

# The Paralegal Press

## SAVE THE DATE! 2012 ANNUAL SEMINAR—April 21, 2012

### Inside this issue:

SAVE THE DATE! 2012	1
Message from the President, Mary	1
Article: Leadership Tip: Always Take the High Road	2
Calendar of Events	3
NPA Membership Benefits	4
Website Registration	5
Corporate Sponsorship	6

## Message from the President

— Mary Sedillo, CP



Celebrating Differences.

A Happy New Year to everyone on behalf of the Nevada Paralegal Association (“NPA”).

A new year comes with a chance for self-reflection; for some, this may be a written laundry list of goals, and for others, this may be internal self-promises for improvements.

A new year also comes with a review of relationships - all kinds - including those with your family, friends, co-workers, and others.

In the “other” category are organizational relationships such as NPA.

NPA is comprised of paralegals, students and other members of the legal community. We tend to associate with individuals who are like-minded, those who share a commonality with the group. Although this is a good quality for success, it is also necessary to entertain ideas that are different from the group dynamic.

When it comes to NPA, our ideas and differences are the key to our success - the butter on the bread, the champagne that makes us proud to be a part of this organization.

My goal for the New Year is to welcome, accept, and celebrate the differences in each of us.

For 2012, I hope to hear new voices and ideas from all of the legal community in which NPA interacts, through the General Meetings and Seminars, as well as input from members and attendees. This input, including constructive criticism, will have a beneficial effect on the Association. The many facets can only complement our organization and promote its growth and success.

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## **Leadership Tip: Always Take The High Road**

Vicki Voisin, ACP

***The High Road is the path to leadership success.*** What is The High Road? Where do you find it?

*The High Road* is a leadership style that includes doing what is best for all of your members, always staying above the fray and never stooping to someone else's lower level. If you're on *The High Road*, you will handle sticky situations in a kind and ethical manner, not with retaliation and revenge.

**Here are some tips for traveling *The High Road*:**

**Understand your organization's goals and values.** If you take *The High Road*, you must have a clear understanding of the goals of your association. What is its mission? What is its long range plan for the next five or ten years? What are the needs and wants of your members?

As a leader, you must focus on these goals and values. Don't lose your focus and start chasing the goals of another organization. What they're doing is not your concern. Your job is to steer your association toward its own goals and meet your members' needs.

**Don't waste your time and energy worrying about what other associations are doing.** On *The High Road*, all of your time and energy should be focused on your own association. Every association is different and chooses a different path for delivery of programs and services to its members. So long as you are meeting the needs of your members to the best of your association's abilities, within its budget and according to [industry](#) standards, you are doing your job.

**Learn how to handle criticism.** Every leader will be criticized at some point. When you're on *The High Road*, you will listen carefully. Is it deserved? Does the person doing the criticizing have all the facts and background information? Give this careful thought. Weigh it. Leaders should have more information than anyone else about any particular situation...or should get it. This information is used to make the best decisions for all members. If the criticism warrants change, make the changes. If not, stay on your path.

**Do the right thing.** Leaders taking *The High Road* will set a good example and have the highest moral ethics. Remember that leaders are in the spotlight most of the time. They rise above gossip and petty behavior. While it may be difficult to do the right thing under pressure...leaders are human do want to please their members!...it's imperative that a leader handle pressure situations with class and dignity.

**Don't be drawn into insignificant and pointless arguments.** When someone pushes your buttons, your first inclination will be to push right [back](#), to retaliate. A leader traveling *The High Road* won't escalate this situation with a negative response. You can't please 100% of the people 100% of the time. Your [goal](#) should be to do what is best for the whole.

**My leadership experience has taught me that it's not always easy to take *The High Road* but it's something every leader should strive for.** Taking *The High Road* requires confidence in your own abilities to lead, as well as confidence in the direction your association is taking. If you [stay the course](#) and follow *The High Road* you will achieve the best results for your members and your association during your term in [office](#). Do you plan to travel *The High Road*?

