

AALS- The Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals  
Member of NALS, the association for legal professionals

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# THE INFORMER

Volume XXXIV, No. 1 – August, 2007

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# Words from Our President

*Michelle Grilletta, PLS (NEALSP)*

Dear AALS members:

This year has started out great with a uniquely wonderful Annual Meeting in Eureka Springs followed by a relaxing and educational Leadership Retreat in June.

The Compliance Committee is working hard on the bylaws and standing rules and, from what I am told, the Committee will have a lot of changes for the Membership and/or the Board to consider at the Fall Business Meeting. Please try to come to Searcy so your thoughts and ideas can heard.

I am pleased to announce that we have two new secondary members, Ms. Gloria Thomas, PP, PLS, CP of TALS - Legal Professionals of Tennessee and Ms. Leslie Stokes, PP, PLS, TSC, Texas ALP President-elect 2007-2008. Gloria's e-mail address is [gjthomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gjthomas@sbcglobal.net) and Leslie's is [legal1superstar@yahoo.com](mailto:legal1superstar@yahoo.com). Be sure to send them a note of welcome when you have a chance.

It is such a thrill for me to be serving as President of the wonderful organization that has done so much for me in the past 18 years. Thanks to all of you again for giving me this great opportunity. I want to again remind all of you that I cannot do this alone. I need and value your thoughts, suggestions, complaints, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Hope to see all of you in Searcy on September 14, 2007.**

Sincerely,

*Michelle Grilletta, PLS*  
**2007-2008 AALS President**

## Report of President-Elect/Membership Chair

*Linda Adair, PLS (GLRLSP)*

As the finishing round of the NALS Membership Campaign 2006-2008, the Luxury Get-a-Ways, departs on September 1, 2007, I wanted to remind you of how you may obtain one of the eight prizes to be awarded at the conclusion of the trip on February 29, 2008. Although the trip is a fantasy, the efforts to benefit membership are quite real. Here are the stops as set out by NALS Membership Committee, our travel agent:

- Rio de Janeiro – all new members will be entered in a drawing and one lucky winner will receive \$25 in NALS Bucks. (NALS Bucks may be used for products, registration or national dues.)
- Sydney – Renew your membership and you will be entered into a drawing when one lucky member wins \$50 in NALS Bucks.
- Cairo – For each new recruit, the sponsoring member will have a chance to receive \$75 in NALS Bucks. One winner will be drawn. The more you recruit, the more opportunities you have to win.
- London – The top recruiter in the nation will receive \$100 in NALS Bucks.
- Rome – One winner will be drawn from all the student members who join or renew and will receive \$19 in NALS Bucks toward their next dues.
- Athens – The Region with the highest percentage of retention will receive one free NALS registration to the next National Forum or the next Professional Development Conference. (Registration includes registration only, and does not include special meal events listed separately.)
- Paris – The State with the highest percentage of retention will receive one free NALS registration to the next National Forum or the next Professional Development Conference.
- Destination – Your Choice – All remaining names from this trip will be entered into a final drawing and one winner will receive \$100 in cash.

Similar awards will be given for the period ending August 31, 2007. In March 2007, as I sat and watched the winners of the “Winter Get-a-Ways” awards, I thought, “hey, I didn’t hear them call any of our members’ names! What’s up with that?! Our Arkansas ladies need to be getting some of these awards!” So, come on and increase your chances by renewing your membership and recruiting your co-workers! You will not believe the whooping and hollering that erupts when we hear your name read!

I know that some of our members drop from our rolls because they move away or leave the legal arena. However, there may be those who become too busy to be involved with the association for a time being or even disenchanted with the association. Will you be the one to reach out to that member and encourage him or her to “hang in there?” It may be just the touch needed to “keep on keeping on!” I have found that when I encourage someone else, I always feel better – what’s up with that!?

Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you. See you soon!

*Linda Adair, PLS*

President-Elect/Membership Chair 2007-08

## Conflict of Interest

*Marie Schoenfeldt, PLS, CLS (GCLSP)*

Few people associated with law firms have escaped the waves of changes resulting from law firm restructuring. Many legal support staff would argue that they have been particularly hit hard as firms reorganize and restructure their work force for an increasingly competitive market.

