

# Summons

## WESTERN DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS

An Association for Paralegals/Legal Assistants  
www.wdala.org

### President's Message

By Alice M. Johnson, ACP



HELLO WDALA!!! Sorry about all the caps but it seems that I get really fired up after the NALA Conference every year! Fired up about being a paralegal; fired up about NALA; and fired up about WDALA. It is impossible for me to separate the three!

This year's 2021 NALA Conference @ Home was amazing! After last year's spectacular "trial run" of doing the entire conference virtually, NALA came through with a virtual conference that blew 2020 out of the water! The meetings and sessions were easy to access, and it was a breeze to interact with fellow attendees and ask questions of the presenters. As usual, NALA had top-notch presenters for the CLE sessions and this year, they included break time discussion groups dedicated to discussions of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Paralegal Educators, Students Discussions, the Continuing Education Council, Cultivating Leadership, and the Certifying Board! I was able to participate in a few of these break time discussion groups and was, once again, re-

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## President's Message continued

mindful of the magnitude of dedication, knowledge, and enthusiasm exhibited by paralegals from all around the nation! All I can say is that I'm proud to call myself a NALA member and hope you will consider becoming one too! The benefits are beyond measure regarding my career and chosen profession!

So, what does NALA have to do with WDALA? On its surface, that answer is easy – WDALA is an affiliated organization of NALA. Below the surface, I can see how NALA encourages and supports its members, who are also members of OUR organization to be the best at what they do! These WDALA members, in turn, help to set an example of the highest integrity to our other members who, in turn, strive to hit those same heights. The effects of NALA's influence have helped grow WDALA into the premier organization it is today!

You will, undoubtedly, read much more about the conference in other articles in this *Summons*. I just wanted to give you my perspective of the conference. Fingers crossed that next year will be in person but, even if it's not, I know I'm in for a treat.

I do want to extend a hearty **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** to Melissa Hamilton, ACP, upon her installation as President of NALA for 2021-2022; to Melissa M. Klimpel, ACP, for her appointment as Professional Development Committee Chair for 2021-2022; and to Holly A. Radke for her receipt of the 2021 Affiliated Associations Award! All are well-deserved!!

It may seem that I am ignoring our members that are not NALA members, or award winners. That is not the case at all! Admittedly, NALA has been my focus recently, but the heart of my driving force is WDALA and you, its members. Your membership and participation in WDALA serve to inspire me in so many ways to push my tired brain outside its comfort zone, to make sure the accuracy of my work is top-notch, to do the best job I can at whatever I am doing, and to strive to live up to your expectations and do whatever I can for WDALA. I hope I have done at least part of that and can help bring you the benefits WDALA has brought me!

## President's Message continued

Your organization, however, needs your involvement to continue to thrive. Volunteer for a committee, state your interest in an office on the board, write an article for *The Summons*, talk to other paralegals you know and get them to join WDALA, be an ACTIVE member!! Like so many other organizations, WDALA struggles to engage its membership, and it is more and more difficult to fill its offices and committees. Remember – you are just as good as doing this as anyone else!



If you have any interest at all in actively participating as a member of WDALA, please let me know! Officer elections will be happening at our Fall Seminar, Regional Directors need to be elected by each region and committee chairs and members need to be filled. Now is the opportune time to take a step out of your comfort zone and dip your toes into the workings of WDALA. Take charge of your organization and get involved!

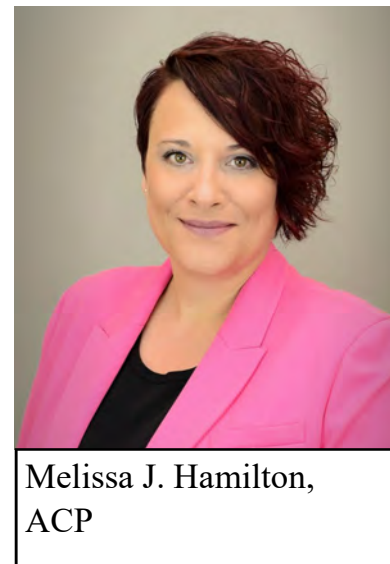
Mark Twain said ... “Don’t wait. The time will never be just right.” Maybe you are waiting for the right time to get active in WDALA. That time is now! We all have many different activities in our lives, we are all “busy” with one thing or another and we all set our priorities differently. I would like to encourage you ALL to seriously consider making WDALA a part of your priorities. WDALA is an investment in your career and I can’t emphasize enough how beneficial it is to get involved and be a part of your growth!

