



# The Paralegal Press

## Message from the President — Mary Sedillo, CP

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Let me start by thanking all of the members of the Nevada Paralegal Association (NPA). Without you we would not be able to go forward with this organization. I would also like to thank the past presidents, Joan Wiley, ACP, Lissa Treadway, ACP and Pat Altstatt, ACP, for their encouragement and continued support as I go through this journey. With their continued participation in the organization, I feel at ease to go forward. I am also very thankful for our board members, committee members, and volunteers. It is with your great ideas and enthusiasm that I am looking

forward to new possibilities and ideas for NPA. I am pleased to work together with the NPA board members and committee volunteers for our fall paralegal seminar and paralegal day luncheon, to encourage new memberships, and develop new ideas for meetings and events through our committees including the Educational/Seminar Chair, Public Relations, and Pro Bono/Community Service. We are here to serve the members of NPA and encourage input and positive feedback to help NPA to provide information and continuing legal education to paralegals

from all backgrounds (NALA members, students, new paralegals, and experienced paralegals). We hope NPA can provide a forum for paralegals to network, be informed, educate others on the utilization of paralegals, and make friends with other working paralegals in this community. We are all in this together to help make NPA a prosperous and a well known organization in the Las Vegas Valley.

- See Page 3 for more about Mary in "Meet Your Officers"

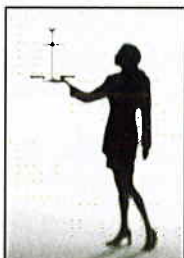
## 2010 SEMINAR and PARALEGAL DAY

The Annual NPA Seminar and Paralegal Day Luncheon will be held this year on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino at 3700 Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. We are very excited to announce that the Honorable Senator Richard H. Bryan has graciously agreed to be the Paralegal Day luncheon Key-Note Speaker. Additionally, NPA will be offering CLE courses in Elder Law, Estate Planning, Paralegal Ethics and a presentation from Discovery Commissioner, Bonnie Bulla. For

further information, please go to the NPA website at [www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org) and see page 8 of this publication for the registration form.

There will also be an exhibitor fair, drawings, and some exciting announcements regarding the future of the Nevada Paralegal Association. We look forward to seeing you there.

NPA  
P.O. Box 12003  
Las Vegas, NV 89112  
[www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org)



## PRINTING OF THE PARALEGAL PRESS COUR-



## MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

May 20, 2010 marked the annual meeting of the Nevada Paralegal Association and the election of the officers and directors for the 2010-2011 term. This issue will introduce those dedicated members who have chosen to volunteer their time and energies to NPA:

**Mary Sedillo, CP**, has been a paralegal in Las Vegas since 1994. She has pursued her paralegal education by graduating and receiving a Paralegal Certificate from the Paralegal Studies program at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), graduating from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) with an Associates of Applied Science Degree - Legal Assistant/Paralegal, and obtaining a certified paralegal (C.P.) designation from the National Association of Legal Assistants/Paralegals (NALA). Her paralegal work history has included working in law firms specializing in various areas of law including general civil litigation, construction law, mechanic's liens, foreclosures, construction defect, personal injury, domestic, and insurance defense. Mary was a member of the former paralegal association, Clark County Organization of Legal Assistants (CCOLA) from 1995 through 2000, and has been a member of the Nevada Paralegal Association (NPA) since 2005. (MEET YOUR DIFRECTORS is continued on next page)



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Articles and News items should be directed to [administrator@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:administrator@nevadaparalegal.org) through the website at [www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org).

Inquiries about advertising placement, applications, membership materials and e-mail address changes should be directed to Mary Sedillo or Linda Soeder at [administrator@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:administrator@nevadaparalegal.org).

Articles will be published as space permits. The Newsletter Committee reserves approval and edit rights on any article submitted.

The Nevada Paralegal Association is a non-profit corporation within the meaning of section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues and donations to NPA are not tax deductible as charitable gifts, but may be deductible as related business expenses. NPA suggests that you consult with your tax advisor in this regard. ©2010 Nevada Paralegal Association. All rights reserved

## MEET YOUR DIRECTORS Continued from page 2

### Why Should I Volunteer?

Behaving altruistically not only feels good, a growing body of research suggests, it actually improves a person's physical and psychological health.

*"One of the best things we can do for our health is to learn to be more caring and compassionate."*

-Stephen Post,  
Director of the Center for  
Medical Humanities,  
Compassionate Care  
and Bioethics at Stony  
Brook University in New  
York.

**Linda Soeder, CP**, was elected to the position of Vice President after previously serving as the NPA Secretary. Originally from Atlantic City, New Jersey, she moved to Las Vegas in 1999. After working in the casino industry for 25 years, she decided to pursue a career in the legal industry and has been a paralegal at Harrah's Corporate offices since 2004. Linda holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing and obtained her paralegal certificate from the Paralegal Studies program at UNLV. Linda has been a Certified Paralegal since 2009. Her paralegal work is in the area of gaming licensing regulatory compliance.



