

In Brief 3d

Mar/April 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.

NOPA'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND OFFICER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The New Orleans Paralegal Association held its annual Officer Appreciation Lunch at Commander's Palace on March 24, 2010.

It was quite the festive occasion as we celebrated the initiation of our new officers, Suzanne Fontan, President, Germaine Galjour, Vice President, Sandra Cantrell, Secretary, Karen Miller, Treasurer, Becky Rolland, NFPA Primary Representative and Kathy Williams, NFPA Secondary Representative. We also welcomed new membership committee chairs, Jennifer Lasseigne and Crissi Delaune and welcomed Tomoro Wilson, as co-chair of the Pro Bono committee.

NOPA also acknowledged the hard work of our 2009 Officers: Kathy Williams, past president, Susan Pundt, past treasurer, Robert Fleischmann, past NFPA Primary representative and Dawn Wedge, past membership co-chair.

On Thursday, March 25, 2010, NOPA held its annual membership drive at Social City. If you did not attend, you missed free martini cocktails, free appetizers, wonderful door prizes and a great opportunity to network with your fellow paralegals. Try to make the next social, it is a great way to make new friends!

Future events to come

Our socials are the 4th Thursday of every month! The next social will be on April 29th at Allegros at 1100 Poydras Street! For more information contact Holly McLain at (504) 299-3092. Hollie is presently working on a NOPA night out at the Ogden Museum!

Also in the works is our annual dinner meeting to be held in July. Details to come!

Work is already underway for our annual educational seminar to be held in the fall. Please send in your suggestions for topics and speakers to Karen Miller at kmiller@barrassousdin.com.

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INSIDE REPORT FROM NOPA TO NFPA

By: Becky Rolland

NOPA *Inside* Report sent to NFPA on April 16, 2010

NOPA started 2010 off with a bang! We have had three excellent speakers at our general membership meetings and our membership drive in March was a great success!

In January, our speaker was Celeste O'Keefe with DANCEL who spoke to us about Trial preparations and graphics used at trial. February's speaker was Craig Bayer with Law Office Technology who taught us to utilize and manage Microsoft Outlook regarding emails, follow-up flags, etc. In March, Daryl Pfeif, of Digital Forensics Solutions, LLC, gave us a presentation regarding how to investigate the trails left on computers and cell phones.

Our annual Officer Appreciation Lunch was held at Commander's Palace on March 27, 2010. If you have ever been to Commander's, you realize what a treat it is! Once a part of the J.F.E. Livaudais Plantation, it dates back to the 1880's and has hosted distinguished guests as Mark Twain, Jefferson Davis, and numerous dignitaries and stars of the entertainment and sports industries.

Becky Rolland, NFPA Primary Representative

2010 NFPA /Regulation/Leadership/

PACE® Ambassador Joint Conference -*Embracing Change!*-

It just so happens that the recent promise of *Change* in our nation's capital coincides with National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.'s ("NFPA") change in the way that we will conduct our Regulation, National Leadership, and PACE Ambassador's Conferences in Washington, D.C. beginning this year. All three of the conferences will be held simultaneously June 4th - 6th and hosted by NFPA at the Doubletree Hotel Washington in the heart of Washington, D.C. As usual, NFPA will supply our paralegals, from across the country, with notable speakers who will provide the latest information on Regulation, PACE®, and Leadership. This is a great opportunity for networking while learning new things and having fun.

Friday's Regulation Conference will begin with welcoming remarks from NFPA's current President, Georgette M. Lovelace, RP®, and will continue on with speakers, Tracey L. Young, RP®; Lisa Vessels, CP, FRP; David Nelson; and, several other great guests. If your association is considering tackling certification, licensure, or registration in your association's state, this is the conference for you! Even if this is an effort that will not be attempted in the near future but that you know your state will eventually investigate, it is important to learn the different types of regulation; the status of regulation efforts in other states; how to handle legal professions who are not keen on regulation; and, understanding the legislative process. This conference is an important one to attend in order to gain an understanding of what your state is likely to come up against in its future endeavor into regulation.

