



Inside This Edition

President's Message
News from Officers
Prize Winners—July & August
List of MPA Regions
HCC Assoc. of Legal Students
2010 Fall Seminar
Sept 2010 Monthly Meeting
Annual NALA Convention
List of Officers
List of Committee Chairs
NALA News

Editor: Bridget Breithaupt

Website:
www.msparalegals.org

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and may not reflect the official view of the Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information on the subjects covered. However, the objective of this issue is not to provide legal advice. If legal advice or other assistance is required, you should retain the services of a competent professional.

Message From the President

Sarah O'Neal, ACP

With Summer officially over, we, Mississippians, are easing into Fall; enjoying the changing of the leaves, football, and *COOLER* weather. However, MPA is just gearing up with the campaign to spread *Enthusiasm Fever* all across our state and nation and we hope you catch it!

We have been enjoying our “new home” for our monthly meeting luncheons at the University Club and I am proud to announce we will stay with the University Club for 2011. Please let us know how you like our new home by e-mail or in person at the next monthly meeting. We want to from you.

CHANGE HAS COME TO MPA

Our website, www.msparalegals.org, has been changing. We have implemented new programs that have brought MPA into the 21st Century. Our Association is the **second** NALA affiliate paralegal association in the nation to use podcasts (audio) and/or video rebroadcasts of our seminars and monthly meetings to provide for CLE opportunities to our members. We have added the MPA Online store for the purchase CLE credit re-broadcasts of monthly meetings and seminars. Just think; ethics CLE is just a click away. We are posting new podcasts and/or videos as quickly as possible allowing you more choices for your CLE credits. Keep checking our website and be on the look out for our advertisement flyers that will be e-mailed and posted to our social media accounts (see below for more details on these accounts). In addition, we have added PayPal to our website which will allow you to pay membership renewal dues, register for membership, and register and pay for seminars and monthly luncheons. We are working to establish a “Members Only” section where the MPA Online store will be located. You will need special access to enter this section and we will announce when launched.

MPA embraced the 21st Century again by the creation of our Facebook (www.facebook.com/MSParalegals) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MSParalegals>) accounts, and we have been inviting you to follow us on these sites. Come and “like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter and see what *Enthusiasm Fever* is all about. We are posting updates about ongoing events and “late breaking news”. This is our way of utilizing technology to help keep you, our members, better informed on all that MPA is doing on your behalf and on all the new events as they are scheduled.

MPA's Public Relations Chair has been gathering videos and pictures of our events and is posting them to our Facebook and Twitter accounts. If you have items that you would like to see posted to Facebook or Twitter, contact publicrelations@msparalegals.com for details on how to get your items posted.

Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

You can now start discussions on Facebook. If you have an idea for a discussion, such as “How do you file a...” or “When is the deadline for...” or even “What is the procedure for ...” start a discussion and get answers to your burning questions. Also, check out Facebook and Twitter to see if you are the “star” of one of our events. You just never know when you will be featured in one of our pictures. This is just one more way we are spreading the **FEVER**.

Mark your calendar with these upcoming events:

4th Thursday every month – Is our regular Region I monthly meeting. Everyone is welcome and bring a guest.

October:

8 - 9 CLA Review Seminar - TBA
13 Executive Board Meeting
15 Deadline for submitting Student Essays to Student Liaison
28 Annual Meeting/Luncheon - Election of New Officers

November:

2 Annual Membership Renewal deadline
10 Executive Board Meeting
16 Final deadline to submit Membership Dues
19 StewPot Community Service
 No Region I Monthly Meeting

December:

1 Announcement of Student Essay Contest Winners
1 Deadline to submit articles to *The Assistant*
 In lieu of a Holiday Social – Donations to local charities
8 Executive Board Meeting
 No Region I Monthly Meeting

MPA has been making technological advances for its membership; **AND WE ARE NOT DONE YET!** We are implementing simulcast technology for our monthly membership meetings. If you are unable to attend because of distance, work schedule, or personal reasons; MPA will come to you. Beginning in September, we will have simulcasting available to a limited number of participants. See some of the details below:

- ◆ MPA will allow a limited number of members to purchase simulcasts of our monthly meetings.
- ◆ These members will purchase the simulcast in advance through the MPA Online Store; then log in with their user key to view the meeting live as it progresses.
- ◆ Handout materials will be posted to the meeting site by a moderator.
- ◆ Members will have a chance to ask questions through the moderator and have their questions answered live to the assembled members.
- ◆ Certificates for CLE credit will be posted to the site at the end of the broadcast for each attendee, just as if you attended the meeting in person.

In August, I called for a special election regarding changes to our bylaws. I am proud to announce the measure passed. MPA can now conduct elections electronically. Therefore, we need all members to confirm that we have your correct e-mail account. You can do this by e-mailing our Elections Committee Chair Kim Badillo at kbadillo@cctb.com. This will be a great time and money saving feature for MPA. We will be able to conduct elections efficiently and have results available to our members faster than ever as the election progresses. Be watching your e-mail for your invitation to vote. You will be provided with a link to watch the results roll in as you root for your candidate.