**Lissa Treadway, ACP, CBA**, is Secretary for the Nevada Paralegal Association having previously served as Vice President, 2004-2006, President, 2006-2008, and Student Liaison / Scholarship Chair, 2008-2010. Lissa is also a member of the Legal Assistants Division of the State Bar of Nevada and NALA. Lissa obtained her Certified Legal Assistant designation from NALA in September, 1996, and obtained her Advanced Certified Paralegal certification in the area of bankruptcy in September, 2004. She obtained her Certified Bankruptcy Assistant designation for the Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants in November, 2005. Lissa has been employed in the legal profession since 1988 and as a paralegal with the law firm of Shea Carlyon, Ltd. since 1996 and primarily practices in the area of creditor rights, bankruptcy, and civil litigation. Lissa was awarded the prestigious 2009 NALA Affiliate Award at the Annual Convention held in San Diego, California.



**Connie Valentine** was re-elected Treasurer and has formerly served as Secretary and NALA Liaison. Connie is employed as a paralegal and office administrator with Wanderer Law P.C. She has been at her current position for 20 years working primarily in the creditor rights and civil litigation fields as well as handling the computer systems. Connie has been a member of NALA for the past ten years. Having relocated from upstate New York in 1981, Connie is almost a native of Las Vegas. Connie began her Las Vegas legal career with the Riviera Hotel in their collections department.



**Pat Altstatt, ACP** is currently employed with the law firm of Anthony A. Zmaila Limited PLLC and has been in the legal profession since 1973. She received her Certified Paralegal designation from NALA in 2004, passed the bankruptcy specialty examination in 2005 and is a member of NALA. Pat has co-authored several articles in the State and County Bar publications. She also served on a panel discussion with homeowner association bankruptcy issues. Pat is a former president of NPA and has served as vice president and as the education/seminar chair. Pat was awarded the prestigious 2008 NALA Affiliate Award at the annual convention held in New Orleans and the Paralegal of the Year Guiding Star Award from NPA in 2008 at the



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Knowledge is  
power.**

*-Sir Francis Bacon*

**There is no  
knowledge that  
is not power.**

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**Empower  
yourself.**

*-NPA Education Committee*

Do you have an idea for a speaker or a topic for the monthly meetings? If so, **LET US KNOW.**

Please contact the NPA Education Chair, Conni Hebert, Education @nevadaparalegal.org

A Special THANKS to:

**JOAN WILEY**

For her hard work and assistance in the preparation of this newsletter, and her past association with NPA.

Congratulations to Joan on her election to the office of District IX Regional Director for the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA.)

1st Wednesday of every month, except July and August

**Board Meetings**

Although not able to vote on any issues, Members are welcome to attend.

3rd Wednesday of every month (unless otherwise specifically noted)

**General Membership Meetings**

**BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE**

[www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org) for the location of the next General Meeting. We move to various locations to provide coverage for members throughout the Valley.

September, 2010

CLA Exam changes to computerized version. See the NALA website at [www.NALA.org](http://www.NALA.org) for further information

September 11, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Annual Seminar and Paralegal Day Luncheon. Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino

September 15, 2010

No General Meeting

October 6, 2010

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

October 20, 2010

Speaker: TBD  
Location: TBD

November 3, 2010

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

November 17, 2010

General Meeting  
Speaker and Location: TBD

December 1, 2010

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

## NPA COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2010-2011

Education/Certification:	Conni Hebert
Membership:	Mary Sedillo, CP
Public Relations:	Diane Climer
Pro Bono/Community Service:	Donna Folger
Website:	Linda Soeder, CP
2010 Seminar:	Linda Soeder, CP

If you would like to support NPA and work with any of the committees, please feel free to contact any of the Committee Chairs:

[education@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:education@nevadaparalegal.org); [seminar@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:seminar@nevadaparalegal.org);

[administrator@nevadaparalegal.org](mailto:administrator@nevadaparalegal.org)



## MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

(continued from page 3)

### ARTICLES NEEDED:

*What is on your mind?*

*What wonderful secrets do you have that you would like to share?*

*What new thing have you learned recently? Or what thing did you learn long ago that is still true?*

*What makes you want to stand up and shout?*

*Climb on that soap box and sound off. This is your association and your newsletter—stand up and let us hear your voice!*

*And, heaven knows, you have got to be tired of my ramblings, so let's hear yours.*



**Diane Climer** was appointed by Mary Sedillo to act as the Public Relations Chair. Diane joined the Nevada Paralegal Association at the same time as enrolling and pursuing her paralegal certificate from the Paralegal Studies program at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in the spring of 2008. She is employed by Walsh McKean Furcolo LLP, and is an active volunteer for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and Legal Aid. Diane looks forward to furthering her paralegal education in taking the Certified Paralegal exam with NALA next year.



