

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Texas ALP 54th Annual Educational Conference
May 1-2, 2009
Waco, Texas

Submitted by Sheryl A. Mann

NOTE: All certification designations have been deleted from this report in the interest of brevity.

Kathie Jean Keys, Pat Rowe, Karen Moss, and I attended the Texas ALP 54th Annual Educational Conference held in Waco on May 1-2, 2009. The conference began on Friday, May 1, with registration, officer/chairmen training, and committee meetings. The Professional Development Luncheon was held on Friday. We were warmly welcomed by The Honorable Justice Tom Gray, Chief Justice of the 10th Court of Appeals. Cynthia Barrett (Houston ALP) announced that Julie Abernathy (Austin LSA, Inc.) was the recipient of the Texas ALP Legal Professional of the Year. Samantha Tandy (Midland ALP) introduced our speaker, Jay Mathis, who provided inspirational and motivational guidance entitled "High Touch Living in a High Stress World." The Luncheon was followed by a series of seminars, with topics including Civil Litigation, Elder Law, and Ethics.

The Provide Your Input portion of the conference, moderated by Leslie Stokes (Fort Worth ALP), afforded the members an opportunity to discuss the state of the Association. Kristy Turner (Waco LPA) led the discussion regarding the proposed budget for 2009-10. Two line item entries related to *The Texas Docket* were increased. Sharon Lee (Dallas ALS) addressed other *Docket* issues, including the price for ads, publication dates, and articles.

The NALS Foundation—its purpose—was discussed in great detail. The members were reminded that the NALS Foundation can be beneficial to all chapters, and encouraged to apply for grants for specific chapter projects. Leslie Stokes presented a proposal for Texas ALP to become a Circle Donor Member of the NALS Foundation. There was a spirited chat regarding the level of donation Texas ALP could make, bearing in mind that this would be an annual donation. The general consensus was that Texas would become a Silver Donor by making annual contributions of \$500.

The Open Forum was conducted by Betty Wells (Austin LSA, Inc.). Tammy Hailey presented some updates of NALS:

1. New Member Login using your name and NALS member number. Will allow renewals online, able to check and update personal information online, sign up for conferences online, and search the member directory online.
2. Resource Center. "Think Big" seminar scheduled with Jay Moore; 10 spots; weekend of August 28-29; cost is \$249 to stay on site.
3. Webinar. May 20, at 12 CDT, "Are You Sure That Your Documents are Confidential?"
4. Basic Legal Training Course. Now online.
5. Social Community. Face book page has over 600 members; twittering among members, NALS Tweet, and Ning site has over 300 members.
6. Irvine, California, meeting. 58th Annual Conference; Irvine Hyatt; meeting will be 80th anniversary in state where NALS was formed.

7. March 11-13, 2010. Double Tree Warren Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
8. October 21-24, 2010. Annual Conference in Branson, Missouri
9. Dues increase of \$8 per year beginning May 1, 2009.
10. No more new life memberships.
11. Promoting Paralegal Educators' Association.
12. NALS budget is not online.

Additional discussion was held regarding the NALS Foundation, and their theme for the meeting in Irvine. There is a \$100 fee to "Dress Your Star," who will be walking down the Purple Carpet. The NALS Foundation raised \$10,000 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Region 6 Director Tina Hurley (Dallas ALP) reported on the activities of Region 6. The Region 6 meeting is scheduled for July 17-19, 2009, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The cost is \$125, all inclusive, and includes a trip to the Clinton Presidential Library. Director Hurley reported (1) there are 1,047 members of Region 6; (2) "Think Big" is the new membership campaign, and she has T-shirts for sale promoting the campaign; (3) \$1,000 was donated by the NALS Foundation to each Region; and (4) the NALS Foundation donated jewelry to each region, and she has tickets to sell--\$5 each or 5 for \$20. For every member you sponsor from May 1, 2009, through October 1, 2009, let Tina Hurley know.

Donna Dendy (Waco LPA) discussed the proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule amendments, to which no one had any questions about. Donna Dendy and Beth Walker (NALS of Amarillo) then addressed the issue of streamlining, the Bylaws, Standing Rules, Guidelines, and calendar to eliminate duplications and to streamline the amount of paper being processed.

Tina Hurley presented the *New* Certification Tool Kit and, as Director, I received a copy of this *New* Certification Tool Kit. The Texas ALP web site was discussed, and how it is the responsibility to provide information to the web master.

