



PACO Newsflash

The monthly publication of the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio
P.O. Box 15182, Columbus, OH 43215 | 614/470.2000

July 2007

PACO elects new officers for 2007-2008

by Kristin Gordon / PR Director / 614.221.0090 / pr@pacoparalegals.org

Columbus—Paralegal Association of Central Ohio (PACO) has elected the officers for the 2007-2008 Executive Board.

Officers were selected at the June General Membership Meeting and are as follows: President, Catherine Hawes of Lane Alton & Horst; First Vice President, Michelle Stickel of Isaac, Brandt, Ledman & Teetor; Second Vice President, Melinda Small of Chris Harbold & Associates; Secretary, Trina Hayes of The Limited; Treasurer, Thomas Bailey of Capital Mediation Associates; Statewide Representative, Barry Kiser, of Porter Wright Arthur & Morris LLP; Editor, Kristin Gordon of Friedman & Mirman Co., L.P.A.; Public Relations Director, Karen Pierson of Schottenstein Zox & Dunn; and Linden Rost, Student Liaison Coordinator of Friedman & Mirman Co., L.P.A.

PACO is a non-profit organization with more than 400 members that promotes the paralegal profession and the use of paralegals in the legal community.

For more information, see www.pacoparalegals.org.



The newly-elected Executive Board, from left to right: Michelle Stickel (First Vice President), Tom Bailey (Treasurer), Kristin Gordon (Editor), Karen Pierson (Public Relations Director), Trina Hayes (Secretary), Catherine Hawes (President), and Barry Kiser (Statewide Representative). *Not pictured: Linden Rost (Student Liaison Coordinator) and Melinda Small (Second Vice President).*

MEMBERSHIP

Committee Update

by Paula Adams / Second VP

General Membership Statistics:

Total PACO General Members: 372

Practicing Paralegals:	304
Paralegal Voting:	244
Paralegal Non-Voting:	116
Students:	69
No Voting Status:	10

Pending Board Vote: 9
(included in the above totals)

New PACO Members:

The Executive Board voted to accept the following as new paralegal members:

- Susan M. Walston
- Catrina R. Grugin
- Paulita C. Lyons
- Christy E. Swaney
- Lucinda K. Miller
- Darlene L. Hawk
- Genenia M. Grinder
- Ginny L. Haas

The Executive Board voted to accept the following as new student members:

- Elizabeth V. Eisleben

July 5

Inter-Faith Legal Clinic

Time: 5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Location: Broad Street United Methodist Church, 501 E. Broad St., (corner of Broad St. and Washington St.), Columbus. Free parking available at the State Auto parking lot on the southeast corner of Broad St. and Washington St. The Inter-Faith Legal Clinic (a pro bono opportunity for paralegals) was established so low-income individuals can meet with an attorney to discuss legal issues. The Clinic receives help from the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, the Columbus Bar Association Pro Bono Section, and the Legal Aid Society. Paralegals can help by checking in clients, answering general questions, or interviewing clients prior to the clients meeting with an attorney. The Clinic meets the first Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; volunteers do not need to stay the entire time. For questions or additional information contact Barry Kiser, at 614/227.2113 or BKiser@porterwright.com.

July 16

Installation of Officers

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

Contact pr@pacoparalegals.org for additional information or questions.

July 18

High Noon at the Bar

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Columbus Bar Association, 175 S. Third St., Suite 1100, Columbus.

Presenter: Jody Elliott of Leading Tech Forensics.

Contact cle@pacoparalegals.org for additional information or questions.

August 2

Inter-Faith Legal Clinic

Please see July 5 description for complete information.

August 3

CLE Seminars

Time: TBD—All day event

Location: Columbus Bar Association, 175 S. Third St., Suite 1100, Columbus.

Details coming soon!

PACO names Paralegal of the Year

by Kristin Gordon / PR Director / 614.221.0090 / pr@pacoparalegals.org

Columbus—The Paralegal Association of Central Ohio (PACO) has named Amanda S. Coleman as its “Paralegal of the Year.”



