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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS
"Be Herd"
Jill I. Francisco, ACP
NALA Affiliated
Associations Director

First, let me say that I am very honored to serve as your Affiliated Associations Director for 2008-2009. I am looking forward to an exciting year for the Affiliates.

For those who do not know, I am an alumnus of Marshall University in Huntington, WV, and am an avid Marshall University **Thundering Herd** football fan. I have only missed two home football games since 1990. I am dedicated to it.

I want the Affiliates to know that I am here to serve you. I will be your coach, teammate, cheerleader, and biggest fan. I am dedicated to the Affiliates and want you to **"BE HERD"**. I want you to get your "word" out. Tell us what your affiliate needs or has accomplished. What can NALA do for you? We are listening. You will **"BE HERD"**! Together we can accomplish great things.

Please make every effort to get your Quarterly and Annual Reports turned in on time during this fiscal year. That is one of the many ways

that you will **"BE HERD"**. We want to showcase your accomplishments and share your news. We cannot do that unless we hear from you.

This is YOUR Affiliates Brief. The Affiliates can learn from each other and share the wealth of information and ideas that each posses in this venue.

Soooooo....LET'S GO AFFILIATES!! Gimme an "A", gimme an "F", gimme another "F"... ok,ok you get the picture!

I am cheering for you. I am here to coach you along. We can be a great team this year. I hope to hear from you soon!



**SECRETARY'S
COMMENTS**

Debby J. Sawyer, CP
NALA Affiliated
Associations Secretary

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Affiliated Associations Secretary for another year. Jill and I are so excited and are looking forward to serving the Affiliates. As this is my first article for the first Brief for the new NALA fiscal year, I would like to take the opportunity to say that I have enjoyed meeting and working with the Affiliates. I have had so much fun getting to know some of you via email and learning about your different organizations. I continue to be amazed at the remarkable accomplishments and activities of each association. More so, I am completely blown away by the educational benefits offered by each organization. Each quarter, I find myself waiting with much anticipation

for those quarterly reports. I just can't wait to see what new and exciting things are taking place. I know that all of you are very proud to be members of your associations, and justifiably so, and I am so thrilled that I get to see a glimpse of what each of your Affiliates represent.

While I see a great diversity among the Affiliates with your various projects and tracks, I also see uniformity. Each Affiliate is equal in its commitment to its members, to the paralegal profession, and to NALA and all it represents. You make me very proud to call myself a paralegal and proud to be a part of this wonderful profession.

I share in Jill's inspiration and motivation for you to **BE HERD**, and I encourage all of you to **speak up** and **speak out** this year. We want 2009 to be the year for all Affiliates to shine!!!!

Highlights from 33rd Annual Convention, Oklahoma City

The Convention kicked off with a wonderful keynote speaker, Charles P. Schroeder, Executive Director of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City. He was very motivating and enthusiastic about NALA! Here is my favorite message that he passed on to us:

"The Code" according to Jim Owens:

- Live each day with courage.***
- Take Pride in your work.***
- Always finish what you start.***
- Do what has to be done.***
- Be tough, but fair.***
- When you make a promise, keep it.***
- Ride for the brand.***
- Talk less- say more.***
- Some things aren't for sale.***
- Know where to draw the line.***

The next few mornings were jammed

pack with the highest quality CLEs and professional business in the afternoons.

A highlight of the Affiliated Association meeting is the presentation of the Affiliate Awards. The Affiliates Awards are given to NALA members who have received a special award or recognition from an affiliated association. It recognizes significant achievements of members at the state and local level. Affiliates submit nominees based on their own selection criteria, and all nominees for an Affiliates Award are considered for the Outstanding Contribution Award.

Each was acknowledged and received a beautiful plaque for their contribution to their Affiliate and to the paralegal profession.

2008 Outstanding Contribution Award - Cathy L. Davis, ACP – Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc. (AAPi). Cathy has strongly influenced the paralegal profession in Alabama through her efforts to establish a formal definition of "paralegal" for the state. She has worked closely with the Alabama State Bar, educational entities, and paralegals in this quest, and has attended countless meetings to inform attorneys and firm administrators in the advantages of using paralegals. Largely through her efforts, a definition is due for consideration by the Alabama State Bar. Establishment of this definition would be a huge step forward for the state's paralegals and the Alabama legal profession. Cathy is a paralegal with a Montgomery law firm and is heavily involved in AAPi affairs, having served as Region Director, Treasurer and Public Relations Chair. She is also a member of NALA, he Legal Assistants Division of the Montgomery County Bar Association, and is on the Legal Studies Advisory Board of Faulkner University.

2008 Affiliates Awards
(in geographic order)

Shermaine Dowling, CP – Arkansas Paralegal Alliance, Inc. (APA).

Shermaine has shown consummate professionalism and commitment to the paralegal profession during eight years as a member of APA. She has served as President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Treasurer and NALA Liaison. In the past year, she worked tirelessly to prepare and present a CLA/CP Examination preparatory course, and has also worked on the volunteer tutor program in conjunction with the Young Lawyers Association of the Arkansas State Bar. Through APA, she has coordinated collections for "Operation Crayon" and is constantly working to improve the paralegal community and professional service. She also serves on the advisory council for the Paralegal Studies Program at Pulaski Technical College and participates in other community activities such as the Walk for Diabetes.

