

# In Brief 3d

Nov/Dec

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.

## 2009 In Review and a Question for NOPA Members By: Becky Rolland

As we begin a new year, I want to take this opportunity to thank the NOPA board and committee members for all their hard work throughout the year. In 2009, NOPA accomplished great things, here are a few:

Our **Annual Educational Seminar** was again a success with 88 in attendance for our luncheon with Louisiana State Representative, Helena Moreno, and 51 paralegals receiving CLE certificates for a full day of attendance. Already, **NOPA President, Suzanne Fontan** has motivated the board to begin planning for next year's event and our first Seminar Planning Meeting was held on December 8th. NOPA thanks our members and sponsors for giving us suggestions on how we can improve this event.

Thanks to **Germaine Galjour, Vice President**, we had a host of informative and entertaining speakers at our monthly membership meetings. **NOPA still provides the best deal in town, by providing members with 10 free lunch and learn seminars.** A few members have given us suggestions for topics and speakers for 2011 but **we always want more of your input!**

**We had a full year of events in addition to our monthly membership meetings!** There were 6 after work socials, and our **Annual Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction** was a great success! **Thanks to Sandra Cantrell, Secretary**, we received notices and reminders for all these events via the **NOPA Express**. By the way, she also took care of the **Job Bank Notices** and ensured that every one who attended the Seminar received a **CLE certificate**. Thank you Sandy!

One of our greatest accomplishments for 2009 was making NOPA's website, [www.neworleansparalegals.org](http://www.neworleansparalegals.org), informative and current. Special thanks to **Sue Pundt, our website coordinator**, and **Brenda Wall, Assistant Newsletter Editor**, for their time in making improvements to the website and newsletter.

Thanks to **Treasurer, Sheela Babu**, NOPA completed its **2009 Salary Survey** and was able to post results our website. Sheela also worked closely with **Membership Co-Chairs, Jennifer Lasseigne and Crissi Moseley** to ensure that all NOPA members received their monthly **Paralegal Reporter** on a timely basis.

Finally, the **Military Paralegal Outreach Committee Co-Chairs, Kathy Williams and Jill Neumann** sent out **four packages to our troops**. This was no easy task and we thank them for all their dedication to this project.

**Now for my question to you, the NOPA members: How can NOPA better serve you?** The NOPA Board and Committees never lose sight that we are working for you, the NOPA members.

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## NOPA'S OCTOBER SOCIAL HELD AT CURE

On October 27th, NOPA's Social was held at Cure on 4905 Freret Street from 5:30 to 7:00 PM (check out the photos on [www.neworleansparalegals.org](http://www.neworleansparalegals.org)). The event was sponsored by NOPA who provided appetizers of hummus and pita chips, raw vegetables with dip and grinders. It was a great networking event and the board members took the opportunity to ask members their opinions regarding the planning of future events such as the NOPA Christmas party and a pro bono project for 2011. Members expressed interest in a Habitat for Humanity project or a way to help the homeless by serving food at a shelter. This Christmas, NOPA also decided to be Santa to Metropolitan Women's Shelter (see related article on page 3-4 for more information).

## NOVEMBERS' GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEATURED THE PRO BONO PROJECT

On November 17, NOPA held its general membership meeting at Entergy. The Pro Bono Project represented by Zakiya LaGrange, explained that their mission is to provide free, quality civil legal services to the poor. The Pro Bono Project works with other social service providers to improve the quality of life for our community. For over 20 years The Pro Bono Project has engaging volunteers to render pro bono services to clients in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Washington parishes. Find out more about The Pro Bono Project at [www.probono-no.org](http://www.probono-no.org).

Each year NOPA teams with The Pro Bono Project to provide pro bono work. In 2008 NOPA paralegals assisted with successions and in 2009 we helped to file simple divorce cases. This year, several paralegals have already volunteered to work on the backlog of divorce cases, however **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Working with The Pro Bono Project provides invaluable training to add to your resume. And if that isn't reward enough, NOPA awards the paralegal with the most pro bono hours with gift card for a massage!**

Consider that the National Federation of Paralegal Association suggests that each paralegal perform 24 hours of pro bono service annually. Please consider giving your time to this worthy cause. **To find out more you can contact Tomoro Wilson [tomoro.wilson@neworleansparalegals.org](mailto:tomoro.wilson@neworleansparalegals.org).**

**ARE YOU READY TO PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD IN 2011?**



**DON'T MISS NOPA'S ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 19TH AT LISKOW & LEWIS**

On January 19th, NOPA's will have its annual business meeting at Liskow & Lewis at noon. **Please be sure to attend this important meeting to elect the 2011 Board of Directors and to plan NOPA's future.** We will also have some special guests to help you start the new year off right. Representatives from Glen Michael Salon, Strategic Recruiting Solutions, LLC, and La Dame Sophistiquee will show us tips on how to begin 2011 with our best foot forward!

## DATES TO WATCH:

**JANUARY 19, NOPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT LISKOW AND LEWIS AT NOON**

**APRIL 30, 2011, NFPA REGION II**

**To submit an article to the NOPA newsletter, contact Becky Rolland at [broll978@aol.com](mailto:broll978@aol.com)**

## NOPA COMMITTEES

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

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

**Newsletter Editor: Becky Rolland; Assistant Editor: Brenda Wall**

**Website Coordinator: Susan Pundt**

**Membership Development Committee Chair: Carroll Lanassa**

**Military Paralegal Outreach Committee Co-Chairs: Kathy Williams and Jill Neumann**

**Pro-Bono and Community Service Committee Chair: Tomoro Wilson**

**Salary Survey Committee: Sheela Babu**

**Social Coordinator: Position Available**

**Student Liaison: Megan Hall**

**If you would like to join a committee, contact Becky Rolland at [broll978@aol.com](mailto:broll978@aol.com)**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO NOPA'S SUSTAINING MEMBERS!!

