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www.msparalegals.org

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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

Welcome to 2010! I want to thank you for electing me your 2010 President. I will do my best to fulfill the duties of the office of President. I am truly honored to serve and appreciate the faith you have placed in me. A lot has happened already this year and we are planning even more exciting things for you. There are some new faces on the board this year, which brings new ideas and energy to help make our Association better than ever. A renewed excitement for our Association abounds. It's called enthusiasm fever. We hope it spreads to all our members.

CHANGE IS COMING: In case you have not heard; due to circumstances beyond the Association's control, we will not have use of the Capital Club facilities *after* our February 2010 meeting. We will be moving our monthly luncheons from the Capital Club to the University Club **beginning on the fourth Thursday in March (3/25)**. The University Club is located in the Regions Plaza building on the 22nd Floor the address is 210 E. Capitol Street, downtown Jackson. There is a parking garage on Amite Street directly across from the Regions Plaza building. The price of the luncheon will remain the same at \$14.50 (lunch, drink, & desert); however, the parking will be \$2.00 per hour. I hope that each of you marks your calendars with the new meeting place for 2010. We anticipate moving back to the Capital Club in January 2011. Please remember to make your reservations to MPA Secretary, Kathy Mangum, by the date and time specified in each notice – usually by noon on the Tuesday before the meeting date. Everyone is welcome. I want to thank the members of the board for their swift action and hard work locating a new facility on such short notice.

Mark your calendar with these upcoming events:

- **4th Thursday every month** – Our regular Region I monthly meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

- **March 12th and May 14th** - Pro Bono opportunities at Stew Pot Community Service. If you have the time, stop by and help out.
- **March 19th and 20th** - CLA examination. Good luck to those of you signed up to take the test.
- **April 22nd** will be our 2010 Spring Seminar, make plans now to attend. Donna Alderman, Vice President of Education, is planning a great line up of speakers and presenters on topics relevant for every paralegal.
- **April 30th** - We have scheduled another Gulf Coast seminar in Long Beach, MS. If you did not have the opportunity to attend last year, you missed a great seminar. This year is shaping up to be even better. It will be a day full of CLE presenters. The educational opportunities abound, don't miss it.
- **May 1st** is the deadline to submit articles to the MPA board for The Mississippi Lawyer, a publication of the Mississippi Bar Association.
- **May 15th** is the deadline for to register to take the CLA exam on July 23rd and 24th
- **May 20th** is our Spring Social at the Hilton Hotel in the Cabana benefiting the Battered Women's Shelter. Come join us for networking, food, and fun.
- **June 1st** is the deadline to submit articles to the board for MPA's newsletter The Assistant.

CHECK IT OUT - Our website, www.msparalegals.org, is under construction for change. We are implementing ideas to make it work even harder for you. Some of the proposed enhancements will be a great addition for MPA, bringing us into the 21st Century. Our Association will be the **second** NALA affiliate paralegal association in the nation to use podcasts (audio) and/or video rebroadcasts of our seminars and monthly meetings which will provide for CLE opportunities to our members. In the coming days, weeks, and months, we will announce more details and be posting these opportunities on our website for you. We are in the process of adding PayPal to our website which will allow members to pay dues, register and pay for seminars and monthly luncheons, and to purchase CLE credit rebroadcasts. Just think; if all you need is one hour of ethics, you will be able to purchase it through the MPA website. I will keep you posted on our progress.

We have finalized the committee member selections. If you elected to serve on a committee, your committee chair person will be contacting you soon with ways for you to make an impact on the Association. Let your voice be heard, participate, suggest ways to improve our monthly luncheons and seminars. We want to hear from you. If you have an idea, a topic, a speaker you would like to see presented, or a way to improve the membership, please contact us at www.msparalegals.org. Your executive board is working hard to bring exciting things to the membership. Catch the enthusiasm fever and become involved.



Kathy Mangum
Secretary

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2010 MPA Secretary. I appreciate your support and encouragement. I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year. Our monthly membership meetings have always extended a grand invitation of networking opportunities, and I am grateful. Again, thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve as Secretary. I look forward to seeing you throughout 2010.



Rachel Nesbit
Treasurer

First I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members for allowing me to serve as the Mississippi Paralegal Association's 2010 Treasurer! Taking the time to serve on a board such as MPA really opens your eyes to

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what all goes on “behind the scenes”, and it really presents a whole new appreciation for what the board members do to make MPA happen.