Lastly, I want to thank you all for being members of WDALA and for enduring me as your President! See you all at the 2021 Fall Seminar and Annual Meeting!

## Congratulations to Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, NALA President 2021-2022



Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, was installed for her 2<sup>nd</sup> term as NALA President on July 23, 2021, during the 2021 NALA Conference @ Home.

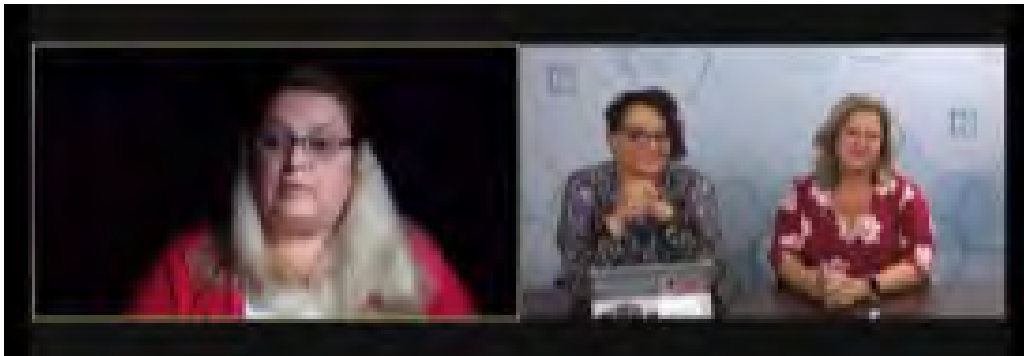


Kelly LaGrave, ACP's introduction of Melissa during her installation as NALA President:

When Melissa asked me to serve as her installing officer again this year, our hope was that this conference would be in person. Although we are only able to meet virtually, the importance and honor of the installation of Melissa as President and the wonderful officers and directors of the Board still remains. I've known Melissa for a long-time and I have watched her grow in both her professional and personal life. Melissa is the most resilient person I know. She can take any adversity or challenge and spin it in a positive manner – never letting those challenges get her down. Melissa has been the perfect person to lead this association during the “COVID” years – she never says “we can't do that” but instead asks “how can we do this and make it even better – let's look for opportunities and not failures!” I've watched her grow, engage with members and her fellow board members, accept those ideas that she at first may not have agreed upon, and champion those ideas that were important for NALA. She encourages all those she meets to participate, engage in their profession, and continue their education. Melissa sees the true value of NALA and the programs it offers. I am so excited to be here tonight watching Melissa continue her work at the helm of this Association and very excited to see her leadership in action! Melissa and I have been fellow NALA members and Board Members for years – but more importantly good friends. Thank you Melissa for the opportunity to honor you and your Board again this evening.



## Installation of Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, NALA President 2021-2022



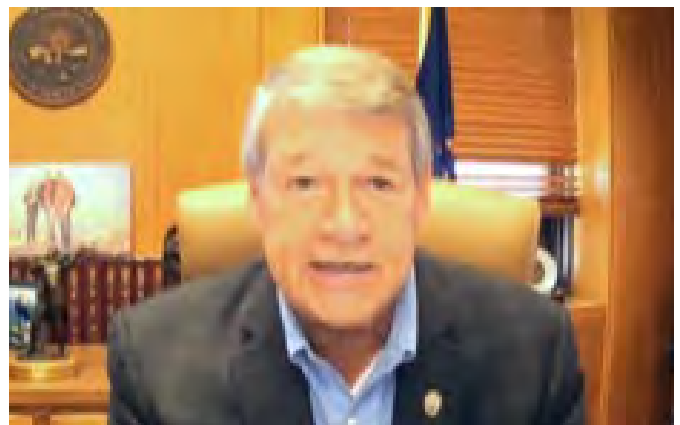
Kelly A. LaGrave, ACP (NALA President, 2014-2016);  
Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP; and Debra L. Overstreet, ACP  
(NALA Vice President)



Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP



Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP



Message from Attorney General Wayne  
Stenehjem

## **Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, NALA President's Speech**

About a year ago, after I was installed as the 2020-2021 NALA President, I invited you all to attend the 2021 NALA conference in Louisville, Kentucky – and jokingly said, “barring any HAMILTONED moments, we will be in person.” Boy that didn’t work out so well, but at least we are “somewhat” in person – we may still be virtual for conference, but NALA Vice President Debbie Overstreet, ACP and I have been able to be in person here at our new NALA Headquarters along with our awesome NALA staff who have been working tirelessly the last few months, packing care packages, mailing board and committee gifts and fielding questions to make sure that all conference attendees have a great virtual experience at the 2021 NALA Conference @ Home.

Last August, I flew down to Tulsa to meet with Vinnie to discuss our goals for the 2020-2021 year. On my way to Tulsa I stopped at a gift shop in the Minneapolis airport and found myself drawn to a bag tag with the inscription “Sometimes your only available transportation is a leap of faith.” Margaret Shepard. I bought the tag and that has been my motto for the past year – a leap of faith.

Early this year, I was starting to feel confident that we would indeed be meeting in Louisville for conference, especially since things were opening up and we were even going to finally be meeting in person for our spring board meeting. I was almost positive we would be having an in-person conference, but one final metric we needed to check was whether or not paralegals would be willing to attend in person conference. The final piece of the puzzle was that we needed to gauge interest, so NALA sent a survey to all conference attendees for the last three conferences. I will never forget getting the call from Vinnie that based on all of her research and due diligence, including reviewing the survey results which indicated 2/3 of respondents were not willing to attend an in-person conference the decision was made that we would again be virtual this year.

Was I upset? I am not going to lie, it did smart, but I got to thinking about all that has been lost to this pandemic, seniors who never got to experience their final year of high school, kids learning and parents working from home, people losing jobs and businesses, and even worse, families who lost loved ones. I will never be installed in person as NALA President, but hey, hopefully I will be the first, and ONLY virtual President of NALA.

Last year I spoke about the areas that I wanted the 2020-2021 NALA Board of Directors to focus on which were:

- Increase diversity, equity, and inclusion among members and volunteers.

**Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, NALA President's  
Speech continued**

- Develop partnerships between paralegal educators and NALA
- Look at ways to engage paralegal students and look at services to assist them as they graduate
- Explore ways to cultivate future leaders and develop a leadership program similar to discontinued LEAP program, but not LEAP program – and
- Increase micro volunteering opportunities for NALA members.

Over the past year, the NALA Board of Directors worked hard to address these areas of focus along with carrying out our strategic plan goals.

Yesterday the membership approved the Board's recommendation to amend the NALA Bylaws to make diversity, equity, and inclusion a permanent standing committee of the Corporation. There was also a diversity equity and inclusion Break Time Conversation yesterday with 184 attendees that discussed a wide variety of DE&I issues. And with the membership approval of the bylaw amendment, tomorrow morning at the First Regular meeting of the 2021-2022 NALA Board of Directors, the Board will ratify the appointment of NALA's first standing committee diversity, equity, and inclusion chair. But there is more work to do and this committee will continue to work to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion to the Corporation.

The Paralegal Educators Committee has identified ways to develop partnerships with paralegal educators and NALA and we are working on ways to engage educators in the coming year. There also were also Break Time Conversation with the Educators during conference where information was gathered for NALA to use to work to strengthen relationships. This will be an ongoing process and we are excited for this initiative.

