificial way via social media, texting or some other form of technology. I've learned how much I thrive (and desire) physical contact with people: watching facial expressions as stories are told, a friendly or comforting hug, the physical presence of someone near me. As difficult as it is to cultivate these types of relationships in this time frame, I've learned how much I need and desire them. With that, I've learned how much I took them for granted! I'm learning how to be thankful for each moment we get to interact, each family dinner, each evening out (and even those pesky meetings where we are all together again!).

2. I (we) are stronger than our circumstances. I've heard the saying "we are all in the same boat" used repeatedly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and although I would agree to a degree, I would also disagree for many reasons. Yes, we are all in a boat that is hoping to find dry land soon - but all of our boats are very different. Although this pandemic has brought a form of hardship to all of us, the level of that suffering has looked very different across the board. My pandemic experience is unique, as is every one of yours, but I've seen so many encouraging stories of strength, hope and love that I simply cannot deny the resilience of the human heart. I'm often reminded just how much that extra word of encouragement for someone who is struggling, the moments spent checking in on loved ones, and simply reaching out to make that connection can impact an individual's day. I implore you all to keep this in mind and strive to complete a simple act of kindness regularly, whether that be daily or weekly. The world needs more positivity!

3. Finally, change is made through one individual at a time. In no way is this going to the political realm, but I don't think anyone can deny that our world and country is on the brink of change. Whether you believe that change to be for the better, or for worse, it's upon us. Never forget that you matter - your impact and influence matter. It may not cause impact on a global scale, but it will impact those around you and hopefully start a chain reaction. In days that are filled with fear and doubt, hope can shine the brightest of lights. I encourage you all to remain hopeful, be open and honest with those around you, and continue to grow in love.

As we embark on 2021, I hope the new year brings you peace and joy despite the circumstances you may be surrounded in. Your future rests in you - and I hope you'll take LAW along for the ride!

Amanda Nelson, ACP

President

"The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude" - *Oprah Winfrey*

WENDY TREMBATH

Paralegal at Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, PC (WPDN)

 Casper, WY



LOCAL AFFILIATE?

Legal Assistants of Wyoming (Active Member, Awards Committee Chair, Website Committee Chair, Past Treasurer [2017-2019]. Past Secretary [2014])

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A NALA CP?

Yes, I became a CP in 2008. After certification, I received a raise at the firm I worked for at the time. I also became eligible to apply for a job as a paralegal at my current firm. WPDN only allows CPs and ACPs to work as paralegals at the firm because paralegals bill for their time. At that time, I did not realize the resources that opened up to me through NALA as well - access to ACP courses and other CLEs, including webinars and the annual Conference.

WHAT DID YOU NEVER THINK YOU WOULD BE DOING?

I never thought I would be a paralegal! My undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder was in broadcast journalism, and I worked in that career field for about five years. Then, I worked at several jobs as an administrative assistant. Later, my husband went to law school, passed his Bar exam, and opened his own law firm in Casper. He needed a paralegal, so he sent me to the Casper College Paralegal Program. I attended school part-time while working full-time, and I earned my Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Paralegal Studies. My training and the handouts I received in class were so useful and timely for a new law firm.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

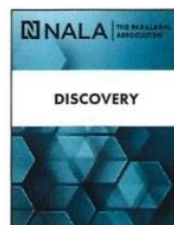
Right now, I am reading materials for the Discovery ACP course!

FAVORITE PODCAST/TV SERIES?

I have recently started listening to *The JK Experience* podcast by Josh Kalinowski, who is a Christian CEO based in Casper. He emphasizes his most epic failures and greatest mistakes as he shares what he learns on the journey. It is a unique approach and highly motivational. Recently, I have been binge-watching a couple of *Star Wars*-related series on Disney+. *The Clone Wars* (cartoon) and *The Mandalorian*. (Baby Yoda is so cute!)

WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX (AND WHY)?

I like spa treatments - mani/pedi, facial, massage, and hot tub. I also enjoy traveling and get to do a fair amount of it with the various activities my husband and I do together. We enjoy whitewater kayaking, downhill skiing, scuba diving, roller coasters, skydiving, cliff jumping, etc. We also recently joined the ranks of travel-trailer owners and enjoyed boondocking at some of our favorite river runs and scenic mountain escapes in the summer of 2020.