**Conni Hebert** has been a paralegal for over 20 years. She developed an interest in the legal field while serving active duty in the U.S. Air Force. She is a Desert Shield and Desert Storm veteran and received the National Defense Service Medal and the U.S. Air Force Achievement Medal for her contributions to the Gulf War mission. Conni pursued her paralegal education by graduating with an Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies from the American Institute in Phoenix, Arizona in 1993, graduating with cum laude honors. She was nominated and appointed as one of the 2000 Most Notable American Women in 1994 by the American Biographical Institute. She is Westlaw Certified and recently earned the LexisNexis Paralegal Certificate of Mastery. Conni is originally from Texas and has worked as a paralegal in Texas, Arizona, California, and now Las Vegas since 2003. She is currently employed as a commercial litigation paralegal at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. Conni's paralegal work history includes working in law firms specializing in various areas of law including insurance defense, construction law, contract law, personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability, ERISA, and general civil litigation. She has also worked with general counsel for a major land developer in Las Vegas as a corporate paralegal handling real estate transactions. She is a member of the Clark County Bar Association (CCBA), the Legal Assistants Division of the State Bar of Nevada, and has been a member of the Nevada Paralegal Association (NPA) since 2006.

## WWW.NEVADAPARALEGAL.ORG

The NPA officers and directors come to NPA with a wide range of experience and education. They each strive to promote the best of the paralegal profession.

NPA is a professional association for paralegals and legal assistants in the Las Vegas Valley working together to promote the advancement of the paralegal profession within the legal community by encouraging high professional and ethical standards in the education, training, and employment of paralegals. NPA is affiliated with the National Association of Legal Assistants.



## NALA NOTES



### THE ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS - PARALEGALS

1516 SOUTH BOSTON AVENUE, SUITE 200 • TULSA, OK 74119 • 918.587.6828

#### Karen Greer McGee Elected NALA President

***The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.***

~Walt West



Karen Greer McGee, *ACP*, First Deputy Clerk for the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in Shreveport, and a member of both the Louisiana State Paralegal Association and the Northwest Louisiana Paralegal Association, has been elected President of NALA, The Association of Legal Assistants/Paralegals.

She was elected for the 2010–11 term during the March 6 meeting of the NALA Board of Directors at the Association's national headquarters in Tulsa, OK, and brings many years of leadership experience to her role as President. She will officially take office in July at NALA's 35th Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL.

She has said that her focus for her term of office is continued development of NALA's top-quality educational and certification programs for all paralegals, and the greater use of technology to foster communication and involvement among NALA members. She will also be working with the NALA Board of Directors on ideas and programs to further serve the expectations of NALA members, and to advance the paralegal career field.

Ms. McGee has been a paralegal since 1988, earned the NALA Certified Paralegal credential in 1990, and earned her Advanced Certified Paralegal (ACP) in the field of civil litigation in 1994. She is a graduate of the Institute of Paralegal Studies at Louisiana State University, Shreveport, LA.

She is a past president and served in various leadership roles for both the Northwest Louisiana and Louisiana State Paralegal Associations. She was named Outstanding Paralegal of 1996 by the LSPA. She is also a member of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks.

Ms. McGee has been a member of the NALA Board of Directors since 1998, serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Second Vice President and First Vice President. She has also served as Chair of the NALA Certifying Board and the NALA Continuing Education Council.

The National Association of Legal Assistants has more than 6,500 individual members among approximately 18,000 paralegals represented through affiliated associations across the nation.



## NPA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Whether you are a working paralegal, student in paralegal studies, or one who wishes to support the paralegal profession, your membership in NPA is valuable to you, NPA, and the paralegal profession. On a personal level, it offers an avenue for networking, continuing education, and personal professional growth. On a larger scale, it contributes to the development, growth, and strengthening of the paralegal profession as a whole.

We have seen some major upheavals in the legal profession over the last few years and have seen that NPA needs to be a stronger force in the paralegal and legal community. To that end, the NPA Board of Directors has unanimously decided to provide additional criteria to the membership application to include those people who are working in the legal field under the supervision of an attorney, but who may not currently be working as paralegals. Please review the new membership application on the NPA website at [www.nevadaparalegal.org](http://www.nevadaparalegal.org). We would love to have you join us. NPA has also joined with the Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) to provide a dual-membership program, so that the NPA members can utilize the CCBA membership benefits. The CCBA application is attached to the NPA membership form.

Some of the other benefits of NPA membership are:

### **Monthly Meetings**

A forum for the exchange of valuable information via interaction with other paralegals and presentations by scheduled speakers.

### **Professional Involvement**

Rewards of participating in one or more of NPA's committees, should you choose to do so.

### **Networking Opportunities**

Opportunities to network with other paralegals via face-to-face encounters at meetings and NPA sponsored events.

### **Reduced Rates**

Significantly reduced rates for the annual seminar and any other NPA functions for which there may be a charge.

### **Members' Only Section Access**

You get access to the members' only section of the NPA website which provides employment opportunities

### **National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA)**

NPA is an affiliate of NALA. Members of NALA affiliated associations receive a waiver of the NALA registration fee should they decide to become NALA members—a savings of \$15. As an affiliated association, NPA has free access to NALA NET for the most current information and case decisions affecting legal assistants. NALA NET is the only online network dedicated to this profession. Additionally, NALA members are eligible for reduced fees for NALA Campus and NALA Campus Live programs, CLA Short Course, and the Annual Convention courses.

*It's never  
too late to  
be what  
you might  
have  
been.*

- George Eliot