The NALA Board realizes the importance of developing a leadership program for future NALA leaders and has tasked the Professional Development Committee to design a leadership program for future leaders of NALA, which will also be modified to allow Affiliates to grow future leaders and assist paralegals to develop and grow their everyday leadership skills. The PDC also had Break Time Conversations along with the Student's Zoom Room to learn from you what you are looking for in a leadership program. We have taken notes on your suggestions and will use these as we work to refine these goals and carry them to fruition. I would love to report that we will have a new leadership program by next year, but we want to make sure we lay a firm foundation for this program. Covid has also thrown a wrench in our timelines, but we will continue to advance this goal.

## **Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, NALA President's Speech continued**

And, last but not least, we continue to look for ways to engage NALA members in micro volunteering – we have a group of NALA members who volunteered to assist with the rewriting and updating the ACP programs and will also engage NALA members to serve on this fall's paralegal panels. We are taking baby steps, but we are making progress.

As I have said throughout the past few days, this year has not been easy, but it has been rewarding. It truly has been a leap of faith, but this year's Board was not going to let a global pandemic slow us down. We have continued to tirelessly work to advance NALA and the paralegal profession. I look forward to carrying this momentum forward in to 2021-2022 with the newly installed NALA Board of Directors. I am excited for the year ahead and all that is to come.

Thank you for joining us this year at the 2021 NALA Conference @ Home – I know it is not the same as an in-person conference . . . but . . . we are still networking with paralegals from across the country and gaining valuable CLE credits. I am not going to say anything about next year's conference, other than to report that we do have the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix Arizona reserved from July 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> for the 2022 NALA Conference. And that is all I am going to say so I don't jinx it!

I have just a few people to thank before we wrap this up, thank you Kelly A. LaGrave, ACP, for serving as installation officer – some of you may remember that Kelly handled the virtual installation last year. I asked Kelly to handle installation duties again this year (that shows you how sure I was that we were going to be in person) but alas, that was not in the cards. Thank you, Kelly for installing the 2021-2022 Board of Directors and being a great mentor and friend to me over the years, especially helping me find my way over the last year.

To Vinnie and the NALA Headquarter staff – You Guys ROCK – thank you for all your hard work pulling the 2021 NALA Conference @ Home together and handling every little glitch that has come up in addition to all the great work you do day in and day out.

I have found one positive that has come out of this “virtual” presidency – in a normal year, my family probably wouldn't be able to attend, especially my parents, Albert & Anita Kessel - dad has had a number of health issues and travel to an in person conference now would just not be possible, but he and my mom are watching from the farm I grew up on and they still live on in Fairfield North Dakota – Hi Mom & Dad – hopefully you got the link to work. Last year when I was installed they couldn't get it to work so



**Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, NALA President's  
Speech continued**

they facetimed my sister Sherri who was at my house for the installation. We had the live stream up on the TV so my family there could watch – so Sherri just facetimed my TV so that they could watch through their iPad (they could get a Facetime call to work) all the while talking and yelling at Sherri that they couldn't hear and to turn it up – it was interesting to say the least. Thank you Mom and Dad for always pushing me, not letting me slack off, and always working to be my best and figure it out. I am one of three girls in my family (and the oldest in case you haven't figured that one out yet) and my mom and dad would not allow me not to figure a way to solve something and just leave it to someone else to handle. Thanks Mom & Dad.

I would also like to recognize my in-laws Gary & Sylvia Hamilton are also watching from Gothenburg Nebraska – Hi Gary & Sylvia, as well as my husband and girls are in Bismarck North Dakota watching – Todd is actually working this afternoon so hopefully there is no severe weather right now and he is watching – if not, since we are virtual, I guess I can get a copy and let him watch it later – hmmm another positive about being virtual. I would also like to recognize my daughters Kenzie and Katie, they were tiny when I started my NALA leadership journey and are now a junior and senior in high school. At least you can drive now and can come pick me up on Sunday when I get back! Thank you for supporting me through the years as I have moved through NALA leadership and understanding when I have “NALA business” to handle.