Speaking of serving, I was very excited to have the chance to write about what the paralegal world can do to help with one of Jackson’s greatest needs – serving at Stewpot. As some of you may already know, MPA has scheduled days for paralegals to join together in service of the Jackson’s most needy. For 2010, the MPA Stewpot service dates are 03/12, 05/14, 09/03, and 11/19. Stewpot needs volunteers everyday, so if these dates do not jive with your schedule, I would encourage anyone to volunteer at their convenience or join in with a group such as the Bellwether Church’s ministry to Stewpot. Bellwether was awarded “Congregation of the Year” for their service. They lead worship at Stewpot once a month, and also organize a group every Tuesday for heARTworks at Stewpot. heARTworks allows the least, lost, and overlooked a chance to explore their “inner Picasso”. You would be amazed at the talent housed right here in Jackson by the Stewpot regulars.

This year, I hope everyone feels compelled to do their part in serving those less fortunate. Whether you do it through the service dates with MPA, your local church, social organization, or if you just volunteer one day with friends during your lunch break, remember that we all have so much to be thankful for. Without those willing to give up a small portion of their free time to serve, we wouldn’t have things such as Stewpot or MPA. I look forward to serving you all as MPA’s Treasurer, and hope to hear about your interest in serving this year!



Donna Alderman, ACP
Vice-President/Education

Welcome to 2010! I am honored and excited to be your VP of Education this year. Education is a very important part of our profession. As the old saying goes “knowledge is power.” Be powerful, educate yourselves.

If you have never considered sitting for the CLA, THINK ABOUT IT. Within the last year I have noticed that many employers are requiring that paralegals be certified before they will be considered for employment. It is very important that we keep up with the times. There was a time when attorneys didn’t have to sit for the bar in order to practice. I think the time is coming that in order to be a paralegal you must be certified. This is a good thing. It shows that we have worked hard to achieve the title “Paralegal.”

I am working on many new speakers for our monthly luncheons and seminars that I hope you will find interesting as well as informative. If there is a specific topic or speaker you would like to have at our monthly luncheon or at one of our seminars, please email or call and let me know. I would be glad to see if I can find a speaker on the topic or contact the speaker you want to hear from. I was happy to see so many of you at our February luncheon. I know that it is hard to get away from work sometimes, but please try to come to as many luncheons and seminars that you can.

There are many things the Board is working on to make this the best year ever. We have come up with some new and exciting ideas for the membership that I think everyone will like.

I am always available via email or phone any time you have any questions, suggestions or complaints. This is your organization. It belongs to everyone that is a member. The Board works for the membership. That means you. So, please let me know if you need me. 2010 is going to be a great year!!



Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

Zenda Heafner, CLA
Vice-President/Established Membership

Most of you know that I was unemployed for most of 2009; not a good thing. I tried to get another job in the Jackson area, but that did not materialize. When I agreed to be your Vice-President of Established Membership I felt positive that I would be getting a job to be able to stay at home. Well guess what? Two weeks after I accepted the appointment to serve the MPA membership again, I accepted a position on a project in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Have no fear! Mississippi and MPA are always on my mind and in my heart. I will continue to serve on the Board, just remotely. I'm only a phone call or e-mail away.

I have always felt it an honor to represent MPA, and have done so in several different positions. This is my second time to serve as VP Established Membership and I will serve you to the best of my abilities. 2010 has gotten off to a rather slow start. During the transition of Officers, we have fallen a little behind in getting the Membership Roster completed. I have worked really hard and gotten the Roster completed and am happy to see so many of you back and a part of our fine organization for yet another great year. The 2010 Membership Certificates were available at the February monthly meeting in Jackson. If you were unable to attend and pick up your certificate, do not worry. It will be mailed to you. If you still do not have a certificate, please contact me. We want you, we need you, we've got to have you!

2010 Membership has fallen a little short from years past. I know that the economy has had a lot to do with that with firms cutting back on paying memberships for you. For those of you that are in that category, make a plea upon your firm to reconsider. Let them know of the opportunities that you are missing for not being an MPA member: great monthly speakers, networking, and seminars held throughout the state. For those of you who are current members, tell your friends about us. We would love to have them come and visit and/or join our great state organization.

