

T O D A Y NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Paralegal Association
www.montcoparalegals.org

December 2014

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.

It's hard to believe but 2014 is nearly over and 2015 is right around the corner. Wow does time fly by.

This is the time of year when we tend to reflect and appreciate the past year and "plan" for the year to come. The same is true for MCPA. As I reflect over the past year, I marvel at how much the MCPA has continued to grow in its relationship with the Montgomery Bar Association. This year we began a new relationship with the Montgomery Bar Foundation with an annual donation. I note that many of you have also chosen to make donations through the Montgomery Bar Foundation Fellows Program. The relationship with the Bar Association and the Foundation is one that can only bring positive results to the paralegal profession and the Montgomery County community.

The Association has also continued its relationship with Manna On Main Street with many of you donating food items at our monthly CLE seminars as well as members volunteering their time at the 5K run. Thank you all who volunteer your time and talents.

I would also like to take this time to thank some of the "behind-the-scenes" volunteers of MCPA without whom the Association would not be what it is today. To the Planning Committee, led by Kathleen Zamorski, Pa.C.P., and Annette Long, CRP, Pa.C.P., for your tireless efforts in arranging such informative speakers and finding locations that can be convenient to the majority of our members. To the Marketing Committee led by Deborah Arbuckle, Pa.C.P., and Deborah Long, Pa.C.P., for their continued energy to find sponsors for the Association so that MCPA can provide the seminars and benefits to its members. To Harry Reichner, M.A. and Christopher Gregg whose IT expertise is invaluable when it comes to the website, Linked In and Facebook. To the Newsletter Committee led by Michele Calkins, Pa.C.P., Rachel Fineberg, and Suzanne Sarver, RP, for keeping the members informed every month with information from within the Association and from the greater paralegal community. To Lisa LaPenna, Pa.C.P., Chairperson of the Mentoring Committee, whose door is always open to our students and the paralegal studies programs. To the Community Outreach Committee led by Roberta Fedorka, Pa.C.P., for finding ways our Association can "help" the surrounding community. To Annette Long, CRP, Pa.C.P., Bar Liaison (and past MCPA President), for whom which the relationship with the Bar Association would have never gotten off the ground. Finally to the Fundraising Committee led by Sherry Barag, CRP, Pa.C.P., and Noreen Messmer, Pa.C.P., for their effortless coordination and planning of fundraising events—coordinating fundraising with members from all parts of the County is a monumental fete.

CONTINUED ON PAGE

MCPA 15th ANNIVERSARY CRYSTAL GALA

January 15, 2015

Don't forget to send in your registration for the Crystal Gala being held at the William Penn Inn!

DINNER,
DOOR PRIZES,
GIFTS,
ENTERTAINMENT
& MORE!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P. CONTINUED

Now, planning for the future. I want to first congratulate and welcome our two new Board Members for 2015—Michelle Calkins, Pa.C.P., and Jennifer Kuemmerle, Pa.C.P. Both Michelle and Jennifer have been very active in the Association over the past year and the Board looks forward to their ideas and working with them during 2015. Second, I want to remind all to return your renewals prior to February 15th (reminders went out the first week of December). We start 2015 with our 15th Anniversary Gala on January 15th and events are already planned through June of 2015. You don't want to miss any of the upcoming events—don't let your membership lapse! Finally, as you can see I have thanked the many Committees of MCPA. These Committees do wonders for our Association but can only do these wonderful things with the help of our members. When you renew your membership please consider making a New Year's Resolution and volunteer for one of these committees. None of the committees require a large time commitment but the result of your time is very rewarding. Let's make 2015 the year where each of our committees gets stronger with participation from our members. If you have any questions regarding the committees, please contact one of the committee chairs. The contact information is found at the end of this newsletter or at www.montcoparalegals.org.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and safe holiday season and many warm wishes to each of you and your families for a wonderful 2015.



