

In Brief 3d

May/June 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: Suzanne Fontan***

I'm very excited about the remainder of 2010. The Board and Committee Chairpersons have worked diligently on a number of projects from improving communications to impacting your job by increasing your knowledge. Here are the highlights:

Website – Committee co-chairs, Sue Pundt and Becky Rolland, have literally re-designed our website. We're now managing the content ourselves and that means we're more flexibility with postings and links. All of our upcoming events can be found on the Calendar page as well as volunteer opportunities on the Committee page. Please check it out and bookmark it as a favorite:
www.neworleansparalegals.org

Salary Survey – For the first time since 2004, we've launched a city-wide salary survey. Committee chair Sheela Babu brought us into the 21st Century which is evident by our survey being conducted entirely online. We'll launch before June 30th. You'll receive an email with the link to the survey and there will also be a link on our website. The survey is not just about your salary, but offers what we hope will be a complete picture of the status of the profession in New Orleans today. Our goal is not only to take that picture, but distribute the results that will ultimately aid you in future salary and benefit negotiations.

July Dinner Meeting – If you've attended the dinner meetings in the past, you know we have exciting speakers and great dinner locations, but this year to liven things up and make it even more.
(continued on page 4)

INSIDE IN BRIEF 3D:

<i>President's Letter</i>	1/4
<i>Inside Report</i>	2
<i>Dates to Watch</i>	2
<i>2010 Salary Survey</i>	2
<i>NOPA Committees</i>	2
<i>VENUE Social</i>	3
<i>New Members</i>	3
<i>NOPA Sponsors</i>	3
<i>Annual Dinner Meeting</i>	4

INSIDE REPORT FROM NOPA TO NFPA

By: Becky Rolland

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

New Orleans Paralegal Association has been very busy! Thanks to the hard work of our Salary Survey committee, Sheela Babu we just completed our 2010 Salary Survey. It will be on line for paralegals to complete through July 30, 2010 and the results will be tabulated and published in September 2010.

Our website has been totally re-designed thanks to Sue Pundt, who served as our past treasurer for many years. Thanks to Sue and Brenda Wall, we now have an up to date calendar of events, our salary survey, newsletter and membership applications on line. Check it out at www.neworleansparalegals.org

The June monthly membership meeting was held at Baker Donalson with speaker Ann Leche. She spoke on the *Utilization of Paralegals* and explained on how our roles are changing in law firms and how we must adapt by keeping up with the technology and software that is available. Our luncheon was sponsored by Brooke Staffing who has supported NOPA for many years.

On July 22, we will have our Annual Summer Dinner Meeting and for the first time we will do a Silent Auction. State Representative Walt Leger, III, will speak on "The Latest Legislative Session - the State of the State".

Becky Rolland, NFPA Primary Representative

DATES TO WATCH:

NFPA Summer Board Meeting is on July 10-11, 2010 in Indianapolis, IN

October 7-10, 2010, National Federation of Paralegal Associations Annual Convention Philadelphia, PA

NOPA's June Social is at Venue Docket, One Shell Square, Mock Court Room, 2nd Floor, 701 Poydras Street on June 24th at 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Food and Drink will be provided compliments of Venue Docket.

NOPA's Summer Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction Thursday, July 22, 6 pm till at Social City at Veterans Blvd. Speaker: State Representative Walt Leger, III, "The Latest Legislative Session - the State of the State" RSVP by July 19

NOPA'S Annual Educational Seminar will be on September 17, 2010 at the Hilton Garden Inn More details to come!

2010 SALARY SURVEY INFORMATION

Dear Paralegal:

The New Orleans Paralegal Association ("NOPA") is pleased to announce that it has begun its Salary Survey for the year 2010 and we request the participation of all New Orleans Paralegals, especially all NOPA members, in providing answers to the on-line survey. This will ensure that we obtain as diverse and complete results as possible for New Orleans area paralegals.

Please complete the on-line salary survey which we ask that you carefully submit before **July 30, 2010**. The link is shown below. You can also find the on-line survey at www.neworleansparalegals.org. It takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey can be taken one time only on any given computer. After the survey period closes, the answers will be tabulated, and the results will be published in September 2010.

There is no personal identifying information and your IP address cannot be traced; therefore, the results are completely confidential. Upon publication, the survey will be provided free of charge to NOPA members. Non-members will be able to obtain a copy for a fee.

We look forward to your cooperation in completing the Salary Survey. If you should have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the Salary Survey Committee Chair, Ms. Sheela Babu at 504-212-8846. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W9927SF>

Thank you for your participation.