Remember to make note that MPA is making a change in location beginning in March for our monthly meetings. We will be meeting at the University Club in Jackson. The monthly meetings are always the fourth Thursday of each month. Wish I could say that I'll see you there, but I'll just have to take it month by month. Please try and attend as often as possible. Many great speakers are scheduled throughout the year, and we are working on some really great seminars.

Thanks to all of you for allowing me to once again serve you as Vice President of Established Membership. Here's to a great 2010!



Due to circumstances beyond our control, the monthly meetings will be held at the **University Club in the Regions Plaza building beginning with the March meeting.** The price of lunch will remain \$14.50 and parking will be \$2.00 per hour.

Gwen Burgess, CLA
NALA Liaison

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your NALA Liaison for 2010. I will do my best to keep you apprised of important NALA events and deadlines. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have related to NALA. While I certainly would never profess to know everything about NALA, I will do all I can to help you find the information you seek. Of course, the first source for all things related to NALA is the website: www.nala.org. If you can't find what you need to know there, contact me and I'll do my best to help you find answers to your questions. Following are some things for which you'll want to begin planning now.

UPCOMING NALA DEADLINES:

Declaration of Candidacy Forms Due March 15!

March 15 is the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy form. Members interested declaring their candidacy for national office or director should have the form in by that date. Please refer to the January issue of Facts & Findings for details. Details and forms may also be found on the NALA web site, Members' Area/2010 Annual Meeting Information (<http://www.nala.org/anmtnmembers.aspx>). The election of officers and directors will take place during the NALA Annual Convention this July. Please contact NALA Headquarters if you have any questions.

President's and Founders' Award Nominations due April 1

Now is the time to start thinking about those exceptional people you have met through your involvement in NALA! April 1 is the deadline. For details, please visit Members' Area/2010 Annual Meeting Information (<http://www.nala.org/anmtnmembers.aspx>). This is a terrific way to honor those who have done so much for our profession.

LEAP Application Forms due May 1!

Leadership Enhancement and Preparation (LEAP) application forms are now being accepted for 2010-2011 class. For details please visit <http://nala.org/LEAP.aspx>.

For more information on **NALA's 35th Annual Convention and Exhibition** in Jacksonville, Florida, July 14 – 17, 2010 please visit <http://nala.org/convention.aspx>

Advanced Paralegal Certification Program for Personal Injury Paralegals!

By the end of today the practice areas for Intentional Torts, Automobile Accidents, Products Liability, Premises Liability, and Individual Medical Liability will be available!

NALA Campus LIVE!

The spring 2010 schedule is in full swing! NALA Campus LIVE! presentations offer real-time instruction by acknowledged educators on various topics ranging from CLA/CP review courses to advanced courses in substantive law areas. Don't forget the phone call is TOLL FREE.

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For a more complete schedule, course information, and registration links please visit <http://nala.org/spring2010schedule.aspx>. The cost of a NALA Campus LIVE! course is \$80 for NALA members and \$105 for non-NALA members. Members don't forget to use your special member discount coupon!

MARCH

- **Trial Preparation for Federal Courts** on Tuesday, March 2nd at 3 p.m. Central Time presented by Candy L. Reilly, ACP
- **Civil Litigation: Part 3** on Thursday, March 4th at 3 p.m. Central Time presented by Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD
- **Judgment and Legal Analysis** on Friday, March 5th at 11 a.m. Central Time presented by Virginia Koreselman Newman, Attorney
- **American Legal System: Part 1** on Tuesday, March 9th at 3 p.m. Central Time presented by Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD
- **Advanced Ethics** on Thursday, March 11th at Noon Central Time presented by Vicki Voisin, ACP
- **American Legal System: Part 2** on Thursday, March 11th at 3 p.m. Central Time presented by Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD
- **Blue Book Review of Citing** on Friday, March 12th at Noon Central Time presented by Mary Kubichek, JD
- **E-Discovery** on Monday, March 15th at 11 a.m. Central Time presented by Dorothe McMahon, ACP
- **Legal Descriptions for Real Estate** on Wednesday, March 17th at Noon presented by Glenn A. Leier, Attorney
- **Basic Evidence** on Thursday, March 18th at 3 p.m. Central Time presented by Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD
- **Corporations: Mergers & Acquisitions** on Tuesday, March 23rd at Noon Central Time presented by Sharon A. Werner, ACP
- **Ethics & Technology** on Thursday, March 25th at Noon Central Time presented by Vicki Voisin, ACP
- **Intermediate Evidence** on Thursday, March 25th at 3 p.m. Central Time presented by Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD
- **Advanced Evidence** on Tuesday, March 30th at 3 p.m. Central Time presented by Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD
- **Generation Skipping Transfers** on Wednesday, March 31st at Noon Central Time presentation by Ed Armstrong, Attorney

