



# PERSPECTIVE

Volume 33, Issue 1

Winter 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By JoAnne Haffeman

Hello my fellow members. As I write this, we are experiencing the coldest weather recorded in quite a long time. I for one am ready for spring already!

The 2014 New Jersey Paralegal Convention was held in October and was again a resounding success! Our attendees, which included students and experienced paralegals, interacted with our over thirty vendors, were provided four seminars during the first three sessions, feted on a delicious plated lunch and concluded with a presentation on Ethics and Social Media. The convention continued to offer the family law and litigation tracks. This year there was also a miscellaneous track with seminars on a variety of areas. Photographs of the convention are provided in the center pages of this newsletter.

The January General Membership Dinner Meeting, which was a rescheduling of the meeting cancelled in November, was well received. The speaker, Pat Furci, RN, MA, Esq., provided a very informative and interesting discussion on reading and interpreting medical records.

The Executive Board is in the process of finalizing the dinner meetings and Saturday Seminars for the rest of the term. Please keep an eye out for the Save the Date and dinner meeting emails detailing these events.

I know it is hard to believe but nominations for the Executive Board will soon be sought. Regular members will be sent an email with the ballot attached as a PDF file. I would urge you, especially newer members, to consider serving on the Executive Board. There are some of us who have been on the Board for a very long time and who are now approaching retirement and the next chapter in their lives. It is more important than ever that we have fresh faces and new ideas on the Board. Please give some serious consideration to serving on the Board.

I also know it is hard to believe but it is time for the New Jersey Paralegal Convention Committee to begin preparations for the 2015 Convention, which will be held on October 23, 2015. The Committee selects the seminar topics in large part based upon the recommendations provided in the evaluation forms you complete at the end of the Convention. If there is a topic you are interested in or a speaker you feel is particularly good, please email the website and share that information with the Committee.

Stay warm, be safe and I look forward to seeing you at the dinner meetings!



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National Association of Legal Assistants Affiliate



# NALA News

by Kandi Moncelsi, ACP

Well, it seems there is lull in news from NALA. However, it is noteworthy that NALA will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary at the Annual Convention, Institutes and Exhibition in July. The convention will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the home of NALA's National Headquarters.

This anniversary is also a reminder to me of my long involvement with our paralegal association. Decades, in fact! While I was in college I became employed for a sole practitioner, short term, while his secretary took the summer off to be home with her children. He was an older man and went to lunch and the gym daily, leaving me several hours of "free" time in the office. One day while he was leaving for his daily adventure, he said that if I was ever interested, to feel free to read the books in his office. Being an avid reader, I took him up on his offer to pass the time while he was out. I began reading the legal publications, cases and by the end of the summer, I was hooked!

Since that time I have moved on and although I am still working for a sole practitioner, I am doing work that I enjoy in more areas of practice than I could have imagined back when I began and areas that weren't handled the way they are today, such as in family law.

I am sure everyone will agree that no matter how much we learned in our paralegal programs, we do not know it all. There is always something more to learn, or something new because of a change in statutes, case law, etc. In my way of thinking, the best way to job security is to show an interest in the profession, keep up with what is changing and do everything possible to grow and improve yourself.

There are plenty of opportunities to do this. You can simply attend the PANJ dinner meetings for a modest fee. Or you can sign up for NALA webinars. You can attend the annual paralegal convention every October, or the NJ State Bar Association or NJ Association for Justice annual conferences. NJ ICLE also offers a wide variety of seminars. Continuing education is never too far, nor too costly, to prohibit anyone from gaining more knowledge.

I feel everyone should attempt the CLA exam at least one time. Yes, it is not the easiest exam you will ever take, but wouldn't it be a proud moment to go into your attorney and say you had achieved the CLA/CP designation? Show him or her that you are not just there to collect a pay check, but that the practice of law is important to you and that you are dedicated to the **paralegal profession**, not just a **job**.



## Pick Your Window of Opportunity

NALA's Certified Paralegal examination has been the definitive professional certification standard for 35 years, and with new computer-based testing procedures, paralegals now can choose the time and date of their examination of month-long "Testing Windows." During these windows, the proctored exam may be available each working day throughout the month.

### September 1-30

Application deadline: August 1  
Late application deadline: August 10  
(\$25 late fee)

### January 1-31

Application deadline: December 1  
Late application deadline: December 10  
(\$25 late fee)

### May 1-31

Application deadline: April 1  
Late application deadline: April 10  
(\$25 late fee)

It's the same rigorous examination—no change in structure or subjects, and essay questions remain a part of the exam. Eligibility requirements and examination application fees are unchanged.

The exam is offered at more than 260 computer-based PSI Test Centers designated by the PSI Testing Center Network in locations throughout the nation. Schools not already PSI Test Centers may apply to NALA to become an authorized testing center for the Certified Paralegal Exam. Employers may also become testing centers for their paralegal staffs.

Visit the NALA Website for additional information.