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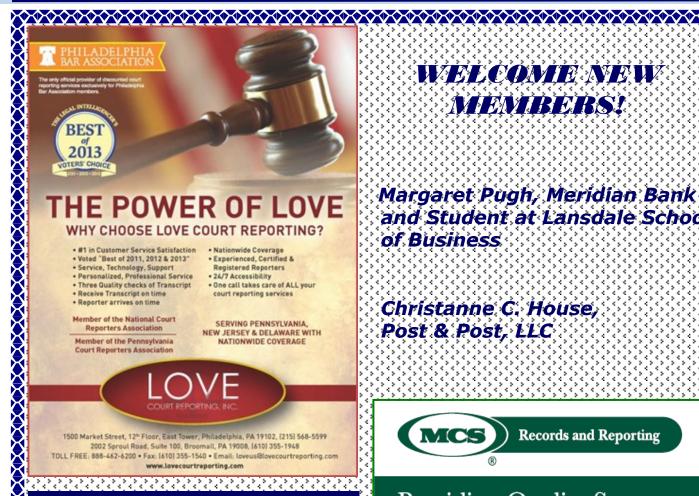
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RECAP FROM NOVEMBER'S CLE AND MCPA ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

by Suzanne Sarver, RP

MCPA is very thankful and grateful to Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein for their hospitality in providing the venue for MCPA's CLE and annual election meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2014. We would like to especially thank Robert Hrouda, RP, NFPA Board Advisor for taking the time to present this CLE in Regulation and Certification for the paralegal community. This topic affects all paralegals who are looking to advance their careers, be informed of the trends in the field and who want to have a more active role in promoting the paralegal profession.

We had a great turnout for this event even with the wintry mix precipitation that had started to fall in the area. We would like to thank everyone who came out to participate in the event and to elect our 2015 Board Members. Our returning Board Members include, Kelly Smith, Christopher Gregg, and Noreen Messmer, Pa.C.P. MCPA's newly elected Board Members are Michele Calkins, Pa.C.P. and Jennifer Kuemmerle CRP, Pa.C.P.

MCPA President, Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa.C.P., started off the meeting by providing everyone with details on the following upcoming events and happenings: the holiday social at P.J. Whelihan's, the continuation of the MCPA fundraiser with Sees Candy, the 15th Anniversary Crystal Gala, and upcoming CLE events.

Next, Tracey introduced Robert Hrouda, RP, NFPA Board Advisor who provided

background information on his career. Robert Hrouda is a graduate of Temple University and is a litigation paralegal for Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller in Philadelphia. He has served as a delegate to both the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations and the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. In 2006, he received the Outstanding Local

Leadership Award from the NFPA. Robert is the Board Advisor to National Federation

Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("NFPA") and previously served as Region IV Director, Chair of Region Directors and Vice 2008, Robert passed the Paralegal him as a PACE Registered Paralegal ®



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Robert Hrouda, RP President of Positions and Issues. In May Advanced Competency Exam designating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

SAVE THE DATE!

January 15, 2015 at 6:00pm



Montgomery County Paralegal Association
15th Anniversary
Crystal Gala Celebration

William Penn Inn Gwynedd, Pa

Formal Invitation to Follow

RECAP FROM NOVEMBER'S CLE AND MCPA ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING CONTINUED

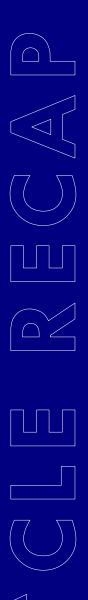
The discussions of the evening focused on certain trends and developments in the paralegal industry such as regulation, professional rules of conduct, and qualifications of a limited license technician. Currently 18 states have some form of regulation for paralegals which have set minimum standards for training, work experience, and education. For example, Indiana has proposed Rule 9, that the Supreme Court delegates to the Indiana State Bar Association the administration of voluntary registration. Qualification for an "Indiana Registered Paralegal," includes good moral character; using a prescribed form accompanied with a registration fee and satisfy the educational and paralegal work experience requirements. Rule 9 provides for completion of a minimum of six hours of continuing legal education every year and one of the 6 hours must be an ethics credit.

Another example of new developments in the paralegal and legal industry is the Washington Supreme Court adoption of Rule 28. Effective September 1, 2012, the Limited License Legal Technician Rule authorizes a new legal professional who meets certain education requirements to advise and assist clients in approved practice areas of law. With the rule, the Supreme Court established the LLLT Board to administer the program. In late December 2012, the Supreme Court appointed the first LLLT Board, which includes several non-attorneys and a legal educator. The LLLT Board began its work in January 2013. As one of its first actions, the Board recommended family law as the first practice area in which to license LLLTs, which the Supreme Court unanimously approved in March 2013. The LLLT Board is expected to begin accepting applications for the

licensing examination in March 2015 and begin licensing of LLLTs in spring 2015.

