

PACO INTERIM NEWS FLASH FOR MAY 2004

PACO Board Meeting Report

By Barry R. Kiser, Board Secretary

Below are some highlights from the April 12, 2004 Executive Board meeting and April 19, 2004 General Membership meeting:

April 12, 2004 Executive Board meeting

-There was discussion regarding the lunch policy at General Membership meetings, where some individuals who did not order lunch were taking lunches, leaving some people without a lunch after they had paid for one. It was decided to keep a closer watch on the lunches to ensure that everyone who paid for a lunch gets one.

-The possibility of purchasing money management software to assist the treasurer was discussed and will be looked into further.

-Catherine Hawes discussed the NFPA Convention that she recently attended.

-The Elections Committee reports that there are still no nominations for First Vice President – Committees, Parliamentarian and Editor.

- Eugenia Maish will be attending the Statewide meeting April in Cincinnati on Saturday April 17.

-Plans for the Law Day celebration on Monday May 17 are progressing, the proclamation has been received from the Governor's office, we are awaiting the proclamation from the Mayor's office. The catering is arranged and sponsorship letters are being mailed.

-The Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup is scheduled for Saturday May 8, we will be meeting at the Wendy's on Wilson Road just south of I-70 at 9:00 A.M.

April 19, 2004 General Membership meeting

-The joint membership proposal between PACO and the Columbus Bar Association was voted on and passed by the members of PACO.

-In connection with the upcoming elections, candidates for the Executive Board gave brief speeches introducing themselves and why they are interested in the office they are running for.

PACO would like to welcome the following NEW members!

Active Membership

Rebecca Cain (Nationwide Insurance)

*NOTE: You should have received your membership renewal notice. Please confirm your membership information and return the form to PACO **as soon as possible**. A new membership drive will begin shortly reflecting the new relationship with the CBA.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Reserve Monday, May 17 for the PACO Law Day luncheon! This exact day commemorates the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. This U. S. Supreme Court decision struck down imposed school segregation. The location of this year's event will be the atrium space of the Ohio Statehouse. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Hardin (cmhardin@vssp.com), Law Day Ad Hoc Committee Chair. Please complete reservation sheet below.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Saturday, May 8th, 9:00. Please contact Katie Essex Meet KEssex@hahnlaw.com if you haven't already and would like to participate.

Committees: We still need committee chairs and/or members. Please contact Nell Chambers at nchambers@bdblaw.com if you are interested in participating. Thank you.

Paralegal Job Bank Openings

Are you seeking new career opportunities? Are you currently in between employment opportunities or looking to make a change? Robert Half Legal is seeking the following candidates:

CORPORATE PARALEGAL: Robert Half Legal is working with a large Corporation in the Columbus area that is seeking a Contracts Paralegal. The position is in the Legal Contracts Department assisting 3 attorneys. This person should have 5+ years experience in dealing with contracts. Must be able to draft, negotiate, research, strong analytical skills and presentation skills. Prefer a paralegal with BA and certification. Competitive Salary and Benefits with a growing corporation.

PARALEGAL REAL ESTATE: Robert Half Legal has an immediate opening in a downtown Columbus law firm for paralegal to work in the area of real estate. The qualified candidate should have a minimum of 1 to 2 years experience in real estate transactions (due diligence, title and survey review, purchase agreements, loan closing, etc.) Undergraduate degree and paralegal certificate required. Outstanding benefit package and competitive salary offered with experience.

Shanrika Hall, JD, Account Executive, Robert Half Legal, 277 West Nationwide Boulevard, Suite 200, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Tel: 614-221-1544

ELECTIONS 2004

THANK YOU to the PACO members for their thoughts and participation in this year's nomination process, Candidate Forum and the upcoming Annual Meeting. A special gracious consideration goes to our Election Committee members Chris Hardin and Katie Essex. In addition to their respective Board responsibilities and Law Day preparations it was an honor to work with them on such a task. They both adapted to uncertain circumstances without hesitation exceptionally and appreciated.

PLEASE complete the absentee Ballots for the June 2004 Elections if you are unable to attend the June Annual Meeting. Remember to mark your calendar for the July Executive Board Induction Ceremony and Committee Members Appreciation.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE 2004-2005 PACO EXECUTIVE BOARD SLATE OF CANDIDATES!

President

I am Nell Chambers and I am running for President of PACO. I have been a paralegal since 1988. I was a member of PACO until 1991 and again since 1998. I have served as 2nd VP and 1st VP of PACO and have been involved in various committees as well as acted as Pro Bono chair. I want to continue to be involved in our profession by serving within our organization. This is an exciting time for PACO with the new affiliation with CBA and I look forward to a majority of the Board administrative duties being alleviated through that affiliation. I am eager to assist with that transition and to work with our members to rejuvenate our organization.