As a result of layoffs, many staff members and attorneys are seeking employment. In some instances the best offer for employment may come from adversaries. This situation opens up a Pandora's box with regard to ethical considerations.

Attorneys are bound by Rules 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct in connection with conflict of interest. Many attorneys do not realize these ethical connections extend to staff employees. Rule 5.3 of the ABA Code specifies that non-lawyer assistants are judged by the same rules of conduct that apply to attorneys. All attorneys are ultimately responsible for the actions of staff employees and may be sued or lose their license to practice law because of misconduct by an employee. Staff employees cannot be disbarred or suspended, but they can be sued, and in extreme cases, can be criminally liable for actions which harm a client or interfere with the judicial process. In most instances, a serious complaint against a law office employee will result from a violation of a client's right to confidentiality.

NALS Code of Professional Responsibility states, in part that:

- Cannon 3. Members of this association shall avoid a conflict of interest pertaining to a client matter.
- Cannon 4. Members of this association shall preserve and protect the confidences and privileged communications of a client.

Non-lawyer employees are bound by the conflict doctrine just as it affects the lawyers. A claim of conflict of interest on the part of the lawyer's legal support staff can expose that employee to serious civil liability, and in some cases even to punishment of contempt of court. In addition, legal support staff conflict can disqualify the attorney from participating in litigation, resulting in financial loss, professional embarrassment and possible adverse license action.

Most conflict of interest complaints result from misrepresentation of adverse interests. A conflict of interest problem will often arise as a result of violating the continuing right to confidentiality entitled to the client of a former attorney/employer.

Consider this scenario: Jean was formerly employed as a legal secretary by John Smith, who represented Robert Jones in Jones vs. Brown. As a result of the downsizing of Jean's office, she was laid off and then became employed by another attorney, Alan Black, who represents the former opposing party, James Brown. Jean had access to confidential information concerning evidence in this matter against Mr. Brown. Jean is legally obligated to protect this confidential information from disclosure. Jean is now

employed by Mr. Black who is legally obligated to advance Mr. Brown's interest against Mr. Jones. Can Jean discharge both obligations?

Mr. Black, Jean's new employer, has an ethical and legal duty to inquiry about any conflict of interest in Jones vs. Brown or any cases before hiring Jean by inquiring into her prior employment. The safe course of action would be to refuse to hire Jean or build a "wall" and not allow Jean to work or have access to this case. Jean also has an ethical and legal obligation to disclose the fact that she is familiar with this case prior to employment with Mr. Black or to any other potential employer with whom a conflict might exist.

In re Grand Jury Investigations (Heller) 921 F.2d 1184 (11 Cir. 1991) the Court rules if a secretary has substantial duties in the preparation of office records, she may be forced by subpoena to produce those records even if the attorney objects. The balancing test appears to be the extent of the secretary's involvement in creating the records. If she merely holds or files them for an attorney, an attorney may properly forbid compliance with the subpoena. On the other hand, if the secretary had a significant role in creating the documents and extensive knowledge of the content of the documents, the secretary may be considered by the court as a "substantive custodian" who must then respond to a subpoena. In this instance, complying with the subpoena forces the secretary into a conflict with the wishes and interests of the employer. The attorney's interest in preventing disclosure of the records could be in a direct conflict with the secretary's interest in avoiding the risk of non-compliance.

Staff members should all be concerned about conflict of interest implications. Anyone involved in the hiring of legal staff should examine potential conflicts of interest. A legal support staff faced with such a conflict should always seek independent legal advice rather than accept the orders and advice of an employer.

## Some Thoughts

*Submitted by Mary A. Hand, PP, PLS (GLRLSP)*

There has to be a good reason that my excitement level is already rising for the Fall season which is just around the corner – besides the usual Fall foliage, football games and Halloween. There is! It is the NALS Education Conference & National Forum in St. Louis on October 11-14, 2007! I already purchased my airline ticket (when Southwest Airlines ran a really good sale), booked my hotel room, and registered for the conference. I received my confirmation letter last week. I am registered!