NALA's CERTIFIED PARALEGAL CHAMPION AWARD

THE 2020 AWARD IS PRESENTED TO

Amanda Nelson, ACP

Amanda Nelson has recognized and promoted NALA's Certified Paralegal Program as a national professional standard for paralegals by her personal pursuit of her CP and ACP certifications as a paralegal in Wyoming, where such certifications are generally not sought after or required by employers. Ms. Nelson's tenacity to earn and maintain her certifications in a state where most paralegals are not certified has impressed upon her employers and co-workers that the professionalism and proficiency of a paralegal are defined and improved through NALA's Certified Paralegal Program.

Ms. Nelson has demonstrated passion and enthusiasm for the Certified Paralegal Program with advocacy and outreach within the association as well as in the community. Ms. Nelson has consistently served on the board of NALA affiliate Legal Assistants of Wyoming (LAW) for many years. In her various roles on the board, she has promoted the CP/ACP credentials to LAW members and paralegal students across the state, giving presentations on the benefits of certification at LAW seminars and at community colleges in Casper and Cheyenne.

Most recently, Ms. Nelson has used her new platform as the Director of the Casper College Paralegal Program to promote the Certified Paralegal Program. She has had members of the LAW board come to present in her classroom about the benefits of obtaining the NALA CP and ACP credentials, as well as LAW and NALA membership and awards opportunities.

In her various roles in LAW, Ms. Nelson has helped to promote LAW's Future CP Attainment Award, which is a scholarship LAW awards annually that pays the registration fee for a LAW member to take the NALA CP Exam. Ms. Nelson has sent emails, brought in presenters to her students, and helped to ensure that the award continues to be funded in the LAW budget.

Several years ago, it was Ms. Nelson's idea to implement the Paralegal Pals program through LAW, which pairs a paralegal student with a paralegal working in the community. While mentors are not required to be certified by NALA, it is highly encouraged.

Ms. Nelson has encouraged LAW to offer its first CP prep course in the spring of 2021. She is leading the way through the planning stages, and has developed a team who will assist with the implementation. Before now, Ms. Nelson has also encouraged members and students to attend the NALA Annual Conference to take the CP prep track, especially in 2020 when the conference was virtual and more cost effective.

Ms. Nelson encourages a high level of professional achievement by modeling it for association members and her students. She is a past recipient of the NALA Member Making a Difference Award, the LAW Member Making a Difference Award, and has tirelessly served year after year on the LAW board with excellence. She has moved from working as a paralegal for multiple firms to the Directorship of the Casper College Paralegal Program. To accomplish it, she had to finish her bachelor's degree, and compete with several JD's who also applied for the position.

Ms. Nelson is truly a Certified Paralegal Champion, and is well-deserving of this award.



**CONGRATS,
AMANDA!**

Highlights from the

2020 FALL SEMINAR

The Legal Assistants of Wyoming held its Fall Seminar on September 25th at 26th at the Holiday Inn in Sheridan. We had great attendance and some fantastic speakers! The seminar this year was also held virtually by Zoom for those attendees who could not make it in person. Since last spring's seminar was postponed due to the COVID pandemic, I was fortunate enough to utilize the spring seminar agenda created by our former 1st VP Annette Fredrickson for the 2020 Fall Seminar! Great Speakers!

Christopher Sherwood started our seminar on Friday with a great presentation, "Estate Planning and Administration Basics," followed by Mike Lansing with a great talk about "Defamation in Social Media." Mikole Bede Soto ended the afternoon with the informative and interesting presentation, "Understanding Guardianships & Conservatorships."

Following the afternoon seminar, we enjoyed some appetizers and beverages at the local pub inside of the Holiday Inn, and Mike Lansing happily provided everyone with their first drink and some great conversation! After enjoying an appetizer and social hour, many of us enjoyed the rest of the evening by enjoying dinner at one of Sheridan's great restaurants. After having a busy day, I headed to my hotel room and enjoyed some much needed and restful sleep!

On Saturday morning before the start of the second-half of our seminar, some of us enjoyed yoga instructor Tonya Moon with the Kula Space Yoga Studio for an hour of energizing yoga to begin our day. Tonya came to the hotel and held her yoga class in the meeting room right next to our seminar area!

Starting the seminar that morning with our coffee, continental breakfast, and delicious yummy donuts, Wendy Sweeny informed us all about "Ethical Hot Water - How to Avoid Getting Burned" which was a very helpful presentation on various procedures that legal assistants can (and should) perform to stay on schedule, keep themselves and their attorneys organized, stay on top of deadlines, and everything else that happens in the law office.