Volume 2010, Issue 3

MPA has seated a Convention Committee. This committee consists of Lisa Taylor, CP, Chair, Kim Badillo, Zenda Heafner, CLA, Donna Alderman, ACP, Rachel Nesbit, Steven Jones, Mary Lynne Underwood, Sharon Gowan, Bridget Breithaupt, CP, and Sarah O'Neal, ACP. They will be working on an Affiliate Presentation to be submitted to NALA for consideration as the only Affiliate Presentation to be given at the 2011 NALA Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. The presentation must be completed and submitted to NALA by October 1st. We will have the pleasure of seeing it at our Annual Meeting October 28, 2010. The Committee will also be working to bring a national NALA convention to the great state of Mississippi. NALA conventions average 300 to 500 attendees annually which would be a great event for Mississippi. The Committee will be working with several city and state tourism departments as well as state and local businesses to put together a winning proposal to NALA. If you have any ideas, contacts, or suggestions, please feel free to contact a committee member with you information. Good luck Convention Committee, make MPA and Mississippi proud; spread the *FEVER*!

More changes, growth, and advancements are in the works for you this year, in 2011, and well into future. It is our hope that your membership with MPA will be of benefit to you and your paralegal career. In turn, we believe that with your assistance and involvement, MPA will be instrumental in the advancement of the paralegal profession throughout the State of Mississippi, as well as the nation.

We are excited that MPA has joined the 21st Century and we hope you enjoy the benefits of being an MPA member. Become involved in all the new and exciting things MPA is planning for the days, weeks, months, and years ahead. We are on the move and spreading *Enthusiasm Fever* wherever we go. It's not too late to catch the *FEVER*, become involved.

I have said it before and I am saying it again; I am so excited about the changes and advancements that MPA is making for its membership; **AND WE ARE NOT DONE YET...** 2011 promises to be even bigger and better at MPA.

Kathy Mangum
Secretary

Greetings to all:

We have survived! It has been a wonderful and exciting year. MPA has grown tremendously within the last year. Because of your efforts and participation we are right where we should be. Thank you for taking advantage of the opportunities that MPA offers. Please share with your colleagues the great things that are happening with MPA and encourage them to join us. As always you are great to work with and thanks for making MPA what it is, the best!

Zenda Heafner, CLA
Vice-President/Established Membership

Can you believe that Spring has sprung, Summer has sizzled by, and now Fall is in the air! Where has the year gone; and so quickly too? 2010 started out slowly with our membership, but we have had a continued rise and support throughout the year. We are slightly lower in membership from the past, but we are 150 members strong. Thanks everyone for coming back and being a part of a great organization. I'm still in Natchitoches, Louisiana, working on my pipeline project. I still have MPA and Mississippi in my heart and have been working with the Board via e-mail and by phone.

I was honored to go to the NALA Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, and represent MPA for Gwen Burgess, NALA Liaison. Mississippi is one of the smaller states, but we have one of the biggest membership rosters for a state our size. The NALA Board and Membership were very excited about how MPA has advanced in the electronic and technological world. We are one of few that have web pages, the only one with electronic voting, the only one with webinars, and

Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

don't forget about Facebook and Twitter. We are there MPA! Having said that, I have been asked to sit on the Committee to submit a presentation to the NALA Board to present our story on how MPA is making all this happen in our great State and Organization at the Affiliates Membership Forum in Omaha, Nebraska. I am also proud to say that I have been appointed to sit on the committee to try and get a NALA Convention in Mississippi. Wow, is this ever exciting! Stay tuned in on the website, Facebook, Twitter and in the newsletter for updates.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your 2010 Vice President of Established Membership, and thank you for allowing me to serve again in 2011. November is renewal time. You will be notified when to send in your renewals for 2011. Please join us in 2011 for more good things to come. Also be sure to be an MPA Ambassador and recruit friends and colleagues to come join us. See you in 2011.

Bridget Breithaupt, CP
Region II Director

It has been a wonderful year for MPA and it isn't finished yet. Kudos to our president, Sarah O'Neal, for all of her great ideas and her hard work to implement those ideas. Thanks also to our Board members who have fearlessly followed Sarah on all her proposed ventures.

Ammi Nunelee Gates, CLA
Region III Director

Hello Region III members! Check out the awesome new additions to MPA's website (www.msparalegals.org). MPA has begun offering online CLE credit for those who cannot come to the monthly membership luncheons. MPA has also set up a Facebook page and a Twitter link. We have many more creative ideas coming up in the months ahead.

If you are a paralegal/legal assistant in the counties of Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Coahoma, DeSoto, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Marshall, Monroe, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union and Yalobusha, and are interested in becoming a member, renewing your membership, and/or have ideas or suggestions for meetings or seminars in the Region III area, please contact me at agates@ywcass.com. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Region III Director again this year!

NALA 2011 Convention Moves!

The destination for NALA's 36th Annual Convention & Summer Institutes, July 27-30, 2011, will be held in DALLAS instead of OMAHA. The Omaha Hilton recently announced a construction project conflicting with our July convention dates. The hotel worked with NALA to change the location for this year and to make Omaha our destination in 2012. The site for the 2011 NALA Annual Convention will be:

Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center!