Now for the excitement! I look forward to seeing my sisters-in-law twice a year, not only to catch up on their lives (the ones with whom I have been friends for years), but also to meet new friends and associates. I attend the seminars and get my CLE credit so that I can recertify for my PP and PLS, and mainly to LEARN. Remember when we were in grade school and high school and really didn't get pleasure from learning something new, we just learned because we had to make good grades and please our parents? Now we learn for the pleasure of it! We also learn to help us improve our skills in our chosen careers. To stop learning is to stop growing. And where better to learn than with other professionals who want to achieve the same level of expertise that you are!

I hope that all of you reading this who are already registered feel the excitement I do, and that those who have not yet registered will do so right away! And please spread the word to others who have put off making the decision to the last moment! I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis!

## NOTICE AND CALL TO BUSINESS MEETING

TO: All Members  
FROM: Judy Davis, Executive Secretary  
DATE: July 30, 2007

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 2(b) of the Bylaws of AALS, the 2007 Fall Business Meeting and Educational Conference will be held at the Hampton Inn, 3204 East Race, Searcy, Arkansas, on Friday, September 14, 2007, and Saturday, September 15, 2007. All members of this association are invited to attend this meeting and take advantage of the privileges of participation. All members of this association have the right and privilege to enter into discussion of any issues and to make and second motions. However, only the duly elected and appointed officers and duly elected directors and alternate directors from each chapter may vote on any issue.

Friday, September 14, 2007

6:30 p.m. Registration (sandwiches and light finger foods available)  
7:00 p.m. "Take Your Best Shot" - Elizabeth "Liz" Choate Mason

Saturday, September 15, 2007

8:00 a.m. Breakfast (continental provided by hotel with room).  
9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. "Organ donation-The Gift of Life" - Watson Bell, Attorney, and Jean Ann Bell, his wife  
10:30-12:00 p.m. "Webb's Law" - Larry Killough, Attorney  
12 noon Lunch  
1:15 p.m. Business Meeting

### REGISTRATION FOR SEMINARS AND BUSINESS MEETING

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Day Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

	Member	Non-Member
Full Registration	_____ \$40.00	_____ \$55.00
Seminar (Fri. pm)	_____ 5.00	_____ 10.00
Seminar (Sat. am)	_____ 5.00	_____ 10.00
Seminar (Sat. am)	_____ 5.00	_____ 10.00
Lunch	_____ 20.00	_____ 20.00
Business Meeting	_____ 5.00	_____ 5.00
Total Enclosed	\$ _____	\$ _____

Room reservations: Hampton Inn, (501) 268-4391; rate: \$84.00 per night, double occupancy with deluxe continental breakfast included. When reserving rooms and upon check-in, tell them you are with AALS . . . the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals. A \$10.00 late fee will apply for registrations received after September 10, 2007. Make checks payable to AALS and mail to Janice Miller, CPS, PLS, PP, 200 Sandhill Road, Lonoke, AR 72086.

**Certification of Election of Alternate State Director**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

\_\_\_\_\_ is a member of \_\_\_\_\_  
and has been duly elected as alternate State Director of said local chapter to  
serve only in the absence of the elected State Director's meeting of AALS . . . the  
Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals to be held Saturday,  
September 15, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Chapter Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

INSTRUCTIONS:

Mail original certification to AALS Executive Secretary at the address below, or  
notify the AALS Executive Secretary by fax, telephone or e-mail, at least five  
days prior to the meeting at which an alternate State Director may vote:

Judy Davis  
AALS Executive Secretary  
425 West Capitol Ave., Suite 1800  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 370-4260-Voice  
(501) 688-8807-Fax  
[jdavis@mwsqw.com](mailto:jdavis@mwsqw.com)

If the certification has not been received via fax, U.S. Mail, or electronic mail at  
least five days prior to the meeting and the notification method was used, the  
original must be presented to the AALS Executive Secretary on the date of the  
meeting prior to the commencement of any business.

Failure to elect and certify an alternate State Director at least five days prior to  
the meeting at which an alternate State Director may be voting results in the loss  
of the chapter's vote at said meeting if the duly elected and certified State  
Director is not present.