Amanda S. Coleman

Coleman is a paralegal at Jones Day in the business practices group, and served as the President of PACO from 2005-2007. She was nominated by her peers for her commitment to the profession, upholding strong ethical standards, her leadership in PACO, and her role as a dedicated paralegal educator at Columbus State Community College.

Karen Finch, paralegal at Baker & Hostetler was awarded the “Paralegal of the Profession.” Finch, a paralegal for more than 30 years, has been an integral part of the legal community, and has dedicated many hours of volunteer service to PACO over the years.

Other award winners announced at PACO’s June General Membership Meeting include: Linden Rost of Friedman & Mirman Co., L.P.A., “Best New Member;” Catherine Hawes of Lane Alton & Horst, “Outstanding Member;” Garth Rowbotham of CM Media Inc., “Outstanding Committee Member;” and Rebecca Cain of Nationwide, “Outstanding Executive Board Member.”



Karen Finch received the Paralegal of the Profession Award.

PACO

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 6

Inter-Faith Legal Clinic

Please see July 5 description for complete information.

September 17

General Membership Meeting

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Columbus Bar Association, 175 S. Third St., Suite 1100, Columbus.

Contact pr@pacoparalegals.org for additional information or questions.

September 19

High Noon at the Bar

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Columbus Bar Association, 175 S. Third St., Suite 1100, Columbus.

Presenter: TBD

Contact pr@pacoparalegals.org for additional information or questions.

October 4

Inter-Faith Legal Clinic

Please see July 5 description for complete information.

October 15

General Membership Meeting

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Columbus Bar Association, 175 S. Third St., Suite 1100, Columbus.

Contact pr@pacoparalegals.org for additional information or questions.

November 1

Inter-Faith Legal Clinic

Please see July 5 description for complete information.

November 19

General Membership Meeting

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Columbus Bar Association, 175 S. Third St., Suite 1100, Columbus.

Contact pr@pacoparalegals.org for additional information or questions.

December 6

Inter-Faith Legal Clinic

Please see July 5 description for complete information.

TBD

Holiday Reception

Contact pr@pacoparalegals.org for additional information and questions.



Becky Cain (First Vice President) and Amanda Coleman (President) present an award to Joe Heeter, PACO's legal counsel.



Garth Rowbotham, recipient of the Outstanding Committee Member Award, poses with Becky Cain, recipient of the Outstanding Executive Board Member Award.



The outgoing Executive Board, from left to right: Trisha Balthaser (Editor), Tom Bailey (Treasurer), Trina Hayes (Secretary), Barry Kiser (Statewide Representative), Kristin Gordon (Public Relations Director), Becky Cain (First Vice President), and Amanda Coleman (President). *Not Pictured: Paula Adams (Second Vice President), Linden Rost (Student Liaison Coordinator), and Nell Chambers (Parliamentarian).*

PRO BONO

Committee Update

by Tonya Hull / Pro Bono Chair

paralegal, of Lucas Law firm who graciously donated their time and services on Sunday, May 20th and Sunday, June 24th, 9 local heroes now have a piece of security they may not have had otherwise. If you are interested in learning more about this project or other pro bono opportunities, contact Tonya Hull at tmhull@vssp.com.

2007 "Wills for Heroes" Project

The 2007 "Wills for Heroes" pro bono project, which helps local firefighters obtain wills and/or powers of attorney free of charge, is underway! Thanks to the generosity of Bill Newman, attorney, and Liz Russell,



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Committee Update

by Kristin Gordon / PR Director

New Business:

1. PACO Awards

Votes are in and the winners will be announced for the five awards at Monday's meeting. In addition to the PACO awards, Joe Heeter, our legal advisor, will be presented with a plaque.

A special award will be given to Karen Finch for "paralegal of the profession." This will be presented by PACO member and coworker Jo Barrett. Karen has been a paralegal for more than 30 years.