The evening was very informative and hopefully prompted some of us to get more involved in the regulation and certification processes for paralegals. We look forward to more updates from Robert Hrouda, RP as well as other surrounding states to see what they are doing in the paralegal industry. Thank you again to Robert for coming out and spending time with our association. His commitment to this industry is admirable and we appreciate all the work he has done and continues to do to promote, educate, and advance the careers of paralegals everywhere!





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2015 Membership Drive

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your membership and interest in MCPA during 2014. This year marked the 15 year anniversary for the MCPA in its continued success benefiting paralegals in Pennsylvania.

We currently have over 138 members who work in law firms, corporations, banks, life insurance companies, our local courthouses, non-profit organizations, as well as freelance and virtual paralegal positions.

The MCPA continues to maintain its membership with the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations and the National Association of Paralegal Associations so that the MCPA may continue working to promote the paralegal profession in Pennsylvania and across the country.

It is once again time for our annual membership drive. For 2015 dues received by February 15, 2015, are \$75 for Voting Members, \$60 for Associate Members, \$30 for Student Members. For renewals received after that date, the fees increase by \$5 to \$80 for Voting Members, \$65 for Associate Members, and \$35 for Student Members. MCPA annual dues include the yearly membership dues to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. and the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations.

If you are currently a Voting, Associate or Student member and wish to renew in the same classification, please complete the two page form attached with this letter. If you wish to change membership categories, please complete the Application for Membership found on our Association's web page at www.montcoparalegals.org.

Please return your completed form along with a check made payable to "MCPA" to the address listed on the Renewal Form. Return your Renewal Form by February 15, 2015, to ensure that you remain on our mailing list and listserve and to take advantage of last year's membership rates.

New Members are always welcome. Please feel free to copy and share this mailing with your colleagues and friends who may be interested in the MCPA. Applications for new members can be found on our Association's webpage at www.montcoparalegals.org.

Remember to check the Association's website frequently as we update the website regularly with Association news and events. Also check us out on Facebook.

Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P. Chairperson, Membership Committee

I would like to renew my membership for 2015 as follows:

MCPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

	<u>Voting Member:</u> Any person currently employed as a paralegal, legal assistant or any equivalent position and/or who performs paralegal duties as the primary work activity. \$75 on or before 2/15/2015; \$80 after 2/15/2015					
	Associate Member: Any person who has recently graduated from a formal course of study, upon the completion of which such person is qualified to be employed as a paralegal; Any person whose primary responsibilities and job classification are not paralegal but does perform paralegal duties on a limited basis (full time paralegals do not qualify as Associate Members and must apply as Voting Members); Any person previously employed as a paralegal or equivalent position, subject to approval of the Board and Membership Committee. \$60 on or before 2/15/2015; \$65 after 2/15/2015.					
	Student Member: Any person who is enrolled in a formal course of study, upon completion of which such person would be qualified to be employed as a paralegal, shall be eligible for membership as a "student member". If applying for a Studen Membership you must submit the name of your school and anticipated graduation date. \$30 on or before 2/15/2015; \$35 after 2/15/2015.					
Dual Member: Any person who is a member, whether voting, student, or associate, of another NFPA-affiliated paralegal association and whose membership dues to NFPA have been paid through such other association for the current year. If applying for a Dual Membership you must include the name of the other NFPA Affiliated Association to which you are a member. Dual Voting \$50 before 2/15/2015; \$55 after 2/15/2015 Dual Student \$25 before 2/15/2015; \$30 after 2/15/2015 Name of other NFPA-affiliated paralegal association: Contact information for confirmation purposes: Name of President or Membership Chairperson: Email address:						
reco						
	u are interested in joining or gathering further information about any of MCPA's Committees, please circle any of the following and Committee Chair will contact you to discuss. In particular, the Planning, and Marketing Committees greatly need your assistance.					
	Membership Planning Newsletter Marketing Community Outreach Student Affairs Public Relations Scholarship					
	Please give us your comments and suggestions so that we can work towards making 2015 another great year.					

