

MCPA TODAY

The official Publication of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association

June 2009

www.montcoparalegals.org

Editor: Tracey L. Barnes, RP, PA. C.P.

Message from the President

Our Summer Social was a huge success! Many thanks to our supporting members, **Morgan Wentworth** and **Bell Reporting Company**, for co-sponsoring the event, as well as to Devin Kees for volunteering to be our photographer. Be sure to check out the photos in this issue and on the website.

With the Summer months upon us, I wish everyone a pleasant and relaxing Summer season. You'll want to be well rested so you can come back with your sleeves rolled up for the Fall and Holiday seasons! If you are still uncertain as to what role you would like to play in the growth and development of the MCPA and the paralegal profession, there are some interesting options to consider which have been under discussion by the Board of Directors. Among those options are a scholarship program for our student members and the development of a bar liaison committee to improve and develop relations between the MCPA and the MBA. Additional details will be forthcoming. Also, our Election Meeting will take place in October, and it's not too soon to consider whether you might wish to serve on the Board of Directors. If you have ever thought about running for the Board of Directors or think you might be interested in becoming a member of the governing body of the MCPA, please feel free to contact me or any Board Member. No special talent is needed – just a desire to be involved in the progress of your Association.

If you are afraid to become involved because you think you don't have the time or because you're just not sure where your talents lie, here are some other thoughts: you will make new friends who deal with the same issues you do from day to day; you will gravitate toward those things which interest you and develop your particular strengths; you will discover things about yourself you didn't know before; and you will achieve a sense of accomplishment that you didn't realize would be waiting for you.

See you in September!

Deborah A. Long
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SAVE THE DATE!!

September 16, 2009—CLE on Title
Insurance

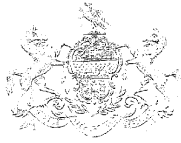
October 22, 2009—10th Anniversary
Gala and Election Meeting

Welcome New Members

Charlene Neff
Nancy Santiago
Delia Emery
Meg Farnoly
Donna Greenwood
Gina Giordano



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

PARALEGAL WEEK
July 20-24, 2009

PARALEGAL DAY
July 24, 2009

WHEREAS, The practice of law is a demanding, challenging, and complex endeavor—one in which the rights, liberties, and safety of our citizens have been protected and preserved for centuries; and

WHEREAS, members of the bar require knowledgeable and reliable assistance to fulfill the duties of their profession. Paralegals have become an invaluable source of support in law offices, providing lawyers with a variety of skilled professional services throughout their practice; and

WHEREAS, paralegals are highly educated, trained, and experienced professionals with expertise in legal and case research, interviewing clients and witnesses, legal and correspondence writing, and other critical areas of successful and efficient law practices; and

WHEREAS, the value of talented paralegals is often overlooked by the general public, but their worth is never underestimated by the lawyers and firms for which they work; and

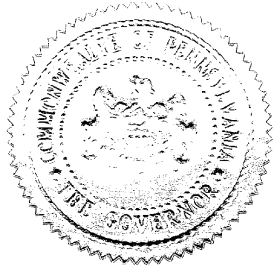
WHEREAS, the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations, along with other associations, is dedicated to the advancement of the paralegal profession through education, a network of support, and raising public awareness and appreciation.

THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim July 20-24, 2009, PARALEGAL WEEK, and July 24, 2009, PARALEGAL DAY throughout our Commonwealth.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this ninth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-third.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor



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- Attend and report on independent medical exams (IME).
- Develop MSA reports for workers' compensation cases.
- Any case with medical related issues.

- *Personal Injury* • *Nursing Home* • *Auto* • *Criminal*
- *Medical Malpractice* • *Nursing Malpractice* • *Elder Law*
- *Wrongful Death* • *Product Liability* • *Workers' Comp*

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The Mentoring Committee is on the Move!

By: Lisa M. LaPenna, Pa. C.P.

The Mentoring Committee has been moving in many directions - not only mentoring students who request guidance, but also trying to promote awareness in the community of our legal association.