2. Farewell Happy Hour

CT Corporation, Patrick Harrigan, will sponsor our farewell happy hour. Please mark your calendars for Friday, June 29, 2007 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Columbus Brewing Company. Appetizers and drinks will be provided by CT. We will say farewell to the old board and welcome as the new board. Please encourage members of your office to attend.

3. Elections

I will be sending out press releases to our local news media regarding the election of the new board. Last year, we had four local newspapers publish briefs about PACO!

Old Business:

1. Paralegal Day

PR sent thank you notes, handwritten, to the sponsors/vendors/sustaining members. We raised more than \$1,000 for our scholarship fund! In addition, our event was publicized before the event by the OSBA, ABA, CBA and Daily Reporter. Hopefully most of you had a chance to view our website, and that of the CBA, after the event, as it was posted on the home pages!

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

For June 12, 2007

The Board meeting was called to order by President, Amanda Coleman at approximately 5:42 PM at the offices of Jones Day. Board members present were Paula Adams, Tom Bailey, Trisha Balthaser, Kristin Gordon, Trina Hayes, Barry Kiser and Linden Rost. Future Board members present were Catherine Hawes (President), Melinda Small (2nd VP) and Karen Pierson (Public Relations).

New Business:

- Calendar of events were discussed. The usual High Noon, CLE, etc. There will be a Happy Hour June 29, 5:30-7:30 PM at Columbus Brewing Company sponsored by CT Corporation.
- Metric – Amanda provided a "PACO Yearly Calendar of Events." It's a reminder of various activities and due dates by month.
- June 18 is Board Election Day at the general meeting. Each Board member was given an absentee ballot to complete just in case they can not make the meeting on June 18. Medical Evaluators will be the vendor of the month.
 - o The 2006-2007 committee members be recognized, farewell to the outgoing Board members and the PACO awards will also be presented.
 - o Welcome to new CBA staff will also be presented.
 - o Attorney Joe Heeter, PACO's legal advisor will also be recognized.
- Paralegal Day update – Catherine was very pleased at how the event turned out. There were approximately 210 in attendance. However, there was major concern about the bottleneck of paying for tickets at the door. Next year's committee will need to look at other options. Catherine and Tom will prepare invoices for outstanding ticket and silent auction money.
 - o Total amount in sponsorships was \$3,750.
 - o The DVD that was playing during the event was created by Profile Image and they have made additional copies for PACO members if anyone wishes to have their own copy.

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- o There were a total of 30 donations for the Silent Auction.
- o The evening social was nice but not very well attended. The Columbus Brewing Company did a wonderful job on catering to PACO. There were approximately 30 people in attendance with a total cost of about \$300. PACO took in sponsorship donations of \$650 for this event.

Old Business: N/A.

Board Reports:

1. Statewide Report – Barry Kiser

Nothing new to report; however he will follow-up on the Statewide Alliance Agreement that was signed last month.

2. First VP Report – Becky Cain

See various committee reports below.