The last year has at times seemed to be in slow motion, but in reality has flown by. I remain committed to keeping NALA the preeminent resource for individual and professional success. The paralegal profession has changed since NALA was founded in 1975, but has also remained the same – NALA remains committed to advancing paralegals through certification and professional development.

Please join us tomorrow morning at 8:45 a.m. central time for the first board of directors meeting. Also be sure to attend the Panel Discussion at 12:00 p.m. for a sneak peak at the new NALA website and an overview of your more recent NALA member benefits. Thank you for joining us this evening to watch the installation of your 2021-2022 NALA Board of Directors. Welcome to our new board members – you are joining the board at an exciting time for NALA!

Congratulations to the members of the 2021-2022 NALA Board of Directors – get ready to make the leap of faith with me over the next year, because we will be busy advancing paralegals through certification and professional development as we remain the preeminent resource for individual and professional success!

## **Congratulatory Messages from WDALA Members to Melissa Hamilton, ACP, NALA President 2021-2022**

Congratulations Melissa on the election and installation of your second term as NALA president! What a great honor! You will represent WDALA and the great state of North Dakota well! All my best wishes!

*Vicki J. Kunz, ACP  
NALA Past President, 2002-2004*



I first met Melissa through WDALA and was instantly drawn to her exuberant energy! Over the years, I have come to learn that not only is she exuberant but smart, funny, and an invaluable resource and friend! Her heart is always kind and willing to go the extra mile for anyone! I have the added advantage of being a co-worker of Melissa's and she has helped me out numerous times with questions or even just to bounce an idea off her! Melissa is one of “those people” who - when you think of them you automatically find a smile on your face!!!

Congratulations Melissa on your election as NALA President!!! Don't ever stop being who you are!!!

*Alice M. Johnson, ACP  
WDALA President*



Melissa – congratulations! You are the perfect fit for NALA President and I know you will serve it well. You provide laughter, giggles, and yes some seriousness, everywhere you go. Have fun and enjoy your time as President!

*Corrina Pfaff*

**Congratulatory Messages from WDALA Members to  
Melissa Hamilton, ACP, NALA President 2021-2022  
continued**

President Hamilton,

Congratulations on your second term as NALA President!! You were the perfect person to lead NALA during the height of a pandemic. Your grace, humor, and resiliency are qualities that were needed at such a tumultuous time. Here's wishing you a more calm and normal second term. I can't wait to see what you will do in the coming year. We are blessed to have you as a strong leader in WDALA and NALA. Thank you!

*Laurie Guenther, ACP*



Miss Melissa,

Congratulations to you as you begin your 2nd term as President of NALA!

Your enthusiasm and dedication to NALA and its members is apparent in all you do. For as long as I have known you, you have always been one of the first to volunteer and always with a smile. You remember your roots and continue to be very active in WDALA, even as your involvement at the national level increases. You seem to have a knack for blending personal and professional life by including your daughters in many of our WDALA volunteer projects. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, your time and your energy with all of us.

What an honor to be able to say that not one, not two, but three WDALA members have served as NALA President. You make North Dakota proud, Melissa!

Best wishes to you...and see if you can work on those travel issues!

*Candy Schafer, CLA*

**Congratulatory Messages from WDALA Members to  
Melissa Hamilton, ACP, NALA President 2021-2022  
continued**

Congratulations Melissa Hamilton on being installed as the NALA President for 2021-2022. When I attended my first WDALA seminar, Melissa was also one of the members that reached out to me. Being new, not knowing anyone at the seminar, and feeling a little lost, Melissa and a few of the other ladies made a point to introduce themselves to me and make me feel comfortable. Melissa cheers all of us on and wants us all to succeed in our careers and day-to-day life. Melissa is our WDALA cheerleader! Thank you Melissa for everything you do for WDALA and NALA! Congratulations!!!