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# Scenes from the 2014 New Jersey Paralegal Convention







# *Save The Date!!*

OCTOBER 23, 2015

*Traditionally Proclaimed "PARALEGAL DAY" by NJ  
Governors*



Renaissance Woodbridge  
(at the Metropark)  
515 US Route 1 South  
Iselin, New Jersey 08830

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM





# THE NEW JERSEY ACADEMY OF MEDIATORS & ARBITRATORS

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED NEUTRALS (WWW.NADN.ORG)

## MEMO TO ALL NEW JERSEY LITIGATION STAFF

### Available Dates Calendars Now Online For New Jersey's Top-Rated Neutrals\*

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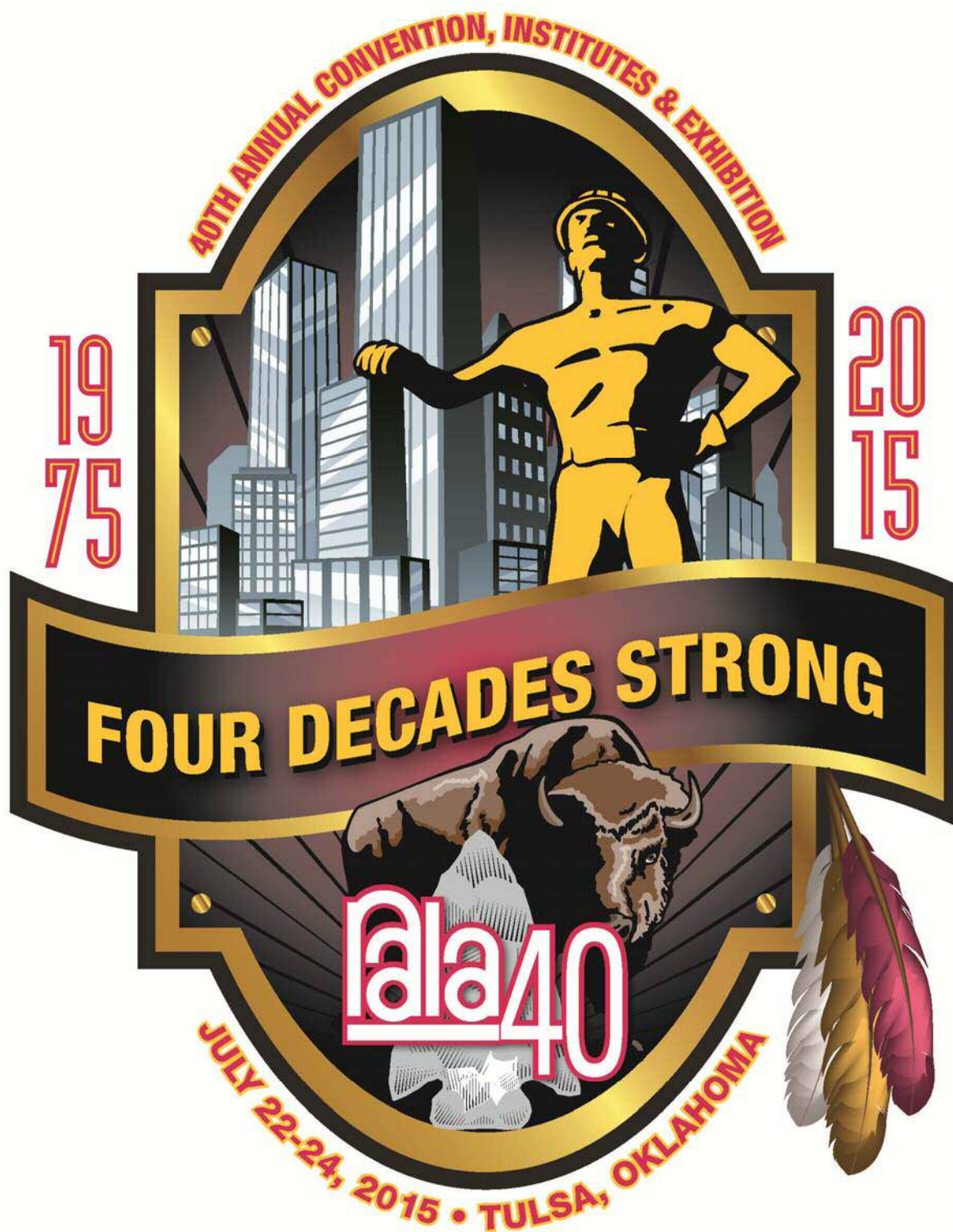
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# SAVE THE DATES!

**March 21, 2015**

SATURDAY SEMINAR

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Branchburg, New Jersey

**APRIL 16, 2015**

ANNUAL NETWORKING RECEPTION FOR PARALEGALS

NEW JERSEY BAR ASSOCIATION  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

**APRIL 18, 2015**

SATURDAY SEMINAR

BERKELEY COLLEGE  
Woodland Park, New Jersey

**MAY 19, 2015**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING

WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER, PA  
Woodbridge, New Jersey

**JUNE 16, 2015**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
HYATT MORRISTOWN AT HEADQUARTERS PLAZA  
Morristown, New Jersey