I encourage other members to become involved in PACO. Please consider running for a Board position, even those where candidates have already entered the race, including the presidency, or by becoming Chair or a member of our various committees. The life of our organization and profession lies within our members and we must all be willing to serve and step up to the plate to ensure PACO will be around for another 30 years.

Thank you,

Nell Chambers

1st Vice President

Having not participated as a member of the Executive Board with PACO in the past, my decision to run for an office was not easy to make.

However, after much soul searching, reviewing my strengths and my desire to become a more active member of PACO, I decided to run for 1st Vice President/Committee Coordinator.

My name is Lisa Dinger, and I am employed by The New Albany Company as their Manager of Legal Affairs since 1997. I have a bachelor's degree from Wilmington College in Elementary Education, and after a few years of teaching, I returned to school to obtain my paralegal certification and began my paralegal career in 1988. I have been a member of PACO since approximately in 1999 and have participated on the Paralegal Salary and CLE Committees with PACO. As a paralegal within a development company, I regret not having the time and opportunity until recently to participate more with PACO. I aspire to join the Executive Board and bring my past law firm and current corporate experience and perspective to PACO.

I think my work experience and committee experience outside of PACO more than demonstrates my ability to participate as an officer and a committee member. My experience includes being the Secretary to the New Albany Community Authority since 1997; a New Albany Company officer (including affiliate companies) since 1999; a New Albany Communities Master Trustee, Country Club Association Trustee and Preserve Master

Association Trustee since 1999; the Chairperson to New Albany Participating Builder Program since 2000; and the Corporate Liaison for the Licking Heights School District since 2001.

I am described as "tenuous" in my job, especially concerning following up on committee reports and information gathering. This is a personal quality, which I think would be advantageous to this position. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to join the PACO Executive Board to assist and support this growing paralegal organization in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Dinger

2nd Vice President - Membership:

Now that the joint membership agreement between PACO and the Columbus Bar Association has been approved by the PACO membership, I believe the coming year will be one of excitement and new challenges, not only for the PACO board but the entire membership as well.

With many of PACO's administrative tasks to be handled by the CBA, this should allow us to become a more dynamic and responsive organization, with the opportunity to return to our core mission of promoting the paralegal profession, and maintaining and even gaining additional respect within the legal community.

I hope that this expected relief from administrative burdens will encourage other PACO members to join the various committees and contribute their own fresh ideas to the organization. I know I, if elected as 2nd Vice President and membership chair, would welcome this input.

As for my background, I have been a PACO member for 4 years, and have been employed by Carlile Patchen & Murphy as a corporate and intellectual property paralegal for those 4 years. Previously, I worked for 4 years in the area of securities compliance and prior to that, I was a banker for many years.

As a candidate for 2nd Vice President – Membership, I am looking forward to working closely with the CBA on membership issues, and with all of you as mutual members of both PACO and the CBA.

Thank you,

Pam Geiser

Secretary

My decision run for PACO's Secretary was easily made. Having served as Parliamentarian this past year, I've come to value and appreciate our organization's history, especially the individuals who have served on past Boards and committees. This was most evident to me during my work on the 30th Anniversary committee and especially at its celebration. Who could come away from such an event and not feel appreciation for the dedication of those who contributed greatly to PACO? Our growing organization has benefited because of a willingness to serve. Although I have been a paralegal for a short period of time I feel that my life experiences and the support of PACO's general and Board members will continue to contribute to my success as Secretary. I have served on several Boards of Directors in the past, enjoyed my first year on the PACO's Board, and look forward to another year in a new capacity.

Thank you,

Chris Hardin

Treasurer

Dear PACO Membership,

I am excited about the opportunity to continue serving PACO as your treasurer. As you may recall, I took over for Rebekah Smith in September of last year upon her departure. My professional background includes over 15 years as a fiscal officer at Ohio State and that experience has served me well in this capacity. I have learned much in my short tenure as treasurer, and I look forward to the prospect of being a part of our collective, continued growth as a professional organization.

Thank you,

Mary Barnett

Parliamentarian

As an active member of PACO since June 2003 I wanted to take this opportunity to take an active role and volunteer my time to benefit PACO and the paralegal profession. My 11 years of experience as a Probate Paralegal has prepared me for such a role. As

supervisor my paralegal responsibilities include forms and regulation comprehension. My ability to research and interpret data while communicating the information to the staff is vital to the company and our clients. This experience translates into the Parliamentarian role. Our committee is responsible to draft the language and any respective forms for the PACO's regulations and procedures manual, which are updated to coincide with the changes in our organization and profession. I look forward the changes and any challenges this year and ask for your vote as Parliamentarian.

