

In Brief 3d

January 2010

NOPA P. O. Box 30604

New Orleans, Louisiana 70190

The Official Publication of the
New Orleans Paralegal Association
Member of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations

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NOPA Mission Statement: To maintain a high standard of performance in the paralegal profession; To inform members of new developments in the paralegal profession; To encourage and provide continuing legal education for paralegals. NOPA's goal is to promote awareness, and to educate the community regarding use of paralegals.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kathy Williams

It is 2010 and time to welcome the New Officers and Committee Chairs to NOPA! First let me thank you for allowing me to serve as NOPA President for the past two terms. I am very excited that many new faces will be joining NOPA's Board of Directors and that others will have a turn at the wonderful experience as an officer of NOPA. I am not leaving NOPA, for after serving on the board for the past 16 years, it has become part of the fabric of who I am. I will remain on the board in 2010 as Immediate Past President, to share my experiences and knowledge these years have taught me with those who step up to take office for the year 2010.

This year, some of our most experienced and talented officers have decided that the time has come to step down from their offices and they have worked earnestly to find replacements for their positions. It was not planned that this should happen all at once, but it became simply a matter of time served and time to let others take the reigns. The elections are scheduled for the January 20th meeting, but since only one person expressed interest in each officer position, the races are uncontested. The officers will be announced and installed at the meeting.

When I first joined NOPA, it didn't take

long for me to become an officer on the board. After one year as a member, I took the position of Secondary Representative to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations on behalf of NOPA. For years, there were no contested races on the NOPA Board. Whomever we could recruit to take a position was rarely challenged. Our first real election was in January, 2009, when there was a contest for Primary Representative to NFPA. An election was held for that position, and the officer was named. It was that simple. No other races required a formal election that year so all officers were sworn in at the end of the general meeting.

Earlier this year, we started preparing the membership for the opportunities that lie ahead. Is it your time to start learning, growing, contributing your knowledge and experience, and shining as an officer of the NOPA? If you think it might be, please e-mail me at

kwill10@entergy.com. If you have questions we will answer them. Even though the nominations were due on December 20, 2009, if you are interested, please just let me know and we will discuss the position with you. Don't be afraid. Don't think you don't know enough. This is a learning experience. I do not stretch the truth when I tell you that I knew NOTHING (Continued on Page 4)

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INSIDE REPORT FROM NOPA TO NFPA

By: Robert Fleischmann

NOPA *Inside* Report sent to NFPA on December 13, 2009

The New Orleans Paralegal Association has been looking forward to 2010 and has been encouraging members to consider running for board positions and encouraging new members to consider serving on committees. NOPA's annual business meeting for elections has been scheduled. The annual Holiday Party will be this Thursday evening at Ralph Brennan's restaurant on City Park Avenue and members will be able to participate in walking tours through City Park's Celebration in the Oaks holiday lights display.

Planning for 2010 speakers and holiday socials has already begun, along with discussions for forming the seminar committee for next year. A decision to contribute to the Military Paralegal Outreach Program four times in 2010 was made and two new membership coordinators have been welcomed aboard for the new year. Plans for the salary survey are in the works as well.

Happy Holidays to all from New Orleans and GO SAINTS! WHO DAT!!!!

Robert O. Fleischmann, NFPA Primary Representative

SPECIAL THANKS TO 2009 NOPA SPONSORS

- **Chaffe McCall, L. L. P.**
- **Crescent Bank & Trust**
- **Esquire Deposition Services**
- **Herzing University**
- **Shuart & Associates Legal Search and Staffing**
- **The Dancel Group**

NOPA CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD AT RALPHS IN THE PARK

The New Orleans Paralegal Association held its annual Christmas party at Ralph's in the Park. It was quite the festive occasion with the beautiful Celebration in the Oaks as a backdrop to the holiday event. The event was attended by members and sponsors who had the opportunity to share some holiday cheer over cocktails and appetizers.

The NOPA board would like members to give their input on whether the holiday party should remain at Ralph's in the Park or whether we should explore other venues? Please give us your suggestions of venue and what type of celebration you think best fits our organization. In previous years we have had a Christmas lunch, cocktail parties, or sit down meals. Please feel free to visit our website at www.neworleansparalegals.org and email us.

DATES TO WATCH FOR:

2010 NFPA Tech Institute™
March 26-27, 2010, San Jose, NM

Joint Regulation/Leadership /PACE
Ambassadors Conference, Washing-
ton, DC June 4- June 6, 2010



NOPA COMMITTEES

Job Bank Committee:
Coordinator, Sandra
Cantrell

Membership Committee:
Co- Chairpersons: Jenni-
fer Lasseigne and Crissi
Delaune

Newsletter Committee:
Editor: Becky Rolland
Website Coordinator:
Susan Pundt

Navy Legalman and Mili-
tary Paralegal Outreach
Committee: Hollie McLain

Pro-Bono Committee:
Co-Chairpersons:
Michelle LaMark and
Tomoro Wilson

Salary Survey Committee:
Sheela Babu

WELCOME NOPA'S NEWEST MEMBERS!!!

