



PACO Newsflash

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

November 2008

PACO Announces Interim President

The Paralegal Association of Central Ohio (PACO) is proud to announce that Trina Hayes has been named by the Executive Board as interim President of the organization for 2008-2009.

The President shall conduct all meetings of the Association and Board and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

Hayes is currently serving in the capacity of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) Primary Representative, and represented PACO last month, along with Statewide Representative Karen Pierson, at the National Convention last month in Arkansas.

Hayes is a contract specialist with Limited Brands, Inc, where she has been for more than 10 years. Her job entails contract negotiation, redlining and drafting of various contracts and other legal documents for the corporate enterprises. She holds a bachelor's degree from Ohio Dominican University and a paralegal certificate from Capital University Law School.

Hayes was PACO's secretary from 2006-2008; serves on the newsletter committee; and is a past member of the pro bono and public relations committees. She is a Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad litem (CASA) for Franklin County and President of her condo association.

Melinda Small, PACO's Second Vice President, and a paralegal at R. Chris Harbold & Associates, has been named interim Student Liaison Director. PACO's First Vice President position shall remain vacant throughout the interim term with the Board unanimously agreeing to collectively absorb all duties related to this position.

Please make a note of all changes. Thank you.

Save the Date

It's Time for PACO's Annual Holiday Party!



'Twas three weeks before the biggest holiday shopping day of the year, and all through the house, parents are throwing away rotten pumpkins and taking candy away from little Ralph. Already at your favorite holiday shopping destination, you see a large display of holiday decorations. It won't be long now until party invitations start coming – one date you should save is for our annual Holiday Party, where you will get to have fun and eat hearty.

We hope to see you from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. **December 4, 2008** at the Arena Grand Theater. There will be food, fun, movies and prizes.

PACO & CBA to Join Forces for "Toys for Tots"



The Paralegal Association of Central Ohio (PACO) and the Columbus Bar

Association (CBA) are joining forces to make sure needy children will have gifts this Christmas. Simply bring a new, unwrapped toy to the PACO general membership meeting on Monday, November 17th, the Holiday Party on December 4th, or simply drop off a toy to the CBA before December 4th. If you donate a gift at the holiday party, you will receive a free raffle ticket for a chance to win a door prize that night. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Mays.

by Tricia Mays / PR Director / pr@pacoparalegals.org

PACO

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6

Public Relations Committee

Meets the first Thursday of every month at noon. Please consider joining the committee if you enjoy having fun, planning events and working events. You will get to network and make new friends. Contact Tricia Mays at pr@pacoparalegals.org; tricia.mays@dinslaw.com or call 629.5710.

November 6

The Interfaith Legal Clinic

meets the first Thursday of every month at the Broad Street United Methodist Church, 501 East Broad Street, Columbus. Free parking is available in the State Auto lot at the corner of East Broad and Washington. Please plan on arriving between 5:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Help is appreciated with setting up/tearing down. If you are interested, please contact Barry Kiser bkiser@porterwright.com. As always, any interested colleagues, including paralegals, legal assistants, and law students, are welcome.

November 17

General Membership Meeting

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

Location: Columbus Bar

Topic: TBA

Lunch provided to the first 50 members. Contact program@pacoparalegals.org.

November 19

Leading with Style

The Ohio Women's Bar Association is sponsoring a fun networking event for women professionals called Leading with Style. This event, held at the Bar of Modern Art in Columbus, will feature a fashion show by Saks, food and wine, vendors and shopping. Contact owba@ohiobar.org for more information.

December 4

Annual Holiday Party

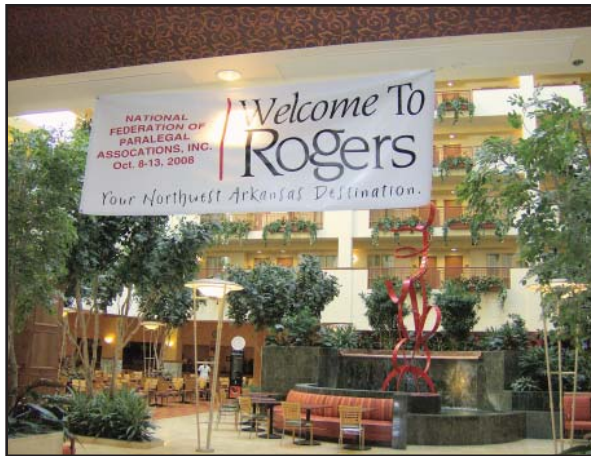
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Arena Grand Theater

Details to follow on ListServe.