**Please make this change in your
NALA Meetings Calendar!**

Volume 2010, Issue 3

Sharon Gowan
Region IV Director

Happy Fall! Maybe the hot weather is gone, finally! Fall is a great time of the year, my favorite! It has been a great year for MPA! The Board has been very busy this year. Technology is going to help more of us be involved without being available in person. Thank you for letting me serve as Region IV Director this year and please feel free to call on me if I can help any of you.

Have a great fall and winter!

Catherine Shiflett, ACP
Region V Director

In the Spring and Summer newsletters I wrote about MPA's mission to serve both members and non-members, and also about the technological advances the organization has made under the leadership of our President, Sarah O'Neal. Sarah set high goals this year and has made them come true, supported in her efforts by the MPA Board. It has been my honor and privilege to work with the dedicated members of the Board this year, some of whom have given many years of service to MPA.

I am not seeking office for 2011, so I want to use this column to encourage other members to step up and take the challenge of serving MPA. Working to sustain and improve a professional organization such as MPA is certainly worthwhile, given all the support and educational opportunities MPA offers to paralegals. If you cannot spare the time to hold a Board position, then volunteer as a committee member and do as much as you can to assist the committee chairman. Efforts of each member will be important to the overall success of the goals set by the 2011 slate of officers, so please do as much as you can to assist them. Pride in MPA and a huge sense of accomplishment will be your reward.

Darleen Dozier, CLA
Student Liaison

Colleges in Mississippi are up and in full swing as the Fall 2010 semester is going strong. Mississippi has twelve major colleges or universities supporting paralegal education in some form. We are proud of our students and what they bring to the paralegal field.

Each college in Mississippi who offers a paralegal program of study was recently notified of the upcoming MPA Student Essay Contest. Students submit essays to compete for monetary prizes, MPA membership and NALA materials. The topic is as follows: *Pick an area of law from the three provided and discuss the following: (1) Whether you would prefer to work the plaintiff or defendant side; (2) list the duties a paralegal would perform while working in this area; and (3) Why you would choose this area of law in which to work. Areas of law: (1) Civil litigation; (2) Business/Real Estate; or (3) Family law.* Essays are due to MPA by October 15, 2010. Judges will be named and the competition will begin soon. We look forward to naming the winners in December.

Be sure to vote online for the 2011 MPA Officers!

This election runs until 11:58 pm on October 25, 2010 Central Time (US & Canada).

We are using an online election system to tabulate our votes this year. You will only be allowed to vote once, and your voting choices will remain anonymous.

To vote, please click on the following link:

<https://electionbuddy.com/vote/key/Q8HE-4FN5-SDDH-8C46>



CT & ASSOCIATES

TOM THOMASON

Process Server for greater Jackson area

- * same day or next day service available
- * reasonable prices
- * no mileage charge for workmen's comp
- * no mileage charge within Jackson city limits
- * five years experience

Email: cta1@bellsouth.net

Cell: 601-826-0658

CT & Associates is an affiliate of Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

PRIZE WINNERS July & August 2010 Monthly Meetings

July 2010

General Prize Winners:

Pauline Hand Cochran - Retired
Honey Brown - Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy
Shantaye Q. Payton - Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy
Tonia Hales - Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

Winners of a Gift Certificate to PF Changs

Karan Payne - Watkins Ludlam
Janie Boyd - Watkins Ludlam
Courtney Simmons - Watkins & Eager
Bonnie Parkison - Watkins Ludlam



August 2010

General Prize Winners

Charlotte Matthews-U.S. Attorney's Office
Mary Lynne Underwood -Watkins & Eager
Mary Blackburn -Watkins & Eager
Charlotte Simmons - Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC

Winners of a Gift Certificate to PF Changs

Chrystal Francis - Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC
Caroline Dunagin - Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy
Deloris Cameron - Watkins & Eager
Laminda Minor - Watkins & Eager





Litigation Support Services From Discovery To Verdict

- HIGH-SPEED COPYING
- CUSTOM LABELING
- BINDING
- CUSTOM INDEX TABS
- COLOR COPIES
- BANKRUPTCY MAILOUTS
- DIGITAL OVERSIZE COPYING
- QUALITY CONTROL CHECKING
- DAY, NIGHT, AND WEEKEND SERVICE
- FREE PICK-UP AND DELIVERY
- DOCUMENT SCANNING
- OCR
- DOCUMENT CODING
- AUDIO/VIDEO DUPLICATION
- CD/DVD DUPLICATION
- ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT DISCOVERY
- TIMECODING / DEPOVIEW
- ELECTRONIC COURTROOM SETUP
- HIGH-SPEED PRINTING
- TRIAL BOARDS B&W / COLOR

JACKSON, MS
601-355-5555

NEW ORLEANS, LA
504-524-6789

SHREVEPORT, LA
318-221-1111

Paralegal Technology at Holmes Community College



The Holmes Association of Legal Students (HALS) is an active group of paralegal students that come together in their educational and professional efforts. HALS is affiliated with the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA), Mississippi Paralegal Association (MPA), and is active in community and campus activities.