Pamela J. Angel	Michelle Marie Bonin	Camille "Rocky" Bourg
Crissi L. Delaune	Kelly M. Dressner	Kelly V. Fritscher
Antigone Gauthier	Sharon Green	Jennifer L. Guiteau
Lise N. McComiskey	Camille N. Owen	Tanya A. Reeves
Melanie A. Tejada		

NOPA'S ANNUAL SEMINAR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS !

NOPA's annual seminar was held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel, 717 Orleans Street, in the French Quarter. This seminar was a great value for the price and scholarships were made available to students for the first time ever! U. S. Attorney, Jim Letten, our keynote luncheon speaker explained the role of the U.S. Attorney's office. The following speakers provided seminars during a full day of education and networking:

Newell Normand, Jefferson Parish Sheriff, *Make it Your Business to Know: Corporate Compliance*

Joel Cape and Garrett Thalgot, Frilot, LLC, *Intellectual Property Law*

Eric Liddell, Jones Walker, *You've Been Served! LOL –Is Service through Facebook Really Possible?*

Marie Erickson, Supreme Court Law Librarian, *Legal Research Boot Camp*

Sandra D. Miller, Entergy, *Recognizing What You Can't Change: Managing Generational Differences in the Legal Community*

Claude Lightfoot, Esq., *Chapter 7 Means Test: What Does It Mean?*

Paul Miniclier, Esq., *It CAN Happen to Me: Organizing Your Documents Before the Next Disaster*

For those who could not attend, seminar booklets are available through NOPA for \$ 20.00. Thank you to all NOPA members for completing our Member survey regarding the seminar. We received valuable feedback regarding what we can improve on for next year. Please continue to provide the NOPA with your comments and suggestions regarding the venue, topic and speakers.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2009 ANNUAL SEMINAR SPONSORS AND VENDORS

A-1 Lakeway Copy	Adecco	Bilingual Resource Group, Inc.
Brooke Legal Staffing	Capitol Services	Clarity Litigation
Decision Quest	Deep South Investigations	Digital Legal
Docusource, Inc.	Exemplar Enterprises, Inc.	Esquire Solutions
Ivize	Herzing University	New York Life
Professional Shorthand	PSR Copy and Imaging Center	Shuart & Associates
Reporters, Inc.	Southern Imaging Solutions	The Dancel Group
Tulane University Paralegal Studies Program	Venue Docket	Westlaw

ABOUT being a Secondary Representative to the NFPA on behalf of NOPA when I was recruited into that position. I served in that position, rotating every other year or so into Primary Representative (once I gained some knowledge and felt comfortable enough) and back again until the end of 2007, when I ran for President. These were truthfully some of the most exciting years of my career and my life. I challenge you to come forward and find out what NOPA is truly about. We want to teach you. Come run for an office. The work is important. We will help you learn. You will never regret it. Thank you, and good luck! Kathy W. Williams, President, New Orleans Paralegal Association

**NAVY LEGALMAN AND MILITARY PARALEGAL OUTREACH
PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT by Hollie McLain**

Our legalman is very grateful for everything that we have sent to him. Here is the last letter we received from him.

Thanks sooo much for the care package. That means more than you know. We run out of stuff here a lot faster than I imagined LOL and it is great to get new stuff. I greatly appreciate it! It is nice to get some correspondence from the outside world, sometimes I get a little down and it sure did pick me up. Thank you VERY MUCH! I really do greatly appreciate it!

I want to thank all of you for the prior donations. Please continue to help make this program a success. **NOPA has committed to send boxes in January, April, July, and October. This program is expanding nationwide and is reaching more and more military personnel. This is one way we really are making a difference!**

For more information, call me at (504) 836-6500. - Thank you, Hollie McLain - Chairman

Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication and/or responses to articles previously published. The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month prior to the next newsletter.

**WINNERS OF THE PRO BONO CONTEST WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT
OUR FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING
EXTENDED DEADLINE TO QUALIFY 01/31/10**

The Pro Bono Committee's contest to encourage pro bono work, is off to a great start. The only requirement to participate is that you are a NOPA member and do pro bono work that can be verified through a non-profit agency or law firm.

There are three easy steps to enter the contest.

1. Sign up with Michelle LaMark, Pro Bono Coordinator and let her know that you plan to participate;
2. Complete your pro bono work by January 31, 2010.
3. Fill out the NOPA pro bono form with the number of hours you worked and turn it into Michelle LaMark.

Its that simple!

The paralegal with the most earned hours will receive a gift certificate for a free massage. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR TIME NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2010. For more information please contact Michelle LaMark by phone: 504-525-5211 or by email: mmla-mark@gmail.com.