*Holly Radke*



Melissa H.,

Congratulations on being installed on your 2nd term as NALA President! Thank you for all your contributions to the paralegal profession. We are lucky to have you as a great leader!

Enjoy your last year as President!

*Melissa M. Klimpel, ACP*

*Congratulations*



## NALA Board of Directors



### MEET THE NALA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022 TERM



**President**  
Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP  
Bismarck, North Dakota



**Vice President**  
Debra L. Overstreet, ACP  
Porter, Oklahoma



**Secretary**  
Cheryl J. Nodarse, ACP  
Saint Johns, Michigan



**Treasurer**  
Peonca S. Grier, CP  
Orlando, Florida



**Certifying Board Chair\***  
Lisa M. Stone, ACP  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



**Continuing Education  
Council Chair**  
Alicia R. Mitchell-Mercer, ACP  
Charlotte, North Carolina



**Professional Development  
Committee Chair**  
Melissa M. Klimpel, ACP  
Bismarck, North Dakota



**Affiliated Associations Director**  
Bridget M. Stuhr, ACP  
Wahoo, Nebraska



**Area 1 Director**  
Dana G. Welcker, ACP  
Fleming Island, Florida



**Area 2 Director**  
Angela A. Oberle, ACP  
Pawnee Rock, Kansas



**Area 3 Director**  
Vicki L. Kasper, ACP  
Midvale, Utah



**At Large Director**  
Richard Hahn, ACP  
Bel Air, Maryland



**At Large Director**  
Cassie D. Snyder, ACP  
Ocoee, Florida



**Chief Executive Officer\***  
Vanessa Finley, MBA, CAE  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

\* Non-voting

## Congratulations to Holly Radke on Receiving NALA's Affiliate Award

*Congratulations to Holly A. Radke who was presented with the 2021 NALA Affiliates Award at the NALA Conference @ Home in July. WDALA nominated Holly for this award.*

*Affiliate Awards recognize members or committees of affiliated associations for their contribution to the goals and programs of the nominating affiliated association.*

### **Holly's Nomination from WDALA:**

WDALA would like to nominate Holly A. Radke for the NALA Affiliate Award. Holly has been a member of our organization for a short time but has brought to us a unique and refreshing enthusiasm which is highly infectious!



This is Holly's 2nd year as our 1st VP and, as such, she is the chair of our Education Committee. Under Holly, WDALA was able to provide a stellar in-person seminar during the fall of 2020 following all COVID protocols. She has brought new eyes and perspectives to our seminar planning resulting in very exciting upcoming events for our association.

Holly spearheaded the research and purchase of software for our association. This is allowing us to offer our future seminars both in-person and virtually as well as being able to hold committee and board meetings virtually, saving us quite a bit of money while still maintaining the face-to-face option so many of us crave. This has also expended the attendance for our educational events exponentially!

Holly has done all of this while raising a young family, working full time, dealing with health issues and surgeries, and also being a member of a Montana paralegal organization! She leads WDALA's Education Committee flawlessly and with an enthusiasm and vitality that shines!



WDALA is very proud to nominate Holly A. Radke for the Affiliated Associations Award!



## 2021 NALA Conference @ Home



Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP (NALA President) and Debra L. Overstreet, ACP (NALA Vice President)



Vanessa Finley, MBA, CAE (NALA CEO) and Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP (NALA President)



Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP (NALA President); Vanessa Finley, MBA, CAE (NALA CEO) and Debra L. Overstreet, ACP (NALA Vice President)



First Regular Meeting of the 2021-2022 NALA Board of Directors

## 2021 NALA Conference @ Home

By Ashley Miller



Hello WADALA!

First of all, I would like to thank WADALA for providing me with the opportunity to participate in the 2021 NALA Conference at no cost. I feel very fortunate I was able to attend the 2021 NALA Virtual Conference as it was an invaluable experience for me.