Discount for Group Registrations – A minimum of two people from the same site is required to qualify as a group. Group members must use the same telephone line and same computer. The first registrant is full price (\$80 for NALA members and \$105 for non-NALA members) and each additional registrant is \$45. To register your group or if you have questions concerning group registration contact Mariah Williams (mwilliams@nala.org) at NALA Headquarters.

CLE Credit – Many of these courses are approved by the NALA Certifying Board toward maintaining the CLA/CP credential. Most courses have also been approved by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Montana State Bar, State Bar of California, the North Carolina State Bar, and for Florida Registered Paralegals. For more information please visit www.nala.org or contact NALA at 918-587-6828 or nalanet@nala.org.



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Darleen Dozier, CLA
Student Liaison

First of all, thanks for allowing me to serve another year as MPA Student Liaison. I look forward to working with the directors of all the paralegal programs throughout the state in our common goals of educating men and women in the paralegal profession. There's no greater way to set yourself apart in the professional world than to have a degree. It's also a great feeling of personal accomplishment when you receive that degree. If anyone is contemplating returning to school, or going for the first time, let me encourage you to look into one of the paralegal programs we have in the state. Those affiliated with MPA are listed on our website, along with their contact information. There's no better time to get started on a new goal than now.

Another semester has gotten off to a fast – but great – start in the academic world. I look forward to working with my committee on keeping contact with the various paralegal education programs throughout the state, working through the Student Essay Contest, and beginning a pilot program of mentoring new paralegals. It's going to be another great year...don't miss out on the fun!



Paula Joyner, CP
Region I Director

I want to start out thanking our 2010 membership for your continued interest in MPA and the legal profession. Last year was a great year for us all aside from the economy and the snow this year, which actually was enjoyed by many children. As to adults, not only was it an inconvenience for those with children being out of school, but it was very beautiful, if you were able to see the surrounding landscapes. I feel sure you have memorable events that will never be forgotten by you and your children. However, with the frozen pipes downtown in the Jackson area, it was all very much of an inconvenience for those who were working downtown and the surrounding area. I never thought I would ever say thank goodness for “port-a-potties.”

We are off to a really great start this year. I've been on the Board for a number of years. Board members have filled past and present years with such enthusiasm, that we haven't had a problem reaching a quorum for decisions at Board meetings. This has been very uplifting with so much interest in our Association.

As usual, I have been appointed Social Director for 2010. We are planning on a Spring Social this year. The projected date is May 20th at the Hilton on County Line Road around the pool area. Please feel free to bring your spouse, a family member or a friend. They are always welcome. It will be a charitable contribution event, as it has always been. The particular charity or organization has yet to be decided along with the specifics of the event. As far as our Christmas social, it will probably be as it has been in the past couple years, monetary donations, including animal shelters, which we have had a lot of positive feedback from members as to our decisions. Any input you wish to contribute will always be welcomed and considered.

On a personal note, we always need to have faith, and look at things with a positive attitude. Employment is, and has been tough for a lot of us, but if you have faith in God, yourself along with love of your family and friends, you will get through it.

Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc.

I close in thanking you all again for letting me serve as your Region I Director, and for your support and interest in our Association. Also, please feel free to contact me should you have any suggestions or concerns to offer.



Bridget Breithaupt, CP
Region II Director

Hello Region II members! Thanks so much for electing me as Region II Director. The Board has many exciting projects planned for this year. I can't wait to get started.

Once again, MPA is hosting a seminar on the Gulf Coast. The seminar is scheduled for Friday, April 30th at the Long Beach Campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. We have expanded the seminar from half a day to one full day. Among the topics we hope to offer are Social Media: How it affects you and Ethics. The registration forms should be available soon. Save the date and tell a friend! I hope to see you there!

I also serve as the newsletter editor and am always looking for new ideas. I would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions, articles, or complaints. My email address is bbreithaupt@mississippi.edu.