The Recognition Dinner was held Friday evening, and members who passed a certification exam were recognized. Also being recognized at the Dinner were the Clara Lagow award recipients.

Saturday morning began with more seminars—Bankruptcy, Foreclosures, and Criminal Law, and then lunch was on our own.

After lunch, it was time to get down to the business meeting. President Leslie Stokes called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. The Presentation of Colors was made by Boy Scout Troop 456, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tina Hurley recited the Code of Ethics. President Stokes introduced the officers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year: President-elect Mary Smith (Waco LPA), Vice President Betty Wells, Secretary Stephanie Burns (Houston ALP), Treasurer Kristy R. Turner, and Parliamentarian Meri Nelson (Austin LSA, Inc.). President Stokes then recognized the following persons in attendance: Julie Abernathy and Tammy Hailey, Texas ALP Past Presidents, NALS Board

members, NALS Foundation Chair and Trustees, all Texas ALP members currently serving on the NALS 2009-2010 leadership team, all members and nonmembers attending their first Texas ALP meeting, Chapter Directors, and Chairmen.

Amelda Perritt (Fort Worth ALP) was appointed to serve as judge, and Scotti Beam and Patti Heaney (Austin LSA, Inc.) were appointed to serve as tellers to count all votes. David DeFranco (Houston ALP) was appointed as timekeeper to enforce the three-minute rule. President Stokes instructed the voting body on proper parliamentary format on motions and business, and announced that since the instructions on the rules of procedure were furnished in writing to the voting body prior to the meeting, the reading of same was waived.

Credentials Chair Jane Harrison (San Antonio LSA) reported 19 officers and directors were seated, for a simple majority of 10, and a two-thirds majority of 13. A quorum was declared present.

President Stokes asked if there were any questions about the Consent Agenda distributed to all attendees. The Consent Agenda, consisting of the Executive Committee Report, Minutes of the 2008 Fall Board Meeting, the Financial Review Report, and the Treasurer's Report, was approved as submitted. The Executive Committee actions taken since April 30, 2009, were ratified and confirmed. Those actions included:

1. Approval of the appointment of 2009-10 Parliamentarian, Standing and Special Committee Chairmen, and Special Committees of Credentials, E-Distributor, Professional Development, and Web Master;
2. Acceptance of the resignation of Rebecca Holland (Arlington LPA) as Chair of the Awards Committee and approval of the appointment of Stephanie Jackson (Waco LPA) to fulfill the remainder of the term as Chair of the Awards Committee;
3. Approval of the reduction in finance inventory as follows: Picture frames to \$7 each; and
4. Approval of the sales price of \$25 for the 2009 Annual Education Conference photo CDs, with profits and expenses to be shared equally between Waco LPA and Texas ALP.

Secretary Burns read correspondence received since the Texas ALP 2008 Fall Board Meeting, including notes from Julie Abernathy, Sandy Pfluger (Corpus Christi ALP), Raul and Jackie Flores (San Antonio LSA), Tina Hurley, Cheryl Moseley (Arlington LPA), Kathy Siroky (NALS Past President), Kristy Turner, and Brett Manning (Fort Worth hotel representative).

President Stokes recognized chapter anniversaries, including Corpus Christi ALP for its 55 years of existence. President Stokes then introduced the Texas ALP 2009-10 Officers as follows: President Mary Smith, President-Elect Betty Wells, Treasurer Kristy Turner, Secretary Jorie Licking (El Paso County LSA), and Parliamentarian Donna Dendy.

President-Elect Smith presented her "Journey to Success" campaign, and set out her personal goals for the Association. Parliamentarian Donna Dendy, Committee Chairmen, and Chapter Directors for 2009-10 were sworn in by President-Elect Smith.

Awards Chair Stephanie Jackson (Waco LPA) presented certificates to the Texas ALP Scholarship recipient, James Haeger, of Austin, and to the Legal Professional of the Year, Julie Abernathy.

Credentials Chair Jane Harrison praised the PALS program, and thanked all members who participated as pals to the first-timers.

2008 Fall Educational Conference Chair Dianna Roberts (Wichita County LSA) presented a check for \$1,882.09 to Texas ALP for its portion of the proceeds from the Fall Educational Conference held in Wichita Falls.

54th Annual Educational Conference Chair Brenda Atteberry (Waco LPA) reported on the registration of the meeting: 87 full, 5 students, 5 CLE only, 12 first timers, 83 Professional Development Luncheon, 82 Recognition Dinner, 119 Presidents' Banquet. The schedule for Saturday evening was announced: 5:30-6:30 photo session, 6:30-7:30 President's Reception; 7:30-10:00 Presidents' Banquet.