**AALS – the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals  
Minutes of the Spring Business Meeting of Board of Directors  
Eureka Springs, Arkansas, May 6, 2007**

*Call to Order:*

The 2007 Spring Business Meeting of AALS – the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals was convened at 11:05 a.m. on May 6, 2007, at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, with President Michelle Grilletta, PLS, presiding. Brandi Spillars of Greater Little Rock LSP led the Pledge of Allegiance; Kara Whitehead of NEALSP read the Code of Ethics.

*Credentials Report:*

President Grilletta, PLS, expressed appreciation to "Fab Four," a/k/a Linda Adair, PLS, Mae Humphries, PLS, CLA, Janice Miller, PP, PLS, CPS, and Ann Simmons for hosting the AALS 2007 Annual Business Meeting & Educational Conference. According to registration, six chapters were represented; total number of voting board members present was thirteen with a majority being seven and two-thirds being nine. A quorum was declared present. There was one member-at-large present. Margaret Wilson was appointed timekeeper and Doris Compton, PP, PLS, and Lisa Brecht were appointed tellers.

*Consent Agenda:*

The consent agenda as provided was utilized. Parliamentarian Sharon Davis, PLS, explained the consent agenda process.

*Action Items:*

The Treasurer's report was distributed; a motion carried to approve subject to financial review.

The minutes of the January 19, 2007, Winter Business Meeting and Educational Conference were approved as written.

President Grilletta explained to the membership that only the Board of Directors vote at the Spring Business Meeting and Conference.

Members of the Board of Directors who were present included:

Officers	State Directors
President Michelle Grilletta, PLS	Velzene Wilson, Garland County LSP
President-Elect Linda Adair, PLS	Sherri Watts, ALS, Greater Little Rock LSP
Executive Secretary Judy Davis	Charlie Patterson, Northeast Arkansas LSP
Treasurer Janice Miller, PP, PLS, CPS	Sue Holder, PLS, Saline County LSP
Immediate Past-President Andrea Hicks, PLS	Cheryl Summerhill, PLS, White County LSP
Parliamentarian Sharon Davis, PLS	Tina Williams, Jefferson County LSP
Marketing Director Ann Simmons	
Public Relations/Publications Christy Wilson	

There were four members attending the meeting for the first time. One member-at-large attended. There were two visitors in attendance.

President Grilletta introduced the new Executive Committee:

President	Michelle Grilletta, PLS
President-Elect	Linda Adair, PLS
Secretary	Judy Davis
Treasurer	Janice Miller, PP, PLS, CPS
Past President	Andrea Hicks, PLS
Parliamentarian	Sharon Davis, PLS

The officers and committee chairs, as appointed by President Grilletta and as approved by the Executive Committee, were introduced and the oath of office administered by President Grilletta:

*APPOINTED OFFICERS*

Historian	April Rasdon
Marketing	Ann Simmons
Public Relations/Publication	Christy Wilson

*FUNCTIONAL DIRECTORS*

Certification/PLS	Brenda Welch, PLS
Chapter Achievement	Cheryl Summerhill, PLS
Nominations & Elections	Dot Griffin, PLS/Sue Holder, PLS
Scholarship/Grant	Joyce Morgan
CLEC	Mimi Mangrum, Chair
	Wanda Ritter
	Wyvetta Smith, PLS
	Rita Thatcher, CPS, ALS

*STATE DIRECTORS*

Garland County LSP	Marsha King
Greater Little Rock LSP	Sherri Watts, ALS
Jefferson County LSP	Dott Griffin, PLS
Northeast Arkansas LSP	Charlie Patterson
Saline County LSP	Sue Holder, PLS
White County LSP	Cheryl Summerhill, PLS

*Recommendations of the Executive Committee:* None.

*Discussion Items:*

There were no timely bids for the 2008 Fall Business Meeting and Education Conference. NEALSP made a bid from the floor. Following motion duly made and seconded, the bid was accepted by acclamation.

There were no timely bids for the 2009 Winter Business Meeting and Educational Conference. A bid was made from the floor by Garland County LSP. Following motion duly made and seconded, the bid was accepted by acclamation.

President Grilletta appointed a Compliance Committee to review the By-laws, Standing Rules and Officer Guidelines. The Committee consists of Sharon Davis, PLS, Chair; Linda Adair, PLS, Janice Miller, PP, PLS, CPS, Mae Humphries, PLS, CLA, and Judy Davis. The Committee will have a status report at the Retreat in June and a full report by the Fall Business Meeting in Searcy, September 14, 2007.