Jennifer Adam - Esquire Solutions  
 James Bradle - Professional Shorthand Reporters  
 Katarina Cederborn - Chaffe McCall, LLP  
 Sallie Davis - Tulane Paralegal Studies  
 Stephanie Kavanaugh - Docusource Litigation Support  
 Celeste O'Keefe - The Dancel Group  
 John Pearson - Clarity Litigation, LLC  
 Fred Richissin, Venue Docket  
 Cheryl Rodrigue - Brooke Companies  
 Amy Shanks - Strategic Recruiting Solutions  
 Darnell Shuart - Shuart & Associates, Inc.

**WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PLEASE GIVE THESE MEMBERS YOUR  
 BUSINESS AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



**NOPA GIVES BACK THIS CHRISTMAS - PLEASE JOIN US IN DONATING TO  
 METROPOLITAN CENTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**Metropolitan Center for Women and Children is a 501(C)(3) qualified charitable organization and NOPA members can deduct any contributions or gifts you give. To make a tax deductible donation, that will aid survivors of all types of violence in securing shelter, counseling and alternatives to violence, check out the following options:**

1. You can donate items at Metropolitan Center for Women and Children between the hours of 8:30-4:00pm, M-F. Please call Metro for further information.
2. You can give any of the items on the **wish list** below
3. You can send a check to Metropolitan Center for Women and Children, Inc., P.O. Box 10775, Jefferson, LA 70181.
4. You can make an online donation at <http://www.mcwcgno.org/> using the JustGive system.
5. You can donate your inactive cell phones. These phones can be used by survivors to have the ability to dial 911.

**Wish List (please do not wrap items)**

**Gift Certificates:** Wal-Mart or Kmart

**For Adults:**

**Personal care products:** African- American hair care products, new make-up, curling irons, blow dryers.

**Clothing:** New or gently used LARGE sized clothes (sizes 12 and up). New underwear all sizes, stockings, robes, nightgowns, and slippers.

**Other:** Alarm clocks, umbrellas and rain ponchos, gift certificates (Wal-Mart, Kmart, grocery stores...) irons, ironing boards, radios, any type of suitcases or tote bags.

## NOPA'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ZEA'S ON DECEMBER 2

On December 2, 2010, NOPA held its Christmas Party at Zea's at 1525 St. Charles Avenue, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The appetizers were delicious including Asian Almond Shrimp, Duck Empanadas, Honey Island Chicken Sliders, and assorted Paninis. As always, our vendors offered their support by donating wonderful door prizes! Venue Docket donated (2) \$100 gift certificates to Best Buy and Choice donated an Amazon Kindle. Thanks to all who attended this event, especially our sustaining members and sponsors!

### ***2009 In Review and a Question for NOPA Members*** (Continued from page 1)

**I am asking each and every one of you to dare to have your voice heard.** We want to know what is it that you want out of our organization. Do you want a particular topic covered in our monthly meetings? Do you want more social events? Is there a training you would like us to cover? Would you rather a Christmas luncheon or Christmas Dinner next year? **We cannot improve without your help and we all agree that there is always room for improvement.**

Perhaps you have an idea for what our 2011 Pro Bono Project should be. If so, take the time to contact **Pro-Bono and Community Service Committee Chair, Tomoro Wilson**, she welcomes your input.

NOPA added three new committees in direct response to member requests. **Carroll Lanassa**, our new **Membership Development Committee Chair** will be working hard to increase and retain our members. Our **Student Liaison, Megan Hall**, will be reaching out to our student members and planning visits to paralegal programs at Tulane, Herzig and Nunez. The **Regional Development Committee was most recently formed to reach out to our members outside of the CBD area.** We are looking for someone to fill this position who is willing to coordinate meetings or gatherings in the Metairie, Gretna and/or the North shore area. Also, as 2011 approaches, we will have fresh faces in the positions of **Vice President, Secretary and NFPA Secondary Representative** (announcement of new officers at our January meeting). We are also looking to fill the position of Social Coordinator and two positions on the Membership Committee. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me at broll978@aol.com. **Help us to make NOPA the best it can be! Happy Holidays to you and your families!**

Becky Rolland, R. P., NFPA Primary Representative

### **(Metro– Wish List continued from page 3)**

#### **For Children:**

**Clothing:** khaki and navy blue shorts or long pants, white, red, navy blue polo shirts (for school uniforms), new underwear for boys and girls all sizes, new or gently used regular clothes and shoes, all sizes. Youth size rain ponchos, small umbrellas.

**School Supplies:** Book bags or back packs clear or mesh, black marble composition books, spiral notebooks, black and red pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, three prong folders with pockets.

**Art Supplies:** Play Doh, water colors, colored pencils, crayons, oil pastels, poster boards, washable markers, paint pens, washable paints, yarn, string.

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**Toys:** Sketch books, action heroes DVDs (Hulk, Ironman), Play Doh, board games (Connect Four, Monopoly, Candyland), toy cell phones/purses/dress up sets, Disney DVDs, toy cooking sets, educational games & toys, dolls.

**Teen Items:** Jewelry boxes, makeup, portable CD players, radios with CD players, gift cards to clothing, music, or book stores, bath products, perfume.

#### **For the Agency:**

**Shelter Supplies:** Single and double sized bed sheets, pillow cases, new bed pillows, strollers, baby beds and baby bedding sheets and blankets, gift certificates for stores that can fill prescriptions, wheel chairs, fold-away beds.