Paralegal Technology is a two-year program of study which requires courses in the career-technical core and the academic core. The curriculum is based on standards developed from the National Association of Legal Assistants' Descriptions of Certified Legal Assistant/Paralegal (CLA/CP) Exam Sections and is designed to prepare a person for entry-level employment as a legal assistant/paralegal in courts, corporations, law firms and government agencies. Upon completion, the student will receive the Associate of Applied Science Degree.

This program is offered on our Ridgeland campus through day and night courses. In addition, a student can supplement or complete the degree through online courses.

Program Coordinator: Darleen T. Dozier, CP
601-605-5279 • ddozier@holmescc.edu
412 W. Ridgeland Avenue, Ridgeland, MS 39157



HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WWW.HOLMESCC.EDU • 1.800.HOLMES.4

Holmes Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or age in its educational programs and activities, employment, or admissions. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding non-discrimination and compliance orders and procedures for the College:

Wayne Weidling, Compliance Officer, 601-605-3373, and/or Bill W. Hays, Assistant Compliance Officer, 601-605-3374. Written inquiries may be emailed to: compliance@holmescc.edu, or sent to Compliance Office, 412 W. Ridgeland Avenue, Ridgeland, MS 39157.



MPA REGIONS

REGION I: Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Hinds, Issaquena, Jefferson, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Lincoln, Madison, Neshoba, Newton, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Warren, Wilkinson and Yazoo counties.
REGION II: George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River and Stone counties.
REGION III: Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Coahoma, DeSoto, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Marshall, Monroe, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union and Yalobusha counties.
REGION IV: Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Choctaw, Clay, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Leflore, Lowndes, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Sunflower, Washington, Webster and Winston counties.
REGION V: Clarke, Covington, Forrest, Jones, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lamar, Marion, Perry, Walthall and Wayne counties.

Holmes Community College Association of Legal Students

The Fall 2010 semester has gotten off to a busy start and promises to be another successful semester. The Holmes Association of Legal Students (HALS) had their organizational meeting on Monday, August 30, 2010, and elected officers. Sarina Mason (President), Janice Thomas, (Vice-President), and Ashley Manor (Secretary) will serve as student leadership for HALS. In addition, Bob Oxendine volunteered to head up our newsletter.

On September 3, we served at Stewpot, on behalf of MPA, as part of their Corporate Fridays. We celebrated Paralegal Day on September 9, by having Lauren McCoy, a recent graduate, come talk to us about her job as a paralegal. We took a tour of the Old Capitol Museum on September 14. Our educational meeting this month was led by Kristie Droge, a December 2009 graduate, who gave students practical tips for working in litigation. Faculty Advisor, Darleen Dozier, along with several students attended MPA's Fall Seminar on September 23.

On October 25, HALS is sponsoring a lecture by Jim Smith, former Supreme Court Judge, who is currently in private practice. For our holiday project, HALS will sponsor an inmate family and provide presents to the children of a woman who is incarcerated in MS. Along with all of these activities, we are busy with learning what it takes to be a successful paralegal.

If you are interested in obtaining your paralegal degree, please contact Darleen Dozier at 601-605-5279 or dzozier@holmescc.edu.



VOTE FOR THE 2011 OFFICERS TODAY!

<https://electionbuddy.com/vote/key/Q8HE-4FN5-SDDH-8C46>

2010 FALL SEMINAR



Choice Copy Service



Holmes Community College

Thank you to our vendors!



That Southern Accent

- CORPORATE SPONSOR**
CT & Associates
- GOLD SPONSOR**
Choice Copy Service
Holmes Community College
- BRONZE SPONSOR**
Mississippi Consulting Group, Inc.
Merrill Corporation
- BREAK SPONSOR**
That Southern Accent

2010 FALL SEMINAR Part 2



Thanks to Donna Alderman, Vice President of Education, for another great seminar.



Seminar participants pose with the Secretary of State, Delbert Hoseman, who spoke about business practices.



CANDID SHOTS

September Monthly Meeting



Ms. Subrina Cooper, Esq. who is an instructor at The University of Southern Mississippi spoke to the membership about the pitfalls of Social Media.



CANDID SHOTS 2

September Monthly Meeting

Mr. Tony Carlisle from Young Williams P.A. passes the \$250 donation to Sarah O'Neal, President of the Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.



Mississippi Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators donated \$250 to the Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.



35th Annual Convention and Exhibition Jacksonville, Florida July 14 -17, 2010

Zenda S. Heafner, CLA
Acting NALA Liaison for Gwen Burgess, CP

Tuesday, July 13, 2010, Northeast Florida Paralegal Association, Northwest Florida Paralegal Association, Central Florida Paralegal Association, Gulf Coast Paralegal Association, and Paralegal Association of Florida hosted Earlybird Reception and Orientation at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Paralegals from all over the United States mingled, ate, drank and had a little fun listening to live entertainment. It was a time for reunions for many and introductions for the “First Timers”. Sarah O’Neal, ACP, 2010 MPA President, Lisa Taylor, CP, and I, Zenda S. Heafner, CLA, represented MPA this year. Sarah was our “First Timer” and as Lisa and I predicted, SHE IS HOOKED! Before the end of the week she was already planning what MPA could do for the next year. Unfortunately MPA’s NALA Liaison, Gwen Burgess, CP, could not attend the Convention and I agreed to represent MPA and Gwen in Jacksonville. I had planned to attend anyway, but was honored when asked to step in and help Gwen out. Gwen, we missed you and hope you are making your plans to attend in Omaha, Nebraska in 2011.