NFPA 2008 Annual Convention Report

by Trina S. Hays / President & NFPA Primary / president@pacoparalegals.org
and Karen M. Pierson / Statewide Representative & NFPA Secondary / statewide@pacoparalegals.org



Welcome sign at the 2008 Annual NFPA Convention.

"Runnin' Wild Arkansas '08™!" That was the theme for the 2008 Annual NFPA Convention held in Rogers, Arkansas, and hosted by the Arkansas Paralegal Association. PACO Executive Board Members Trina Hayes and Karen Pierson represented our organization as Primary and Secondary voting delegates, respectively. This was the first time PACO has had voting delegate representation since 2005.

Forty-six credentialed associations of the 52 association members of NFPA were in attendance. There are 86 new Registered Paralegals (RP's) since the 2007 Annual Convention. Nine NFPA Board of Director members are RP's.

The room was organized in the fashion of a presidential convention with two delegates from each association designated by state, and then observer-designated tables. The head table included the NFPA president, parliamentarian, secretary, and time keeper.

A brief breakdown of our attendance follows:

Friday, October 10, 2008

- Region III (PACO falls under) meeting hosted by Director Mary J. McKay, RP, CLA of the Tampa Bay Paralegal Association;
 - South Florida is the newest association added to Region III, which now has twelve associations;
 - Region III was the only region with 100% attendance of its associations at the convention;
 - The associations discussed monthly GM meetings; we have similar problems: lack of attendance, membership falling, getting volunteers for sub-committees, etc. We all agreed that the economy is a major factor and is having an impact on all associations;



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NFPA 2008 Annual Convention Report, continued

- Georgette Lovelace, NFPA Treasurer, discussed the July 2007 Tech Conference. Attendance was higher in 2007 and NFPA lost money; the downturn in the economy was a major factor in attendance (expected 125 attendees, turnout was less than half);
 - There will be no Tech Conference in 2009. It will be conducted in 2010. It was suggested that the conference be every other year;
 - The Cleveland NFPA Primary in attendance at the tech conference said she felt the tech vendors should have “tag-teamed” with an actual paralegal who uses the software so the paralegals in attendance could better relate.
- *National Paralegal Reporter* editor was in attendance:
 - Starting with the October/November issue, the magazine will now publish in color;
 - The magazine is always looking for articles to publish (see publishing guidelines in the magazine);
 - It does not cost an association any money to list their events.
- Some association newsletters were distributed: *Para-Phrases* by Greater Lexington Paralegal Association; *The Paralegal Press* by Northeast Indiana Paralegal Association; *Footnotes* by Michiana Paralegal Association; *The Precedent* by Indiana Paralegal Association; *In Brief* by Palmetto Paralegal Association; *The Reporter* by Tampa Bay Paralegal Association, PACO’s 35th Anniversary Program;
- New Member benefit – Comprehensive Health Insurance for Legal Professionals – call 866.611.8466 for more details;

Engaging all Generations Workshop facilitated by Susan Ippoliti, NFPA VP & Director of Professional Development, attended by Trina Hayes.

- What do we mean
- Communications w/o e-mail
- Staying current
- Bridging the gap
- Mentor/Mentee
- Paralegal schools – getting the students early

This workshop was about the younger generation paralegals and how to get them involved in the associations, as the younger generation does not know *life without technology!* Here are a few of the various ways the younger generation stays in the loop:

- Web sites (have links on your association’s web page to the membership application; don’t have “too much” info cluttering your home page; home page should not have the sponsors listed; newsletters, renewal of dues, etc.;
- Social networking sites (linkedin.com – someone must manage the “group”);
- Blogs (if you don’t post 1-3 times per week – your blog is dead; must have someone monitor what people post);



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welcome!