Linda Mattern, PLS, CLAS – Tucson Paralegal Association (TPA).

Linda is described as a "can-do" leader who recognizes good ideas, encourages colleagues to develop those ideas, and then fully supports implementation. Her leadership example has contributed to the growth and refinement of TPA programs. She has served TPA as President, Treasurer, Seminar Committee Chair, Director, and as a member of various committees. Her management style has been to work quietly behind the scenes and give credit to others. She was awarded the Association's Distinguished Member Award for 2003-04, and her positive contributions to the state's legal community are widely acknowledged. She has been a paralegal for 15 years, currently working in the area of bankruptcy, and has prior experience as a computer programmer/analyst and tax advisor/preparer.

Dawn M. DuRocher, ACP – Inland Counties Association of Paralegals (ICAP-California).

Dawn has nearly 20 years of experience in the legal field and has been active in ICAP and

NALA affairs since 1999. She has ACP certifications in Discovery and Trial Practice. For ICAP, she has served as President, Vice President, NALA Liaison, CLA/CP Review Chair, Riverside County Bar Liaison, Elections Chair, Corporate Sponsor Chair, and Newsletter Editor. As Editor of ICAP's quarterly *ICAPtions*, she is credited with developing the newsletter into a professional quality publication. She also coordinates ICAP's CLA/CP Study Program and recruits other presenters as well as doing presentations herself. She organizes many of ICAP's monthly meetings and has been instrumental in instituting "brown bag lunch" meetings as well as several MCLE training module series. She was named one of a dozen 2008 "Paralegal Superstars" nationwide by ParalegalGateway.com.

Jenifer Gibbs – Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA). Jenifer has been a paralegal for more than 20 years and has contributed to LAPA goals and programs in various capacities since 1995. She has been on the Board for approximately six years, was President for 2003-04, and continues to serve as co-chair of the Membership Committee. She was a key force in the year-long process of amending LAPA bylaws in order for the Association to become affiliated with NALA, was instrumental in securing the firm of Morrison & Foerster to serve as LAPA's pro bono counsel from 2003-2005, and willingly works at many detailed tasks required to ensure the association runs smoothly. She is an energetic recruiter of new members and has brought in large groups of paralegals for LAPA's special events such as the October Conference and the Holiday Benefit Gala. She also visits Los Angeles area paralegal schools and programs to promote the paralegal profession and explain the benefits of membership in LAPA and NALA.

Dennis Nakata – Orange County Paralegal Association (OCPA).

Dennis is a paralegal with Rutan & Tucker in Costa Mesa, CA, and has

held a number of leadership positions with OCPA, including Student Section Chair, CAPA Secondary Educational Conference Committee, Salary Survey Committee, and Editor of Compendium. He is a graduate of the University of California at Irvine where he is now an instructor in the paralegal program. In 2004 he developed a mock trial program to give paralegal students an opportunity to integrate what they have learned and put it into practice. Beyond his OCPA activities, he volunteers with various local charitable organizations.

Ken Blanning – Central Florida Paralegal Association, Inc. (CFPA).

Ken is well known for his "great attitude and tremendous dedication" to the legal profession in general as well as his energetic participation in CFPA affairs. He is an integral part of CFPA's leadership team and has played a significant role in the association's growth in recent years. He has been a member of the Board of Directors and chaired the Membership Committee for the past two terms, is active on the Public Relations Committee and serves as Co-Moderator of CFPA's Yahoo Group. He is also a long-time supporter and volunteer on the Orange County Teen Court Program, and has participated for the past three years in the Florida Law Related Education Association's High School Mock Trial State Finals.

Cindy L. Houston, CP – Northeast Florida Paralegal Association (NEFPA).

Cindy is a paralegal with the Jacksonville firm of Fallgatter, Farmand & Catlin, PA. She has demonstrated a depth of knowledge regarding her Association's affiliation with NALA in the performance of her duties as NALA Liaison for NEFPA. She is serving her second term in that office. She is also a key component in the management and operation of NEFPA's CLA/CP review course. She has been through the course herself, instructed the litigation section of the course, and is expanding her role as an instructor in other areas of

the course. This first-hand perspective on the review course makes her an ideal advocate for the importance of paralegal certification and the value of the course as a benefit of membership.

Jaylen Fenton-Katzman, ACP – Southeastern Association of Legal Assistants (SEALA-Georgia).

Jaylen has been a member of SEALA since 1997, serving in a number of leadership positions and taking an active role in association projects and activities. She has been President, Vice President, and NALA Liaison as well as helping organize two CLA/CP study groups whose participants scored a 100% passing rate on the examination. She is a vocal advocate for the paralegal profession as a speaker at Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah Tech, and a number of other local educational institutions. She became a Certified Paralegal in 2001 and in 2004 earned ACP certification in Civil Litigation. She has served NALA as a member of the Professional Development Task Force, is a member of the ABA, has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Chatham County, GA, and served as a mentor with the Georgia National Guard Youth Challenge Academy.

Patricia L. Altstatt, ACP – Nevada Paralegal Association (NPA).

