



PERSPECTIVE

Volume 35, Issue 1

Winter 2016 – 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: JoAnne Haffeman

I hope you all had a healthy and happy holiday season and the new year is off to a successful start. As I am writing this message it is an unseasonably warm winter day – the weather has certainly been all over the place recently.

The 2016 New Jersey Paralegal Convention was held in October. Our attendees interacted with over twenty five vendors and were provided four seminars during each of the first three sessions. They then feted on a delicious plated lunch and were provided a presentation on Pre-Trial and At Trial Preparation. The convention offered seminars in litigation as well as miscellaneous topics. Photographs of the convention are provided in the center pages of this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter is a listing of the dates and places for the remaining dinner meetings of this 2016-2017 term. Please mark these dates on your calendars and keep an eye out for dinner meeting emails detailing these events. These meetings will provide you with an opportunity meet and greet new friends, commiserate on the trials and tribulations of being a paralegal and learn something new in the bargain.

I would like to acknowledge that the Essex County College Paralegal Studies Program was recently granted ABA-approval. I have had the privilege

of serving on the Paralegal Advisory Board for many years and want to congratulate Dr. Linda Carter, whose hard work and dedication as program director led to this achievement.

It is that time of year when 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. It is more important than ever for the future of the Association that we have fresh faces and new ideas.

In addition, there are many committees that need a chairperson. If you feel that this is a more manageable option, please contact myself or any board member and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. It is another way for you to be active in your Association.

Serving on either the Board or a committee will enable you to have a say in the direction of the Association and the paralegal legal profession in New Jersey. Please give some serious consideration to joining the Board.

I hope to see you at one of our dinner meetings.

INSIDE PERSPECTIVE

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National Association of Legal Assistants Affiliate



NALA News

By: Christine Principe, CP

NALA has created an Online CP Exam Review Study Group through Facebook. Check out NALA's home page for more information - www.nala.org.

Looking for a job? Review NALA's job search strategies under the Career Center tab on NALA's home page.

NALA's conducted a Utilization and Compensation Survey in 2016 and recently published its report. 1,226 paralegal participated from all over the Country. Highlights include:

- The average compensation for paralegals increased 6% to \$61,671, up from \$58,410 in 2014.
- 68% of those responding work in a law office, an increase of 7%.
- Litigation ranks #1 in specialty area.
- Respondents reported an increase in the amount of work that involves independent judgment and an increase in case management and supervisory/administrative duties, while they reported a decrease in the amount of client involvement.
- Billing rates were reported similar to the last report.

Get the full details by clicking on Research and Survey Findings under the About Paralegals Tab.

If anyone is interested in joining a study group for NALA's Certified Paralegal Exam, please email Christine Principe, CP, at cprin1216@msn.com.

Follow NALA on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter @NALA_Paralegals.

PROCESS SERVICE TIP FROM DGR – THE ONLY SOURCE FOR LEGAL SUPPORT

When due diligence is necessary, ALWAYS send in the driver's license number if it is available.

Too often the power of a driver's license is underestimated. With a driver's license number, Motor Vehicle Searches can be completed online depending on the state. This cuts down the turn-around time to 1-2 days.

New Jersey is one of those states where searches can be completed online. Without the driver's license number, a request for a report must be mailed to the Motor Vehicle Department. A response can take up to three weeks, which is a lot longer than the 1-2 days for an online search.

If possible, try to see if your client knows the individuals license number. A faster due diligence search means service is effectuated faster which always makes for a happy client.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS PANJ DINNER MEETINGS

March 28, 2017

New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick, NJ

April 25, 2017

Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, Morristown, New Jersey

May 16, 2017

Grain House/Old Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ

June 16, 2017

Installation of Officers for 2017-2018 Term
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ



BOARD & COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

2016 - 2017 TERM



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SAVE THE DATE!!

OCTOBER 20, 2017

*Traditionally Proclaimed "PARALEGAL DAY" by NJ
Governors*



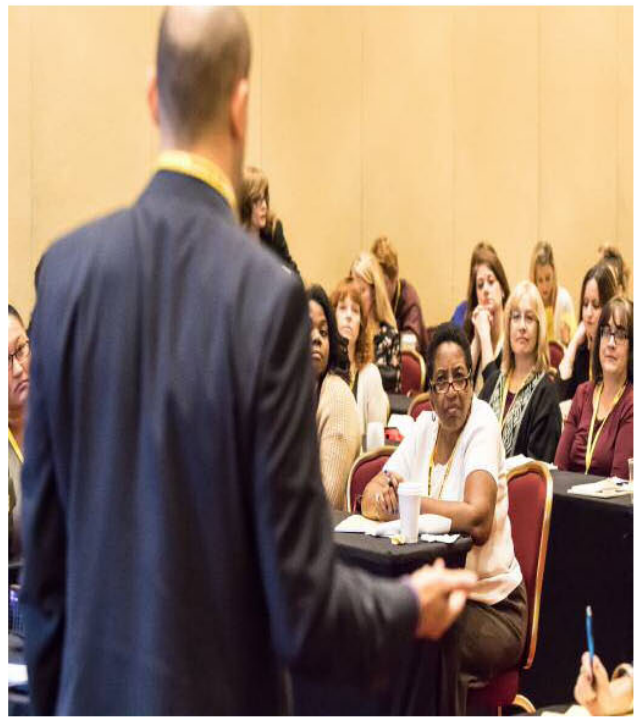
Renaissance Woodbridge
(at the Metropark)
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8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

SIGHTS FROM THE 2016



NEW JERSEY PARALEGAL CONVENTION



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ATTENTION PANJ REGULAR MEMBERS!

Election time is here again!

Keep an eye out for your nomination materials.
Nominate a friend, yourself, or anyone you feel would make
a good addition to the PANJ Executive Board.

For further information, contact JoAnne Haffeman at 732-
356-8993 or johaff@gmail.com



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[†] Indicates if Available Dates calendar is activated

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