3. Second VP Report – Paula Adams

- Total PACO General Members: 372
 - o Practicing Paralegals – 304
 - o Paralegal Voting – 244
 - o Paralegal Non-voting – 116
 - o Students – 69
 - o No Voting Status – 10
 - o Pending board vote – 9 (included in the above totals) new membership applications:
- Nine (9) new members to present, one (1) of which is a student:
- *Susan M Walston; No employer; graduate of Denver Paralegal Institute; area of law: litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice; PACO committee: N/A; (non-voting)
 - *Catrina R Grugin; USMC; 2005 graduate of U. of Maryland University College; area of law: none listed; PACO committee: N/A; (non-voting).
 - **Paulita C Lyons; Reminger & Reminger.; graduate of Academy of Court Reporting; area of law: worker’s compensation; PACO committee: CLE & PR; (voting).
 - **Christy E Swaney; Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter; graduate of P.B.C.C.; area of law: mergers & acquisitions/real estate; PACO committee: Student Liaison; (voting).
 - ** Lucinda K. Miller; Freund Freeze & Arnold; graduate of CSCC; area of law: insurance defense litigation; PACO committee: N/A. (voting)
 - **Darlene L Hawk; Freund Freeze & Arnold; graduate of N/A; OJT; area of law: medical; PACO committee: N/A (voting)
 - ** Genenia M Grinder; Wiles, Boyle, Burkholder & Bringardner Co., LPA; graduate of N/A; OJT; area of law: probate; PACO committee: N/A; (voting)
 - **Ginny L Haas; The Legal Aid Society of Columbus; graduate of: American Institute for Paralegal Studies; area of law: domestic, elder, public benefits; PACO committee: N/A; (voting)
 - ***Elizabeth V Eisleben; Stewart Jaffy & Assoc., Co. LPA; Student at Columbus State Community College; anticipated graduation date is March 2008; area of law: corporate, business, real estate; PACO committee: Student Liaison; (student/non-

voting).

*A motion made by Kristin and 2nd by Trina to change status to non-voting from voting due to employment status and accept the named applicants for membership; motion approved by the Board.

** A motion by Trina and 2nd by Linden to accept the named voting applicants for membership; motion approved by the Board.

*** A motion by Karen and 2nd by Tom to accept the student applicant for membership; motion approved by the Board.

4. Publication Report – Trisha Balthaser

Save the date: all items for the July Newsflash must be e-mailed by 5:00 pm on June 22nd. Please submit all items to Trisha Balthaser @ tlbalthaser@auditor.state.oh.us no later than 5:00 PM on the due date.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Tom Bailey

As of May 31, 2007:

- National City \$13,834.66
- USS Money Fund \$18,365.35
- Total Assets \$32,200.01

6. Secretary’s Report – Trina Hayes

Board minutes from the May 8, previously approved as recorded.

7. Parliamentarian Report – Nell Chambers N/A.

8. Student Liaison Coordinator – Linden Rost

Nothing new to report as the committee has not met.

9. Public Relations Report – Kristin Gordon

- PACO Awards – Votes are in and the winners will be announced at the June 18 meeting. A special award will be given for “paralegal of the profession.”
- Happy hour previously mentioned under “new business.”
- Elections – press releases will be sent to the local news media.
- Paralegal Day – report previously given above;
 - o PR sent handwritten thank you notes to the sponsors/vendors/sustaining members. We raised more than \$1,000 for the PACO scholarship fund.
 - o The event was publicized by the OSBA, ABA, CBA and Daily Reporter.

Committee Reports

1. Website – Yivette Hopson

At their first meeting the committee discussed navigation/organization, layout/functionality, content, color scheme, design, bios (w/photos) for the Executive Board and a word from the president on the home page. Duty assignments: website chair – Yivette Hopson; vice chair – Daniel; site content/developer – Garth and Rebecca and site support Stephanie and Linda.

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2. Job Bank – Bridgett Klingbeil N/A.

3. Program – Amanda Coleman

Amanda will chair this committee and her goal is to get more judges to speak at the monthly PACO meetings.

4. Pro Bono – Jamie Childers/Tonya Hull

- Sunday, May 20, Liz Russell and Bill Newman drafted five (5) wills and/or HCPOAs for five (5) local firefighters and their spouses, bringing the number of firefighters who still need wills down to 30 from the original number of 35.
 - Liz and Bill have kindly agreed to open their law office again in June to assist five (5) more local heroes.
- The Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) has volunteer opportunities, but a commitment for a certain period of time is required. This will be advertised in PACO's Pals.

5. CLE – Katie Essex N/A.

Amanda would also like to chair this committee.

Special note: Amanda thanked everyone for the great 18 months under her reign as President and wishes the new, returning and “retiring” Board members success for the upcoming year.

Motion by Catherine and 2nd by Kristin to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:13 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 5:30 PM at the offices of Lane Alton and Horst.