I want to thank both Nancy Aiken and Dawn Cinaglia who attended Manor College with me on March 10, 2009 to speak to the students about MCPA and the benefits of joining a legal association. I think the students were very attentive and curious as to what we're all about and it was a pleasure speaking with them. I would also like to thank Manor's Director of Legal Studies, Diane Pevar, J.D. and Mary L. Sims, Esq. who welcomed us to their fine school.

On April 1, 2009, Harry Reichner, Dawn Cinaglia, Doreen Ziccardi, myself, and our student liaison of Peirce College, Monique Rucker attended the Paralegal Studies Graduates' Networking Event at Peirce College. The keynote speaker was Sayde J. Ladov, Esq., Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association who gave such an inspiring speech about the ups and down in her career. We set up a booth for MCPA that evening and spoke with students and alumni about our organization, answered questions, and accepted applications. It was a wonderful evening for MCPA because we had the chance not only to meet prospective members, but it also gave us an opportunity to speak with the other local professional association leaders who set up booths next to ours. I would also like to thank Ivy Kempf, J.D. who got our association involved.

If you would like to be mentored, interested in learning more about the Mentoring Committee, or would like to speak to students at local colleges, please call me at (610) 941-2523 or e-mail to llapenna@kaplaw.com.





The Public Relations Committee needs your help!

Here is your opportunity to help your Association grow.

The newly formed Public Relations Committee is looking for volunteers to help promote the MCPA in the legal and general communities. This will involve such tasks as distributing brochures, generating press releases relative to upcoming events, and posting flyers at local coffee shops, etc.

You can spend as much or as little time as you have available in supporting this committee. Even a commitment of one hour each month can make a difference!

Some of the specific areas where help is needed are as follows:

- Ideas, ideas, ideas
- Deliver flyers of upcoming events to colleges and libraries
- Drop off MCPA brochures to attorney offices, libraries, courthouse
- Reach out to Paralegals that you know or come in contact with in your job
- Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper
- Draft a press release to a newspaper or radio station
- Ask if flyers can be hung up in Starbucks or
- Did I mention...ideas?

As you can see, there are lots of “little ways” that you can help. It doesn’t have to cost you a lot of time, and you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done your part to promote your Association.

By increasing our membership, we are able to share more knowledge, expertise and networking opportunities so that we can grow in our profession.

If you are interested in helping, please email me linda_gunning@merck.com. You can also contact me in the evenings at 215-453-0241.

MCPA 2009 Summer Social

Our Summer Social was a huge success! Many thanks to all who attended and to Devin Kees, daughter of student member Sheila Kees-Hayden, for coming out to take the pictures.

An especially big thank you goes out to our Gold Sponsor, **Morgan Wentworth**, and our Bronze Sponsor, **Bell Reporting Company**, for co-sponsoring the event. Your support makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission of providing a network of communication and support to our members and to take an effective role in the development and growth of the paralegal profession.



Our Sponsors – from left: Jeannie McCann from Bell Reporting Company and Rachel Kantor from Morgan Wentworth, LLC



Gettin' the party started!



Jenn Castiglia and Noreen Messmer help members check in



Mother and daughter, Heidi Reis-Tait and Lindsay Tait, are students at Peirce College.



DOOR PRIZES!!!



and a good time was had by all!





The Philadelphia ALA, PAP, and PLSA Career Outreach: A Constant Resource in an Uncertain Time

The Philadelphia legal community has been markedly changed over the last few months. Mergers, downsizing and firm closings have contributed to a large pool of exceptional local legal talent that now find themselves unemployed or in an uncertain job situation.

Fortunately, the Philadelphia ALA, the Philadelphia Association of Paralegals (PAP) and the Philadelphia Legal Secretaries Association (PLSA), is pleased to help navigate this transitional period. The three organizations have developed a Career Outreach program to help those legal professionals who have been affected by the turbulent business market.

The first Career Outreach Event will be held on Thursday, June 25 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM at the Morris Café at Duane Morris. The program is free and designed to help unemployed legal professionals find new positions, keep pace with changing technology, and maintain a professional image.

