

**AALS – THE ASSOCIATION FOR ARKANSAS LEGAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS
MINUTES OF THE 2021 WINTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING
VIA VIRTUAL, FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

President Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM called the 2021 Virtual Winter Membership Meeting of AALS - the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals to order at 9:07 p.m. thanked everyone for their attendance.

Martha Cox PP, PLS led us in opening prayer.

Danny Looney-Yoder led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda Adair PLS read the NALS Code of Ethics, AALS Mission Statement and AALS Vision Statement.

President Penn welcomed members to the 2021 Virtual Winter Business Meeting of AALS – the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals.

There are three (3) chapters represented at this meeting. There are (4) four members at large in attendance.

The Chair appointed Martha Cox PP, PLS as the official timekeeper and teller for this meeting.

There were no non-members in attendance.

Martha Cox read the rules for the consent agenda.

The 2020-2021 Executive Committee were all in attendance as follows:

President Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM
Vice President Tami Dodd, PP, PLS, ALP
Executive Secretary April Rasdon, CCM
Treasurer Doris Compton, PP, PLS, Emeritus
Parliamentarian Ann Simmons (not in attendance)
Immediate Past President Deborah Johnson, PLS, ALP

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Executive Secretary April Rasdon, CCM, read Executive Committee Recommendations as follows:

Recommendation No. 1: The EC recommends the approval of Grant Report submitted by Linda Adair, PLS. All in favor. Motion carried.

Recommendation No. 2: The EC recommends the approval of the Award of Excellence Judges.

Application Judges: Judge Kimberly Boling Bibb
Retired Judge Larry Boling

Deputy Prosecutor Charlene Henry

Interview Judges: Judge Scott Ellington
Bro. Mike Hart, Nettleton Baptist Church Exec. Pastor &
Jonesboro Police Dept. Chaplin
Lacey Rush, Craighead County Human Resources Manager

All in favor. Motion carried.

Recommendation No. 3: The EC recommends the approval of the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget – Version 1.

Discussion/Explanation: Doris Compton PP, PLS, Emeritus advises she has spoken to Christy Wilson regarding fees for website, hosting, maintenance fees and the domain renewal fee. The domain renewal fee will remain \$32.00, the yearly hosting fee will be budgeted at \$60.00 however, the actual cost may be less, the maintenance fee will be lowered to \$25.00 for the month of April in lieu of \$75.00, then in May 2021 through April 2022 may be paid in one lump sum of \$225.00 (saving \$75.00). The cost of AALS business meeting has been lowered to \$25.00, the business registration fees have been lowered to \$100.00. She had removed the subsidy payment for the NALS meeting, she has removed the NALS Foundation donation, she has reduced the history book to a \$100.00 allotment (as we have so much available to us through digital recourses now). Reduced line item for awards and certificates to \$100.00. She has not allotted any funds to be transferred to the Scholarship Fund next year because we have maintained \$1,700.00 plus this year in that fund. She has visited with the Insurance Company regarding the Bond, and they believe it will stay in the same range as this year.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Recommendation No. 4: The EC recommends the approval of the Notice and Call 2021 Annual Educational Conference and Spring Membership Meeting hosted by Northeast Arkansas LSP with the revision of a virtual charge option of \$60.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Recommendation No. 5: The EC recommends that the Professional Enhancement Retreat referenced in AALS Standing Rules Attachment F be cancelled for the 2021 year. All in favor. Motion carried.

Recommendation No. 6: The EC recommends that the total of \$75.00 be paid to the AALS Scholarship Fund as a memorial for the following individuals:

Carolyn Wolfe, PLS;
Shirley Booher – Sister of Brenda Welch, PLS; and
Thelma “Cookie” Melton – Mother of April Rasdon

AALS would like to also send further condolences to Brenda Welch, PLS on the loss of her sister-in-law, Carolyn Spears, and brother-in-law, Wayne Welch.