NOPA COMMITTEES

Job Bank Committee:
Coordinator, Sandra Cantrell

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

Newsletter Committee:
Editor: Becky Rolland and Brenda Wall

Website Coordinator: Susan Pundt

Navy Legalman and Military Paralegal Outreach Committee: Position available

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

Salary Survey Committee:
Sheela Babu

AFTER HOURS SOCIAL MIXER WITH Venue Docket and the New Orleans Paralegal Association

NOPA members and perspective members are invited to a social mixer at Venue Docket' mock courtroom in One Shell Square, at 701 Poydras Street, Suite 150P on Thursday, June 24th, from 5pm-8pm

Food, wine, and beer will be provided compliments of Venue Docket. Come and join us!

WELCOME NOPA'S NEWEST MEMBERS!!!

Anne White
Shelita Burrell
Paula McKinney
Anne Provosty
Wendi Reames
John Pearson

SPECIAL THANKS TO 2010 NOPA SPONSORS

**Esquire Deposition Services, The Dancel
Group, Tulane Paralegal Studies
Program, Chaffe McCall, LLP
Professional Shorthand Reporters, Inc.
Southern Imaging Solutions
DocuSource**

**MACY'S DISCOUNT PASS—COMPLIMENTS OF THE NFPA—<http://www.paralegals.org/>.
Go to the website and download coupon from members only page. The password is: professional.**

NFPA ANNOUNCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BASIC PROFICIENCY EXAM

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, the Leader of the Paralegal Profession, has begun to develop an entry-level exam for newly graduating paralegals to test their skills, knowledge and ability. This is great news for students graduating from a paralegal program, paralegals just entering the work force, and other paralegals who may not yet qualify for a state certification exam or PACE, NFPA's Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam.

The Basic Proficiency Exam is being developed with the assistance of the nationally recognized not-for-profit firm, Professional Examination Service ("PES", www.proexam.org), as well as experienced paralegals and paralegal educators. PES has been involved in developing credentialing exams for over 50 years. PES is well respected for its scientific development of exams with integrity and validity of the test questions, including PACE.

The Basic Proficiency Exam will test the knowledge, skills and ability of individuals who are working as paralegals or entering the profession. The format and length of the exam will be based on results gathered from a scientifically prepared task analysis. It will take into account coursework in paralegal programs as well as actual skills considered essential to basic competency in the profession. It will also include sections on law office technology and ethics.

The exam is intended to distinguish those individuals taking it from other entry level paralegals. The exam is expected to debut in early 2011. NFPA is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 11,000 paralegals and is headquartered in Edmonds, WA. NFPA's core purpose is the advancement of the paralegal profession. NFPA promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community. *NFPA – The Leader of the Paralegal Profession*

(continued from page 1) President's Message

exciting, we're adding a Silent Auction. The Board is pulling out all stops to acquire big-ticket luxury items for auction. I'm not giving any hints now, but look for an email notice and we'll put all the information on our website. We'll meet on July 22nd at Copeland's Social City and our speaker is State Representative Walt Leger, III, (D) District 91 encompassing Uptown New Orleans and the CBD. Rep. Leger will speak about the state of the 2010 Legislative session.

2010 Education Seminar – I'm pleased to announce that NOPA has secured a date and we're in the process of inking a deal with the Hilton Garden Inn in the Warehouse district. Mark your calendar for Friday September 17, 2010. If you attended last year's event, then you don't want to miss this year's. If you missed the 2009 event, then we'd really love for you to attend in 2010. This is a superb venue and we're going to be bringing you informative speakers. We're planning right now, so please send us your ideas. The planning committee meets every other Monday at a local firm and we have lunch provided. If you'd like to be in on the planning, we have lots to do and would love your input – contact me or Sandy Cantrell for information. The committee meeting dates, locations and times are posted on the Calendar page of our website. And remember: this is *your* CLE for the year; your opportunity to increase knowledge and skills, please don't miss it!

We have so much going on that I'm asking you to get involved any way you can. NOPA is a great way to get personal and professional satisfaction in your career. Please also introduce yourself to me or any board member at our next general membership meeting and we can steer you to a committee or project that holds interest for you. Feel free to contact me at suzannefon@yahoo.com

Come to NOPA's Summer Dinner Meeting

on Thursday, July 22, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Join us for fun and great food at Social City by Copeland's,
701 Veterans Hwy, Metairie, LA

Our Silent Auction features several luxury items
donated by NOPA's sponsors

The Silent Auction begins at 6 pm/Dinner is at 6:30 pm

Speaker: State Representative Walt Leger, III, (D) "The Latest
Legislative Session - the State of the State"

Tickets are \$30 for Members; \$35 for Non-members

Please RSVP by July 19 (Payment in advance is preferred)

NOPA thanks our generous event sponsor

Southern Imaging Solutions/Sal Cannatella