Topics to be covered include:

- * Interview skills including appropriate dress, proper handshaking and potential Interview tests
- * Job hunting guidelines: from personal networking to utilizing online job sites
 - * Resume writing and cover letter tips
- * The importance of maintaining a professional online appearance, from Facebook accounts to using a professional email address
- * Utilizing COBRA - from the application process to understanding the Stimulus Bill's effect on premiums

Additionally, job seekers can now visit the new Career Center on the ALA website which will serve as a repository for local and regional job opening across the legal spectrum.

We'll be working closely with firms to list up-to-date, relevant openings in the Philadelphia legal community

Event Details and Registration

Please feel free to share this invitation:

What: Career Outreach Event Sponsored by the ALA, PAP and PLSA

Date and Time: June 25, 2009. 4:00-7:00pm

Where:
Morris Café
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Who Should Attend? Legal professionals who wish to keep pace with the market, network with others in the legal community, and maintain and build on job-seeking skills

To register for this event, visit: www.adaptivesolutions.com/ala

Contact the Career Outreach Program:

Martha J. Keen, CLM
c/o ALA - Philadelphia Chapter
Mintzer Sarowitz Zeris, et al.
Director of Human Resources
mkeen@defensecounsel.com
www.phila-ala.org

Ella M. Herbin, President
Philadelphia Legal Secretaries Association
c/o Pepper Hamilton LLP
3000 Two Logan Square
Eighteenth and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2799
215.981.4854 - Direct
215.981.6368 - Fax
herbine@pepperlaw.com

Theresa Coger
c/o The Philadelphia Paralegal Association
P.O. Box 59198
Philadelphia, PA 19102-9179
(215) 255-8405
philaparalegals@verizon.net



BREAKFAST WITH THE MCPA

Written by Christine Horace

The MCPA members met on a beautiful Saturday morning for brunch at Christine's in Trooper, PA for the April general meeting. After a scrumptious breakfast and catching up on what was happening with each other, meeting old friends and new acquaintances, we were presented with a program on "Utilization of Paralegals - Effectively and Profitably" given by Rachel Kantor, paralegal recruiter and Patricia Mosesso, President of Morgan Wentworth, our sponsors for this event. After questioning the audience about what frustrations as paralegals we encountered in the work place, Pat and Rachel gave the reasons a law firm should effectively utilize paralegals and the results of the ineffective use of them. The presentation concluded with suggestions for resolving the frustrations that we all seem to incur.



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION
just by making your regular purchases!

**Order gift cards for WalMart, Target, Shopko and others from Simplified Scrip.
You receive the full cash amount while MCPA receives a merchant donation!**

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1. **Order Online** – Log onto www.simplifiedscrip.com and place your order. Your total will be deducted directly from your checking account with each order; OR
2. **Call in orders** – You can call in your order at 1-800-514-1891. Have your checking account information ready when you call; OR
3. **Auto-Order** – Fill out a subscription agreement at www.simplifiedscrip.com or call 1-800-514-1891, and you can have an automatic recurring order arrive at your house each month on the date you choose!

**You can directly support the MCPA with your everyday
purchases!**

**Consider making an auto-order for all your gas and grocery
needs!**

Friends, family, co-workers and neighbors can order without phone solicitations or deliveries!
Just pass along the phone number and the website information.

Gift cards make great gifts for holidays, weddings, birthdays, graduations and more,
and you can also use them for daily purchases like gas or groceries!

This fundraiser is so simple and costs nothing more than you would normally spend.
[You can order gift cards year round, and they work just like cash!](#)

**Every purchase you make earns money for you and our
association!**

Questions?