Recommendation No. 7: The EC recommends the approval of Nominations and

Elections Report submitted by Tami Dodd, PP, PLS, ALP. All in favor. Motion carried.

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Officers

President - Doris Compton PP, PLS, Emeritus

Vice President – Danny Looney-Yoder

Executive Secretary – Cheryl Summerhill, PLS

Treasurer – Janet Gordon, PP, PLS

Immediate Past President – Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM

ACTION ITEMS:

2021 Annual Meeting Free Registration: This matter was tabled by the EC to obtain the preference of the membership. Cheryl Summerhill, PLS made a motion for one paid registration to the Annual Spring Membership Meeting. Danny Looney-Yoder seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Selection of the 2021 Fall Membership Meeting and Educational Conference site:

This matter was tabled from the 2020 Annual meeting, 2020 Spring meeting and again from the 2020 Fall meeting. There have been no bids at this time to host the 2021 Fall meeting. The Chair will accept bids from the floor at the 2021 Spring meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CLEC: Committee Members: Martha Cox, PP, PLS – If anyone would like to help Martha on this committee, she needs volunteers to help. At this time Martha is the only one on this committee.

AALS 50/50 Drawing: Drawing to be held at Annual Meeting – Purchase of tickets may be made through the mail to Doris or at the Spring Membership Meeting.

EC APPROVAL SINCE THE FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

09/24/2020 – The EC approved the payment of Invoice #1126 from Christy Makes It Pop in the amount of \$40.00 for annual website hosting.

09/30/2020 – The EC approved the payment of Invoice #1144 from Christy Makes It Pop in the amount of \$75.00 for the third quarter website maintenance fee.

12/02/20 – The EC approved the 9/3/20 AALS EC Meeting Minutes and the 9/12/20 AALS Fall Meeting Minutes.

12/22/20 – The EC approved members attending the Winter meeting by Zoom.

12/30/20 – The EC approved the recommendation of the AALS Winter Business Meeting Host Chair that the in person meeting be cancelled and that the business meeting be held virtually at a later date.

01/07/21 – The EC approved the payment of Invoice #1215 from Christy Makes It Pop in the amount of \$75.00 for the fourth quarter website maintenance fee.

01/21/21 – The EC approved the date of Saturday, February 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. for the AALS Winter Business Meeting to be held by Zoom at no cost to the members.

02/16/21 – The EC approved the payment to Christy Makes it Pop in the amount of \$225.00 for a discounted website maintenance fee for one year beginning May 1, 2021, to be paid upon receipt of the invoice.

Doris wanted to bring to the membership's attention that even though the EC is not supposed to make any payments above \$100.00 without the membership's approval, as far as the \$225.00, this is included as a budgeted item.

The chair is not aware of any unfinished business.

Discussion: Please note the Information Items and Deadlines listed on your Consent Agenda. If, for any reason, any committee chair is unable to meet any deadlines set forth in your job duties, please let me know immediately.

Cheryl expressed concern as to the membership has not been made aware of the deaths (3 deaths) in Brenda Welch's family. She feels we have not been able to be supportive when she needed the support, and feels like NEALSP members should have shared her loss with AALS members.

Brenda Welch has had several deaths in her family, please remember to keep her and her family in your prayers.

Martha Cox shared that she had to change jobs as her firm shut down, and she has not been able to submit any articles for the Informer. She has had some heart issues, she had a heart cath, and then a pacemaker. Then in the interim of recovering, Martha then was diagnosed with COVID. So her recovery has been slow and extended. Please pray for Martha.

Donna Holloway (Saline County) has had a knee replacement, please keep Donna in your prayers.

Sadly, Saline County Chapter (Chartered in 1982) most likely will be surrendering their Charter as they are now down to two members.

Members may want to send cards to Erma Brady as her health has not improved. She cannot email or text but will enjoy that you sent a card.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Rasdon, CCM
AALS Executive Secretary