



PACO Newsflash

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

May 2008

Board Members Election Information

It is nearing that time again, PACO members. Elections for 2008-2009 officers are just around the corner.

This is an exciting opportunity to get in on the inside track and become a leader of your paralegal association. All board positions are open to run for, but the following are vacant seats that the committee is seeking candidates for:

- Editor
- Secretary
- Student Liaison
- Public Relations

Please contact Colleen Mosley, Elections Committee Chair, at cmosley@lanealton.com for further information or to declare your interest. You also can visit the PACO Web site, www.pacoparalegals.org, for the descriptions of all board positions. You also should consider contacting the current officer for the position in which you are interested to learn more about it! E-mails for all board officers also are located on PACO's Web site.

Special Board Meeting



At the April 21, 2008 PACO General Membership Meeting at the Columbus Bar Association, President Catherine Hawes called a special Executive Board meeting at 12:22 p.m. In attendance: Tom Bailey, Kristin Gordon, Trina Hayes, Barry Kiser, Karen Pierson, Linden Rost, Melinda Small and Andrea Turner. Michelle Stickel was unable to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss extending the vote for the Code of Regulations due to a quorum not being present. There were 43 voting membership in attendance or via absentee ballot. A total of 56 were needed. A motion was made by Catherine, and a 2nd by Trina, to extend the voting seven days to Monday, April 28, 2008. Motion carried and was approved by the Board. Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Race for the Cure

"Team PACO" has formed!

PACO has formed a team for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at 8:30am in downtown Columbus.

Come support us! TEAM PACO members will be dressed in PACO blue T-shirts.

We also will take donations! If you would like to sponsor our team, please make a check payable to PACO, indicate it is for Race for the Cure, and mail to:

PACO, P.O. Box 15182
Columbus, OH 43215-0182

For more information visit:
www.komencolumbus.org

Or contact Toni Brooks-Walker, Pro-Bono Committee Chair, at 614/233.4762 or tbrookswalker@lanealton.com.

TEAM PACO thanks you for your support! Please look for event photos and an article in the June Citor!



May 17

Race for the Cure

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Downtown Columbus
TEAM PACO members will be dressed in PACO blue T-shirts. For more information, contact Toni Brooks-Walker, Pro-Bono Committee Chair, at 614/233.4762 or tbrookswalker@lanealton.com.

May 19

Ohio Paralegal Day Luncheon

Details to be announced. For more information or to join the committee, please contact Deb Buzard at buzarddeborah@yahoo.com.

June 17

General Membership Meeting

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Columbus Bar

Topic: Executive Board Election.

Lunch provided to the first 50 members. Contact cle@pacoparalegals.org for additional information or questions.

June 24

Brown Bag Lunch Series, "High Noon at the Bar"

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Location: Columbus Bar

Topic: Robert Half Legal.

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

Estate Planning for First Responders

by Catherine Hawes / PACO President / chawes@lanealton.com



From left: CBA Executive Director Alex Lagusch; Toni Brooks-Walker, PACO Pro Bono Committee Chair; Catherine Hawes, PACO President; and Harlen Louis, Chair of the Estate Planning for First Responders Public Service Program.

PACO has joined forces with the CBA and Judge Lawrence Belskis of the Franklin County Probate Court to help with a very worthwhile endeavor. The partnership is in an effort to prepare wills, financial powers of attorney, living wills, health care powers of attorney, and deceleration for disposition of bodily remains for the

International Association

of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Union No. 67 and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge No. 9.

This is a tremendous undertaking that has garnered to date more than 80 attorney volunteers. They are in desperate need of paralegals! The first week's session started this Monday and is an information session only for the firefighters and police officers. During the course of the information session period, the meetings will be to instruct the "first responders" on how to fill out their information packets for the wills and various other documents. There are a number of dates and times that have been made available to the "first responders" for their convenience so there will be time slots for all paralegals to sign up. The CBA has projected a possible turnout of 800 first responders to participate in this event, which is why we need to join forces in order to make this project work!