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Do you want to use this article in your newsletter, ezine or Web site? You can, so long as you include this entire blurb with it: Vicki Voisin, "The [Paralegal](#) Mentor", delivers simple strategies for paralegals and other professionals to create success and satisfaction by achieving goals and determining the direction they will take their careers. Vicki spotlights resources, organizational tips, ethics issues, and other areas of [continuing education](#) to help paralegals and others reach their full potential. She publishes a weekly ezine titled **Paralegal Strategies** and co-hosts **The Paralegal Voice**, a monthly podcast on [Legal Talk Network](#). More information is available at [www.paralegalmentor.com](http://www.paralegalmentor.com)

*A goal properly set is halfway reached.—Zig Ziglar*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st Tuesday of every month, except July and August	<u>Board Meetings—6 pm</u> Although not able to vote on any issues, Members are welcome to attend.
3rd Tuesday of every month (unless otherwise specifically noted)	<u>General Membership Meetings—6 pm</u> <b>BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE</b> <a href="http://www.nevadaparalegal.org">www.nevadaparalegal.org</a> for the topic for the next General Meeting . The General Meetings are held at the Clark County Bar Association offices, 725 S. 8th Street
April 21, 2012	Annual Seminar Location: TBD
May 15, 2012	Annual Meeting and General Elections

Do you have an idea for a speaker or a topic for the monthly meetings? If so, **LET US KNOW.**

Please contact NPA  
[Adminstrato@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:Adminstrato@nevadaparalegal.org)

## **WWW.NEVADAPARALEGAL.ORG**

The NPA officers and directors come to NPA with a wide range of experience and education. They each strive to promote the best of the paralegal profession.

NPA is a professional association for paralegals and legal assistants in the Las Vegas Valley working together to promote the advancement of the paralegal profession within the legal community by encouraging high professional and ethical standards in the education, training, and employment of paralegals. NPA is affiliated with the National Association of Legal Assistants.



<h3>NPA COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2012</h3>	
Membership:	Linda Soeder, CP
Public Relations:	Open
Parliamentarian:	Connie Valentine
Pro Bono/Community Service:	Open
Website:	Linda Soeder, CP
2012 Seminar:	Mary Sedillo, CP
<p>If you would like to support NPA and work with any of the committees, please feel free to contact any of the Committee Chairs:  <a href="mailto:seminar@nevadaparalegal.org">seminar@nevadaparalegal.org</a>. <a href="mailto:administrator@nevadaparalegal.org">administrator@nevadaparalegal.org</a></p>	

## NPA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Whether you are a working paralegal, student in paralegal studies, or one who wishes to support the paralegal profession, your membership in NPA is valuable to you, NPA, and the paralegal profession. On a personal level, it offers an avenue for networking, continuing education, and personal professional growth. On a larger scale, it contributes to the development, growth, and strengthening of the paralegal profession as a whole.

We have seen some major upheavals in the legal profession over the last few years and have seen that NPA needs to be a stronger force in the paralegal and legal community. To that end, the NPA Board of Directors has unanimously decided to provide additional criteria to the membership application to include those people who are working in the legal field under the supervision of an attorney, but who may not currently be working as paralegals. Please review the new membership application on the NPA website at [www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org). We would love to have you join us.

NPA has also joined with the Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) to provide a dual-membership program, so that the NPA members can utilize the CCBA membership benefits. The CCBA application is attached to the NPA membership form.

Some of the other benefits of NPA membership are:

### **Monthly Meetings**

A forum for the exchange of valuable information via interaction with other paralegals and presentations by scheduled speakers.

### **Professional Involvement**

Rewards of participating in one or more of NPA's committees, should you choose to do so.

### **Networking Opportunities**

Opportunities to network with other paralegals via face-to-face encounters at meetings and NPA sponsored events.

### **Reduced Rates**

Significantly reduced rates for the annual seminar and any other NPA functions for which there may be a charge.