Mae Humphries, PLS, CLA, gave a report on the Annual Meeting. There were 35 full registrations. 1 full non-member registration, 4 partial registrations, and 12 guests at the meeting. The Fab Four Committee decided not to have vendors, but to have sponsors instead. The Sponsors for the meeting were:

- Alltel
- Ann Simmons
- Ark. Bar Association
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- CT Corporation System
- Dyer & Burns
- Eureka Massage and Wellness
- Greater Little Rock LSP
- IVIZE (all printing)
- Janice Miller, Miller Farms
- Judy Davis
- Legal Directories
- Linda Adair
- Mae Humphries
- Marvelene James
- Michael Gott
- Mitchell Williams Law Firm
- NEALSP
- Pulaski County Bar
- Pulaski Tech
- Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow
- Hubert Mayes
- Saline County Legal Support Professionals

A special thanks and recognition to Mary Hand for raising over \$1,000.00 on her own from corporate sponsors.

The Hotel will go over their figures and fax the information to Mae Humphries. They will compare the figures. When they have the final accounting, the check to the Hotel will be written at that time. There was not a final figure to report at the meeting, but as soon as the Committee has the final tallies, the proceeds will be divided with one-half to AALS and one-half equally among the six local chapters.

President Grilletta announced that the Marketing Director for the upcoming year will be Ann Simmons; Nominations and Elections, Dot Griffin, PLS, and Sue Holder, PLS.

The Chapter Officers for the upcoming year were announced, with the exception of Jefferson County, which has not held elections because Dot Griffin, PLS's, accident.

There being no further discussion items, President Grilletta opened the floor for any Officers, Functional Directors, or Committee Directors to share any supplemental reports with the members. Janice Miller, PP, PLS, CPS, reported on the booth for the Arkansas Bar Association Annual Meeting to be held June 6-8, 2007 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Mimi Mangrum, Greater Little Rock LSP, handed out brochures for the Leadership Retreat and reminded everyone to get their registrations in to her. Marvelene James, PLS, made a statement on how much she has enjoyed the meeting and how proud she is of being a part of all of us and of the organization. President Grilletta reminded State Directors to send their list of new officers to NALS, if they have not already done so.

*Adjournment:*

There being no further business to come before the Board, the chair declares that the 2007 Spring Business Meeting and Education Conference of AALS, the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals, is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judy Davis*

Executive Secretary

**REPORT OF WHITE COUNTY LEGAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS  
STATE DIRECTOR CHERYL SUMMERHILL, PLS**

Janet Gordon and I thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Eureka Springs for the AALS Annual Meeting—much fun, much education, much friendship. Thanks again to the Annual Meeting Committee for your hard work. Janet and I also attended the AALS Leadership Retreat in June. The committee did an outstanding job under the leadership of Mimi Mangrum—whose attitude is infectious. It was a great weekend for me, because I won everything—the makeover, the big door prize on Friday, the scavenger hunt, and a birthday present from the sweetest person—Charlie Patterson! Leadership retreat should be a must on every member's "to do" list. The networking is tremendous, the renewing friendships are astounding, the new friendships are refreshing, the leadership is terrific, the food gratifying, and the laughs contagious.

WCALSP made a monetary donation to "A Day of Caring", and Janet and Shirley Reid volunteered their time on Saturday morning to assist. This event provides free healthcare and information for the uninsured, homeless, needy, elderly and children in our community. Over 1,400 friends and neighbors benefited from this year's event, with more than 500 volunteering their time and talents to help with the cause.

We've been planning some interesting seminars for the fall business meeting and hope that each member will join us on September 14-15 for this informative weekend. We promise that you'll be touched.

We will have finger foods available on Friday night (sandwiches, chip/dip, dessert, drinks) available in the meeting room, as we will not have a separate hospitality suite. The hotel offers a deluxe continental breakfast on Saturday morning, and we will be serving lunch in the meeting room between the legal ed sessions and the business meeting. **AUGUST 14, 2007 IS THE CUTOFF DATE FOR HOTEL ROOMS.** We apologize in advance, be we were unable to negotiate any other date with the hotel personnel, so please make your reservation as soon as you get this publication.