2009 Fall Educational Conference Chair Cheryl Wenzel reported on the meeting to be held in San Antonio on October 2-3, 2009, at the Radisson Downtown Market Square. Some amenities include Starbucks and a restaurant on the premises, Select Number beds in every room, trolley cars available, Mi Tierra and La Margarita restaurants are open 24 hours, and San Antonio LSA will be hosting their Day in Court Luncheon on the premises.

Membership Chair Betty Wells reported that as of April 30, 2009, Texas ALP had 492 members. She recognized her conductors (committee members), and announced the winners of The Texas ALP Train 2008-9 to Tomorrow campaign. Kristin Garcia (Lubbock LPA) had 1-5 virtual ticket punches, and she received a \$25 American Express card and luggage tags; Cheryl Moseley (Arlington LSA) had 6-10 virtual ticket punches, and she received luggage, a dental travel kit, and a Mary Kay getaway kit; and Bette Tower (San Antonio LSA) had 11-15 virtual ticket punches, and she received a 3-piece luggage set. Our own Kathie Jean Keys won a weekend at a bed and breakfast at the Katy House in Smithville, Texas, for having 27 total virtual ticket punches.

Finance Co-Chair Kathie Jean Keys reported on the activities of the finance committee. After many rewrites and cross-outs of the notes for her oral report, she reported we were almost sold out of T-shirts, had a sign-up sheet for the 2009 Annual Conference photo CD, there was \$751 in sales thus far, and DVDs from the CLE in Austin was available for \$20.

Treasurer Turner moved that the budget be adopted as amended; after a vote by the board of directors, the 2009-10 budget was adopted as amended.

Bylaws/Standing Rules Chair Donna Dendy presented the proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules. All proposed amendments were approved.

Dianne Waters (Austin LSA, Inc.) made a bid presentation for Austin LSA, Inc., to host the 55th Annual Educational Conference in 2010. A representative from the Airport Hilton made a presentation, inviting Texas ALP to have their conference at the Airport Hilton. After a vote, the board of directors chose the Wyndham Garden in Austin to be the host hotel. The meeting is scheduled for April 29 through May 1, 2010.

Door prizes were then distributed by vendors, host chapter, and finance committee.

Education Chair Sylvia Vela (Austin LSA, Inc.) reported on the CLE seminars presented in Austin in February 2009. A grant was provided by the NALS Foundation to assist in the facilitation of the seminars. Chair Vela reported there were 41 registrants. The seminars at the 2009 Fall Educational Conference will include International Law, Civil Litigation, Eminent Domain, Guardianships, Labor and Employment Law, and Ethics.

After a discussion, it was moved that Texas ALP would make a one-time donation of \$500 to the NALS Foundation.

Jane Harrison reported on membership, and said the focus needs to be on recruitment and retention.

President Stokes presented her closing remarks as outgoing President.

After announcements by President Stoke, the conference was recessed at 5:05 p.m.

After a quick change and a short drive, we arrived at our destination for the President's Reception and the Presidents' Banquet. The event was held in a lovely, old remodeled home. The weather cooperated, so pictures were taken in the rose garden, while guests were able to mingle around the grounds and under the large trees. We went Hawaiian for the occasion, and there were plenty of bright colors and flowers and, of course, our orchid leis. The entertainment was provided by a Polynesian couple, who encouraged several of our members and guests to participate in learning the hula.

The investiture of the 2009-2010 officers was conducted by Installing Officer Faynell Poe (El Paso County LSA), and the following officers were installed to serve Texas ALP for 2009-2010: President Mary Smith, President-Elect Betty Wells, Secretary Jorie Licking, Treasurer Kristy Turner, and Parliamentarian Donna Dendy. Following presentations and announcements, 2009-2010 President Smith adjourned the 54th Annual Educational Conference of the Texas Association of Legal Professionals.

Kathie Jean, Pat, and I hit the road pretty early on Sunday morning to head back home. The 2009 Texas ALP Fall Educational Conference will be held in San Antonio on October 2-3, 2009. If you have never attended a Texas ALP meeting, this is a great opportunity to do so. A Texas ALP meeting is an excellent occasion for networking and making new friends, getting

some terrific continuing legal education, observing the professionalism of your state officers and board members, and having fun!

I appreciated the opportunity to serve as your director.