Nearly 300 paralegals from 41 states opened NALA’s 35th Annual Convention and Exhibition July 14, in Jacksonville, Florida, on the first of four days of educational programs, business meetings, and vendor presentations. Linda J. Wolf, ACP, NALA President, welcomed attendees and introduced keynote speaker Daniel K. Bean, commercial trial lawyer and Captain in the U.S. Naval Reserves from Jacksonville. Bean told the audience to “remember how lucky and privileged you are to be paralegals...it is a great day to be a member of the legal profession.” He also advised the convention attendees to “find something new at this convention to add to your paralegal ‘tool bag,’ and “reach out to meet new people to expand your horizons and make you a better legal professional.” Bean’s optimistic message was followed throughout the day by continuing legal education, an all-convention luncheon, and the afternoon membership forum and volunteer fair featuring information on how to participate in a variety of NALA programs. The luncheon featured an open dialog between long-time NALA member and former NALA President Karen Sanders-West and new member Ruth Conley who contrasted the differences between the profession and the association “Then and Now.”

Masters of Our Own Profession -- Ms. Sanders-West related to the luncheon audience that 30-35 years ago, most legal assistants didn’t start out that way because the profession had just barely been initiated. “Most of us started out as legal secretaries with aspirations for bigger and better things,” she said. “When NALA started out in 1975, we were not exactly embraced as a new profession, so we made a strategic decision to be masters of our own professional identities.” Ms. Conley noted that when she began her paralegal career in 1990, she benefitted greatly from the work that had already been done by NALA to improve career opportunities for paralegals. She also echoed an observation by Ms. Sanders-West that a great many paralegals today consider that they have achieved their career choice. “Today’s paralegals want to be paralegals,” she explained. “For the most part, they do not feel compelled to use the profession as a stepping stone to becoming an attorney—some may do so, but being a paralegal is considered a noble calling it itself.”

The membership forum introduced NALA officer candidates and detailed the new NALA certification process to begin September 1. The new procedure includes computer-based testing and greater flexibility of nationwide testing dates. There was also a live demonstration of the new search feature for Facts & Findings that allows searching the F&F archives by author, article title, issue, article description, departments or key words. This capability is provided as a member benefit, and will search all issues back to 2000.

An opening night reception Wednesday evening featured a 1970s theme that drew enthusiastic participants attired in period apparel to celebrate the spirit of the decade of NALA’s founding in 1975. Attendees “boogied down” under a mirrored disco-ball and circulated with old friends and new acquaintances while the ‘70s music played.

Volume 2010, Issue 3

Education Program -- The first of three days of institutes featured the initial courses in “Bankruptcy,” by Birmingham, Alabama, attorney Michael L. Hall; “Elder Law,” by Dr. Marci S. Johns, Legal Studies Director at Faulkner University, Montgomery, Alabama; and a “Veterans Law,” institute offered by attorneys Katrina J. Eagle of the Eagle & Wildhaber Firm, Washington, D.C., and Rebecca C. Patrick with the Patrick Law Firm, Columbia, South Carolina.

The perennially popular “Essential Skills” courses, presented by Virginia Koerselman-Newman, JD, and Karen Sanders-West, JD/ACP, along with educational tracks in “Corporate Law” (Mergers & Acquisitions), “Litigation” (Intellectual Property), and “Hot Topics” (Mortgage Foreclosures and Bailouts) filled out the first day’s educational program.

The convention continued Thursday with the Affiliated Associations Annual Meeting, the Affiliates Exchange presentations, and Affiliated Associations Awards. The vendor exhibition closed Thursday afternoon with presentation of door prizes during the Affiliates annual meeting.

The final day of the convention on Saturday included the last two hours of Essential Skills, concurrent sessions featuring the prestigious Member Exchange presentations by Patricia J. Gustin, ACP on “Empowering & Rejuvenating the Professional You;” and “Humor in the Workplace” by Kristina M. Hopkins, CP, and Jaye L. Koch, ACP. The closing presentation on “Ethics” was made by Petra H. Mandigo Hulm, attorney from Bismarck, North Dakota.

Debra Overstreet, ACP, a paralegal with the US Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa, and a member of the Tulsa Area Paralegal Association, was elected Affiliated Associations Director on Thursday, July 15, at NALA’s 35th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Jacksonville. Her election was during the Affiliated Associations Annual Meeting on the second day of the nation’s largest gathering of paralegals. Ms Overstreet said she was thrilled to be elected to the position and was eager to begin working with newly elected Affiliated Associations Secretary Sandra D. Hatch, CP, Portland, Oregon, (Pacific Northwest Paralegal Association) to establish communication with affiliates around the nation. “It is premature to announce a detailed agenda at this time,” she said, “but there are ongoing needs in membership growth that we will address. More specific plans will be developed in coming weeks and presented in the regular “Affiliates Column” of Facts & Findings.”