DATES TO WATCH:

National

May 15/16, 2010

**2010 Pro Bono Conference
Phoenix, AZ**

June 4- June 6, 2010

**Joint Regulation/Leadership
/PACE Ambassadors Confer-
ence, Washington, DC**

**October 7-10, 2010, National
Federation of Paralegal Asso-
ciations Annual Convention
Philadelphia, PA**

Local

**NOPA Socials are on the 4th
Thursday of every month at 5:30
p.m. until. The next one is at
Allegro's at 1100 Poydras on
April 29th!**

**For more information contact
Hollie McLain at (504) 299-3092.**

NOPA COMMITTEES

**Job Bank Committee:
Coordinator, Sandra Cantrell**

**Membership Committee:
Co- Chairpersons: Jennifer
Lasseigne and Crissi Delaune**

**Newsletter Committee:
Editor: Becky Rolland**

**Website Coordinator: Susan
Pundt**

**Navy Legalman and Military
Paralegal Outreach Commit-
tee: Hollie McLain**

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

**Salary Survey Committee:
Sheela Babu**

2010 NFPA /Regulation/Leadership/PACE® Ambassador Joint Conference (continued)

Whether you are leader-in-training or already wearing your leadership hat, **NFPA's National Leadership Conference** is a *MUST!* You will spend two days among the smartest and most experienced paralegals from across the country who are there to both learn and teach. You will gain knowledge about how to lead effectively; actively participate as you are trained and influenced; and, make friends, mentors/mentees, and connections that will prove valuable for years to come. It is recommended that, if possible, associations send a representative to this conference who is an up and coming leader.

This year, the **PACE® Ambassadors' Conference** is aimed at guiding associations' boards and ambassadors along the steps of being a great PACE Ambassador. Ann Price, RP will be speaking on the history of PACE and current events involving PACE and the Paralegal Core Competency Exam ("PCC"); K. Paezle Harris, RP, CP will be speaking about the ins and outs of the exam and duties of the PACE Ambassador; and Suellen Honeychuck, RP, Natalie Nelson, RP, Tracey L. Young, RP, and Cindy Byfield, M.ED. IOM, CAE will all be speaking in their areas of expertise as well. This year, NFPA's PACE Coordinators have gone to extra lengths to make sure that the participants go away with a wealth of knowledge and a mission to carry out: CREATE or BE a GREAT PACE AMBASSADOR in your local association!

NFPA JOINT SOCIAL EVENTS

On Friday evening, the entire group of NFPA is invited to dinner at Gordon Biertsch. Conveniently located in the heart of Washington, DC on F Street in the old Riggs Bank Building, this architectural beauty displays the traditional elegance of the Capitol. Gordon Biersch is committed to using only the freshest and finest ingredients; their restaurant showcases a passion for food. The cost is \$33 per person and should be paid for during registration. This fee includes a salad appetizer, choice of one of 4 entrees, and dessert as well as soft drinks, tea/coffee and tip.

On Saturday evening, the entire group of NFPA is invited to hop on the live narrated shuttle tours of the Tourmobile to SEE WASHINGTON BY NIGHT. Spend a memorable twilight amidst Washington's illuminated points of interest. Enjoy timed visits at the Jefferson, Franklin Roosevelt, Lincoln, Korean, Vietnam Veterans and WW II Memorials. The cost is \$30 per person and should be paid for during registration. Those who went on this tour in 2005 really enjoyed it. The DC monuments are beautiful and moving during the daylight but even more so at twilight. Dinner will be on your own, but you can purchase food at one of the many food vendors at Union Station and bring it with you on the open air bus.