I look forward to another great year of serving on the Board.



Ammi Gates, CLA
Region III Director

Hello Region III members! We have many exciting opportunities for you coming up this year. The Wills for Heroes program is coming to different areas of Mississippi in the next few months. If you would like to participate as a witness and/or notary public, please stay tuned for more information.

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@ywcss.com.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Region III Director again this year!



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Sharon Gowan
Region IV Director

Happy 2010! It is going to be a great year for MPA! The Board has been busy planning a great year for us. I hope you will be involved. I also hope we get new members in Region IV this year. MPA is trying to have more activities in areas other than Jackson, which should increase interest and membership. 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 spring!



Catherine Shiflett, ACP
Region V Director

It is my pleasure to serve MPA as the Region V Director for 2010. Region V includes the counties of Clarke, Covington, Forrest, Jones, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lamar, Marion, Perry, Walthall and Wayne. Hardworking paralegals in those counties rarely have the opportunity to attend MPA monthly meetings in Jackson, but, if they did, they would find a vibrant organization dedicated to serving paralegals throughout Mississippi.

One way MPA is reaching out to paralegals and students outside the immediate Jackson area is to host, for the second year, a seminar on the Gulf Coast. Aimed at increasing the CLE credits available for those attending, the plan is to expand the seminar to include both morning and afternoon sessions. The 2009 half-day seminar was spearheaded by Bridget Breithaupt, the 2009 Region V Director and current Region II Director. Bridget is again working with Subrina Cooper at the University of Southern Mississippi in planning for an outstanding group of speakers for the 2010 seminar, scheduled for Friday, April 30.

Start making plans now to attend the MPA Spring and Fall seminars to be held in Jackson. These seminars are a great way to pick up much-needed CLE credits, visit with other MPA members, and keep in touch with the MPA leadership.

MPA's Region Directors want to do everything possible to assist the members and to encourage non-members to become a part of MPA. If you have questions about any of the scheduled events, about MPA membership, about the CLA/CP exam preparations, or want to talk about planning a group meeting for Region V, please contact me at cathy_shiflett@msn.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>

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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.



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504-524-6789

SHREVEPORT, LA
318-221-1111

Holmes Community College Association of Legal Students

The Holmes Association of Legal Students is continuing its efforts to provide a common ground for paralegal students to come together in their educational and professional efforts.

In January, we identified personal and professional goals to concentrate on throughout the semester. Common goals were to better manage our time, to improve our study and writing skills, to become more involved in volunteer work, to expand our professional networks, and to improve our resumes. Karen Farhart and Leah Byrd pulled together internet resources to help us in these endeavors – thanks ladies for this great list!

For our February meeting, we concentrated on NALA's Code of Ethics. Gwen Burgess reviewed these ethical considerations with us and how different ethical situations may arise in our paralegal employment. Our March HALS meeting will have an emphasis on professional appearance and we look forward to welcoming various HR representatives from local law firms to participate in these activities.

Upcoming events planned for the organization include serving with MPA at Stewpot in March, organizing a fundraiser for the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in April and participating in Spring Fling on the Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College, also in April.

We're having a great time as we work through our paralegal education!



**Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc. is an affiliate of The
National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.**



JAX'10

35TH ANNUAL NALA CONVENTION & EXHIBITION

Come to Jacksonville and see why the city prides itself in having the essence of a lifestyle and landscape reflecting "the real Florida." Our convention hotel is located in the heart of the "Jax" downtown business, entertainment and sports district. It is adjacent to Jacksonville Landing on the St. Johns River, and the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Shopping opportunities and pristine beaches are just minutes away.

THE 2010 CONVENTION PROGRAM

Join the nation's largest annual gathering of paralegals for a diverse continuing education program. The educational program will feature:

Institutes

- Bankruptcy Law
- Elder Law
- Veterans Law

Tracks

- Essential Skills
- Corporate Law
- Litigation
- Hot Topics

Saturday

- Member Exchange Presentations
- Closing Ethics Session

Affiliates Exchange Presentation

- Select Topics of Interest to Affiliated Associations

Member Exchange Presentation

- Prestigious Presentations by Selected Members

Annual Awards Presentation

- Acknowledgment for Outstanding Paralegals

HYATT REGENCY JACKSONVILLE RIVERFRONT

Call (800) 233-1234 directly for reservations.
Mark your calendar now and watch the NALA Web site and your mailbox for more information in coming months.
www.nala.org

JULY 14-17, 2010



**THE ASSOCIATION OF
LEGAL ASSISTANTS • PARALEGALS**

1516 South Boston Avenue, Suite 200 • Tulsa, OK 74119 • www.nala.org

Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Convention & Visitors Bureau. ©2010 NALA



JOB BANK

Is your office looking for a paralegal?