The convention educational program continued with morning institutes in “Bankruptcy,” “Elder Law,” and “Veterans Law,” as well as tracks in “Essential Skills,” “Corporate Law” (UCC-9 Secured Transactions), “Litigation” (Medical Records), and “Hot Topics” (Energy Issues).

The convention educational program of institutes in “Bankruptcy,” “Elder Law,” and “Veterans Law,” and the tracks in “Corporate Law,” “Litigation,” and “Hot Topics” drew to a close Friday morning. The final session of “Essential Skills” was Saturday morning, along with the prestigious Member Exchange presentations.

The afternoon Affiliated Associations Annual Meeting was preceded by exhibitors’ door prizes awarded to recipients chosen randomly from business cards left at the display booths. There were 28 vendors represented in the two-day exhibition, including Lexis-Nexis, providers of the handout bags, and key sponsor Cengage.

The general session of the afternoon featured Affiliates Exchange presentations by the Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc., and the Northwest Florida Paralegal Association. Alabama paralegals Cathy L. Davis, ACP; Sharon S. Franks, CP; Angélie M. Garcia, ACP; and Jane D. McKinnon, CP, offered a PowerPoint presentation and panel discussion on the effectiveness of “meet-and-greet” programs to grow affiliate membership. Lydia Herrera Brackett, ACP, FRP, and Kristine M. Hill, CP, FRP, of the Northwest Florida Paralegal Association, presented ideas for promoting development of affiliate leadership and featured tips on how to use technology to facilitate the effort.

The third day of NALA’s 35th Annual Convention began Friday, July 16, with the opening of the Affiliated Associations Exhibits and closed with a reception and installation of new officers announced at the afternoon annual meeting. The onsite computer polls that opened Thursday morning, closed 30 minutes after the end of morning educational sessions Friday, and results were announced at the 35th Annual Meeting Friday afternoon. In the contested offices, Kelly A. LaGrave, ACP, was elected Second Vice President, and Jill I. Francisco, ACP was elected Treasurer. Other new officers are Ann L. Atkinson, ACP, First Vice President; and Cassandra

Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

Oliver, ACP, Secretary. Region Directors elected for the next year are: Janet L. Holmgren, CP, Region I; Julie D. Hunt, CP, Region V; Melissa Hamilton, ACP, Region VI; Karin M. Scheehle, ACP, Region VII; and Joan Wiley, ACP, Region IX. Approved amendments to the NALA Bylaws Article III included a new definition for "Quorum," and a new dues refund policy for membership resignations.

Mr. Bob Ross, Chief Development Director, representing the Greater Jacksonville Area USO made a moving address accepting donations of money and items for service men. He stated his USO is working with 4 MASH units in Afghanistan who will greatly appreciate the NALA contributions. MPA's Cathy Shiflett graciously donated lip balms and lotions.

Friday's program featured the 35th Annual Meeting of NALA with results of the election of officers and directors, resolutions and bylaw amendments, awards presentations and special presentations. The day officially concluded with an evening reception and installation of the new Board of Directors.

The annual awards presentations were headlined by the Founders Award, NALA's highest honor, which went to Patricia G. Elliott, ACP, in recognition of a career-long record of service to the paralegal profession. Pat was NALA President from 2000 to 2002 and has served in numerous leadership roles for the association.

Presentation of the annual Affiliated Association Awards honored 17 individuals and two committees from NALA affiliates nationwide. The Affiliated Associations Outstanding Contribution Award, and a Special Award from the NALA President, was made during the 35th Annual Meeting of NALA on Friday. Our own Lisa D. Taylor, CP, won the Mississippi Affiliated Association Award. Congratulations, Lisa!

The 2010 Affiliated Associations Outstanding Contribution Award for exceptional achievement in leadership and service to his local affiliated association was made to Lee A. Paige, CLA, of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association.

There was also a "Special Award" from President Linda J. Wolf, ACP, made to the Arkansas Paralegal Alliance, Inc., for their extraordinary help and compassion shown for an out-of-state paralegal that travelled to Little Rock for life-saving surgery in 2008. The award was in the form of a presidential letter and a cash contribution in APA's name to the Greater Jacksonville Area USO.

Friday was a fun day for the Affiliate Associations. Affiliates were allowed to have a table to promote their organizations. This is a great way to see what other Associations have going on in their state and to network. Of course MPA was represented! We proudly displayed our new Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc. banner. At the end of the Friday Affiliates' meeting, door prizes from the various Affiliate Associations were handed out. The Mississippi Bureau of Tourism gave MPA Mississippi bags, lapel pins and brochures. The MPA Magnetic Dry Boards were a hit! We also had red, white and blue beads with Mississippi flags. Who knew what a hit the beads would be! We finally agreed to give our last strain of beads as a drawing gift, of which went to Loretta Phillips of Omaha, Nebraska. Along with the beads we gave out a \$100 gift card to Claire E. Smith, Newport News, Virginia; a necklace made by our own Sarah O'Neal to Jenice Jones, CP of Pensacola, Florida; a carat gem stone to Christina L. Koch, ACP of Omaha, Nebraska; and even our Magnolia table arrangement to Julie A. Craft, ACP of Decatur, Alabama (after much insistence to give it away).