Contact Christinehorace@hotmail.com



Time to Decide
Theresa A. Prater, RP
NFPA Region I Director

- >Do you think about attending professional meetings?
- >Do you think about networking with paralegals in other parts of the country?
- >Do you think about attending continuing education classes geared toward your practice area?
- >Do you think about moving to another part of the country, but don't know who to contact about possible jobs?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, you are ready to attend NFPA’s 35th Annual Convention. Celebrating 35 years as The Leader of the Paralegal Profession, NFPA members will be meeting in Portland, Oregon, October 29 – November 1, 2009. At the same time, the Oregon Paralegal Association, the host of the NFPA Convention, is celebrating its 30th year of serving paralegals in Oregon.

What can you expect at an NFPA event? Foremost, an opportunity to interact with paralegals from Alaska to Florida and from Vermont to Hawaii, including members of the Navy Legalman’s Association, whose members serve around the world. NFPA has member associations around the world now, and it may be possible to meet some of our fellow worker bees from outside the U.S. You can create a wonderful network of paralegals to contact when you have a question in another jurisdiction, or are considering moving to another area of the country.

Thursday is a day set aside for learning. The Oregon Paralegal Association has set up a wonderful schedule of continuing education programs for each of you. You probably know the name Therese A. Cannon from paralegal school. She is the guru of paralegal ethics, and will be presenting a seminar on that topic. Other topics for Thursday include a PACE track for anyone considering taking the PACE exam; seminars on your role in jury selection and witness preparation; trial presentations; dealing with corporate and in-house counsel, and many other topics of interest. There is also a keynote speech on Thursday, which is included in your registration for seminars. The speaker is Robert Dugoni, a lawyer-turned-author, who has twice received the Pacific Northwest Writer’s Association Literary contest.

Later in the day, after a relaxing dinner, you can see how NFPA operates by attending the NFPA Board of Directors' meeting. You will have an opportunity to ask your officers and directors about issues of concern during the Open Members' Forum.

Friday is the start of the meeting schedule with Region Meetings commencing in the early morning. Here your delegates will meet with other association representatives from your region to discuss mutual concerns, including proposed agenda topics, meet with candidates for various offices, and help each other work out common association problems. As a member of an NFPA association, you are welcome to attend your region meeting and participate in the discussions. In the late afternoon there are workshops available on various topics of interest to association management. The region meeting is open to you as a member of NFPA and your local association. If you plan to attend your region meeting, please let your primary or secondary representative know in advance so that they can advise the region director.

Think you're tired yet? Well, Friday evening we will be celebrating with members of the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE), the people who teach paralegal students. This is a first-ever joint event for NFPA and AAfPE and will be an opportunity to exchange ideas for the profession with those that are teaching future paralegals. This may be your opportunity to meet authors of those textbooks you used in paralegal school!

Do you think that your NFPA representatives attend conventions just for fun? Scarcely – they work hard to make your voice heard on the national level on issues that affect paralegals across the country and in all practice areas. NFPA member associations send their delegates to attend workshops and meetings for two-and-a-half days to voice the concerns of their respective members, and to lead our profession forward. When you attend an NFPA convention, you will see your NFPA delegate acting on your behalf – voicing the thoughts and ideas of your association. You will witness a procedure much like the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives – delegates (representatives) bringing agenda topics (bills) to the floor for discussion and decision.

How do the agenda topics get this far? First of all, all U. S. members of NFPA have an opportunity to present topics either for vote or discussion to the entire delegate body. The ideas for agenda topics come from the associations' members themselves. Previous agenda topics have included a Code of Ethics, development of Model Plan for regulation and licensure, as well as ways to make paralegals more visible to the public, creating avenues for paralegals to truly become recognized as a profession, etc. Those ideas are put into the appropriate format of an Agenda Topic, including information on any prior similar proposals, and if the proposal is accepted, how it will effect NFPA's budget, how many volunteers will it take to implement, or simply how to get NFPA operating more effectively and efficiently.

Agenda topics are driven by the members of NFPA – each of you is a member and you can have your ideas presented to a national audience through an agenda topic or discussion topic. What's your burning desire for the profession?