Pat is credited with being a decisive force in increasing membership in NPA since its charter was regained eight years ago. She has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Education Chair, and Web Master in addition to being the inspiration to make NPA succeed when spirits flagged. As a seasoned paralegal, she willingly shares her expertise and experience with new and student members. She is sought after by those getting started in the paralegal profession for pointers, and the members and officers of NPA look to her for advice and counsel.

Christine M. Saito, ACP – Sierra Nevada Paralegal Association (SNAP). Christine M. (Christi) Saito is president of SNAP through 2009 and has also served the affiliate as NALA Liaison (2004-06). She is credited with a strong resurgence of CLA/CP and ACP certification in Northern Nevada. In 2006, she organized the first CLA/CP study group to be conducted by SNAP since the 2001 group she participated in. She has an AA Degree as a legal assistant from Truckee Meadows Community College, and earned her CLAS in Real Estate in 2004.

Mary Haggerty, CLA – North Carolina Paralegal Association (NCPA). Mary has been described as the “front, face, and voice” of NCPA to newcomers and a role model of “style, grace, professionalism and poise” for the paralegal profession. She has been a member for more than 20 years and has served in a number of leadership positions, including President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, NALA Liaison, and Director at Large. In addition to her leadership roles, she has worked on the *Forum* newsletter and is credited with single-handedly building the position of NCPA Coordinator which has become an essential function of the association. She built and maintained the membership database and processed new members with a packet containing the membership card, a newsletter, seminar brochures and other information. No one in NCPA can remember a task that she has ever turned down. She devotes time almost daily attending Executive Committee and Board meetings, planning seminars, or even managing an inventory and selling items to raise funds for the Association. She has an Associate in Applied Science Paralegal Technician degree from Central Piedmont Community College and earned her CLA in 1990. Her area of specialty has been in real estate and she has been with Grubb Management since 1994 assisting with everything from maintaining corporate minutes to servicing

mortgages.

Debra L. Overstreet, CP – Oklahoma Paralegal Association (OPA). Debbie is described as a “visionary leader” who is “committed to excellence and high ethical standards”. Her efforts in recruiting and mentoring paralegals from throughout the state have had a positive influence on everyone in OPA. As OPA President, she has reached out beyond regional boundaries and worked with paralegals in rural areas as well as the cities. She has traveled throughout the state to promote the profession and encourage paralegals to get involved in OPA and NALA. She also networks and collaborates with attorneys and others in the legal community to advance the paralegal image.

Terri Cooper, CP – Tulsa Association of Legal Assistants (TALA). Terri is involved in virtually every TALA project and activity as a leader, worker, and “go-to” person when help is needed. She has served as President, Vice President, and NALA Liaison, and currently chairs the Scholarship Committee. She volunteers on numerous committees, helps with the CLA/CP Study Group as a mentor on Civil Litigation, and has chaired the Education Committee, the NALA Convention Committee, and is a strong advocate for the profession with presentations at local schools and colleges. She is also a member of the Work Force Advisory Board at Tulsa Community College and volunteers annually to staff the TALA booths at the Community Law Day Fair and the University of Tulsa Chili fest.

Shelia L. Williams, ACP – Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association (SMPA-Tennessee). Sheila was a key participant in launching SMPA in 2006, developing the bylaws and standing rules for the Association, as well as contributing to many other aspects of forming a new association. She has been in the legal field since

1982 and has been active in local and state paralegal associations as well as NALA. She has served in a number of leadership roles and demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism and dedication to the profession.

Mona Hart-Tucker, CP – Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals (NTAP). Mona is passionate about the paralegal profession and is regarded as the NTAP member you can turn to when a leadership position needs to be filled or a project managed. She has held many elective offices in both state and local paralegal associations. She is admired throughout the association for the example she has set for many years by “walking the walk” as well as “talking the talk” to demonstrate the high standards she sets for herself and the profession.

Doreen H. Hall, CP – Tidewater Paralegal Association (TPA-Virginia). Doreen is widely credited in TPA for putting the Association on a thriving path during her term as President that continues today. A member since 1997, she has also served as Treasurer, Annual Seminar co-Chair, NALA Liaison, and currently serves as Director. She has worked as a paralegal since 1985, with experience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, VA, the Office of the Attorney General in Norfolk, VA, and the Navy’s Office of the Judge Advocate in the area of medical malpractice. In addition to her leadership roles in TPA, she has proctored the CLA/CP examination and has been a speaker at the Affiliated Associations Annual Meeting during NALA’s 2007 Annual Convention and was a speaker at the Member’s Exchange Program during NALA’s 2008 Annual Convention. She has served in some capacity on a committee or on the Executive Board since joining TPA, and she continues to volunteer for projects or events.

Wendi Ellis, CP – Association of West Virginia Paralegals (AWVP).

Wendi has been a member of the AWVP since 1998 and has been vigorously involved in matters affecting West Virginia paralegals throughout this time. She served on the West Virginia State Bar's Legal Assistant Committee while the Bar was adopting a state-wide definition of legal assistants, and she has been instrumental in securing a state-wide paralegal recognition week through the Governor's office in past years. She also participates in various community projects. She has developed and implemented a number of workshops and seminars for attorneys and paralegals, and has written for various legal and paralegal publications.