Currently I'm studying for the CP exam so I attended all of the CP review courses offered. All of the presenters did a fabulous job discussing the different topics. The courses helped me feel more prepared for the exam while also helping me recognize which areas I need to study further. Being able to attend the conference virtually was awesome and I hope they continue to have that option available in the years to come. I only observed one glitch that occurred which was quickly remedied. This is amazing to me considering all that was involved in providing the conference virtually.

I really enjoyed the Q&A option that allowed you to ask the presenter questions during the pre-recorded presentations. Being able to chat with the other attendees from around the US was also fun. I left the conference feeling excited and motivated about my job and advancing my career. Being able to attend virtually was comfortable and allowed me to focus without being distracted by what was going on around me. It was so much fun to be surrounded (virtually) by so many people passionate about being a paralegal/legal assistant and what we do. I can't wait for next year!





## 2021 NALA Conference @ Home

By Anna Oleksik, CP

I am grateful to WDALA and NALA for my recent experience at the 2021 NALA Conference @ Home. Lately, my timing to go to seminars has been off. So when WDALA offered to sponsor 5 members to attend the national conference, I jumped at the opportunity. I took the following courses: CP Review – Civil Litigation, Insurance Law – Duties of the Insurer, Internet Law – Communications Decency Act, Effective Allyship, Legal Immigration Needs – What You Should Know, Spoliation of Social Media Evidence, A Look Inside Crime Scene Investigation, The Ins and Outs of Insurance Law, & An Interactive Writing Lab. Wow, that's a lot of classes when I write them all out! The virtual platform was super user friendly and I liked how everyone could easily "chat" or direct questions to the presenter while they were speaking.

My favorite classes were: The Ins and Outs of Insurance Law, Insurance Law – Duties of the Insurer, Legal Immigration Needs – What You Should Know, and Internet Law – Communications Decency Act. I'm not sure how purposeful it was, but I'm really impressed how NALA was able to host presenters and subject matter that are so relevant to what is going on in the world. Most of the classes applied content to real world stories and examples that the presenters experienced or that have been in the news lately. My favorite podcasts that I religiously listen to are news and economics podcasts. So it was fun to listen to Rebecca Gilliland talk about how insurance coverage might work with respect to the Surfside, Florida Condo Collapse. Daniel C. Tepstein's presentation on the Communications Decency Act made me scratch my head that posting untrue information in a newspaper could get you in a lawsuit, but using the internet as a medium for the same information would not. Anne Geraghty spoke about her personal volunteering experience at the United States & Mexico border and then related those experiences to give us an in depth look at how immigrants are gaining or not gaining access to the United States and the different legal and illegal vehicles to do that. I enjoyed these three speakers the most. Who knew that insurance law could be so interesting? I ended up taking both of self-proclaimed "insurance nerd" Rebecca Gilliland's classes. I regret that I wasn't able to take Daniel C. Tepstein's other course on Enforcing Online Contracts because it was at the same time as another class I was interested in. With any of these presenters I would have been happy to sit and listen to them for another hour or two. I loved the relation of the subject matter to real world events, but then also getting an in depth look at the law behind those events. My conclusion: What a mess, and no one wins! But I suppose that's what keeps my job as a paralegal so interesting.

## Volunteer Spotlight on Holly Radke



### ***Why do you volunteer for WDALA?***

I volunteer for WDALA because I love helping other paralegals. I remember what it was like when I first started this career 13 years ago and how intimidating it can be. I have had some amazing mentors in my career that have helped me get where I am today, so I am just trying to pay it forward.

### ***Which event is your favorite? Why?***

Fall Seminar - I love being able to get together and see as many of our members as possible.

### ***Do you have a favorite memory from volunteering?***

I think it's hard to pinpoint just one favorite memory, it is more like a favorite category as all my favorite memories seem to fall under the same category. For me it is the conversations with the speakers. The best part of being on the education committee is lining up the speakers. The intelligent conversations that may occur when trying to secure the speaker, to the conversations I will have while entertaining the speaker for a few minutes until it's their time to speak, to speaking with them afterwards. I love it all. When I look at some of the speakers we have had in the past and our amazing upcoming line of speakers for our next seminar, I just think of how often would I have had the opportunity to have these conversations with these people in these professions if I was not volunteering in this position.

