



News-N-Notes

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

October 2004 Edition
 Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS, Editor

2004-2005 Board

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

National News



REGISTER ON-LINE AT
NALS.ORG

plus see on-line chats/study groups

EARN CLE CREDIT! Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. Central time join NALS on line study groups worth CLE Credits. 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.

6-Oct	Recruitment
13-Oct	Unauthorized Practice of Law and Other Ethical Issues (1 CLE)
20-Oct	Attitudes – How is Yours? (1 CLE)
27-Oct	Unassigned

State News

MS 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 will be offering a conference pin at the National Conference to be held in Biloxi this fall. Early sale of this lapel pin is available through your State Marketing Chair 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

I hope everyone's month has gone well. I know mine has been busy. First of all I would like to send my personal condolences to Mary Ellis, PLS on the loss of her husband. I know we will all miss Ed who has been a staunch supporter of our organization and our chapter.

We have a lot going on in our Chapter right now and a few of those things are: We are getting ready for Court Observance Week, we will be hosting the 2005 Annual Meeting, Mississippi will be hosting the Region 6 Meeting in 2005 and Mississippi is hosting the National Meeting this November.

Be sure to bring your voting ballots for the National Officers to the October Meeting and get your GEM Points. We will be discussing the possibility of moving our November General Membership Meeting to Tuesday, November 2, 2004. If the membership meeting is moved there is a real possibility that we would have at least one past

national president attend our meeting. Again, this decision will be strictly up to the membership.

I look forward to seeing everyone in November.

Banita Ford, President



Opal has been a popular gem for many centuries. It has the same chemical formula as quartz with the addition of 5 to 10 percent water. Structurally it consists of tiny spheres with water filling the gaps. These spheres in most Opals are irregular in size and inconsistent in concentration. Yet in Precious Opal, the variety used most often in jewelry, there are many organized pockets of the spheres. These pockets contain spheres of approximately equal size and have a regular concentration, or structure, of the spheres. This has the effect of diffracting light at various wavelengths, creating colors. Each pocket produces a different color, with a different intensity depending on the angle from which a viewer sees it. The multicolored flashes of light that Opal emits gives it a truly beautiful and valuable look.



The name opal probably is derived from the Sanskrit name for precious stone; *upala*. It has been mined for centuries, at least since Roman times when they extracted the opal from areas now within the Czech Republic. The Aztecs made use of local Mexican sources as did the Spaniards when they exported the material back to Europe. Today most precious opal comes from Australia with significant sources from Mexico and the Western United States.

Not all opal is so precious however. Common opal lacks opalescence, color or luster and is (after all) *common*. Opal is often imitated, forged and "enhanced".

While opal is generally white or colorless, it may also be pale yellow, pale red, gray or black when impurities are common. Diffraction can cause flashes of any color of the rainbow (opalescence).

Vice-President's Message

We had Fifteen attendees at September's monthly meeting held on September 9, 2004. There were 14 members present and 1 guest. Amy Gillespie Smith, Esq. spoke on "Real Estate Law".

October's meeting will be held on October 14, 2004, at the Election Commission building, 2600 24th Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi. October is Court Observance Month. The theme for Court Observance this year is "and Justice for Youth". In following with this theme, Mary Bibey, Court Observance Chair has asked Ms. Angelique White, Guardian Ad Litem for Harrison County Youth Court to attend as our speaker this month. There will be refreshments afterwards. This will be worth .5 CLE credit.

*MISTY E. LEWIS, PLS
Vice-President*

Membership Chairman

As of September 24, 2004, we have 37 members with a 81.67% retention rate.

This month the following members are celebrating their NALS anniversaries:

Linda Marshall 1 year

*MISTY E. LEWIS, PLS
Membership Chair*

Lunch-N-Learn

September's Lunch-N-Learn was held on Friday, September 24, 2004 at the Edgewater Mall Campus of Tulane College. Our speakers were Sue Carter, Deputy Clerk Derel Domain from the U.S. District Court. Ms. Carter and Mr. Domain spoke on Electronic Filing as well as some of the court's pet peeves. Our turnout was outstanding we had 43 attendees with 7 members present and 36 non-members. I want to thank everyone for a wonderful turnout.

October's Lunch-N-Learn will be on Friday, October 15, 2004 at the Edgewater Mall Campus of Tulane College. Our speaker will be Maria Cobb, Esq. and she will be speaking about "The Legal Assistant, Past, Present and Future". 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

Beth Steverson will celebrate her birthday on October 10. ***Happy birthday Beth.***

Misty Lewis will celebrate her anniversary on October 11 and ***Billie Ruddick*** will celebrate hers on October 28. ***Happy anniversary*** to you both.

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Ellis and her family for the loss of her wonderful husband, H. E. Ellis (Ed).

PRAYER LIST

Please keep Karen Kuhn's brother, Thurman, in your 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 is "And justice for youth...". Our speaker will be Ms. Angelique White, Guardian Ad Litem for the Harrison County Youth Court. She will be speaking on the appointment of guardian ad litem, their functions and duties. In trying to arrange attendance of a session of night court in conjunction with a scout troop, I discovered that Long Beach is the only Harrison County municipality that holds night court and they will not be in session during the week of Court Observance. In an effort to reach out to the community youth, I extended an invitation to Scout Troop 250 from Beauvoir United Methodist Church to attend our meeting to help them meet requirements for their law merit badge.

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.

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 October 26th. 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*