Saturday's luncheon is when all of the NFPA award and scholarship winners are announced: the Hon. William R. Robie Award; the NFPA Paralegal of the Year; the Local Outstanding Leadership Award; the Individual and Association Pro Bono Publico Awards; the PACE Ambassador Award; the PACE Scholarship; and the NFPA/Thomson Reuters Scholarships. For more information on NFPA awards, go to www.paralegals.org; click on the Membership tab; then click on Awards.

Elections for specific NFPA board positions are conducted every year at the Annual Convention. This year, along with the annual election of the five Region Directors, the following officers/directors are up for election: Treasurer & Director of Finance; Vice President & Director of Profession Development; Vice President & Director of Membership and the newly created Vice President & Director of Marketing. As an NFPA member, each of you is eligible to run for an NFPA office. The only limiting factor for any office is for region director positions – you must reside in and be a member of an association in the specific region.

Whoa! Aren't we done yet? No, Saturday evening is a social night for many people – the regional dinners are held on Saturday, being attended by the region's delegates and any other members from the region and their guests. It's a good time to relax, get to know your fellow paralegals and have a good time. However, if there is a caucus scheduled, socializing is kept to a timetable, and NFPA's business takes precedent over the social scene.

Don't over do it though, Sunday is another "working" day for delegates, as business is concluded and newly elected board members take the oath of office, given by the Parliamentarian. It is also the day for "passing of the torch", where the Oregon Paralegal Association will pass on the NFPA symbolic torch for the 2010 convention to be held in Philadelphia. This is the Philadelphia Paralegal Association's time to brag about their plans and to get you fired up about attending another NFPA convention in the fall of 2010.

Sunday afternoon and evening will be the conclusion of the Board of Director's meeting started on Thursday evening. All NFPA members are invited to the open session of the meeting to see your new board and outgoing board members working together for a smooth transition of officers and directors. This meeting will likely go on into the late hours of the evening, so that all board members can catch a flight home on Monday morning.

Any of this grab your interest? Visit www.paralegals.org and pre-register for the 2009 Convention, celebrating NFPA's 35th Anniversary as the Leader of the Paralegal Profession. Observer fees are minimal as long as your association has credentialed delegates attending. We look forward to seeing you in Portland!





Deborah L. Arbuckle Named MCPA's new Primary Delegate to the NFPA!

Congratulations to Debbie Arbuckle, our new Primary Delegate to the NFPA! Debbie was nominated and agreed to take on the roll at the May 6, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors. We know she will do a great job in representing our membership at the regional and national levels!

Many thanks to Charlene Healy, RP, who served for over ten years as the MCPA's Primary Delegate to the NFPA. Charlene is a founding member of the MCPA, and we look forward to her continued participation and support.

The office of Secondary Delegate to the NFPA is now open. The primary function of the Secondary Delegate is to assist the Primary Delegate in evaluating information received from the NFPA for purposes of keeping the Board of Directors apprised on relevant topics and disseminating the information to the membership. This is a valuable networking prospect as well as an opportunity to develop or hone another skill set. If you are interested in this position, please contact Debbie Arbuckle at darbuckle@kaplaw.com or Debbie Long deblong420@gmail.com for more information.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2009 Events will be announced shortly.

BECOMING A PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFIED PARALEGAL (Pa.C.P.)

QUALIFICATIONS:

To become a Pennsylvania Certified Paralegal you must fulfill the following qualifications and grandfathering or the educational requirements set forth below:

1. Applicant must be a member in good standing of a Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations member association;
2. Applicant must be a legal resident of the United States of America;
3. Applicant must satisfy Education/Experience or Grandfathering requirements;
4. Applicant must submit declarations from one (1) attorney in good standing with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania who will attest to his/her direct knowledge of the Applicant's skill level and his/her work as a Paralegal;
5. A Paralegal making application under work experience only must submit declarations from two (2) attorneys; and
6. Certified copy of Applicant's official transcript(s) from the educational institution(s) attended OR a letter from the education institution(s) attended indicating the dates of the Applicant's attendance and the date(s) of the Applicant's graduation OR a copy of the Diploma/Certificate received by the Applicant from the education's institution(s) attended. Certified Legal Assistants ("CLA"), Certified Paralegals ("CP"), Registered Paralegals ("RP"), or Paralegals holding another Paralegal credential approved and recognized by the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations need only submit a copy of their original credential certification and their current letter of good standing. Applicants who are making application for certification under work experience only, do not need to submit transcripts or Diplomas/Certificates.