### **Members' Only Section Access**

You get access to the members' only section of the NPA website which provides employment opportunities

### **National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA)**

NPA is an affiliate of NALA. Members of NALA affiliated associations receive a waiver of the NALA registration fee should they decide to become NALA members—a savings of \$15. As an affiliated association, NPA has free access to NALA NET for the most current information and case decisions affecting legal assistants. NALA NET is the only online network dedicated to this profession. Additionally, NALA members are eligible for reduced fees for NALA Campus and NALA Campus Live programs, CLA Short Course, and the Annual Convention courses.

*“Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.”*

- Neale Donald Walsch

# WEBSITE REGISTRATION

NPA is updating its website to include mass mailings directly from the website and exclusive issues of *The Paralegal Press* with job announcements and special membership benefits which will only be published in the members' section of the NPA website.

## NEW MEMBERS

Please register on the website at [www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org)  
Confirmation of your registration will be acknowledged by the website.

## EXISTING MEMBERS

Have you moved?  
Changed jobs?



Don't miss a single issue of  
*The Paralegal Press*  
Or

Special NPA announcements  
Be sure to notify us by changing your registration on the NPA website.

## NON-MEMBERS

If you wish to continue to receive meeting notices, seminar notices, and public issues of *The Paralegal Press*, please register on the NPA website.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Your personal information is for the exclusive use of the Nevada Paralegal Association and will NOT be sold, transferred, or provided in any way to any third party for any reason whatsoever.

*Make yourself  
necessary to  
somebody. Do  
not make life  
hard to any.*


- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP


If you are a part of the local legal community or one of its service providers, NPA invites you to become a Corporate Sponsor. If you are not familiar with NPA, our mission statement and activities can be found on our website at [www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org).

As a Corporate Sponsor, you will increase your visibility within the community and be recognized for your support of this professional association. NPA values the support of area law firms, legal service providers, and other companies that provide support to legal professionals in the Las Vegas Valley.

For more information please review the Corporate Sponsorship form located on the NPA website—[www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org)



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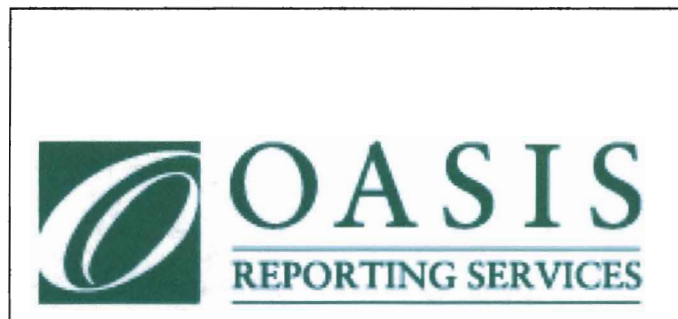
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The Nevada Paralegal Association (NPA), in conjunction with the Legal Assistant Division (LAD) of the State Bar of Nevada, held its Annual Seminar on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. Speakers included Dr. Lewis Etcoff (Forensic Psychologist), and attorneys Dennis Haney (Changes in Mechanic's Liens Case Law in NV), Lawrence Rouse (Tax Elections and Documentation), Shawn Miller (Overview of Foreclosure and Bankruptcy), and Dennis Kennedy (UPL, Attorney Supervision, Ethics). We were pleased to have over 6 vendors for the Vendor Fair. The Exhibitors spotlighted their services, and also provided gifts for the drawings. The Association was pleased to have over 50 attendees for this Seminar.

## Many thanks to our 2011 Website Sponsors



Articles and News items should be directed to [administrator@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:administrator@nevadaparalegal.org) through the website at [www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org).

Inquiries about advertising placement, applications, membership materials and e-mail address changes should be directed to Mary Sedillo or Linda Soeder at [administrator@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:administrator@nevadaparalegal.org).

Articles will be published as space permits. The Newsletter Committee reserves approval and edit rights on any article submitted.

The Nevada Paralegal Association is a non-profit corporation within the meaning of section 501( c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues and donations to NPA are not tax deductible as charitable gifts, but may be deductible as related business expenses. NPA suggests that you consult with your tax advisor in this regard. ©2012 Nevada Paralegal Association. All rights reserved