We are receiving a wealth of support from the community and area businesses including Time Warner Cable, who is donating internet connections and usage, along with a number of other area businesses who are providing copy machines, printers, office supplies, and paper products, to name a few. As you may recall, PACO conducted a similar program a few years ago where we prepared wills for more than 50

Estate Planning for First Responders, continued

by Catherine Hawes / PACO President / chawes@lanealton.com

firefighters at one of the local union stations and thus, we have “real world” experience to offer the attorneys on what to expect - which is another one of the reasons they are requesting our help.

If you were on that prior committee that prepared wills for both the firefighters and the elderly program that we conducted, WE DEFINITELY NEED YOU TO COME BACK and lend a hand for this project! And if you’re a paralegal looking for a short term project to work on and can’t normally get the time away from work to help with any other committee, this is the perfect opportunity for you to pitch in and help out. As for our student members, this gives you “real world” paralegal experience side-by-side with seasoned paralegals and attorneys that can be used on your resume. It also will be an excellent networking opportunity for you.

There will be volunteer opportunities for the daytime, evening and weekend sessions. You do not have to be an experienced probate, or wills, trust and estates paralegal to be a part of this project.

Please go to PACO’s website <http://www.pacoparalegals.org> to see the sign-up sheet and schedule of events. Once you find a time and date that works best for your schedule, send an e-mail to our ProBono Committee Chair, Toni Brooks-Walker, at tbrookswalker@lanealton.com and she will add your name to the list. This is a program that the CBA hopes to continue every two years, and will only run through the month of May in conjunction with Law Day and our Paralegal Day activities.

Don’t forget - “Paralegals are the Real Power of Attorneys”! We need volunteers and your support.

Clarification

by Kristin Gordon / PACO Editor / kgordon@friedmanmirman.com

In the April 2008 edition of *The Citator*, the articles written by Nancy Morrison, Esq. and Cindy Dryden, Paralegal, were written “by” the authors and not “submitted by” them.

PACO

SCHOLARSHIP INFO

**Application Deadline
Extended to May 5, 2008**

Dear Members,

We have extended the deadline for the student scholarships to the close of business 5:00 p.m. on May 5th, 2008.

Please contact me at students@pacoparalegals.org if you have any questions.

We want as many students to participate as possible, it is not too late! The form is on the website (www.pacoparalegals.org) under the ‘students’ tab. Thank you, and good luck!

Linden J. Rost, Paralegal
Friedman & Mirman
lrst@friedmanmirman.com
(614) 221-0090 P
(614) 221-7213 F



~ 35TH ANNIVERSARY ~

**The Paralegal Association of
Central Ohio
Cordially invites you to our**

**4th Annual Paralegal
Day Celebration**

**Monday, May 19, 2008
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**The Westin Great Southern Hotel
310 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**Guest Speaker:
Supreme Court of Ohio
Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton**

**\$28/ticket prepaid
\$35/ticket at the door**

**Kindly reply by May 12th to
Jonathan Striker
jonstriker.paralegal@gmail.com
(614) 232-7608**

**Please mail payments (checks only) to:
PACO
P. O. Box 2934
Westerville, OH 43086-2934**

Dear Sustaining Members

Each year, the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio (PACO) sponsors an event during the month of May to celebrate Paralegal Day. This year, we have planned a luncheon at The Westin Great Southern Hotel on May 19, 2008. PACO intends to spotlight our 35 years in central Ohio along with the paralegals that have reached their Milestone Anniversaries this year. We write to extend an invitation for your support, as well as participation, in this event.

Following our affiliation with the Columbus Bar Association in 2004, PACO has grown to nearly four hundred members strong. As in years past, this year's celebration will benefit the PACO Student Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is designed to benefit students enrolled in paralegal study programs in the Central Ohio area. We are working diligently to increase awareness of the paralegal profession and to create an environment that invites active participation among our colleagues. Your support and participation in this event would contribute greatly to these objectives.

The levels of sponsorship are outlined in the attached form. If you would like to support the 2008 Paralegal Day celebration, please complete and return the attached sponsorship form. If you would like to purchase additional tickets for this event, please indicate how many and include payment (\$28/person).