Casey Terrell ended the morning with a wonderful presentation titled "Grit: How to Develop What Separates the Best from the Rest" and left all of us with a large bag of chocolate bars to share!

The Fall Seminar went well and the speakers were all very enjoyable, interesting and very informative. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, everyone was provided with a "Legal Assistants of Wyoming" logo face mask, hand sanitizer and other goodies. Social distancing and health regulations were followed so everyone could enjoy the seminar and feel safe! Donations were accepted and provided to the Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies to assist them with providing more than millions of pounds of food to needy families affected by the pandemic.

The Spring Seminar and Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 23 & 24, 2021, in Casper, and I am looking forward to it. Thank you to everyone for attending the Fall Seminar and hope to see you in the spring!

- *Tammy Wuertley, First VP*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

6

Pursuant to Article 9.1 of our Bylaws, it is that time of the year again to nominate candidates for officers to serve on the 2021-2022 Board of Directors for the Legal Assistants of Wyoming. If you are thinking about running for a position on the Board, or have been out of loop for a while and would like to join, feel free to nominate yourself!! You must be an active member of LAW to serve on the Board.

Terms of office for all elected and appointed officers and regional directors shall be one year, with the exception of the treasurer, which is a 2-year position.

Our current President-Elect is Shannon Rezanina, ACP, and she will serve as President for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Please nominate a candidate for the following positions: President-Elect, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and NALA Liaison.

To hold the position of NALA Liaison, the candidate must be a member of NALA, and must have served at least one (1) year as a board member of LAW or served as a committee member of LAW. (Please refer to Article 11.7).

For Regional Directors, please nominate candidates for your region only! The regions are comprised as follows:

- Region 1: Teton, Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs and Washakie Counties
- Region 2: Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook and Weston Counties
- Region 3: Fremont, Natrona, Converse and Niobrara Counties
- Region 4: Goshen, Platte, Laramie, Albany and Carbon Counties
- Region 5: Sweetwater, Sublette, Lincoln, and Uinta Counties

Please nominate your candidates and return the attached Nomination Form to me by email at amanda.nelson@caspercollege.edu, or by mail to P.O. Box 155, Casper, WY 82602, on or before February 15, 2021.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,

Amanda Nelson, ACP
Nominations and Elections Chair

NOMINATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY FOR OFFICERS:
(Nominations must be postmarked or otherwise received by FEBRUARY 15, 2021)

Nomination for President-Elect: _____

Nomination for First Vice-President: _____

Nomination for Second Vice-President: _____

Nomination for Secretary: _____

Nomination for Treasurer: _____

Nomination for NALA Liaison: _____

NOMINATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

(Nominations must be postmarked or otherwise received by FEBRUARY 15, 2021)

NOTE: Nominations for Regional Directors must be made only for the region in which you reside, and you may not nominate nor vote for Regional Directors in other Regions. Please mark the appropriate Region and make your nomination:

_____ Region 1 _____ Region 2 _____ Region 3 _____ Region 4 _____ Region 5

Nomination for Regional Director: _____

Please return this form no later than **February 15, 2021** to:

Elections Committee
 Attn: Amanda Nelson, ACP
 P.O. Box 155
 Casper, WY 82602
amanda.nelson@caspercollege.edu
 (307) 268-2618

NALA ELECTION 2021

★ ★ ★ DECLARE YOUR CANDIDACY

Make a difference and join the
NALA Board of Directors!

SUBMISSION DUE BY **MARCH 15, 2021**

If you are interested in finding out more about NALA's elections, including who is eligible to declare candidacy and what each position includes, please visit <http://nala.org/about-nala/nala-board-directors/nala-election>.

FUTURE NALA CONFERENCES

Save the Dates!

2021 - July 22-24, at **Louisville**
Marriott Downtown - KY

2022 - July 14-16, at **JW Marriott**
Desert Ridge Resort & Spa -
Phoenix, AZ

2023 - July 12-14, at **The Westin**
Copley Place - Boston, MA

2025 - July 10-12, at **Harrah's**
Resort - Atlantic City, NJ



PARALEGAL [NOUN]

SOMEONE WHO SOLVES A PROBLEM
YOU DID NOT KNOW YOU HAD IN
A WAY YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
SEE ALSO WIZARD, MAGICIAN.

To all of LAW's
wizards and
magicians:

Here's to a
magical 2021!

THANK YOU, LAW SPONSORS!



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