

News-N-Notes

Gulf Coast Association of Legal Support Professionals
Affiliated with NALS, Inc.
"TOGETHER WE CAN"

July 2004 Edition
Jeannie Shaw, PLS, Editor

2003-2004 Board

	President	Banita Ford
Vice-	President . .	Misty Lewis, PLS
	Secretary	Mary Bibey
	Treasurer	Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS
	Director	Beth Steverson

National News

2004-5 Online Learning Center Schedule

EARN CLE CREDIT! Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. Central join NALS online study groups. Tuesday Study Group sessions are worth 1.5 CLE credits each. The Online Study Group is set-up to assist those preparing to take a NALS Certification Exam but is open to the public and offers wonderful information for all legal professionals.

Real Property/Landlord & Tenant/Estates/Family Law	July 6 @ 8:00 p.m.
Agency Law/Business Organizatons/Family Law	July 13 @ 8:00 p.m.
Civil Litigation	July 20 @ 8:00 p.m.
Interviewing & Investigation/Trial Preparation	July 27 @ 8:00 p.m.
Criminal	Aug 8 @ 8:00 p.m.
Legal Research/Computer Assisted Legal Research/Computer Information Systems	Aug 10 @ 8:00 p.m.

NALS has a new area "Professional Development" with some great offerings on tips for success in being a Chapter or State Leader and other articles submitted by members. If you haven't check out NALS online lately it has gone through some exciting changes.

Don't forget to read e-news and e-learn@nals.

Region 6 News

July 30 - August 1, 2004

Region 6 Meeting
Little Rock, Arkansas - Wyndam Riverfront
For information contact - Julie Abernathy, PP, PLS

State News

The deadline to submit Certification of Election of Alternate Director forms is Sunday, July 25, 2004.

The deadline to submit original written reports to the President (and a copy to the Secretary) is Friday, August 6, 2004.

Nancy Gates, PP, PLS, CLAS
President, MS Div of NALS

Local News

The July meeting will be held at the Harrison County Election Commission Building at 2600 24th Avenue, Gulfport, on June 8th at 5:45 p.m.

President's Message

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY! I hope that everyone has a safe and happy 4th. We will be discussing the August State Board of Directors Meeting, the 2005 State Annual Meeting this month and summer social. I hope to see everyone at the meeting. Everyone who brings in typed baseball trivia or law related joke/cartoon will receive 3 gem points.



This month's gem is the **Ruby**:

Rubies were first mined more than 2,500 years ago in SriLanka. Historically, many believed that mystical powers lie within this intensely colored red gemstone. The ancient Burmese believed that when inserted beneath the skin, rubies generate a mystical force that protects the wearer from accidents and attack. Rubies were also once believed to contain prophetic powers, enabling wearers to predict the future based on changes in their ruby's color intensity.

The beauty, rarity and historical mystique of rubies are undeniable. The earliest record for the mining of rubies goes back to more than 2,500 years ago in Sri Lanka. The ancient Hindus were enchanted by the color of rubies and they considered them to be the *Rajnapura* or “King Of Gems”.

Above all other gemstones, including diamonds, rubies command the greatest per Carat prices. For example, the 15.97 Carat faceted Mogok ruby that sold at Sotheby’s in New York, October 1988, fetched a staggering \$3,630,000 or \$227,301 per Carat.



Color Is The Most Important Factor In Determining A Ruby’s Value

Identical in every attribute to sapphire, except for their red color hues, the term “ruby” can only be applied to the red varieties of the mineral known as corundum, which is second only to diamond in hardness.

Color is the single most important factor in determining a ruby’s value. As if to emphasize this point, even the name ruby is derived from the Latin word for red *ruber*. While color preferences are subjective, traditionally the ideal ruby color displays the intensity and richness of bright crimson without appearing too light or dark. Still beautiful within their own right, rubies that appear dark and garnet-like, or those that are light in color and are perceived as pink, generally offer the consumer better value.

It is generally recognized that the best ruby colors possess a captivating, intense, almost electric red effect due to fluorescence. Appearing super-charged, these intense colors are most often seen in Mogok rubies.

The Carat Weight Of Rubies Greatly Affects Per Carat Prices

Large rubies of high quality are the rarest and most highly prized of all gemstones. Rarer than diamonds or sapphires of an equal quality and size, any high quality

piece above five Carats is considered to be extremely rare and is almost priceless.

As the Carat weight of a ruby increases, so does its price per Carat. As large rubies are many times rarer than smaller rubies, per carat prices increase disproportionately - a three Carat ruby is worth many times more than three one Carat rubies of a comparable quality.