NEW PACO MEMBERS

The following members have been voted into our organization this Fall. We look forward to your participation in PACO.

Voting Paralegal Members:

Sherrie M. Johnson
Legal Assistant
Attorney Gerald L. King

Renee M. Tomko
Paralegal
Baker + Hostetler LLP

Non-Voting Student Members:

Kymerly E. Goins
Columbus State

Audra L. Cordell
Capital University

Karen Stone
Capital University

Christine M. Capoccia
Capital University

Tonya L. McKirgan
Capital University

Kristin N. Schmidt
Capital University

Dawn M. Curtis-Nelson
Capital University

Brianna Anderson
Capital University

Simone Carpino
Capital University

by Melinda Small / 2nd VP /
membership@pacoparalegals.org

Sargent joins SZD's corporate group



Schottenstein Zox & Dunn Co., LPA, (SZD) is pleased to announce the addition of Jennifer Sargent as a paralegal in the firm's Corporate Practice Group. She will primarily serve the firm's Employee Benefits Practice Area.

Sargent joins SZD from Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP and brings more than 15 years of experience working within an employee benefits legal practice. She also has paralegal experience with real estate, litigation and environmental matters and has served as both a legal assistant and retirement plan supervisor and administrator.

Sargent is a member of the Paralegal Association of Central Ohio (PACO), the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) and the Columbus Bar Association (CBA). She is also an Ohio Notary Public.

Sargent received her Paralegal Certificate from the American Institute for Paralegal Studies, Inc. and is currently working toward becoming a Certified Employee Benefits Specialist.

About Schottenstein Zox & Dunn:

Established in 1966, Schottenstein Zox & Dunn is a full-service law firm. The firm has over 130 attorneys located in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio, and Raleigh, N.C., and serves the business community, from large corporations to small, entrepreneurial and family-owned companies. www.szd.com

by Melissa Harman / Marketing Manager / mharman@szd.com

NFPA 2008 Annual Convention Report, continued

- POD cast (must have an administrator, instant download of information; members subscribe; this is a money-maker for associations thru subscription – get a sponsor;
- E-mail is expected to become obsolete 3-4 years and replaced with text messaging.

Marketing and Fund-Raising Workshop,

attended by Karen Pierson.

The primary topic of conversation was fundraising activities that can be done by associations, along with the use of marketing tools to keep members interested and engaged in their association activities. One association raffled off a plasma screen TV at a membership drive social and gained 10 new members. Another association raffled off an iPod loaded with legal podcasts, donated by a sustaining member, which generated a lot of buzz to their members. It was suggested that gift iPods be used for businesses purposes, separate from the winner's personal collection, as iPods are a great tool to keep track of paralegal materials, and a great way to download cutting edge training tools such as podcasts, many of which are available free to subscribers on various legal websites.

The National Capital Paralegal Association (NCPA) in Washington D.C. initiated a whole week of activities for their paralegal "day." They had a bowling party, a cocktail reception at the Smithsonian Institute, and a catered lunch at a large law firm in Washington D.C. Everything was free to the members. NCPA wanted to have different events at different times in hopes that their members could attend at least one of the functions. NCPA said it was a successful week and most of the cost was paid for by sustaining members or supporting law firms.

A big topic of discussion was utilizing the association's website for marketing opportunities and ways to raise money for the association. Some suggestions were given by NCPA and Karen Pierson feels that PACO needs to research these issues further and upgrade the PACO website utilizing tools that would benefit our membership and enhance the website. Karen wants to meet with the PACO website committee to discuss this further and to discuss NCPA's website strategies to assist PACO with upgrading theirs.

The Friday night social event was "Arkansas Railroad Tour and Dinner." The attendees from all regions enjoyed the sights and sounds of how America once traveled. We traveled on a 1940-era diesel locomotive and had dinner in a 1920s Eureka Dining Car.