*Are **you** currently looking for a new job?*

If you answered yes to either question, you should check out the MPA website: www.msparalegals.org and/or contact:

Amy Baldwin

MPA Job Bank Coordinator

PO Box 996

Jackson MS 39205

Ph: 601.856.7200 or email: abladwin@cctb.com

Upcoming CLE Opportunities

April 22 — Region I Meeting/Luncheon and Spring Seminar

April 30 — Gulf Coast Seminar at the University of Southern Mississippi, Long Beach Campus

September 23 — Region I Meeting/Luncheon and Fall Seminar/Vendor Fair

2009 PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR

MPA is proud to offer its members a Paralegal of the Year Award. This award is designed to encourage and recognize outstanding contributions to the legal assistant / paralegal profession by individuals whose leadership and dedication has had an extraordinary and positive impact within the legal community. The MPA Officers judge the nominations but are not eligible for nomination. The award is announced at the Annual Meeting in October. Requirements include:

- All nominees must have a minimum of three years experience as a paralegal / legal assistant.
- All nominees must be current MPA members in good standing.
- All nominees must be nominated by another person. No self-nominations. The nominator can be a paralegal manager, supervising attorney, client, co-worker, or a MPA member.
- All nominators must submit a statement (400 words or less, typed) outlining the paralegal's accomplishments, including how he or she has taken initiative to go beyond typical job duties, as well as outside contributions the paralegal has made to the paralegal profession as a whole. (Specific examples and activities should be included.)

Below is the winning nomination form:

TO THE MPA BOARD:

This individual has been working in law offices since about 1985. Like many of us, she climbed the professional ladder one rung at a time. She has served in the legal arena not only as a paralegal, but also as a law office manager and as a legal secretary. Her duties have been many and varied. She has worked on asbestos and annexation cases, public service commission filings, and taken cases from first filing through trial and has extensive trial experience.

Today she is a litigation paralegal who coordinates MEMA cases from a state government agency stemming from Hurricane Katrina; she oversees others paralegals to ensure that documents are obtained and produced and that databases are maintained. This large project has been ongoing for years. It has required a significant amount of leadership and personal investment.

This person began her legal profession career by being the Victim Coordinator for the Rankin County courts. She has worked for Currie Johnson Griffin Gains & Myers, PLLC, Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy, PLLC, Watkins & Eager, PLLS, and Baker Donelson. She has even been a freelance legal assistant for Paul Koerber, Kelly Kyle and Roger Doolittle.

She has served her fellow paralegals and the paralegal profession by holding many board positions within our own Mississippi Paralegal Association (formerly Mississippi Association of Legal Assistants). Among those positions she has held are the NALA Liaison, Vice President of Established Membership, and Secretary. She has attended several NALA conventions for MPA.

Like others who put effort in enhancing her legal career, she is a member an elite group that we call Certified Legal Assistants or Certified Paralegals, having obtained her certification in 2004.

She continues to address the growth of the paralegal profession by her active participation and membership on the Mississippi State Bar Paralegal Committee. She has also given presentations on ethics for paralegals.

In my opinion, one of the most heart rendering jobs in the legal business is working as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). This candidate has served in the tri-county courts in this position.

This person has put an incredible amount of time and effort to do both her job well and to serve the legal profession through MPA. I think she is amazing. She deserves the 2009 Paralegal of the Year Award.

Please consider this letter as my nomination of Lisa D. Taylor for the Paralegal of the Year Award.

Respectfully submitted,

LaTricia Nelson-Easley, ACP

Congratulations
Lisa D. Taylor
2009
Paralegal of the Year!!



NALA Announces Advanced Paralegal Certification Program for Personal Injury Paralegals!

The Advanced Paralegal Certification Board has announced that a comprehensive new program on Personal Injury will be completed by March 1, 2010. The Personal Injury Core Course, a prerequisite to certification in specific PI practice areas, is now available and open for registration to all those seeking this advanced credential.