- Check here if you do <u>not</u> want your contact information available to other vendors and/or companies other than the Montgomery County Paralegal Association and the National Federation of Paralegal Associations.
- I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS APPLICATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION AND THAT ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION. I AM AWARE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AND/OR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL REVIEW THIS APPLICATION. I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts requested is cause for the disqualification for membership in the Montgomery County Paralegal Association.
- IF ACCEPTED, I WILL BE PLACED ON THE ASSOCIATION'S MAILING LIST AND LISTSERV. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE AND THAT I MEET THE ASSOCIATION'S MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS AND THOSE OF THE CATEGORY FOR WHICH I AM APPLYING. I AGREE TO NOTIFY THE ASSOCIATION OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR CHANGE IN MY STATUS THAT AFFECTS THE TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR ON THIS APPLICATION.

**Renewal dues are payable annuall	y.						
Signature:							
Printed Name:							
Date:							
Current email address at work:							
Current email address at home:							
Please mail application and check to:		Montgomery County Paralegal Association PO Box 1765 Blue Bell, PA 19422					
*Please make checks paya	ble to: "Mont	gomery County Paralegal	Association"				
All information provided is subject to verification and approval.							
FOR ASSOCIATION USE ONLY							
Dues Payment Received:	Amount	Date of Boa	ırd Approval:				
Membership Category:	Check#:						

NOTABLE WEBSITES:

American Bar Association:

www.americanbar.org/groups/paralegals

The Bar Association is a great resource for paralegals for understanding the ABA's continuing mission in supporting the standards of education for paralegals and by promoting attorneys' professional, effective and ethical utilization of paralegals.

Montgomery Bar Association: www.montgomerybar.org

The Montgomery Bar Association is a resource for Montgomery County Paralegals that are registered with the site and are also an MCPA member. The website has an entire marketplace for CLE classes, seminars, publications and opinions that affect our state and county. The website is a great resource for job searching as well in the Montgomery County area.

Montgomery Paralegal Association: www.montcoparalegals.org

The Montgomery County Paralegal Association has a website that can give you the latest details on events and happenings with Montgomery County Paralegals. It is a site to connect to other paralegals and get involved in committees or other volunteer events.

National Federation Paralegal Association: www.paralegals.org

The NFPA website is an invaluable resource for all paralegals. The NFPA is devoted to establishing standards for all paralegals and providing resources for paralegals to continue and enhance their skills in the field. The site has CLE information, a job bank, professional development as well as exam information to become a certified or registered paralegal.

VALUABLE LEGAL RESEARCH SITES:

Supreme Court of the United States: www.supremecourt.gov

The official page of the United States Supreme Court featuring court opinions, orders, calendars, schedules, rules, news releases and general information. A great resource concerning issues affecting our constitution.

US Government Printing Office: www.gpo.gov

The US government printing office provides free public access to full-text federal documents, such as the Code of Federal Regulations, the US Code, and Congressional Reports. This site has the latest information with news, legislation as well as the history of our great nation.

Below are the names and contact information for the Chairpersons of the various MCPA committees. If you have an idea or would like to volunteer, please contact a Chairperson! The Fundraising and Public Relations Committees are newly formed and are actively seeking new committee members.

MEMBERSHIP

Coordinate membership drives and membership matters

Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.

TBarnes@dischellbartle.com

NEWSLETTER

Solicit and write articles; layout and editing for the bi-monthly newsletter, MCPA Today Rachel Fineberg, Pa. C.P. rfineberg@goldblumhess.com

JOB BANK

Solicit, accumulate, and distribute current job postings to the general membership ksmith@kanepugh.com

MARKETING

Solicits sponsors and advertisers for MCPA

Deborah A. Long, Pa. C.P.

deblong420@gmail.com

Deborah A. Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.

darbuckle@kaplaw.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Promote the MCPA in the legal and general Community

Annette M. Long, CRP, Pa.C.P. amlong83@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY & EVENTS PLANNING

Plan and schedule upcoming MCPA Kathleen M. Zamorski, Pa. C.P. presentations, meetings and social events <u>kathy.zamorski@gmail.com</u>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PRO BONO

Plan and schedule MCPA charitable and community events

Roberta Fedorka, Pa. C.P. rfedorka@obrlaw.com

FUNDRAISING

Organize and hold fundraisers for the
Association and/or charitable organizations

Noreen Messmer, PA. C.P. and

nmessmer@fordbuckman.com
Sherry Barag, CRP, PA. C.P.
sbarag@foxrothschild.com

STUDENT AFFAIRS & MENTORING

Provide a range of services and support to students interested in a paralegal career Lisa LaPenna, Pa. C.P. llapenna@kaplaw.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

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