The 2008 Paralegal Day Committee wishes to thank you for your time and consideration. We remain hopeful that your company will be represented and will be able to join us. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

*Deborah Buzard, 2008 Paralegal Day Committee Chair
Catherine L. Hawes PACO President*

buzarddeborah@yahoo.com
chawes@lanealton.com
www.pacoparalegals.org



PARALEGAL DAY 2008 May 19, 2008 Presented by the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio ** Sponsorship & Luncheon Reservations Form **

Proceeds will be used to support the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio's Student Scholarship Fund. This Scholarship is designed to provide scholarships to students enrolled in paralegal studies programs in the central Ohio area.

INSTRUCTIONS: To become a Sponsor of Paralegal Day, please complete the Sponsorship Section below (and the Contact/Attendee section); for tickets only, complete the Tickets-Only section below (and the Contact/Attendee section); to make a donation only, complete the Donation-Only section below (and provide Contact information in the Contact/Attendee section). Payment information may be provided below the Contact/Attendee section. If you are attending the Luncheon please return this form no later than May 12, 2008.

SPONSORSHIP SECTION

(Company Name)

Agrees to become a Sponsor of the Paralegal Day Luncheon at the following level:

- Gold Sponsor** (\$500)
- Silver Sponsor** (\$300)
- Bronze Sponsor** (\$125)

Federal Tax Deductibility Notice
"Tickets to the luncheon with a fair market value of \$25 each were given in consideration for the contribution you have made; the remainder of your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law."

Each level includes: recognition in all media releases and print materials if confirmed by May 12, 2008; tickets to the Luncheon*; recognition on the Welcome Board (at the Luncheon); a copy of the Luncheon program; the company's name featured in PACO's quarterly newsletter *The Ciator*; and recognition on PACO's Web site.

*Gold Sponsor – 4 tickets; Silver Sponsor – 2 tickets; Bronze Sponsor – 1 ticket.

Please include _____ additional tickets at \$28 each.

TICKETS-ONLY

I am unable to become a Sponsor at this time; however, I would like _____ tickets at \$28 each.

DONATIONS-ONLY

I cannot attend the luncheon, but would I like to make a \$_____ donation to the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio Scholarship Fund. (Federal Tax Deductibility Notice: "No goods or services of value were given in consideration in part or whole for any contribution you have made; your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law".)

CONTACT/ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Firm/Company Name: _____
(As you would like it to appear in print.)

Contact: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Attendees: _____

A check for \$_____ payable to the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio: Is Enclosed Will Follow

(Signature)



P.O. Box 15182, Columbus, Ohio 43215-0182 | (614) 470.2000 | www.pacoparalegals.org

About Justice Stratton

Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, of the Supreme Court of Ohio, came to the bench by a very different route.

Born to missionary parents in Bangkok, Thailand, Justice Stratton spent her childhood in Southeast Asia. She attended boarding school in South Vietnam at the height of the Vietnam War and later in Malaysia, visiting America on occasion with her parents. At age 18, she returned to America alone with only a few hundred dollars in her pocket. Working her way through school, she earned a Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University College of Law.



She began her legal career as a trial lawyer in the courtrooms of Central Ohio. In 1989, she was the first woman to be elected Judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court. Presiding over major cases ranging from complex civil actions to capital murder, she established a solid record of judicial integrity, fairness, and diligence. She became known as "The Velvet Hammer" for her approach to sentencing in serious felony cases. Her success on the trial bench led to an appointment in 1996 to the Supreme Court of Ohio, where she was elected to a second term in 2002.

Justice Stratton's efforts in the community and her commitment to family have led to major changes in adoption law. As chairperson of a national committee, Justice Stratton led a nationwide effort to streamline the appeals process in adoption cases. She has also provided strong leadership as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

Justice Stratton also believes that the courts, in partnership with the mental health system, can affect positive change in the lives of many defendants whose mental illness has led to criminal activity. To that end, she formed The Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Mental Illness in the Courts, which is comprised of mental health, law enforcement, and criminal justice professionals who are dedicated to mental health initiatives in the court system.

Nationally, Justice Stratton is co-chair of the Judges' Leadership Initiative, a professional association that supports cooperative mental health programs in the criminal justice system. She also co-chairs the Returning Home Advisory Commission, a group devoted to helping former inmates return to the community, while serving to reduce the number of repeat offenders.

