

AALS - the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals

MINUTES OF THE 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Jonesboro, Arkansas

April 30, 2021

The 2021 General Assembly of AALS - the Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals was called to order by President Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM, at 4:17 p.m. Martha Cox, PP, PLS, led us in the opening prayer. Brenda Welch, PLS, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. T.J. Underwood read the NALS Code of Ethics, AALS Mission Statement and AALS Vision Statement.

President Penn welcomed members to the 2021 General Assembly and thanked Northeast Arkansas Association for Legal Support Professionals for hosting the meeting. The voting members present constituted a quorum for the meeting. One new member, Allison Samuel, was attending a General Assembly for the first time, and was recognized by being pinned by AALS Treasurer and incoming President Doris Compton, PP, PLS, Emeritus. All past presidents were recognized. Parliamentarian Ann Simmons was appointed as the official timekeeper and teller for this meeting.

The 2020-2021 Executive Committee was recognized and thanked for their service:

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
Immediate Past President Deborah Johnson, PLS, ALP

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

There were no EC recommendations to address, so the agenda forwarded to the Action Items.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. SELECTION OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING SITE:** No timely bids were received by the President according to our Bylaws, and the chair entertained bids. Hearing no bids from the floor, this item was tabled.
- 2. SELECTION OF THE 2021 FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SITE:** There was one bid from the floor, which was stated as follows:

Danny Looney Yoder, current president of WCLSP, would like to bid on the 2021 AALS fall meeting. This bid is on behalf of myself, Cheryl Summerhill, PLS, and Janet Gordon, PP, PLS, as members at large, due to the fact that at a special meeting of WCLSP on March 30, 2021, a vote was taken to dissolve the chapter of White County Association of Legal Support Professionals and become members at large of AALS. We have not set a date for the meeting so we do not have any details, but if

our bid is approved, then we will get something scheduled as soon as possible and inform the membership.

After caucus, motion to accept the bid, second, and vote, the motion carried.

3. RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS BY AALS EC SINCE THE 2021 WINTER BUSINESS MEETING:

- a. 04/01/2021 – The EC approved the payment of Invoice #1273 from Christy Makes It Pop in the amount of \$25.00 for website maintenance.
- b. 04/07/2021 – The EC approved the payment of Invoice #14682 from Ott Insurance, LLC in the amount of \$178.00 for the bond renewal.
- c. 04/09/21 – The EC approved revised agenda and speaker change for the April 30-May 1, 2021, Annual meeting.
- d. 04/12/21 – The EC approved the 2020 Annual General Assembly and Education Conference Minutes.
- e. 04/15/21 – The EC approved Linda Adair, PLS to perform the financial review and that it be performed electronically.
- f. 04/17/21 – The EC approved the Financial Review Report received from Linda Adair, PLS.
- g. 04/21/21 – The EC approved corrected AALS Winter EC Meeting Minutes and the corrected AALS Winter Meeting Minutes.
- h. 04/28/21 – The EC approved Leslie Penny, Craighead County Probate Clerk, as the new judge for the AOC interview portion.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. Martha Cox, PP, PLS, from Saline County, reported that on April 1, 2021, Saline County LSA, originally chartered in 1982 as a local chapter of AALS and NALS, officially dissolved their chapter, and donated \$500.00 to The Call and \$326.00 to AALS.
- b. President Belinda Penn recognized the 2020-2021 officers and committee chairs and presented Certificates of Appreciation and gifts for volunteering their time and assistance throughout the year.

With no further business, the 2021 AALS General Assembly was recessed at 4:51 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. for the Awards and Installation Banquet.

The AALS 2021 Annual Educational Conference reconvened at 7:30 p.m. with the Awards and Installation Banquet. President Belinda Penn welcomed the members and recognized the AALS past presidents in attendance. Martha Cox, PP, PLS gave the invocation, which was followed by a plated dinner. At the conclusion of the dinner, announcements and awards were presented.

- a. President's Awards were given to Linda Adair, PLS, and Tami Dodd, PP, PLS, ALP.

- b. Doris Compton, PP, PLS, Emeritus, was the recipient of the Award of Excellence.

Outgoing President Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM, gave her final presidential message and farewell speech.

Ann Simmons presided over the installation ceremony of the following 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
Parliamentarian Linda Adair, PLS

Outgoing President Penn presented the AALS Gavel to newly installed president Doris Compton, PP, PLS, Emeritus, and pinned her with the traveling AALS president's pin. President Compton then, in turn, presented Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM, with the AALS past president's pin signifying her year of service to AALS.

The Co-Historian's, Danny Looney Yoder and Cheryl Summerhill, PLS, presented the history book to outgoing president Belinda Penn, PLS, CCM, which commemorated her year as president. Members then toasted Belinda Penn for her service.

President Doris Compton, PP, PLS, Emeritus, then presented her acceptance speech, which contained references to the word MEMORIES, her theme for the year. She noted the charter of our association on May 23, 1968. She specifically noted that "The hand, the head, and the heart of person go together. So let's describe AALS as letting your hands do the work, letting your heads reason, and letting your hearts feel and love. All AALS projects and programs are better achieved when, in harmony, you work with your hands, head, and heart." She advised that each member of the new board is a past president of AALS which encompassed 9 years of leadership as presidents and 167 combined years of experience in AALS to guide us into the 2021-2022 year.

The 2021 Annual General Assembly and Awards/Installation Banquet was adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Summerhill, PLS
for April Rasdon, CCM
AALS Executive Secretary