GRANDFATHERING PROVISION:

Prior to June 30, 2012, Applicant must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

1. Bachelor's Degree in Paralegal Studies from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
2. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND a Certificate/Associate's Degree from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
3. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
4. Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
5. Certificate from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
6. Associate's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
7. Certificate from a non-ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
8. Seven (7) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
9. Designation of CLA, CP or RP or other Paralegal credential approved and recognized by the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations AND two (2) years of substantive Paralegal experience.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

After July 1, 2012, Applicant must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

1. Bachelor's Degree in Paralegal Studies from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
2. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND a Certificate/Associate's Degree from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
3. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
4. Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from a Paralegal Program AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
5. Certificate from a Paralegal Program AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
6. Designation of CLA, CP or RP or other Paralegal credential approved and recognized by the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations AND two (2) years of substantive Paralegal experience.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Requirements – Twelve (12) hours with two (2) hours being in ethics for every two (2) years' renewal.
- Examination – No exam at this time.
- Fees – Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars non-refundable Processing Fee for initial two (2) year period. Twenty-Five (\$25.00) Dollars non-refundable Processing Fee for each renewal period of two (2) years. Fees subject to change.

Visit www.keystoneparalegals.org for forms and additional information



Representing the Paralegals

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MCPA

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
Traceyb@dbyd.com

Newsletter

Solicit and write articles; layout and editing for the bi-monthly newsletter, MCPA Today

- Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Editor
Traceyb@dbyd.com

Job Bank

Solicit, accumulate, and distribute current job postings to the general membership

- Stephanie Dise
sad@elliottgreenleaf.com

Marketing

Solicit sponsors and advertisers for MCPA

- Deborah A. Long,
debbiel@dbyd.com
Deborah A. Arbuckle,
darbuckle@kaplaw.com

Public Relations

Promote the MCPA in the legal and general Community

- Linda Gunning
Linda_gunning@Merck.com

Planning

Plan and schedule upcoming MCPA presentations, meetings and social events

- Roberta Fedorka
rfedorka@obrlaw.com

Community Outreach

Plan and schedule MCPA charitable and community events

- Deborah Arbuckle
darbuckle@kaplaw.com

Fundraising

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

- Christine Horace
chorace@good-lawyer.com

Mentoring

Provide a range of services and support to students interested in a paralegal career

- Lisa LaPenna
lpenna@kaplaw.com

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

Theodore Roosevelt



REGULATION IN THE NEWS
WASHINGTON STATE
A letter from Brian Haberly, RP

“As most of you know, last year, the Washington State Practice of Law Board advanced a proposal to the Washington State Supreme Court for a new category of legal service provider that if approved, would permit trained and qualified nonlawyers to deliver a limited range of legal services directly to the public without an attorney, in a new category known as a "Legal Technician".

The WA Supreme Court took public comments on the proposed "Admission to Practice Rule 28" through April 30, 2009. About 90 comments were received, with many of them coming from disgruntled Family Law attorneys who were (wrongly) convinced that their livelihoods would be threatened, or that revealed by their comments that they hadn't even bothered to read the details of the proposal they were opposing!

I submitted a letter on behalf of WSPA which can be found on the Court's "Comments Received" page (linked below). (It is already posted on the WSPA web site as well www.wspaonline.org >>The Profession >>Practice of Law Board >>WSPA Ltr to Court). It was also nice to see that one of our newer WSPA members, Doug Wright, authored a letter in support too. (Doug attended the recent NFPA conference in Seattle by the way.)

We are hopeful and cautiously optimistic that the Washington Supreme Court will decide in favor of this proposal sometime this year, perhaps as early as summer or early Fall. Thanks again to Jeanne Dawes, our former Spokane Chapter Director, and a NFPA William Robie Award Winner, for her many years of service on the POL Board, and for her own letter in support of the proposal and to Kelli Wilcox, our former VP of Professional Development, who helped author an early draft of this letter for me.