The Paralegal Day Committee has been working very hard in an effort to make this year's event a very memorable one for all Paralegals in Central Ohio. Paralegal Day will be the first of several major events that PACO will sponsor this year in honor of our 35th year anniversary, with our final anniversary celebration being held in October 2008.

We will host our annual luncheon on May 19, 2008 at the Westin Great Southern as in years past and we have an exceptional honor this year as the Honorable Justice Evelyn Stratton of the Ohio Supreme Court gives the keynote address. We have a number of wonderful items that have been donated by various businesses and organizations for the scholarship fund.

We will also take this opportunity to honor those paralegals that are celebrating a Milestone Anniversary in conjunction with PACO's milestone year.

The following are paralegals that will be honored at this year's luncheon. We hope you will come out and support your colleagues:

<u>Paralegal</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Law Firm or Corporation</u>
Cathy Shaw	40 years	Buckingham, Doolittle, & Burroughs
Donna F. Prehm	35 years	Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease LLP
Jo Barrett	35 years	Baker & Hostetler LLP
Joann D. Langdon	34 years	Isaac, Brant Ledman & Teetor LLP
Joann Makley	30+	Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Nancy Heller	30 years	Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Dorothy Ferguson-Hill	30+	
Rebecca Swoager	29 years	Carlile, Patchen & Murphy
Mary A. Miller	29 years	Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter
Sandra H. Bresler	28 years	Carlile, Patchen & Murphy
Rebecca Kemper	25 years	Probate Paralegal Services
Cindy Lane	23 years	Carlile, Patchen & Murphy
Vicki E. Babbert	22 years	Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn Co. LPA

Paralegal Day 2008

Roshani Kandawalla	21 years	Bricker & Eckler LLP
Linda S. Boos	20 years	Carlile, Patchen & Murphy
Karen Smith	20 years	Carpenter Lane
Christine Broschak	20 years	Isaac Brant Ledman & Teetor LLP
Robert C. Skidmore	20 years	Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency
Julianne Hines	15 years	Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs
Brenda Gibas	15 years	Isaac Brant Ledman & Teetor LLP
Jennifer Rembert	10 years	Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.

This year's Paralegal Day celebrations will begin on Thursday, May 15th as one of our sustaining members, Clicks Document Management, will host an after work social at **Bar Louie's, 504 N. Park St. from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

And if you're unable to make the after work social, then we hope you'll strap on your running shoes (or walking shoes) and join the Pro Bono committee and "Team PACO" on **Saturday, May 17th for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure**, starting promptly at 8:30 a.m. in the Arena District.
(see PACO's Web site for more details on how to sign up)

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that have supported the Paralegal Association over the years and we hope that you will come out to attend one of the many functions that we have planned for you. There will be something for everyone, so bring your employers, colleagues, family and friends out for the fun and celebrations – it will truly be an affair to remember!

Estrin LegalEd announces Third Annual Paralegal Trial Specialist Institute



Where: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas

When: June 5-6, 12-13, and 26-27

Who: Estrin LegalEd,

co-sponsored by Sarnoff Court Reporters & Legal Technologies

RSVP: www.EstrinLegalEd.com; info@EstrinLegalEd.com; 818/506-8701; 888/803-8807 (registration is limited to 25 attendees for each seminar)

What: Learn innovative techniques, tools and strategies used by the most successful trial professionals in an intensive two-day seminar. Information to be presented includes: expert insight on how trials are conducted and what judges want; techniques to structure time, documents, and technology; techniques to troubleshoot on off-site problems; tips on emergency responses; how to handle teams in stressful situations; insight on creating “crystal clear procedures” for off-site staff.

Why: After completing the program, you will be awarded a Certificate of Completion as a Trial Specialist demonstrating your valuable skills and knowledge of the trial process.

BYLAWS UPDATE

The Restated Code of Regulations of the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio passed as of April 28, 2008.

To view the twenty five page document, please go to www.pacoparalegals.org. You also can E-mail parliamentarian@pacoparalegals.org.

On behalf of PACO, we extend a special thanks to the Bylaws Committee. This project has been a work in progress for the committee for more than two years.

Paralegal CLE Opportunity

Alonso Consulting & Training is hosting a CTSummation Litigation Support Boot Camp, May 20-22 in Orlando, Florida.