Cynthia Lowther, ACP – Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia (LAPSWV).

Cynthia has been a powerhouse on the Association's Executive Committee and is credited with working far beyond her own duties as First Vice President to keep the organization on track during recent distractions.

Congratulations to all of the 2008 Affiliated Award Recipients!

At the Annual Meeting of the membership the 2008-2009 NALA Officers were elected.

President - Linda J. Wolf, ACP
(elected by Board of Directors in March 2008)

First Vice President – Karen McGee, ACP

Second Vice President – Sharon Werner, ACP

Secretary – Ann L. Atkinson, ACP
Treasurer – Kelly A. LaGrave, ACP



**2008 NALA
CLA SHORT COURSE**

Mark your calendar - NALA's CLA Short Course for the fall has been scheduled for November 13 – 15 at the Renaissance Dallas, Dallas, Texas. Registration information for the 2008 Fall CLA Short Course is available at <http://www.nala.org/08ShortCourse.htm>

NALA AFFILIATE NEWS

The **Montana Association of Legal Assistants** just had their Annual Meeting where the following new officers were elected:

- President: Terry Halstead, ACP
- Vice President: Crystal Montgomery-Kaler
- Secretary: Sheri Taylor, CP
- Treasurer: Jennifer Allen, CP
- NALA Liaison: Miva VanEngen

During our Annual Meeting on August 22, 2008, Sharon Werner, ACP was a speaker as well as Montana Supreme Court Justice Jim Nelson.

North Carolina Paralegal

Association is offering its Midyear Seminar September 12-13, 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel at Four Seasons and Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. During this seminar we are offering a CLA/CP exam review course, and for the first time we are excited to announce NCPA's first Exam Cram Course for the North Carolina Certified Paralegal Exam.

Several NCPA members attended the 2008 NALA Conference in Oklahoma City. President Kaye Summers, CLA, NCCP highlighted the NCPA exhibitor table with a storyboard of NCPA leadership and a few of NCPA's many outstanding members. In conjunction with the cowboy and Native American

convention theme, Kaye provided an outstanding info-board of North Carolina's Native American tribes. NCPA members Erin Galloway, CLA and Brenda Mareski, CP were presenters at the Affiliate's Exchange Program, and in conjunction with the Los Angeles Paralegal Association, gave an outstanding presentation on *The Power of the Web: How Your Association Can Benefit From Today's Technology*. NCPA member Mary Haggerty, CLA received an Affiliated Association Award and NCPA member Debby Sawyer, CP was re-elected as the Affiliated Associations Secretary.

The results are in for NCPA's 2008 Paralegal Utilization and Compensation Survey and are available for review on our website at www.ncparalegal.org. Check it out to see how NC paralegals are educated, utilized, and compensated. We are also pleased to offer our Career Center to all viewers. Users can build an online resume, search for jobs, and create alerts to be notified when new positions are posted. NCPA continues to find ways to outreach to members and now our website features an online store where NCPA hats, lapel pins, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and other items may be purchased.

The **Legal Assistant Association of Utah (LAAU)** is proud to have been an Affiliated Association to NALA for 24 years. We are looking forward to celebrating our 25th year as a NALA Affiliated Association at the convention next year in San Diego, California.

On July 10, 2008, the new LAAU board was sworn in for the 2008-2009 term. The 2008-2009 LAAU board members are:

Lorraine Wardle – President

Cynthia Maw – 1st VP/Education

Patty H. Allred, ACP - 2nd VP/Membership, (also NALA Region

VII Director)

Janice Harrison, CLA – Secretary

Chris Stapley – Treasurer

Kathryn M. Wilson – NALA
Liaison/Paralegal Division Liaison

Tarryn Galloway – Northern Region
Director

Denise Bird – Central Region Director

Mary H. Black, CLA – Parliamentarian

LAAU members are able to participate in many educational and service opportunities. Some of these opportunities are organized in conjunction with the Paralegal Division of the Utah State Bar. During this past year LAAU our service opportunities have included collecting backpacks and supplies for the homeless youth in our community and a clothing drive for work attire to assist and benefit the YWCA's 'Women in Jeopardy' program. Our member educational opportunities have included numerous brown bag CLE's covering general and specific areas of law. These CLE's are free to members and offered during the lunch hour. This year we also combined a half day of CLE with our Annual Meeting. Each year in recognition of Paralegal Day in Utah, the third Thursday in May, a luncheon and CLE is held. Over the past few years this has also been an opportunity to nominate and recognize excellence in our profession with awarding the "Paralegal of the Year" award. LAAU is looking forward to another great year.

LAAU has been dedicated over the past several years to hosting a testing site the CLA/CP Exam regardless of the number of individuals registered for the exam. The resulting benefit of this has been not only to members of our Association but to others within and beyond our region. As part of the ongoing commitment LAAU has to supporting and furthering the paralegal profession, a CLA/CP Exam study group began in April 2008 which

is open to anyone in the profession including students. Much recognition for this needs to be given to Patty H. Allred, ACP, who has consistently acted as a proctor for the exam and facilitates the study group.