Thanks to all of you for your support for our military. My son, Randy, has received a promotion and is now a Captain in the U.S. Army. Life is tough in Iraq, and when we complain about 90 degree days in the hot summer in Arkansas, just remember that freedom isn't free—it averages 130 degrees during the days (in the shade) in Iraq, and our soldiers have to wear long sleeves, long pants, heavy boots, and most of the time, body armor that weighs 40-60 pounds and a kevlar helmet that weighs 14 pounds. Please continue to keep our military personnel in your prayers. Deployment is tough on soldiers because life in the States goes on without them and they miss so much of their family's lives, and is equally tough on families, because of the unknown over in the desert. Also, please keep our country's leaders in your prayers—that they will be given the knowledge and guidance to make informed decisions about this war.

We want to see YOU, our AALS friends, in Searcy in September. Bring a friend or coworker and introduce her to our association!

**REPORT OF GARLAND COUNTY LEGAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**  
**STATE DIRECTOR MARSHA OLIVER-KING**

Our chapter has been meeting regularly at noon on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Office of Hobbs, Garnett, Naramore & Drake and we have had good attendance. We have had several discussions regarding the plans for the 2008 AALS Annual Business Meeting and Educational Conference which our chapter is jointly hosting with the Jefferson County LSP and the Saline County LSP. We are once again looking forward to seeing everybody at this meeting in Hot Springs. From what I hear, you do not want to miss this one!

Also, we conduct our CLE meeting at noon on the 4th Thursday of each month at Hester's Family Restaurant located at 1204 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Marie Schoenfeldt, PLS, CLA, has been a guest speaker and administered a mock exam. We're planning for an insurance claims manager from a local law firm and members of our local SWAT Team to speak in the near future.

Wanda Ritter was our scholarship chairman this year and in April we awarded a one-thousand dollar scholarship to Erika Alvarado from Jessieville High School.

In May our chapter held a luncheon at Wanda Ritter's office and invited prospective members to attend. Our President, Sue Morrissey, welcomed everyone and Marie Schoenfeldt, PLS, CLA conducted an informational program on the Tri-Level Association and the benefits of being a member. GCLSP is proud to announce that we have gained a couple of new members, Carolyn Vining of Weyerhaeuser and Kim Holcomb of the Baim Law Office. Also Helen Oliver has rejoined us.

Velzene Wilson, Garland County LSP Alternate State Director, attended the AALS 2007 Annual Business Meeting and Educational Conference in Eureka Springs in May. She gave us a report with rave reviews of the meeting.

Wanda Ritter, Velzene Wilson and I represented our chapter in the AALS Informational Booth at the Annual Arkansas Bar Association Meeting at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs. Many thanks to Janice Miller, PP, PLS, CPS and Linda Adair, PLS who went beyond the call of duty to set up everything so perfectly.

We have discussed fund raising projects, including another basketball game (re-match) between lawyers and law enforcement. You may remember the lawyers won two years ago and the law enforcement team has been waiting for a "revenge" match. We have formed a committee and hoping to schedule the game in the month of October.

We are looking forward to attending the Fall Business Meeting in September.

**REPORT OF SALINE COUNTY LSP  
STATE DIRECTOR SUE HOLDER, PLS**

Saline County has been busy getting things lined up to conduct a "Brown Bag" seminar beginning the first of October for four or five weeks. Martha is in charge of that.

At our July meeting, we had a Bosses Appreciation luncheon. We had three bosses, Honorable Grisham Phillips, Linda's employer; Dennis Davis, Martha's employer, and Thomas Burns, Nichole and Sue's employer, present and all reported they enjoyed the lunch and our company.

I attended the Region 6 meeting in Shreveport July 26-29, and went to nine hours of Continuing Legal Education. There were 39 in attendance, and we all had a wonderful time, and each other's company. I am happy to report that Andrea Hicks was the winner of the Ring sponsored by the Foundation, and I was luck enough to win one of the silent auction items, a lovely blue topaz ring. They are both very pretty.