There is no cost for the conference if you are NFPA members; however, you are responsible for your travel and hotel expenses. Lunch on Friday and Saturday are included with your registration. Please register for one or more of the conferences at www.paralegals.org and make your reservations for the Doubletree Hotel Washington by calling 202-232-7000. The hotel cost is \$150 per night and includes full breakfast for two persons per room.

Getting to Washington, D.C. is easy. Three major airports serve the area and offer flights on both traditional and discount air carriers, including Southwest, Jet Blue, Frontier, Air Tran, Midwest Express and most major carriers. Of the three airports, Washington Reagan National Airport (code DCA) is the closest to DC and the Metro (subway) comes right to the airport and can take you to a station near the hotel. Taxis are also plentiful, and the "blue bus" Supershuttle and Washington Flyer also provide transportation into the City. Reagan airport is actually in Arlington, VA, just across the Potomac from D.C. Dulles International Airport (code IAD) is about 15 miles west of D.C. You would need to take a taxi into D.C. or you could use the Super Shuttle or Washington Flyer express busses. BWI airport is near Baltimore, about 45 minutes north of D.C. There are several ways to get to D.C. from BWI, including an Amtrak train from BWI station to Washington's Union Station, taxis (the most costly), Washington Flyer, or Super Shuttle. Amtrak offers many trains throughout the northeast corridor to Washington, D.C.'s Union Station. From Union Station, you could take the Metro Red line to DuPont Circle or an easy cab ride. Taxis in D.C. operate on a meter system. We look forward to seeing you in our Nation's capital in June and hope that you embrace this change for the better in our 2010 NFPA Joint Conference!

K. Paezle Harris, RP, CP is a certified and registered paralegal on her 6th year as a Senior Paralegal position at Cox Communications, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia. On the local level, Paezle is the Vice President of the Georgia Association of Paralegals and on the national level she is the NFPA PACE Ambassadors Coordinator.

Military Paralegal Outreach Program Report by Hollie McLain

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations has changed the name of this program from NAVY LEGALMAN AND MILITARY PARALEGAL OUTREACH to the MILITARY PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT. On a National level, there have been enough monetary donations, to send phone cards totaling 249,000 cards and 550-prepaid minutes to military personnel. Even people without military exchange shopping privileges can buy the cards at <http://www.aafes.com> through the "Help Our Troops call Home" campaign.

The entire program has been reorganized so that the Military Outreach Program has A has committed to send boxes in January, April, July, and October. This program is expanding nationwide and is reaching more and more military personnel.

I want to thank all of you for the prior donations. Please continue to help make this program a success. For more information, call me at (504) 836-6500. Thank you, Hollie McLain - Chairman

WELCOME NOPA'S NEWEST MEMBERS!!!

**Kristen Albright
Darnell Faciane
Julie Smith
Stover Kimberly
Allison Juge
Jennifer Scott
Michael McNab**

**Donna Echeagaray
Kim Plonksy
Adrenetta McGhee
Victoria Simosa
Wendy Riley
Robin Roper**



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.

WINNER OF THE PRO BONO CONTEST !!

And the Winner is Sue Pundt!. Sue worked on 5 very complex succession files from the Pro Bono Project and put in over 35 hours! Sue will receive a \$50 certificate to Belladonna Day Spa on Magazine Street. Congratulations Sue! Becky Rolland came in second place with 25 hours.

Because generations of families did not file the correct paperwork to have clear title and that by helping them they could not receive their Road Home Money. With Sue and Becky's help, they were able to complete the paper work necessary to move back to New Orleans!

The Pro Bono Committee is off to a great start! Future plans include helping the Pro Bono Project with divorce cases and planning a day with Habitat for Humanity. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Michelle LaMark at mmlamark@gmail.com or Tomoro Wilson at wilsonsont@phelps.com.

SPECIAL THANKS TO 2010 NOPA SPONSORS

- **Esquire Deposition Services**
- **The Dancel Group**
- **Tulane Paralegal Studies Program**