South Dakota Paralegal Association

The South Dakota Paralegal Association (SDPA) is "kicking it up a notch" in 2008. The first kick began at our annual meeting in Rapid City, SD, on June 19, 2008, when past President Becky Purington, thanked the education committee for their assistance and encouraged everyone to contact our new President, Dixie Bader, about joining one of the association's committees. Dixie continued to kick it up a notch when she endorsed her first President's message beginning with, "What does this organization really want from their president.?" In July, Dixie and I were off to the NALA convention in Oklahoma City to learn and gather information to share with our association. I was able to join Dixie as the NALA Liaison for our affiliation and together with help from other members of the SD, we kicked it up another notch, by setting up an exhibit table displaying the beautiful cities in South Dakota. Since we returned to our State and back to our local chapters in South Dakota, the "inspiration" we felt in Oklahoma carried home with us and is currently spreading like a fever in our association! Following are just a few of the challenges our organization is working on this year to "kick it up a notch":

PRESIDENT

*Increased public awareness by adding a link to www.legalassistanttoday.com/links/. This link added the SDPA to their list of paralegal associations on the Legal Assistants Today website.

*President message has increased committee participation

*President assisting with updating packet information

*President initiated outreach to vendors for sponsorship for SDPA seminars

MEMBERSHIP

*Committee began a project to communicate with certified paralegals in State who are not members of the SDPA to reach out to an untapped resource for new membership

*Committee contacted members who may want to lead Rapid City Chapter

*Currently membership is 104 members with 60 certified

PUBLIC RELATIONS

*Public Relations and Professional Development committees are updating the SDPA packet for new members by correcting the logo and drafting new brochures and pamphlets including information about our scholarship program and NALA.

*Committee is reaching out to local radio stations for community awareness interviews regarding the SDPA and NALA benefits and sharing information about upcoming seminars

*Public Relations goal to add extra logo items to website to provide more choices to members; committee ordered new pens with blue and gold barrels for the SDPA

PROFESSIONAL DEV.

*Professional Development is working on purchasing new DVD equipment to provide DVDs instead of VCR copies of CLE seminars as a library source

*Continued goal to work with the State Bar to change the SDPA Statute to meet State requirements and tighten the qualifications to be a paralegal in South Dakota and to remove the term "legal assistant" and use the term "paralegal" exclusively

*Continued efforts to update and correct pamphlet and brochure information

*Development of an updated salary survey

EDUCATION

*Education Committee

contacted the University of South Dakota and added their new Legal Research/Legal Writing Director, Rachel Alexander, Esq. as a continued speaker for our semi annual and annual seminars; the committee is currently developing an ethic series to be presented at each meeting.

SDPA CHAPTERS

*SDPA Chapters are kicking it up by offering luncheon CLE's with goals to increase contact with paralegals in rural areas, and sharing contact information.

Rapid City Chapter: Membership outreach for a leader in the Rapid City Chapter. Rapid City is involved in continued efforts to support community volunteer work and increase membership. In accordance with the membership committee Rapid City is communicating to reach paralegals in each area who are not members.

Sioux Falls Chapter: Public Relations Cindy Schmit and Tasha Altman, along with President Dixie Bader are kicking it up by attending career day at the Washington High School to share information about the paralegal profession including, the SDPA and NALA. Chairman Vicki Blake has feverishly kicked it up with her chapter and team by gathering information and addresses of paralegals who are certified but not members of the SDPA. Vicki then sent them an invitational letter to invite them to our next seminar. The Sioux Falls chapter has been active in assisting the Professional Development and Public Relations Committee with an editing project to update our legal pamphlets and brochures for the SDPA new member packets. Sioux Falls kicked their year off by utilizing professional speakers at their luncheon to provide CLE credits for attending their monthly meetings. Membership Chairman Vicki Blake commented that, "our monthly meetings increased from about 6-10 to about 20-23 attendees

after we began to offer a CLE credits at our luncheons.!"

Aberdeen Chapter: Public Relations Chairman, Tammy Ackerman, kicked it off by contacting a local radio station to do a community awareness interview. Tammy will connect with President Dixie Bader to share information about our upcoming Seminar on October 10, 2008, in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Further, to share information about what the SDPA is doing for the State of South Dakota and to share information about our National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). Member Mike Bultema kicks it up by attending local university career fairs to promote the paralegal profession and SDPA. Member Christi Weideman linked the chapter with the IPE for conference CLEs and suggested we begin a contact database. Yvonne Lange continues to support the group with factual information about city and county ordinances for non-profit organizations. All members are geared towards implementing monthly meetings with approved speakers to offer CLE credits to increase education and attendance.

The Aberdeen chapter continued in its efforts to "kick it up" in September by accepting an invitation from the paralegals at Bantz Gosch and Cremer Law Firm. By connecting, we added a communication database for linking CLE information and contacts. Five new guests attended and planning began to design the first exhibit table to be set up by the Aberdeen local chapter at the next seminar. Following the communication circle of the NALA affiliated exhibits, the SDPA will begin to have each chapter share information with a rotating plan at each seminar.