Martha, Marie, and Velzene are busy lining up the things for Annual Meeting 2008. I know you will have a wonderful time when you attend that meeting. They have good things planned for us and good legal education. Make your plans now to attend.

Martha and I plan to attend the NALS annual meeting and educational conference in St. Louis and we are both looking forward to that.

Also, please make your plans to attend Fall Board and Business Meeting in Searcy in September. I hope to see you there.

**REPORT OF NORTHEAST ARKANSAS LSP  
STATE DIRECTOR CHARLIE PATTERSON**

We NEALSP ladies have been busy since the last issue of *The Informer*. We hosted our annual Bosses' Night, installation of officers, and awards ceremony on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the evening was "A Mexican Fiesta". Approximately 30 individuals enjoyed Mexican dishes prepared by NEALSP members. The food was absolutely delicious. Following dinner, the Boss of the Year award was presented to Scott Ellington of Paragould, employer of our chapter president, Christy Wilson. Due to a tie in voting, the Award of Excellence went to Sharon Davis, PLS and me. Each of us received a beautiful plaque. AALS State President Andrea Hicks, PLS installed our 2007-2008 officers. They are: President - Kara Whitehead, Vice-President - Joyce Morgan, Secretary - Wyvetta Smith, PLS, Treasurer - Belinda Penn, PLS, State Director - Charlie Patterson, and Parliamentarian - Sharon Davis, PLS. President Kara Whitehead then presented outgoing President Christy Wilson with a lovely plaque for her outstanding service this past year.

Annual Meeting in Eureka Springs was attended by the following: Andrea Hicks, PLS and her husband, Alan; Michelle Grilletta, PLS; Sharon Davis, PLS; Belinda Penn, PLS; Kara Whitehead; Christy Wilson; Joyce Morgan and her husband, Guy; Brenda Welch, PLS and her husband, Louis; Wyvetta Smith, PLS and her husband, Wendell, and daughter, Briana; my co-worker, Wanda Scott, and myself. The committee did an excellent job of planning the meeting. The CLE was great, the food was wonderful, and NEALSP went home with the Publication award and the History Book award. Also, our own Michelle Grilletta, PLS was sworn in as AALS President.

The AALS Leadership Retreat was held on June 22-23 and was attended by Wyvetta Smith, PLS, Lisa Rookey, Andrea Hicks, PLS, Sharon Davis, PLS, Michelle Grilletta, PLS, and me. The CLEC did an outstanding job. This meeting is one of my favorites and, if you've never been to the Leadership Retreat, I would encourage you to attend next year.

We continue to have our monthly CLE sessions. Joyce Morgan is our CLE chair this year. She has assigned each member a month in which that individual has to come up with a speaker. Joyce prepares the notice and the attendance certificates. This has worked out quite well for our chapter. I will be hosting the August session at my home (got to try out some new recipes on the ladies!).

We're looking forward to attending the Fall Business Meeting in Searcy on September 14 and 15.

NEALSP will have its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and we are planning a big celebration. The date is Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, and you all are invited. More information will become available as we get further into the planning stage.

## **Chapter Achievement Competition**

*Cheryl Summerhill, PLS, Chair*

Pursuant to the AALS Standing Rules, the entry form for the Achievement Award Competition must be sent to each state director no later than July 1. The form was emailed to each state director on June 29, 2007. All entries must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2008 and should be sent to Cheryl Summerhill, PLS, P. O. Box 1378, Searcy, AR 72145-1378. Entries postmarked later than April 15 cannot be accepted for the competition.

I certainly hope that each member will take the time to reviewed the items listed on the Chapter Achievement form to see where you can help your chapter. The form can be found online at [www.arkansasals.org/Doc/AALS%20SR%20Attachments.pdf](http://www.arkansasals.org/Doc/AALS%20SR%20Attachments.pdf).

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### **Report of Annual Meeting Finance Review Committee**

*Cheryl Summerhill, PLS and Janet Gordon, PLS*

June 28, 2007

We have reviewed the financial records of the 2007 Annual Meeting and have found them to be in order. We therefore ask that they be approved as submitted.

We congratulate the 2007 AALS Annual Meeting Host Committee for all their hard work on this meeting and for a job well done.

