

AALS - the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals

MINUTES OF THE 2021 SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jonesboro, Arkansas

May 1, 2021

The 2021 Spring Membership Meeting of AALS - the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals was called to order by President Doris Compton, PP, PLS, Emeritus at 9:01 a.m. Sharon Davis led us in the opening prayer. Danny Looney Yoder led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Allison Samuel read the NALS Code of Ethics, AALS Mission Statement and AALS Vision Statement.

President Compton welcomed members to the 2021 Spring Membership Meeting and thanked Northeast Arkansas Association for Legal Support Professionals for hosting the meeting. Two chapters were represented with a total of 15 members present. One member, Allison Samuel, was attending a membership meeting for the first time, and four members at large were in attendance. All past presidents were recognized. Parliamentarian Linda Adair was appointed as the official Timekeeper and teller for this meeting.

President Compton introduced the new Executive Committee:

President:	Doris Compton, PP, PLS Emeritus
Vice President:	Danny Looney-Yoder
Secretary:	Cheryl Summerhill, PLS
Treasurer:	Janet Gordon, PP, PLS
Past President:	Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM (absent)
Parliamentarian:	Linda Adair, PLS

President Compton introduced the following officers and committee chairs that had been approved by the Executive Committee and were installed in their respective offices.

Historian –Danny Looney-Yoder
Membership Director – Danny Looney-Yoder
Award of Excellence – Doris Compton PP, PLS Emeritus
Nominations & Elections – Linda Adair, PLS
Ways & Means – Janet Gordon, PP, PLS
2021 Annual Meeting Financial Review – Ann Simmons and Martha Cox, PP, PLS

President Compton then pinned Vice-President Danny Looney Yoder with the traveling Vice President’s pin. She then presented a gift to her officers–depicting the “head-hand-heart” to represent the good of the association as we move forward.

President Compton advised that we would be utilizing the Consent Agenda, which was provided to the membership. Following motion, second, and vote, the motion carried.

President Compton noted that the destruction of Ballots for all applications and ballots for AALS competitions are contained in the Standing Rules. No objection was voiced.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** There were no recommendations from the Executive Committee.
2. **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** President Compton took this opportunity to expound on her President's message following installation at the April 30, 2021, banquet. She thanked the membership for being open and willing to listen to her. She announced that AALS is one of 16 state chapters remaining in NALS and as of July, 2020, there were only 1,736 members. She discussed membership retention and certification, with ALP being a hot item but others failing. She encouraged members to go to nals.org to update information for themselves and their chapter. NALS is talking about rebranding, which has been discussed in the past.
3. **Selection of the 2023 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference site.** There were no bids at this time to host the 2023 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, so this matter was tabled.

There was no other unfinished business to be discussed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Email For New Opportunity for Paralegals Shared by Attorney Cathy Underwood.** President Compton read the email, which is as follows:
Beginning July 1, 2021, the Arkansas Bar Association will begin offering an affiliate membership for legal support staff. Affiliate membership is open to anyone working for and supervised by an Arkansas Bar attorney member, whether that person is a paralegal, a legal secretary, a receptionist or office manager.
They are lining up some great benefits that will come with this affiliate membership, including free access to Fastcase and legal research training. It will include free unlimited access to Affinity Insight - over 150 training videos on many different legal softwares as well as the Microsoft suite of products. Paralegal affiliate members will receive an online version of the Arkansas Lawyer Magazine. They will be able to participate in bar committees. They will receive 6 free on-demand, continuing legal education hours through CLE Central, and also member discounts on other CLE programs.
2. **2020-2021 Financial Review.** Linda Adair, PLS, presented her Financial Review report, which had been approved by the Executive Committee.
3. **Actions of Executive Committee:** Prior to this meeting, the following items were approved by the Executive Committee:

- a. A bill from Gambill Jewelers in the sum of \$379.75, a budgeted item, was approved for the past president's pin.
- b. An invoice from Christy Makes It Pop in the sum of \$225.00, a budgeted item, was approved for the AALS annual website fee, for May 1, 2021-April 30, 2022.
- c. A bill from Lyons Trophy in the sum of \$81.38, a budgeted item, was approved for the president's awards and the Award of Excellence award.

4. Information Items and Deadlines. President Compton advised members to note the listed information and deadlines on the Consent Agenda. Chapters need to go online and report your updated list of officers to NALS. Treasurers were advised that IRS Form 990 needed to be filed so that non-profit status would stay intact.

5. FLOOR OPEN: Members extensively shared thoughts/suggestions/ideas/discussion and requirements for future meetings pursuant to the AALS governing documents. No definite timeline was set for the finalization of AALS. Other options were discussed, including restructuring, online, reaching out to other states for information, etc. Members were encouraged to get on nals.org and vent if they had any issues/concerns with NALS.

With no further business, the 2021 AALS Spring Membership Meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Summerhill, PLS
AALS Executive Secretary