There you have it, SDPA is on fire! We are kicking it up in South Dakota! Our semi-annual seminar is set for Friday, October 10, 2008, at the Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain, SD. We are increasing the package of the seminar to add a professional

picture package and massage event along with a friendship get together on Thursday afternoon to tour the South Dakota Hall of Fame. The registration includes: Legal Research and Writing Series with Emphasis on Electronic Discovery and Citations; How Circuit Court Judges Make Decisions; and a continuation of our Ethic series, South Dakota Rules of Professional Conduct and NALA Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Our Member of Year for 2008 is Cindy Schmit who has shown leadership qualities in speaking with groups at colleges and is always promoting our organization. On top of all of this, she is a friend to everyone in our organization. She makes sure everyone is welcome at our meetings and does her best to include everyone. I would like to leave this report with Cindy in mind to represent everyone of us who are members of the SDPA. She is the "inspiration" we continue to carry on.

Western Kentucky Paralegals meets monthly – the third Tuesday of each month. Recent topics have included a member exchange on investigations, a case update by a Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge and the role of the public guardian by a local attorney.

We have a half-day Fall technology seminar set for October 17. Our annual full-day seminar and annual meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2009.

Recent community service projects include the collection of school supplies and staples for a local food bank. We are collecting donations and will participate in the American Heart Association's heart walk in Calloway County on October 18. Members are also filling baby bottles with change to donate to a local pregnancy care center.

Tidewater Paralegal Association held its annual joint dinner meeting with the Virginia Peninsula Paralegal Association (VaPPA) on August 12, 2008. A school supplies drive was

held in conjunction with the meeting. Additionally, TPA awarded 2 Lifetime Memberships to Faith Sullivan, CP and Ann Manter. Both ladies are retired from the paralegal profession and have served TPA in many capacities, including President.

TPA's Annual Business Meeting and Elections will be held on September 9, 2008.

Upcoming seminars include Virginia Alliance of Paralegal Associations/Local Government Paralegal Association 2008 Joint Statewide Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, October 8-11, 2008. Also, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association's Annual Paralegal Seminar will be held in Richmond, Virginia on November 19, 2008. Both seminars have been approved for NALA CLE credits.

To celebrate Paralegal Week in Virginia, October 5-11, 2008, TPA will hold a luncheon. On October 10, 2008, the Virginia Alliance of Paralegal Associations will celebrate Paralegal Week with a cocktail reception in conjunction with the statewide conference.

KALA has several new members on its board this year and we are excited for the new 2008-2009 year. Plans are underway for KALA's Annual Meeting and Seminar which will take place in May 2009. Our new year begins with a monthly lunch meeting on September 9 with a presentation from Dillard's on Professional Presence. In October James Cline will speak on compensable damages and in November Anne Hull will speak on medical issues. Our monthly meetings are always well attended and we look forward to the Monthly Meetings Committee offering interesting speakers and topics. Each month a few KALA members make dinner with the middle school and high school age children who live at the Wichita Children's Home. KALA is honored to participate in this rewarding program. Several KALA

members are scheduled to take the CLA examination this year and we are excited to add new CLAs to our membership.



KALA girls out on the town!



KALA girls with Tita Brewster

Northwest Florida Paralegal Association. At its August luncheon meeting, the Northwest Florida Paralegal Association (NWFPA) was pleased to present L. Scott Harrell, President of Compass Point Investigations. Mr. Harrell spoke on "Forensic Investigation and E-technology."

Two of our members, President, Kristine Hill, CP, and NALA Liaison, Lydia Brackett, ACP, published articles in the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association publication, "The Summation," during the month of August. Kristine wrote about The U.S. Supreme Court's recent Richlin decision, and Lydia wrote about the Florida Registered Paralegal program.

Also in August, our Naturalization Committee met at the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Pensacola, Florida, to host a congratulatory event for the 100 candidates that took their oaths

as United States citizens.

At its business meeting in September, the NWFPA will unveil the details about a CLA scholarship, complete with CLA Review Manual and Study Guide, which will be offered to one of its lucky members. The election of officers will also take place during this meeting, and we are very excited about the slate of candidates.

Tucson Paralegal Association is looking forward to the start of its 2008/2009 fiscal year beginning with our Annual Weekend Seminar in October 2008. This is always an important and fun event involving interesting seminars, good food, good-bye to the outgoing Board and welcome to the newly elected Board!

In addition, TPA is entering a year-long prep for our 30th Anniversary Gala Event entitled "Desert, Diamonds & Denim." We have lots of great things planned to include some very timely and intriguing seminars. We're hoping to have a NALA Board member join us as our Keynote Speaker. The event will kick off with a Friday night cocktail party and end with a Sunday breakfast and seminar session in the morning. Saturday will be filled with seminars and vendor participation ending that night with a western barbecue and entertainment. All this takes place at our Desert Diamond Casino/Hotel/Conference Center and promises to be a great weekend.

Lancaster Area Paralegal Association's provisional approval as a NALA affiliated association was ratified at the NALA Board of Directors meeting at the NALA Conference in Oklahoma City! LAPA recently held its 3rd Annual Paralegal Day/Week Celebration at a local restaurant. LAPA will be holding its 3rd Annual All-Day Education Conference in November and is expecting at least 65 paralegals and paralegal students in attendance. LAPA volunteers have been busy working on various projects for the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal

Associations such as the 2008 *Pennsylvania Summit on the Paralegal Profession* to be held at Penn College in Williamsport, PA on September 13, 2008. Attendees will include paralegals, paralegal students, educators, county bar presidents, leaders from the local and national paralegal associations. LAPA is also assisting with the new voluntary certification program - the Pennsylvania Certified Paralegal (Pa.C.P.) which is expected to roll out in October of 2008.