Cheryl Summerhill, PLS  
Janet Gordon, PLS

## **2008 ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mark your calendars now for April 25-27, 2008, when we will meet at the Clarion Resort on the Lake, 4813 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Our theme - the Ya-Ya Sisterhood - will also include a celebration of 40 years of AALS' sisterhood. The Ya-Ya Sisterhood was a movie about four childhood friends who shared a lifetime of experiences and supported each other through both the good times and the bad times. What better way to portray AALS!

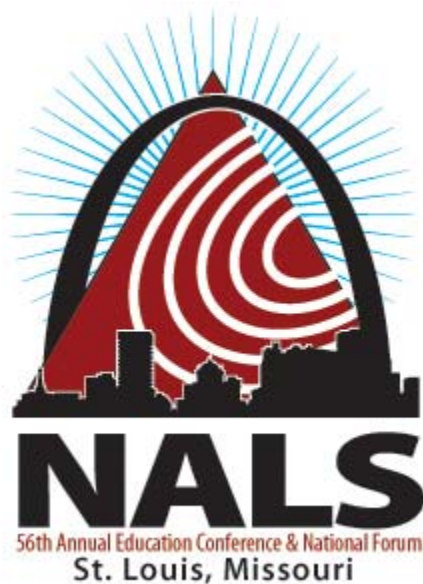
Although more information about specific events will be announced soon, the committee would like to hear your thoughts regarding one event. Dinner and a lake cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs is available for Friday night, April 25. The boat leaves the dock at 6:00 p.m. and returns at 8:00 p.m. If we have a group of 20 or more, the cost will be approximately \$25 per person for the cruise and for dinner. We will be seated together but not have the entire deck to ourselves; therefore, due to the music and people talking, the setting will not be conducive to a CLE presentation. This excursion would be a separate ticketed item in addition to the registration fee, and would be cancelled and your money refunded in the event we do not have at least 20 people going on the cruise. A CLE session/fun activity would then be planned for 8:30 p.m. at the hotel. Please check with your members to get an idea of how many might be interested in going out on the Belle of Hot Springs, and be prepared to share your thoughts with the committee at the Fall Business Meeting and Educational Conference scheduled for September 14-15 in Searcy.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Searcy!

Martha Cox, PP, PLS  
Velzene Wilson  
Dot Griffin, PLS  
*2008 Annual Meeting Co-Chairs*

## Announcements

GLRLSP is hosting the Winter Board Meeting in January, 2008. Allison Streepey and Janice Miller, CPS, PLS, PP, have been tasked with collecting door prizes for the meeting so if anyone has any appropriate items at home that they would like to donate as a door prize, it would be appreciated it! Please contact Allison or Janice with the item you have and they will arrange to pick the item up from them and add it to the list! Thanks to all for your help!



Register online at:

<https://secure.tulsaconnect.com/nals/registrations/forumregis.html>

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15, 2007

A listing of the officers and committee chairs is usually located at the end of each issue of *The Informer*. This list is now online for your convenience:

<http://www.arkansasals.org/Doc/2007-08%20officers.pdf>



by Pam Gibson

Dear God,

Tonight I ask as a mother to bless my child as I do every night, but now I am reminding you this is a special child. This child helps to provide a blanket of protection that we as Americans slumber under each night. He has decided to give his life to protect this great country of ours, and before now there was always prayer for you to watch over this child but after the terror that has struck our U.S. soil, I feel even stronger, more pleading as I pray to you. This child loves God and country and has sworn to protect her inhabitants. But, this is still my child who I have sworn to protect with MY life until the day I die. Now I need your help more than ever. He is no longer in my reach, but can only be reached by your hand to protect him. He may be on the oceans, above the earth or in lands foreign and hostile to him, please God, keep him safe and bring him home to me...alive and soon. Let this horrendous terror go away. Let us find peace and keep these special children alive and safe to teach future generations how important life is and how important it is to protect it. They are a rare breed, and we are the mothers who have helped to raise them. Now we are the mothers who ask for your help to protect them. Please bless all the mother's children of the world, but please remember I am a military mother and am asking you to take special care of this special child. I ask this in your name God, Amen.

*Submitted by Cheryl Summerhill, PLS*