
News-N-Notes

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

June 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

Don't forget to read 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

Membership Report: Total membership for Region 6 effective March 2, 2004 was 1313 members! Arkansas 74; Louisiana 7; Oklahoma 58; Mississippi 207; Missouri 192; and Texas 775.

I invite everyone to checkout the great newsletter our Regional Director has created. Just go to nals.org and click on newsletters. It's just too long to copy here but it is available in Acrobat format and well worth reading.

Deadline to get your early bird registration to Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS is the June 10th meeting.

State News

Beth Steverson, GCALSP extended the invitation to host the MS Div of NALS Membership Meeting in Nov on the Gulf Coast in conjunction with the NALS National Meeting.

Pinebelt will host the Feb 2005 BOD Meeting and GCALSP will host the May 2005 Annual State Meeting.

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

Local News

The June meeting will be held at the Harrison County Election Commission Building at 2600 24th Avenue, Gulfport, on June 10th at 5:45 p.m.

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.

Introduction to Ethics	June 1 @ 8:00 p.m.
Listening Skills	June 2 @ 9:00 p.m.
Systems/ADR/Administrative Law & Government Regulations	June 8 @ 8:00 p.m.
Basic of Writing Informative Articles	June 9 @ 9:00 p.m.
Punctuation/Numbers/Capitalization/Word	June 15 @ 8:00 p.m.
The Nuts and Bolts of Marketing	June 16 @ 9:00 p.m.
Torts/Product Liability	June 22 @ 8:00 p.m.
Challenges Facing Leg Spt Professionals	June 23 @ 9:00 p.m.
Contracts/Intellectual Property	June 29 @ 8:00 p.m.
Real Property/Landlord & Tenant/Estates/Family Law	July 6 @ 8:00 p.m.

President's Message

Thank you to the Installation Committee, Billie, Henrietta, and Karen, for a wonderful installation, and thank you to those in attendance. I truly did have a GEM of a time. I am looking forward to the 2004 - 2005 year as your President. Thank you again for the vote of confidence in allowing me to hold this position.

We are planning on have a GEM of a Time this year. Gathering/Networking, Education, and Marketing our profession and our association. The goals that are set before us this year are: to provide more educational opportunities; design a chapter logo; retain and increase our membership; to increase awareness of our association; and to have more people certified.

If you, as members, have any suggestions on what you would like to see the Chapter do this year or not do this year please let me know. This is the members association and I would like to have everyone's input on what YOU would like to see happen with the Chapter this year.

June items: Introduce the new committee chairmen; Discussion of changes to the Standing Rules; Discussion of 30 minute seminar at the monthly meeting; Brief reports of the seminar(s) attended at the Annual meeting; and Trivia.



We are going to try to get a chapter logo again this year. If you have any ideas and or designs please get them to me. The deadline for submitting your entry will be July 30,

2004. We will discuss/vote on the entries at the August meeting.

Alexandrite: Color Change Magic



One of the most fascinating gemstones throughout history is alexandrite: a gem variety of the mineral chrysoberyl that actually changes color from green in daylight to red in incandescent light. The first time you see it, it is hard to believe your eyes! Gems

that show special optical effects are known as phenomenal stones. Chrysoberyl dominates this category, because not only is alexandrite the most spectacular color change gem, cat's-eye chrysoberyl has the most dramatic eye. Alexandrite has a distinguished and glamorous past: it was discovered in 1830 in Czarist Russia. Since the old Russian imperial colors are red and green it was named after Czar Alexander II on the occasion of his coming of age.

Alexandrite can be found in jewels of the period as it was well loved by the Russian master jewelers. Master

gemologist George Kunz of Tiffany was a fan of alexandrite and the company produced many rings featuring fine alexandrite in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, including some set in platinum from the twenties. Some Victorian jewelry from England features sets of small alexandrites.

Alexandrite is also sometimes available as an unset stone but it is extremely rare in fine qualities. The original source in Russia's Ural Mountains has long since closed after producing for only a few decades and only a few stones can be found on the market today. Material with a certificate of Russian origin is still particularly valued by the trade. Some alexandrite is found in Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe and Brazil but very little shows a dramatic color change. For many years, alexandrite was almost impossible to find because there was so little available.

Then in 1987, a new find of alexandrite was made in Brazil at a locality called Hematita. The Hematita alexandrite shows a striking and attractive color change from raspberry red to bluish green. Although alexandrite remains extremely rare and expensive, the production of a limited amount of new material means a new generation of jewelers and collectors have been exposed to this beautiful gemstone, creating an upsurge in popularity and demand.

Banita Ford, President

Vice President's Message

I want to thank all of our members for their vote of confidence in electing me Vice-President of this wonderful association.

The speaker for next month's meeting, June 10, 2004, will be Lauren Duverany, a paralegal at Rushing & Guice, P.L.L.C. who will be speaking on the "Alphabet Soup of the Environmental Law".

Lunch-N-Learn will be on Friday, June 18, 2004 at the Edgewater Mall campus for Tulane University from 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. The speaker will be Ms. Ann Guice, Vice-President and Trust Officer at Peoples Bank. Her topic will be "How Trust Services Can Help Your Law Firm". Please remember the Lunch-N-Learn program is free for our members and only \$5.00 for nonmembers, so let's get out and encourage others in our offices to attend. If any of the members have topics they would like to see either the Lunch-N-Learn program or our monthly meeting speakers cover, please contact me at mlewis@rushing-guice.com.

Once again, thank you for electing me as your Vice-President and I am sure we will have a GEM of a time this year.

*Misty E. Lewis, PLS
Vice-President*

Care Committee Report

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Nancy Gates June 15
 Banita Ford June 16
 Mary Garrett June 29

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Beth Steverson June 10

Sympathy cards were sent for the deaths of:

Wade Baine, Attorney
 Tom Sumrall, Attorney

Lynn Thomas, Secretary to Joe Gautier

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.

How Trust Services Can Help Your Law Firm

Presented by Ann Guice, Vice-President and Trust Officer of The Peoples Bank, Biloxi, Mississippi

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:

It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new. But there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and change, and achievement. - Alan Cohen

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 June 29th. Contributions for publication are greatly appreciated! Please let me know if you have any suggestions on ways to improve our bulletin.

Jeannie Shaw, PLS
 Editor