The addition of the Personal Injury certification increases the number of ACP certifications from the current 7 to 15. This is the most extensive APC program offered to date.

Paralegals seeking advanced certification in Personal Injury must be Certified Paralegals in good standing, must successfully complete a Personal Injury pre-test, and the PI Core Course. Those who have ACP credentials in Discovery and Trial Practice are exempt from the pre-test prerequisite. The core course program covers “Elements of a PI Case,” “Investigating PI Claims,” “Experts,” “Negotiating and Settlement,” and “Presenting the PI Claim at Trial.”

ACP certification credentials will be awarded in the following practice areas. The practice area courses and the PI Core Course may also be taken as advanced continuing education for those not pursuing the ACP credential:

ACP Automobile Accidents	ACP Entity Medical Liability
ACP Individual Medical Liability	ACP Intentional Torts
ACP Premises Liability	ACP Product Liability
ACP Workers’ Compensation	ACP Wrongful Death

Once a Certified Paralegal completes the PI Core Course and all eight practice area courses the paralegal may be awarded the ACP Personal Injury credential.

More information on this sweeping ACP program is available on the NALA Website (www.nala.org).

**Extra!
Extra!**

CP Exam Computerized



“The Certified Paralegal Examination will transition from a paper-and-pencil test to computer-based testing in 2010,” according to Karen Trumpower, *ACP*, NALA Certifying Board Chair. “The first computer-based CP exam is anticipated for September,” she said. She was joined by NALA President Linda Wolf, *ACP*, in praising this evolution of NALA’s definitive professional certification exam for paralegals.

“Our Association has always pushed the boundaries in advancing educational opportunities and professional esteem for paralegals,” Ms. Wolf said. “Adoption of computer-based testing for the Certified Paralegal credential emphasizes our dedication to progress in the 21st Century that was highlighted in 2006 when we launched the Internet-based Advanced Paralegal Certification program.”

Ms. Trumpower said the Certifying Board considered the many factors involved in the transition to the new format, and will continue to monitor the new process to ensure the best possible outcomes for paralegals seeking professional certification.

The new exam format will be available at all of the NALA testing centers across the nation, greatly expanding accessibility of the exam to more than 200 locations. Further details on this program will be posted on the NALA Website as they become available. Watch your NALA mail and the web site for more details about this exciting development.

2010 NALA Convention – Celebrate NALA’s 35th Anniversary!



Pack your swimsuits and your flip flops. The NALA Convention is in Jacksonville, Florida this year.



The details of the 2010 educational program are indeed cause for celebration! Advanced Institutes will be offered for those working in the areas of Elder Law, Veterans Law and with the Veterans Administration, and Bankruptcy. Educational tracks include the Essential Skills program, and special sessions for those working in corporate law, and litigation. A special “Hot Topics” program includes updates on foreclosures, energy law and employment law.

Details are on the NALA web site (www.nala.org) – and you will soon receive a brochure with all the information you need to register. We hope to see you there!

Online Reporting of CLE Credit Submissions

The NALA Certifying Board has approved online reporting of CLE credit submissions for all CLA/CPs. Information detailing the new online reporting procedure and the CLE reporting form are available from NALA’s website at <http://www.nala.org/certification.aspx>.

To allow for online reporting of credit, the NALA Certifying Board has also revised the Requirements to Maintain Certified Paralegal Status. The revised requirements are available from NALA’s website at <http://www.nala.org/certification.aspx>.

The online reporting form may be used to submit credit requests for seminars, workshops and other types of events. When using the online form, do not send supporting documentation. Be sure to keep your supporting documentation as online submissions are subject to audit by the Certifying Board. Your supporting documentation may also be required to maintain other certifications or for other agencies such as the IRS.

Please note that special requests for CLE credit under Categories D or E must still be submitted in writing to NALA Headquarters with backup documentation.



Candid shots from the

February 2010
Monthly Meeting



**Our fearless leader, Sarah O’Neal, ACP,
and the speaker, Judge Virginia Carlton.**



**Stacey Jackson—One of the lucky
door prize winners!**

February Door Prize Winners

1. Kim Pierce, Foreman Perry—P.F. Chang's gift card
2. Anna Maher, Foreman Perry—P.F. Chang's gift card
3. Tina West, Foreman Perry—P.F. Chang's gift card
4. Diane Roark , Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, P.A. —P.F. Chang's gift card
5. Stacey Jackson, Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, P.A. —Throw Blanket
6. Monica York, Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, P.A. —Mug w/Hersey Kisses
7. Jennie Cannon, Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy, LLP —Basket



The wonderful members of MPA!

