



# News-N-Notes

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

November 2004 Edition  
Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS, Editor

## 2004-2005 Board

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

## National News

What a great time everyone had at the NALS Annual Conference. Friday culminated with the Mardi Gras Ball at which Dearing, a student member of MS Division of NALS, appearing as a Mardi Gras float, won best costume. Stephanie Floyd took runner up with her Geisha Girl costume.

The ball game Saturday night was great fun. Unfortunately, Houston and not Mississippi was the ultimate winner but our team gave a good showing and lost in overtime. Congratulations to our team members for their participation.

We are all looking forward to the Educational Conference in Tulsa in March. Especially, Misty Lewis, PP, PLS who won a free registration at the Region 6 drawing.

## State News

**M**S Division of NALS, Inc had designed a new state logo lapel pin for our members which is currently available for sale at \$5.00 each. Please contact your State Marketing Chair, Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS to purchase a pin.

In addition to the state logo lapel pin, we offered a conference pin at the National Conference Sales were great and more than half of the attendees purchased a pin. This lapel pin is still available through your State Finance Chair, Misty Lewis, PP, PLS at a cost of \$5.00 each.

## Region 6 News

The Region 6 News letter was distributed by e-mail. If you did not get a copy, please contact Misty Lewis, PLS.

## President's Message

We have a wonderful October meeting. Thanks to all that attended. The Court Observance program was very nice and it was great to have a couple members from a local Boy's Scout group and a young lady from a local Girl's Scout unit. I am looking forward to the Nation Conference next week and hope to see all of our members there. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the people who run the Resource Center and a great opportunity to network with other legal professionals.

The agenda November meeting includes taking up early donations for our Humanitarian project, discussing the Christmas Party, and giving our reports from the meetings attended at the National Conference.



Topaz received its name *Topazios*, an island in the Red Sea. Topazios is the Greek word for *to guess*. The island was almost always covered in fog and hard to find.

Topaz is found in Brazil, Siberia, Ceylon and the United States. Heat treating and radiation takes clear topaz and turns it into all the blue hues we see. The colors that are created with heat treating are yellow,

green, blue and pink. Most commercial topaz comes from Brazil.

Golden topaz with pink color hues is called precious topaz. It is in great demand and is expensive (\$200 to \$500 per carat) in the larger sizes - a rare and hard to find stone over 3 carats.

Yellow sapphire has all the attributes of precious topaz and, though it belongs to the corundum family, is used many times as the November birthstone because of its durability and hardness. Citrine is also used as the November birthstone. It belongs to the quartz family of stones, and has the attributes of quartz, many of the powers of amethyst (also a member of the quartz family).



## TOPAZ History & Lore

In the past, peridot and olivine were called topaz. All three stones were used to make the wearer become invisible, through meditation and ritual, and were thought to allow this invisibility to be accomplished in the astral body which normally can not be seen by others, unless they have studied and practiced the arcane art. There by increasing their perception ability to several vibratory levels.

### *Vice-President's Message*

This space is reserved for the Vice President's message.

*MISTY E. LEWIS, PLS  
Vice-President*

### *Membership Chairman*

**M**EMBERSHIP  
*As of October 28, 2004, we have 36 members with a 85.00% retention rate.*

*There are no members celebrating NALS anniversaries this month.*

*MISTY E. LEWIS, Certified PP, PLS  
Membership Chair*

### *Lunch-N-Learn*

October's Lunch-N-Learn was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict of the speaker. I apologize to anyone who did not receive notice of same.

November's Lunch-N-Learn will be on Friday, November 19, 2004 at the Edgewater Mall Campus of Tulane College. Our speaker will be John Gonzales, Esq. and he will be speaking on "Worker's Compensation Law". The program will start at 12:15 p.m. as usual. I hope to see you all there.

*MISTY E. LEWIS, PLS  
Lunch-N-Learn Chair*

## ***Care Committee Report***

**PRAYER LIST** Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Ellis and her family for the loss of her wonderful husband, H. E. Ellis (Ed). We now understand that her mother is in the hospital. Let's all keep Mary in our prayers.

Please keep Karen Kuhn's brother, Thurman, in your prayers. Also, Misty Lewis' Mother needs our prayers.

If you know of any member or their family that is sick, been in an accident or has lost a loved one, please contact me so that the appropriate card and prayers can be sent.

You may reach me at: 374-2685 w 374-2222 f  
831-9312 h 596-8231 c



*Sheila J. Schultz* Care Committee Chair

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.'



## ***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*

## ***Report for Court Observance***

Our theme for this year's Court Observance week was "And justice for youth...". Our speaker was Ms. Angelique White, Guardian Ad Litem for the Harrison County Youth Court. She spoke on the appointment of a guardian ad litem, their functions and duties.

Mary C. Bibey  
Court Observance Chair

## ***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.*

***Don't forget our annual Christmas Party coming on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please see Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS or Renee Haugen for details.***

***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 November 23rd. Contributions for publication are greatly appreciated! Please let me know if you have any suggestions on ways to improve our bulletin.*

*Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS  
Editor*