The Paralegal Association of Florida (PAF) and the Central Florida Paralegal Association, both NALA Affiliates, are working together to sponsor a one-day seminar October 18, 2008, to be held in Orlando. This is a first for both associations. The area of law to be covered will be real property.

PAF's Certifying Board will be administering its CFLA Exam on October 26, 2008. For the past few years, PAF has partnered with the University of Central Florida that holds a one-day Study Course the day before the exam is administered. CP's attending the Study Course receive continuing education credit totaling eight hours which includes one hour of Ethics Credit. Anyone passing the exam, receives 20 hours of CLE through NALA towards their CP credit hours.

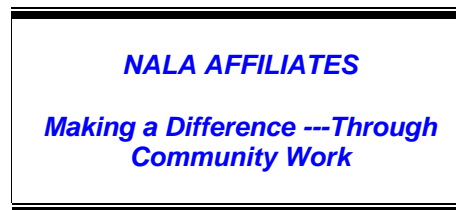
PAF continues to encourage its members to become Florida Registered Paralegals, a designation through the Florida Bar. Currently, there are 2,173 paralegals who have registered for this program.

Los Angeles Paralegal Association
October 18, 2008: LAPA will be offering a variety of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education ("MCLE") seminars, networking opportunities, and a resume tune-up at its 32nd Annual October Conference, "Spotlight on Paralegals" at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel. The Conference MCLE seminars will include

Employment Law, Real Estate, Estate Planning, Corporate-Blue Sky, Legal Writing, Probate, Bankruptcy, Litigation, and Ethics.

October 23-November 22, 2008: LAPA, in conjunction with the National University, will be offering a CLA Review Course at National University located in the West Los Angeles area.

December 4, 2008: The LAPA Holiday Benefit Gala & Silent Auction ("HBG") will take place at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel. The 2008 beneficiary of the silent auction is Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law.



Arizona Paralegal Association (APA): Annually, APA collects monetary donations from its members at the December "Learn at Lunch" seminar to give to a local charity.

Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA): The LAPA Holiday Benefit Gala's proceeds will go directly to a local charity of LAPA's choosing.

Orange County Paralegal Association (OCPA): Team OCPA walked at the Orange County Aids Walk on Saturday, May 10, 2008 in Anaheim, CA and raised over \$1,200. OCPA is also been a strong supporter of The Sheepfold and will collect baby blankets, stuffed animals and toys to donate to the organization.

Gulf Coast Paralegal Association (GCPA): GCPA is involved with the Legal Aid Society of Collier County in sponsoring families for the holidays.

Northwest Florida Paralegal Association (NWFPA): NWFPA partners with the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association at least 4 times a year to host a reception at the U.S.

Federal Courthouse in Pensacola, Florida for people who have studied and tested to become naturalized United States citizens. NWFPA sponsors a book award contest to students in legal studies in local colleges and universities. The NWFPA Christmas luncheon included an auction in which the membership participated and all funds raised were donated to the Children's Services Center, Pensacola, Florida. NWFPA sponsors a Manna Food drive, collecting among its members, law firms, and legal organizations, food donations for the Manna Food Bank, Inc. NWFPA holds a "Cram-the-Van" drive that collects all types of school supplies (paper, pens, notebooks, etc.) for school children who may not be able to afford the needed supplies. NWFPA members stuff stockings at Christmas time for the Salvation Army. Members take empty stockings and expend their own funds to purchase items to fill the stockings.

Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. (PAF): The financial contributions made by PAF members help purchase clothing, provide a safe place for the child to live, provide therapy, etc. Their Chapters work with various charitable organizations during the holidays and throughout the year. Chapter activities have included food drives; adopting less-fortunate families for Thanksgiving and Christmas; running marathons for breast cancer research; assisting in programs designed to help children and families under protective custody due to domestic violence; collecting toys, clothing or other personal items for impoverished children and adults; working with programs that assist women returning to the workforce; purchasing cooling vests for canines assisting soldiers in Iraq; raising funds for our four-legged friends at local humane societies.

Southeastern Association of Legal Assistant (SEALA): Members participated in SEALA's annual Basket Brigade by selecting four needy families and providing them their

Thanksgiving meal(s). Many members donated various food items requested by the local Ronald McDonald House to help those families in need with ill children. SEALA raised \$600.00 by wrapping Christmas packages at Toys R Us and donated the funds to the Christmas Wish Program.

[Heartland Association of Legal Assistants \(HALA\)](#): HALA donated \$1,150.00 to Sheffield Place.

[Mississippi Paralegal Association \(MPA\)](#): MPA uses socials as a time not only for networking, but as an event to gather items for charities. For example, the Baptist Children's Village is usually the chosen charity for the Christmas Social. MPA donated \$500 to the children to help with needed items for the holidays. Another organization which MPA has aided is the Battered Women's Shelter.

[Red River Valley Paralegal Association \(RRVPA\)](#): Members sponsor annual food drives for area food banks, and also volunteer in the Prairie Public Broadcasting television fundraising drives.