LEAP {Leadership Enhancement and Preparation} -- Leap is beginning its fourth year with our own Sarah O'Neal, ACP as a member of the 2011 class. 30 NALA members from throughout the U.S. have completed the LEAP program. LEAP is a year-long class and participation group. LEAP has scheduled speakers throughout the year, has webcast classes, and meets several times during the year. The class is divided into small groups and given assignments based on their discussions. One group is selected by the NALA Board to make a presentation to the membership during the NALA Annual Membership Meeting. The Class will be able to interact with the NALA Board to embrace the LEAP class member's experiences. Good luck and congratulations to Sarah for being selected for this great experience!

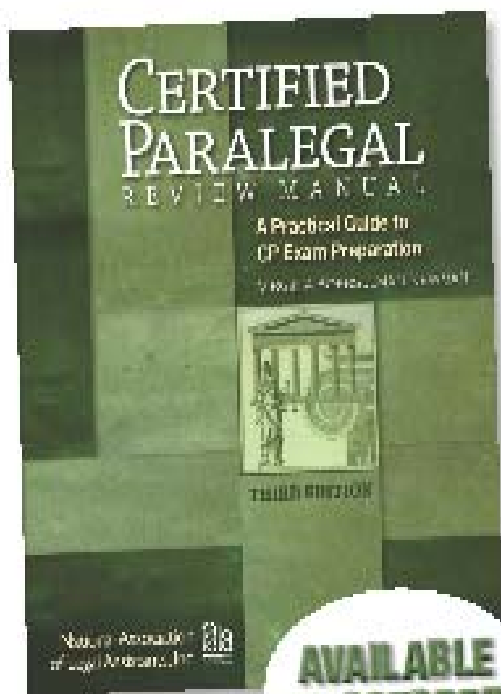
Karen Greer McGee, ACP, elected NALA President by the Board of Directors last March, officially took office along with the rest of the new officers and directors at the installation ceremonies Friday evening. The new Board of Directors had their first meeting of 2010 before the beginning of the educational programs on Saturday, July 17.

Adjournment of the 2010 convention came at the conclusion of the closing presentation on “Ethics” by Petra H. Mandigo Hulm, an Associate at the firm of Crowley Fleck PLLP, in Bismarck, North Dakota.

NALA will meet for the 36th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2011. Hope to see you there.

© 2010, National Association of Legal Assistants 1516 S. Boston, #200, Tulsa, OK 74119 – Excerpts of this report were taken from NALA Mail sent out to NALA Membership.

Newly revised and thoroughly updated, this is a must-have resource for anyone preparing to take the NALA CLA/CP Exam!



CLA/CP REVIEW MANUAL:

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CLA/CP EXAM PREPARATION, 3RD EDITION

Like the exam itself, this comprehensive manual is known in the field for high standards of paralegal professionalism and excellence. The introduction of the third edition describes the exam including policies and eligibility; the 16 chapters focus on specific content areas of the test. **Key features include:**

- Tips for efficient study, including group study suggestions.
- Positive test performance suggestions, including tips for controlling stress and answering specific types of questions.
- Extensive outlines with law summaries, illustrative examples, sample questions, and charts for review.
- UPDATED realistic Self-Tests at the end of each chapter.
- NEW Section on Ethics discussing the fundamentals of email communication and computer use.



DELMAR
CENGAGE Learning

Watch the NALA Website for ordering details!

2010 NALA Convention



Zenda Heafner, Lisa Taylor, and Sarah O'Neal



Jacksonville Riverfront



Lisa Taylor & Linda Wolf, 2010 NALA President



Jacksonville Hyatt



Karen McGee, 2011 NALA President and Lisa Taylor

At the 2010 NALA Convention, MPA donated several items as door prizes. Listed below are the winners and the prize that was won.

- ◆ Christina L. Koch, ACP from Inserra & Kelley Attorneys at Law in Omaha, Nebraska won the over 1 ct Zandrite gem stone, which is a color change gem that goes from a deep blue to a vibrant pink.
- ◆ Claire E. Smith, CLA from Newport News, Virginia won the \$100 gift card
- ◆ Loretta Phillips, Paralegal from the City of Omaha Law Department won the Mardi Gras Mississippi Flag beaded necklace.
- ◆ Julie A. Craft, ACP—Trial Practice from Chenault Hammond, P.C. from Decatur, Alabama won the flower arrangement made of Magnolias, the State Flower of Mississippi.
- ◆ Jenice Jones, CP from Coastal Association Law Group, P.L. in Pensacola, Florida won the handmade blue and white glass bead necklace.