NFPA 2008 Annual Convention Report, continued

Saturday & Sunday, October 11-12, 2008



- Policy meeting. The official roll call was forty-six credentialed associations in attendance. There were thirteen (13) + 1 agenda topics (NFPA President Anita Hayworth remarked there had not been that many agenda topics since 2003!) to be discussed. Two (2) agenda topics were removed and two (2) new topics were introduced.
- The convention was opened with the Star Spangled Banner and the flag ceremony by the Navy.
- We also observed silence in memoriam of Phyllis Dunton – Illinois Paralegal Association who passed away May 9, 2008; and Koann Lawrence – Rocky Mountain Paralegal Association who passed away May 31, 2008.
- Voting results of the Agenda Topics (a more detailed report was e-mailed to PACO):

- #1 – Recommendations of Ad Hoc Committee on Practicing Paralegals; passed.
- #2 – Conflict of interest; passed.
- #3 – Revision to NFPA's bylaws to incorporate diversity language; passed.
- #4 – Committee to devise plan for Entry Level Exam; passed after going into Caucus.
- #5 – Amendment (addition) to bylaws Article III, Section 3.3(E)(1) sustaining membership to include individual U.S. military paralegals; passed.
- #6 – Model for Paralegal Licensure; passed.
- #7 – Modify “grandparenting” eligibility requirements of PACE; failed.
- #8 – Amendment to Resolution 06-02 regarding NFPA's support to Associations in states contemplating a regulatory proposal; passed.
- #9 – Changing the due date for Agenda Topics to 15 days earlier; passed.
- #10 – Non-staggered two-year terms of office; topic removed by sponsors.
- #11 – Recommendation of Board of Directors to adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy; topic removed by sponsors.
- #13 – Ratification of NFPA Strategic Plan; passed
- #13 – To add a VP, Director of Marketing to the NFPA Board of Directors elected positions, effective 2010; passed.
- #14 – Access to Legal Services Coordinator; failed.
- #15 – Change VP Pace to VP Credentialing; failed.
- #16 – Documents needed to respond to IRS Form 990; passed.

There was an award luncheon for NFPA to pay tribute to outstanding paralegals for their achievements and lasting contributions to the association and the paralegal profession. Region III's dinner was held at Mimi's Café.

The NFPA 2009 Annual Convention will be hosted by the Oregon Paralegal Association in Portland, Oregon, October 29 – November 1, 2009.



MEMBERSHIP

Committee Report

Committee Meeting Updates:

General Membership Statistics - October 2008

Paralegal Voting - 191

Non-voting - 38

Student - 43

Total - 272

Members pending board vote (not included in the totals above) - 2

Committee Goals:

Renewal of sustaining memberships. Consistent maintenance of sustaining member list/contact information.

New Business:

Non-renewing members-update: 77 members have been terminated for non-renewal by the CBA, as of 10/03/2008. Non-renewal letters will be sent to the members who were terminated to try to obtain further renewals.

New membership applications - paralegal voting:
Jodi L. Keener, Stephen W. Daulton, Esq., Paralegal, Family Law, No committee specified

Paralegal student:
Judi E. Smith-Phelps, Columbus State Community College, Anticipated Graduation Date August 2009, Newsletter/publications and Web site committees specified

PUBLICATIONS

Report

Committee Meeting Updates:

Committee meets 11/5/08 at 5:30 p.m. Location TBA.

Immediate Goals:

Fall *Citator* to go out to members October 2008; theme is Sustaining Member spotlight. November Newsflash, if necessary; January and February Newsflash.

New Business:

Theme for Winter *Citator* to go out to members December 2008 is 35th Anniversary Highlights.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Report

Committee Meeting Updates:

The Public Relations committee will tentatively meet November 6, 2008, over lunch.

New Business:

The PR director and Student Liaison Coordinator are discussing partnering to offer review sessions for the OSBA certification test.

Discuss holiday party, and pre- or post-holiday event suggestions, including charity walks.

Discuss forming a page on online networking sites - I.e. LinkedIn, Facebook - that would allow members to network with each other.

Old Business:

Discuss 35th Anniversary celebration.