Day One: The paralegal will learn how to manage the software, create cases, modify forms, administer the image-enabled database, setup productions, CTSummation security and perform back-end mission critical routines.

Day Two: Basic and advanced database skills for the paralegal. Learn how to summarize documents, techniques for performing document review and refined searches; tag and select documents for depositions and productions; and work with paper and native evidentiary documents.

Day Three: Part 1 – Learn to create automated electronic document productions from within your case and export documents for instant access outside of CTSummation. Part 2 – Work with depositions, loading transcripts, searching for testimony, writing notes for summarization, rebuttal and follow up questions, managing exhibits, creating case organizer trial notebooks, and how to use Summation’s real-time transcription software.

For more information: registration@aislegal.com

National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) Region III Report

by Mary McKay, RP, CLA / NFPA Director, Region III / mmckay@glennrasmussen.com

I just returned from the NFPA 2008 Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana (my hometown). This weekend's events were carefully planned by NFPA's Linda McGirr and Anne Rosenthal, and were hosted by the Indiana Paralegal Association.

In February I spoke at the monthly membership meeting of Georgia Association of Paralegals (GAP). In March, I traveled to Memphis and conducted a one-day seminar on board training.

The Region III meeting will be in Nashville, Tennessee May 16-17, and will be hosted by the Middle Tennessee Paralegal Association.

Finally, I have been invited to speak to the members of the Northeast Indiana Paralegal Association, to Palmetto Paralegal Association members, and at my local association, the Tampa Bay Paralegal Association.

Editor's Note: *The following is a condensed version of "bytes" from the Region III associations. Each report has been revised as fit by the Editor for content and space. Because all of PACO's events are included in the Newsflash, Citorator and on our Listserve, I have omitted the PACO information.*

Cleveland Association of Paralegals

by Jennifer Sybyl

- CAP has enjoyed a strong turnout for its Education Committee and Business Law Committee lunch meetings.
- There was a merger of The Cleveland Bar Association (CBA) and The Cuyahoga County Bar Association to the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA).
- CAP will hold a fundraiser for The Joy H. King, RP Memorial Scholarship Fund in May.
- The Spring 2008 Ohio Statewide Alliance Meeting was hosted by CAP in April.
- CAP will be holding its 2008 Annual Meeting on June 2, 2008. The CAP Board of Trustees for the 2008 - 2009 membership year will be elected at that time.

Greater Lexington Paralegal Association

by Lee Williams and Sonja Blackburn

- Sonja Blackburn, paralegal with the Kentucky Bar Association, is the new NFPA Secondary.
- We had a Board Meeting in April.
- We are hosting our first social with the paralegal students at Eastern Kentucky University. The door prize for the event is a free student membership, a T shirt, and tote.
- In April, we held our first open house, inviting all paralegals and students in Lexington and the surrounding area.
- We continue to support our Legalmen. We also are participating in a "Bears on Patrol" project, where we will collect new teddy bears to give to local law enforcement to hand out to children.
- Other events for our association include the PACE exam, and some of our members will be serving lunch and dinner to the homeless at the Catholic Action Center. We will assist our local bar association with their Ethics Seminar, and will attend a minor league baseball game. We also had members attend the Leadership Conference in Indianapolis in April.

Indiana Paralegal Association

by Edna Wallace, RP

- IPA participated as a vendor at the Indiana Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators Conference in early March.
- We are finishing a salary survey and the results should be available this month.
- In April, we had a team of members participate in the Susan J. Komen Race for the Cure, in honor of one of our Board Members who recently was diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Final plans and preparation for the NFPA 2008 Regulation/Leadership Joint Conference are moving along. The Honorable Judge Edward W. Najam, Indiana Court of Appeals as well as Rich Eynon, immediate past President of the Indiana State Bar are speakers.

(continued on next page)

National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) Region III Report, continued

by Mary McKay, RP, CLA / NFPA Director, Region III / mmckay@glenrasmussen.com

- I will travel to Nashville in May to attend the Region III meeting. Debi Neale will travel to Atlanta on behalf of NFPA to attend the PACE Ambassador Conference.
- We are working on our budget for the upcoming year and enlisting new leaders to serve on our Board.
- We are accepting applications for the second annual 2008 IPA PACE Scholarship.