Thank you,

Kathyrn Neff

NFPA Primary Representative

My name is Catherine L. Hawes and I am a paralegal with the law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs. I am married to an active duty serviceman and it is because of his military commitments that I have been fortunate to practice in venues across the country. With a background of 15 years of paralegal experience in a number of diversified practice areas, I bring to this position a wealth of experience. I was the founder and president of the paralegal organization *Paralegals et al.* at Hampton University while completing my Bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies. I have a sincere interest in what goes on within this profession not only with our local organization, but also on a regional and national level. It is with that interest that I plan to put forth a zealous effort to promote not only PACO but the paralegal profession at large. I believe my experience of having had the opportunity to practice in jurisdictions nationwide will serve to assist me in dealing with paralegals and issues across the country. It is for these reasons that I ask for your support in serving another term as your NFPA Primary Representative.

Thank you,

Catherine Hawes

Statewide and NFPA Secondary Representative

When the opportunity arose to run for 2nd Statewide Rep, it wasn't an automatic choice for me as I've typically hung my volunteer hat in areas more akin to fundraising and alumni events. However, the last year's legislative events have pulled me full force into the interesting debates regarding paralegals' exemption from overtime, licensing paralegals and, certifying exams. The Leadership conference in Indianapolis, the Statewide conference and the numerous daily emails from statewide paralegal reps and NFPA reps has certainly brought me up to speed in many related areas.

But a year in this position is barely enough to get a real handle on the challenges facing paralegals across Ohio and across the country. My goal for the upcoming year is to bring this information to PACO members in a manner that lets them understand the effect upon them and future paralegals. A secondary goal is to encourage my fellow paralegals to become more involved in the PACO, statewide and NFPA groups that continue to analyze and address our future.

Eugenia Maish

Public Relations Director

When I first talked to PACO's nominating committee three years ago, my initial interest was Public Relations Director. We all know that did not happen. Three terms later and that interest has not changed. I would really like the opportunity to promote PACO and the paralegal profession as PACO's PR Director.

PACO has outstanding opportunities in which to be public. Such activities as our Adopt-the-Highway project and members' participation in pro bono efforts are all excellent opportunities for public relations and recognition as paralegals.

As a practicing paralegal with over 15 years experience in a diverse practice of law, I am qualified to publicly promote PACO and the paralegal profession to others in the legal profession as well as the general public. I anticipate that I can provide and arrange for all publicity relative to the activities of PACO and its members. There are numerous activities that can be the topic for written articles for the local news media and other publications.

Another responsibility of the PR Director is to develop PACO's speakers' bureau for speaking engagements throughout the community and I shall diligently develop the same and arrange for various speaking opportunities. One other responsibility is fund raising and there are two or three projects that could satisfy this requirement and raise money for PACO for such use as a scholarship fund.

I hope you will give me the consideration of your vote as PACO's PR Director.

Katharine L. Essex

Editor

Hello my name is Brenda Meyers. I have been a paralegal since 1993. When I was asked to consider fulfilling the for Editor Board position, I was working on the Publications committee assisting the Editor, prior to her resignation. Since that time I have volunteered on the Publications Committee from time to time as my schedule permitted. My organization and research skills will certainly contribute to the content

and scope of the Citator. My past experience does include church and local community bulletins and newsletters.

I think as humans we sometimes, overlook our own potential and at times God sends a special messenger our way to encourage us. I was recently approached to consider the Editor Executive Board position again. However this time, I graciously considered the request and now accept the challenge. Upon completion of the nomination process, I now ask for your vote. I want to thank the PACO members who have faith in my leadership potential and ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the Editor. This opportunity to serve as your Editor brings with it my not only my commitment to PACO but also the paralegal community. I will strive to maintain the high quality and standard the Citator now represents.

Thank you

Brenda Meyers

LAW DAY 2004 LUNCHEON CELEBRATION

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ohio Statehouse Atrium – Downtown Columbus at Noon

**Speaker for the Event: Ms. Janine Hancock Jones, Esq.
of the law firm Lane, Alton & Horst LLC, Columbus, Ohio**

**This Year's Theme: *The 50th Anniversary of
Brown v. The Board of Education***

Fifty years ago on this date the U. S. Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision ending segregation in public schools. The decision spoke to equal opportunity and equal protection of civil rights that resonates still. Please join us for this special event.

Cost for the celebration: \$20.00 per person

R.S.V.P. DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2004 to:

Cheryl MacDonald

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

52 East Gay Street

P. O. Box 1008

Phone: 614/464-6421; fax: 614/719-4624

Email: camacdonald@vssp.com

Make checks payable to: PACO

RESERVATION INFORMATION:

Firm/Organization:

Name(s) of attendees: _____

If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact: Christine Hardin, PACO ad hoc committee Law Day Chair: 614/464-6417 or cmhardin@vssp.com