Donations to Charities

In December 2009, the MPA Board voted to donate \$75 to four charities in lieu of hosting a Christmas social. Here are the charities that were chosen.



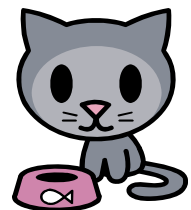
Mississippi Animal Rescue League (MARL)



The Mississippi Animal Rescue League is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization that for over 40 years has dedicated itself to the prevention of cruelty to animals. MARL is supported solely by donations and receive no city, state or federal funds.

The Mississippi Animal Rescue League speaks for those that have no voice and speak loud and clear. At MARL the animals come first. Visit them on the web at

www.msarl.org.



Methodist Children's Home

For more than a century, MCH has provided care for Mississippi's most vulnerable children and families. Founded in 1896 as a traditional, campus-based orphanage, MCH has grown and spread its services around the state. MCH provides community based services and resources to:

- Ensure that children grow up in safe, nurturing homes;
- Help young people navigate adolescence; and
- Eradicate the social and family problems that lead to abuse, neglect, family disruption, and child abandonment.

MCH is licensed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services and certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. With your prayers and support, MCH can make a difference - one child at a time. Visit them on the web at www.mchms.org.

Angel Wings Outreach Center Mission



Angel Wings Outreach Center provides a place of safety for women and women with children who are victims of domestic violence. Angel Wings Outreach Center targets nine area counties in South Central Mississippi. Our services include: shelter, food, clothing, counseling and recovery services that will help women to begin rebuilding their lives in a positive way.

The express mission of Angel Wings Outreach Center is to have an impact on the lives of the client we serve that will motivate them to begin moving their lives in a more positive direction. Visit them on the web at www.angelwingsoutreachcenter.com.

The Little Light House Central Mississippi



The Little Light House is a Christian Developmental Center, serving young children with special needs, from birth through the chronological age of six years. The Little Light House provides highly individualized educational and therapeutic services in a loving Christian environment, all on a tuition-free basis. Visit them on the web at www.llhms.org.

Help save the Earth's resources.

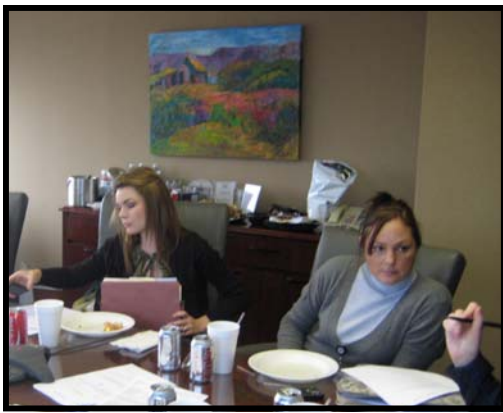
RECYCLE!



**Mississippi Paralegal Association, Inc. is an affiliate of
The National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.**

Here is your Board hard at work for MPA.

SMILE LADIES!



Rachel Nesbit, Treasurer
and
Donna Alderman,
Vice-President of Education



Mary Lynne Underwood,
Parliamentarian
and
Paula Joyner,
Region I Director



Donna Alderman,
Vice-President of Education
and
Sarah O'Neal, President



Gwen Burgess, NALA Liaison
and
Kathy Mangum, Secretary

Snow Pictures from the Jackson area.





Please join us for
**Mississippi Paralegal Association's
2010 SPRING/SUMMER SOCIAL**

**Thursday, May 20th
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
(Spouses are Invited and Welcome)**

**HILTON HOTEL CABANA
Adjacent to the Newly
Redecorated Pool**

Benefit for the Battered Women's Shelter

**Please bring a donation
(toiletries, clothes, cleaning products, essentials, etc.
or cash donations)**

MPA will save you the trouble and use your cash contribution to purchase your donation

Please, let's help these ladies

**Please R.S.V.P. to
paula@boutime.iphoneQyahoo.com**

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1/8 Page

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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.

Due dates for articles: March 2nd, June 1st, September 1st and 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**