Michiana Paralegal Association

by Cherylan Shearer

- The last member meeting of the Association was in March with the topic of "Paralegal Utilization."
- The Association sent six Board Members to the NFPA Regulation and Leadership Conference.
- The Association will sell 500 BBQ chickens for its Spring fundraiser.
- The next member meeting for the Association is Monday, May 12, in South Bend, Indiana. Our speaker is The Hon. Michael Scopelitis, Judge, St. Joseph Superior Court, South Bend, Indiana, on the topic of "Marketing of Paralegals in the Workforce."
- The Association will host a seminar May 17, in South Bend on "Legal Technology."

Middle Tennessee Paralegal Association

by Mari Jo Casey

- MTPA is making the final arrangements for the 2008 Region III meeting we will host in Nashville May 16-17th.
- Our new Web site is now fully up and running.
- At our March monthly meeting, Elizabeth Piercey, Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald House of Nashville, Tennessee spoke about the history of how the first House was started, as well as an inspiring breakdown of the wonderful benefits it provides.

Northeast Indiana Paralegal Association

by Denise L. Brewer

- NIPA had a PowerPoint Workshop presentation in

February and is considering another presentation with Excel.

- A Spring Seminar is planned for May 7th, with presentations on Medicare, E-Discovery, Family Law and Ethics.
- We are developing a salary survey for members.
- We will have our annual meeting in May and will present the Marilyn Morlen Scholarship, Outstanding Paralegal Award and Paralegal Recognition Reward. We will also welcome our newly elected Board.

Palmetto Paralegal Association

by Natalie Butrym

- PPA is off to a running start this year. Our President spoke at our January meeting. Our speaker in February discussed Intellectual Property law, and our March speaker discussed Insurance law.
- This year is the 20th anniversary of PPA and our Anniversary Gala is scheduled for October.
- PPA is sending several of our Board members to upcoming NFPA sponsored Conferences.

Tampa Bay Paralegal Association

by Leslie Matthews, CP, President

- TBPA is excited about its new Paralegal Mentoring Committee.
- The Seminar Committee has finalized a September date for the annual seminar.
- We are sending a representative to NFPA's Leadership and Regulation Conference, another representative to the Pro Bono Conference, and yet another to the PACE workshop. The Board approved sending both its primary and secondary representatives to the NFPA Convention in Arkansas.
- TBPA collected gift cards for the Hope Children's Home, a pro bono project.
- TBPA's March luncheon speaker was the senior forensic investigator from the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner's Office who spoke about forensic investigations and cold case files.

Statewide Alliance Meeting

by Barry Kiser / PACO Statewide Representative / bkiser@porterwright.com

Representatives from all six of the Ohio paralegal associations met April 19, 2008 in Cleveland for the Spring 2008 Statewide Alliance Meeting. The meetings are twice a year in the Spring and Fall, and give each association a chance to share news about recent events and activities, each association can then take those new ideas back to their own members. News and current events at the state, national, and even international level are also discussed.

There will be a more detailed report on these happenings in the next issue of the Citator, but some of the highlights of topics discussed at the meeting were regulation, Paralegal Day celebrations, a statewide salary survey, the statewide forum seminar, pro bono projects, and the Ohio Supreme Court proposed rules restricting the functions that disbarred and suspended attorneys may perform.

On the issue of regulation, the associations discussed the status of the OSBA certification program and the recent denial by the Wisconsin Supreme Court of a State Bar petition that called for licensure of paralegals. It was noted that although the Wisconsin Supreme Court denied the petition, the Court stated that they recognize the valuable service provided by paralegals and encouraged the State Bar to continue working with other parties to come to an agreement. The Supreme Court took issue with the details of the petition and not the idea of paralegal regulation. We can be proud that the Court referenced Ohio as one of the states with a voluntary paralegal certification program that the Court encouraged be used as a model for future paralegal regulation programs in Wisconsin.