For those of you that attended the Regulation and Leadership Conference here in Seattle recently, it was a special treat to have Jeanne here in person to help explain the proposal and offer her insights!

Following below are links to the Court's page for Proposed Rules that have been published for public comment, as well as a link to the comments received. Keep your fingers crossed for some positive news from the WA Supreme Court later this year!"

Brian Haberly, RP
PACE® Registered Paralegal
President, Washington State Paralegal Association
Email: President@wspaonline.org<<mailto:President@wspaonline.org>>
Web site: www.wspaonline.org



NFPA UPDATE

Submitted by Deborah Arbuckle

On April 25, 2009, I attended my first National Federation of Paralegal Associations meeting, the Region IV Spring meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, hosted by Maryland Association of Paralegals. This is a more informal gathering than the annual convention, and gave me a chance to meet quite a few other delegates from Region IV. Region IV includes Central Pennsylvania Paralegal Association, Lycoming County Paralegal Association, Maryland Association of Paralegal, National Capital Area Paralegal Association, Navy Legalman Association, Paralegal Association of Northern Virginia, Philadelphia Association of Paralegals, Pittsburgh Paralegal Association and South Jersey Paralegal Association.

It was interesting to listen and observe the interaction between different associations and find that while associations differ in membership size and geographical location, we all share the same dedication to our profession and face the same challenges. These challenges include keeping members involved and interested in our organizations and NFPA; how to market our organizations to increase membership; and keeping up-to-date with this fast paced technological world.

If you haven't already done so, add NFPA to your "favorites" and visit often. And don't forget to register for the new NFPA E-Newsletter to help you keep up with all that's going on!



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Also available are MCPA long-sleeved t-shirts and short-sleeved polo shirts. The long-sleeve shirts are \$10 and the short-sleeve shirts are \$20. Show your MCPA spirit by purchasing a shirt (or two). Contact Debbie Arbuckle at darbuckle@kaplaw.com if you are interested.

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Submitted by Charlene M. Healy, RP

The NFPA e-newsletter is ready to roll. Sign-up link is on the NFPA homepage. Please encourage all your local association members to subscribe to this free publication, which will be issued every other month! If you have any suggestions for the e-newsletter, please send them to Theda Yandell, our editorial coordinator, at editorial@paralegals.org.

Georgette M. Lovelace, RP®
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And now a word from our sponsors...

Actually, a word *about* our sponsors. The relationship between the MCPA and its sponsors offers mutual benefits.

Benefits to the MCPA

The support we receive from our sponsors allows us to carry out Association functions, offer free CLE's, and participate in the development of the paralegal profession not only locally, but also at the statewide and national levels. Additionally, we have a pool of expert resources readily available if, for instance, we need to obtain a Certificate of Merit, develop a Life Care Plan, schedule a deposition, or suggest a resource for assistance with legal staffing.

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Sponsors of the MCPA have a direct link to the legal community. Information distributed at our general membership meetings can be shared with attorneys, office managers, and coworkers who may have a need for the specific services offered. Direct advertising is available through *MCPA Today*, and sponsor and vendor links are readily accessible through our website.

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Check the MCPA website on a regular basis so that you know who our sponsors are. Then, share this information – as well as information you receive at our general membership meetings – with those in your office who have a need for these services. Be sure to have them mention the MCPA when they call so that the provider knows the work came through us and will be likely to renew their sponsorship next year.

Don't see one of your office's service providers on our website? Could this service provider benefit from a relationship with the MCPA? Let us know! Send an e-mail to Debbie Long at debbiel@dbyd.com or Debbie Arbuckle at darbuckle@kaplaw.com. If the service provider becomes a sponsor of the MCPA, you will receive a \$25 debit card!

"This is your organization. The more involved you are, the more you will benefit from your membership." Sharon Jones, first President of MCPA, 1999



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