Prices for ruby increase in stair-like steps when in excess of certain significant Carat weights. For example, a 2.02 Carat ruby commands a higher per Carat price than a 1.98 Carat ruby, despite a negligible difference in actual size. Ruby pricing, like that of nearly all other gems, suffers from a “non-linear-scale of increments”.

Banita Ford, President

Vice President’s Message

We had 16 attendees at June’s monthly meeting held on June 10, 2005. There were 11 members present and 5 guests. Ms. Lauren Duvernay spoke on the “Alphabet Soup of Environmental Law”.

July’s meeting will be held on July 8, 2004, at the Election Commission building, 2600 24th Avenue, Gulfport, MS. Our speaker will be Ms. Joyce Forbush, Office Manager of Rushing & Guice, P.L.L.C. She will be speaking on the “Dos and Don’ts of Resumes”. This will be worth ½ hour of CLE credit.

Remember attendance at the meetings and Lunch-N-Learns means GEM points.

*Misty E. Lewis, PLS
Vice-President*

MEMBERSHIP

GCALSP has 31 members at this time with a retention rate of 75.56%. Last month the following members celebrated their NALS anniversaries:

Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS	23 years
Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS	6 years
Janet Smith	6 years
Beth Steverson	5 years
Betty Lou Watkins	31 years

This month the following members are celebrating their NALS anniversaries:

Karen Kuhn, PLS	5 years
Sandra Roy	5 years

Let's give a big HURRAY for all our members celebrating their anniversaries. As with last month, this month's celebrates will receive a Certificate for their membership in NALS at our meeting.

Care Committee Report

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

<i>Theresa Wilson</i>	<i>July 3</i>
<i>Tina Riegert</i>	<i>July 5</i>
<i>Jeannie Shaw</i>	<i>July 29</i>

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

None

Please call me at work 374-2685 or home 831-9312 if you know of any illness, accident or death in a member's immediate family so that I may send out the appropriate card. It's never too late to send a card but I would like to get them out as close to the occasion as possible.

*Sheila J. Schultz
Care Committee Chairman*

Lunch N Learn

The Gulf Coast Association of Legal Support Professionals is sponsoring Lunch-N-Learn seminars the third Friday of each month.

June's Lunch-N-Learn was held on Friday, June 18, 2004 at the Edgewater Mall. Our speaker was Ms. Ann Guice, Vice-President and Trust Officer of Peoples Bank. We had Eighteen attendees including Twelve non-members. I want to thank everyone for a wonderful turnout.

July's Lunch-N-learn will be on Friday, July 16, 2004 at the Tulane College Edgewater Mall campus. Our speaker will be R. Scott Wells, Esq. an attorney with the law firm of Rushing & Guice, P.L.L.C.. His topic will be Bankruptcy and Collection work. I hope to see all of our members there.

Misty Lewis, PLS

Certification

As of June 1, 2004, the NALS website Online Study Group started its first session study group for the certification exams. The Online Study Group will continue every Tuesday through September 21, 2004. All NALS certification exams will be given nationwide on September 25, 2004. The second session of the Online Study Group will start on October 19, 2004, and continue nearly every Tuesday through March 1, 2005. All NALS certification exams will be given nationwide on March 5, 2005. The Study Group is free to anyone who wants to attend, and it is open to both NALS members and nonmembers.

If you would like to sit for an exam or just want more information about the certifications, please contact me.

Misty Lewis, PLS

A LEGAL ASSISTANT/PARALEGAL is a person, qualified by education, training or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible.'

Quotes to Live by:

We can do not great things; only small things with great love. - Mother Teresa



NALS Mission Statement

NALS is dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contributions of members in the legal services profession. NALS accomplishes its mission and supports the public interest through:

- *Continuing legal education and resource materials;*
- *Networking opportunities at the local, state, regional, and national levels;*
- *Commitment to a Code of Ethics and professional standards;*
- *Professional certification programs and designations.*

Integrity and high standards of conduct are fundamental to the success of our professional association.

NALS Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility

Members of NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the standards of conduct required of the legal profession.

Every member shall:

- *Encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice;*
- *Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information;*
- *Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy;*
- *Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence; and*
- *Pursue a high order of professional attainment.*

This Code is promulgated by the NALS and accepted by its members to accomplish these ends.

Contact the editor at:

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Editor's Notes

The deadline for next month's issue of News-N-Notes is July 20th. This is earlier than usual because of the Region 6 Meeting date. Contributions for publication are greatly appreciated! Please let me know if you have any suggestions on ways to improve our bulletin.

Jeannie Shaw, PLS