The attendees also discussed the feasibility of conducting a statewide salary survey and the statewide forum seminar. If you have any comments or suggestions about either of these issues, please let me know. We have not conducted a salary survey in a while and I do not recall a statewide survey being done so this would be something that would be beneficial to everyone. We are also interested in hearing any thoughts or opinions about the statewide forum seminar. For those of you who may not have heard of the statewide forum, it is an all day seminar that has been held in the Fall every two years with the host association rotating between the associations. The last forum was in September 2007 in Toledo. Most of the attendees were from their local area so we are interested in anyone's thoughts about traveling within Ohio to an all day seminar.

Karen Pierson, PACO's Public Relations Direct, and I attended as representatives of PACO and we will be sharing some new ideas with the Board and members to help keep PACO going and growing.

PARALEGAL DAY KICK-OFF PARTY

sponsored by:



An Invitation for PACO Members
FREE FOOD AND DRINKS
Bring a colleague!

Our Sustaining Member, Clicks, is sponsoring a
HAPPY HOUR

May 15th (Thursday)
4:30pm - 8:00pm

at

BAR LOUIE
504 N. Park St.
Columbus, OH

Please RSVP!

Evite: <http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/YJ0TSSGZFJXDEJBBVJIO/Clicks>

or

Chelsea Collet, ccollet@clicks.com, (614) 519-3956
William Brown, wbrown@clicks.com, (614) 499-0844

**As always, to our sustaining members:
thank you for your support!**

BYLAW

Committee Report

Committee Meeting Updates:

The Bylaws Committee did not meet during the month of March. In lieu of a meeting, the committee communicated via E-mail to discuss strategy for distributing the final redline draft of the Code of Regulations to the PACO general membership.

The committee will co-chair the April General Membership meeting with the Elections Committee. The committee distributed a final draft of the redline version of the Code of Regulations via Listserve on Tuesday, April 1st. Members had until Friday, April 18th to cast an absentee ballot, and Monday, April 21st to cast a ballot in person. A majority vote is needed to amend the code of regulations.

Committee IMMEDIATE Goals:

The committee will need to facilitate voting in a smooth manner on Monday, April 21st and coordinate with volunteers to ensure final count is tallied.

Committee Overall Goals:

To present a redline for final vote Spring 2008.

Old Business:

Conduct off the record discussions with members regarding changes from April 1st through April 21st.

STATEWIDE

Representative Report

Statewide Alliance:

The Statewide Alliance Meeting was Saturday, April 19 in Cleveland. Barry Kiser and Karen Pierson attended to represent PACO.

Each association gave a report of their recent and upcoming events, seminars, meeting speakers, pro bono

activities, membership count, and board roster. PACO announced Bylaw revisions, elections, Rock and Bowl, Race for the Cure, Legalman packages, the holiday party, Adopt a Family project, Paralegal Day, the 35th Anniversary celebration, Student Liaison events at Columbus State and Capital University, our new Webmaster, and Pro Bono projects including Meals on Wheels, the wills project, and the interfaith legal clinic.

We also discussed recognizing Kalpanna Yalamanchili and Melissa Quick at the OSBA for their work with setting up and administering the paralegal certification program.

OSBA:

We are reviewing applications and finalizing the questions for the paralegal certification test on May 31. The OSBA Paralegal Committee will also be updating the committee brochure.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Report

Old Business:

The Public Relations Committee has been working on Paralegal Day. Several Public Relations committee members, including Chelsea Collett, Kris Krenik, Jon Striker, Anne Edmonds, Destiny Wisecup, Debbie Sekerak, and Beth Bridges have volunteered to work on this event. In addition, Clicks has offered to donate some printing services for the event. Jon Striker is handling RSVP.

New Business:

Paralegal Day Update

The PR committee has been working closely with the Paralegal Day committee in making preparations and arrangements for our 35th celebration in May. Jon Striker, PR committee member, has arranged for Justice Evelyn Stratton of the Ohio Supreme Court to be our featured speaker. Chelsea Collett is working with Karen Pierson on coordinating printing of the invitations. A "Save the Date" E-mail was sent out, as well as several E-mails from Karen and Catherine Hawes requesting information from any Central Ohio paralegal who is celebrating a milestone

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anniversary to be featured at the luncheon and receive recognition for their milestone. Karen is designing the luncheon invitation and will submit it to the Paralegal Day Committee on April 9 for approval. Press releases are being prepared and will be sent out in mid-to-late April to announce the event.