[Central Oklahoma Association of Legal Assistants \(COALA\)](#): Financial support of Positive Tomorrows, an organization providing education and family support for homeless and low income children in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

[South Carolina Upstate Paralegal Association \(SCUPA\)](#): SCUPA conducted its annual fund-raiser for A Child's Haven. SCUPA delivered over \$200 worth of school supplies to this specialized therapeutic treatment program for children age 2 to 5 with developmental delays and/or behavior problems resulting from poverty, abuse or neglect. March of Dimes - March for Babies was held on April 26, 2008 in Greenville, SC. McAngus Goudelock & Courie sponsored SCUPA in this effort. SCUPA members raised \$1,700.00. Habitat for Humanity - Women Build project. This

is a new project for SCUPA. They are exploring opportunities to assist with a monetary contribution as well as providing volunteers to have "hands on" volunteer work. Women Build is an all-women team that builds a house for a low income single mother/grandmother and her children.

[Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association \(SMPA\)](#): SMPA participates on a monthly basis in Mobile Meals, a community based program which assists elderly and disabled persons within the Knoxville area. The SMPA also participates and assists on a regular basis the Knoxville Bar Association in Law Day, Habitat for Humanity Projects, Legal Tech Expo, and other activities of the KBA. The SMPA participates annually in The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk For A Cure and the Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the Cure. Also, in May of 2008, several members of the SMPA participated in the Bowl for Kids Sake to raise money for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of East Tennessee.

[South Texas Organization of Paralegals, Inc. \(STOP\)](#): STOP supported the local charity of ChildSafe, Inc. This organization provides services in a safe environment for child and adolescent victims of sexual abuse. They also provided \$440 in Wal-Mart gift cards to Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives, Inc.

[Virginia Peninsula Paralegal Association \(VaPPA\)](#): VaPPA collected personal supplies for Transitions, a local women's shelter as well as used cell phones. The used cell phones were donated to a local group that refurbishes the phones then provides the cell phones to women's shelters in the area. A number of VaPPA members donated their time one evening a week to interview applicants for holiday assistance for the Salvation Army. This program utilizes the applications to establish that year's Angel Tree

program and food program. In December, members volunteered for the afternoon at the joint Salvation Army and Marine Corp. Angel Tree/Toys for Tots distribution center to distribute the gifts and toys to the recipients. The association utilizes its two annual fund raisers to assist in the funding of adopting a local family for the holidays. They "adopted" a single mother with two children. Members of the association contributed \$385.00 to the amount the association donated to purchase holiday gifts for the family, including the mother.

[Association of West Virginia Paralegals, Inc. \(AWVP\)](#): Region III (Clarksburg, WV) presented a \$100 to representatives from HOPE, Inc., of Fairmont; Christian Help of Morgantown; the Clarksburg Mission; and Colleen Boyle. AWVP member Colleen Boyle purchased three Nomax hoods for American soldiers in Afghanistan to aid in fire protection. Region I (Charleston, WV) hosted a 1st Annual Golf Tournament wherein 25% of the proceeds (\$500) was donated to YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for homeless women and families.

[Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia \(LAPSWV\)](#): In addition to volunteer services for CASA, LAPSWV sponsored an underprivileged family at Christmas, providing \$450 to buy gifts for the children of the family.



September
Ventura County Paralegal Association
(CA) – 1984

Montana Association of Legal
Assistants – 1992

Louisiana State Paralegal
Association – 1992

Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association (TN) – 2005

October

Capital Area Paralegal Association (TX) – 1990

Legal Assistants of Wyoming – 1990

Metrolina Paralegal Association (NC) – 1994

Legal Assistants of the Western Slope (CO) – 1996

Houston Paralegal Association – 2004

Florida Metropolitan University Association – 2006

November

Santa Barbara Paralegal Association (CA) – 1979

Legal Society of Virginia College – 1981

Northwest Florida Paralegal Association – 1983

Red River Valley Paralegal Association (ND) – 1983

West Texas Association of Legal Assistants – 1983

Richmond Paralegal Association (VA) – 1983

Virgin Islands Association of Legal Assistants – 1983

December

Legal Assistants of Metropolitan Phoenix – 1987

**34th NALA ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXHIBITION
JULY 8-11, 2009**

The NALA 34th Annual Convention will be held July 8-11, 2009, at The Westin Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego, California. Call (800) 937-8461 directly for reservations.



The Gaslamp Quarter is more than 16 square blocks of renovated late 19th and early 20th Century architecture in downtown San Diego. The area features more than 100 restaurants and sidewalk cafes; dozens of pubs and nightclubs, 100 retail shops as well as theaters, art galleries, offices, and residential lofts.

Hope to see you there!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER

September 30 – Quarterly affiliate reports due

OCTOBER

October 1 – Affiliate renewal fees due

October 1 – Deadline for applications for December CLA exam

October 1 – Deadline for submission of 2009 Affiliate Exchange Program Proposals

NOVEMBER

November 13-15 - CLA Short Course, Dallas, Texas

DECEMBER

December 5-6 - CLA Exam at nationwide testing centers

December 31 – Quarterly affiliate reports due

KEEP IN TOUCH!



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