That Southern Accent

Need flowers but looking for something different? From wedding bouquets and birthday celebrations to baby announcements and tailgating parties, we have unique flowers and gifts for any occasion.

Let That Southern Accent decorate your office, home or even a party for you this holiday season! We can design client gift baskets for the holidays too! Give us a call today to discuss your special occasion! Or check us out on the web.

601-326-2326

www.thatssouthernaccent.com

Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

MISSISSIPPI PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC		
P. O. Box 996		
Jackson, MS 39205		
E-mail: ContactUs@MSParalegals.com		
BOARD POSITION (2009)	NAME/MEMBER	CONTACT INFORMATION
President	Sarah O'Neal, ACP	sarah.oneal@youngwilliams.com
Vice-President of Education	Donna Alderman, ACP	donna.alderman@us.army.mil
Vice-President of New Membership	Steven Jones	sjones@mikelawms.com
Vice-President of Established Membership	Zenda Heafner, CLA	zheafner@percheronacq.com
Secretary	Kathy Mangum	kmangum@watkinsludlam.com
Treasurer	Rachel Nesbit	rnesbit@heilmanlawgroup.com
NALA Liaison	Gwen Burgess, CLA	gburgess@cctb.com
Student Liaison	Darleen T. Dozier, CLA	ddozier@holmescc.edu
Region I Director	Paula M. Joyner, CP	pjoyner@cglawms.com
Region II Director	Bridget Breithaupt, CP	bbreithaupt@mississippi.edu
Region III Director	Ammi N. Gates, CLA	director3@mssparalegals.org
Region IV Director	Sharon Gowan	tlgowan@hotmail.com
Region V Director	Catherine Shiflett, ACP	cathy_shiflett@msn.com
Parliamentarian	Mary Lynne A. Underwood	munderwood@watkinseager.com

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON
AUDIT	Rachel Nesbit
BAR RELATIONS	Donna Alderman, ACP
BYLAWS	Mary Lynn Underwood
EDUCATION	Donna Alderman, ACP
Elections	Ammi N. Gates, CLA
MEMBERSHIP	Zenda S. Heafner, CLA
NEWSLETTER	Bridget Breithaupt, CP
PRO BONO	TBD
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	TBD
PUBLIC RELATIONS	TBD
SOCIAL	Paula Joyner, CP
STUDENT LIAISON	Darleen Dozier, CLA
CLA COORDINATOR	Darleen Dozier, CLA
JOB BANK COORDINATOR	Amy Baldwin
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Mary Lynn Underwood
HISTORIAN	<i>Per Bylaws, same as Chairperson of Public Relations Committee</i>

Mississippi Consulting Group, Inc.

Mr. George Carter
27 Grand Bayou Circle
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Phone: 601.549.9335

**N
A
L
A**

Big news from NALA!

Land Use is now available as an Advanced Paralegal Certification course!

Course modules include Introduction to Land Use Regulation, Zoning Authority, Zoning for Land Uses, Subdivisions, Growth Management, Litigation Remedies, Constitutional Framework, Administrative and Agency Rule & Decision Making, Comprehensive Planning, Environmental Regulations & Protection, Aesthetics and Preservation of Property, Processes for Law Owners and Developers, Land-Use Regulation: Past, Present& Future.

For more information and registration information please visit <http://nala.org/apc-land.aspx>.

Be the first to obtain your ACP credential in Land Use!

The anticipation is over!

The 3rd Edition of the *Certified Paralegal Review Manual* by Virginia Koerselman Newman, Attorney is for sale!

For more details or to purchase this edition please visit <http://nala.org/publ.aspx>.

Merrill Corporation

Every day, Merrill Corporation, the international provider of professional deposition services, provides high-quality deposition services to clients right in your neighborhood. Working with your local, reliable Merrill office is easy and stress-free!

Simply call Merrill or visit the Web for easy "one-click" scheduling: A global network of professional court reporters, U.S. and international deposition locations, State-of-the-art conference rooms, Videoconferencing, Deposition videography, Streaming realtime and video, and A Web-based, online transcript repository.

Call 1.800.372.DEPO or email scheduling.mississippi@merrillcorp.com to schedule your deposition today.

Advertising Opportunities

Business Card

\$25 Per Issue. \$75 Per Year.

1/8 Page

\$35 Per Issue. \$105 Per Year.

1/4 Page-Bronze Level Sponsorship

\$45 Per Issue. \$135 Per Year

1/2 Page-Silver Level Sponsorship

\$55 Per Issue. \$165 Per Year.

Full Page-Gold Level Sponsorship

\$75 Per Issue. \$225 Per Year.

We welcome articles on legal topics!

All articles should be no more than three pages in length in a 12 point font; preferably in Word (version 1997-2003), and sent via e-mail to the editor.

Next Due date for articles: December 1st.

Publications: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

By submission of any articles written, you grant approval to publish in the MPA Newsletter and notification will be provided if the article will publish in the issue prior to the publishing of the Newsletter. No guarantees are made to publish articles submitted.

Any questions, articles or comments may be submitted to the Editor **via e-mail to bbreithaupt@mississippi.edu**