Several announcements and articles concerning Paralegal Day have been sent to the Daily Reporter and were published, letting PACO members know about the events coming up and giving them contact information if they are interested in volunteering or want to know more about the events.

A list of administrators and office managers from Columbus law firms and legal organizations was compiled for Catherine Hawes. The list will be used to send out requests for reserving a table for the PACO 35th anniversary luncheon in hopes of having many of the tables sponsored and paid for.

Race for the Cure

ListServ E-mails were sent to our members and sustaining members announcing that PACO will sponsor a team for the first time for Race for the Cure in Columbus May 19. Articles also were published in the Daily Reporter with information about the event and requesting volunteers.

PR Emails

Several E-mails were sent to the PR E-mail address inquiring about membership opportunities and these E-mails were forwarded to the 2nd Vice President, who responded to the inquiries.

Citator Article

An article was written for the Citator by Karen Pierson about NFPA Registered Paralegal program and published in the current edition.

STUDENT LIAISON

Committee Report ←

New Business:

Capital University

Capital would like to have PACO retain a permanent spot in their panel for new students coming into the program. A panel was conducted earlier this month comprised

of Board Members Catherine Hawes, Trina Hayes, and Linden Rost, along with Jessica Walkuski, a paralegal at Squires, Sanders & Dempsey. The panel provided a wide spectrum of paralegals for the students to ask questions about our present jobs and experience and the hiring process for new paralegals. More than 25 students attended.

Columbus State Community College

Our recent visit to Columbus State Community College was attended by approximately 50 students and alumni as well as the Student Paralegal Association (SPA) Board, trustees, and teaching staff. We had the privilege of introducing several mentors to the students for a Q & A session. We discussed topics of mentoring, networking, and the benefits of PACO. We had new students join PACO and purchase T-shirts. In addition interest was expressed by students to join the Susan B. Komen Team PACO, and help with Paralegal Day.

MEMBERSHIP

Committee Report ←

General Membership Statistics -- April 2008:

Paralegal Voting	225
Paralegal Non-Voting	47
Paralegal Student	59
No Voting Status	0

Total PACO General Members = 331

Members Pending Board Vote (not included in the totals above): 2

Committee Goals:

- Renewal of Sustaining Memberships (rolling renewal schedule) – in progress.
- Consistent Maintenance of Sustaining Member List/Contact Information – updated list sent to the Board the week of 04/14/08.

New Member Applications -- Paralegal Voting:

Jenna L. Hawthorne

Employer: Larrimer and Larrimer

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Title: Workers' Compensation Paralegal
Graduate of: Muskingum Area Technical College (now known as Zane State College) – Spring 2004
Area of Law: Workers' compensation
PACO Committee(s): None specified

New Member Applications -- Paralegal Student:

Ann L. Klein
Employer: n/a
Student at: Capital University Law School
Anticipated Graduation Date: February 2009
PACO Committee(s): None specified

PRO BONO

Committee Report ←

Committee Meeting Updates:

The Susan G. Koman race is May 17th. We have established "Team PACO" and the announcement of the race has been printed in the Citator, the Daily Reporter and on the CBA Web site. The event also was announced at the last General Membership meeting. The instruction on how to sign up is posted on the Web site. We hope to have a lot of participation.

Jim Cole presented Meals on Wheels information. Unfortunately, we are unable to partner with Nationwide. We can adopt a route one day a week, five days a week or any timeframe in between. Since we cannot partner with Nationwide, we would like to have this project up and running to begin in June.

The Estate Planning for First Responders public service program met Tuesday, April 8th at noon at the CBA offices. Judge Belskis attended and speak briefly about the public service program. (We are not using the Wills for Heroes name for proprietary reasons). Alan Acker made a presentation to train all of the volunteers on his internet-based document preparation system that will be used. Unless you are currently using Alan's program, it is important for all of the volunteers to have this training.

PACO was able to mail out a care package to a Navy Legalman in April. Since the care packages are done every couple of months the Pro Bono committee will offer for another committee member to possibly do the next care

package.

Committee Overall Goals:

To continue to recruit new members and have ongoing projects.

New Projects:

Meals on Wheels – to begin in June. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Next Meeting:

Please check back for updates for May/June meetings or send an E-mail to the Chair.