### ***What would you tell new members about volunteering for WDALA?***

Volunteering is a great way to get involved with WDALA and surrounding communities. It is also a great way to make connections and get to know other members. Volunteering for WDALA will help further your career without you even knowing it.

## Volunteer Spotlight on Holly Radke continued

### *What motivates you to stay involved?*

I really enjoy the networking within the board and the committees. I have made some great friendships! CLE's are mandatory to maintain your certification so it's great to be involved with helping organize the seminars. I also take mental health very seriously and we all know that in the legal world it can be very stressful and tolling on your mental health at times. I like to personally be involved with WDALA so that I have more of a direct contact with the members and can help them with anything they may need help with.

### *What volunteer contribution or achievement are you most proud of?*

Getting the virtual option set up for our seminars. Being able to offer this to our members I felt was a huge achievement for WDALA and a way to increase revenue. It also provides another option for those that are not able to attend in-person but want to attend our seminar.

### *What other organizations or causes do you volunteer for and support?*

Anything that my kids sign me up for. They know I'm a sucker and they like to volunteer Mom for everything!!! Haha. I am very active in all my children's sports activities and school so anything that arises with those I'm usually involved. Our 15 year old son is also in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and both my husband and I are volunteers. I help out administratively with the USNCC and we also house all the out-of-town cadets when they come for drill once a month so we are the "house parents". We also foster dogs in an emergency situation or help out with transporting them.



### *Tell us a fun fact about yourself!*

I have been with my husband since I was 14 years old and we just celebrated 25 years together.

## Legislative Highlights

By Sara Behrens, Attorney



The 2021 Legislative Session began on January 5, 2021 and adjourned on April 29, 2021 and 507 bills were passed. Below are a few of the bills that may be of interest to you.

### ASBESTOS

HB 1207 creates a new chapter in title 32 governing procedures in asbestos litigation. The new chapter will require the plaintiff to provide evidence early on in the litigation or face dismissal of the action. All asbestos actions now take place in Cass County, but if your firm handles any asbestos matters, it is something you will want to be familiar with. Statutes amended: N.D.C.C. § 28-01.3-04; Statutes created: N.D.C.C. ch. 32-46.2

### STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

HB 1251 changed the 10 year statute of limitations to 20 years with no renewal. Judgments entered beginning on August 1, 2021, will have a 20 year statute of limitations. Judgments entered prior to that date will still need to be renewed. Statutes amended: N.D.C.C. §§ 28-20-13, 28-20-22, 28-20-23, and 28-20-35; Statutes repealed: N.D.C.C. §§ 28-20-21, 28-20-22, 28-20-23 (on August 1, 2031)

### SMALL CLAIMS

SB 2055 adds to the statute that small claims affidavits must be served via certified mail, restricted delivery rather than regular certified mail. This is to ensure that the affidavit is received by the person named in the claim. Statutes amended: N.D.C.C. § 27-08.1-02



**Legislative Highlights continued****FAMILY LAW MATTERS**

HB 1190 sets the date for valuation of marital property and debts as 60 days before the scheduled trial date. The judge can alter the valuation if there is a substantial change between the valuation date and trial. Statutes amended: *N.D.C.C. § 14-05-24*

SB 2132 provides that the child support obligation of an incarcerated parent is suspended during incarceration. Statutes amended: *N.D.C.C. § 14-09-09.38*

SB 2340 amends the definition of “abandon” for purposes of termination of parental rights. A parent abandons the child if the parent, without justifiable cause, fails to communicate through physical contact or oral conversation with the child. This arose from a matter in which a biological parent sent a card once a year but no other contact was made. The change is to try to avoid an argument that the one card a year is sufficient contact to avoid termination of parental rights. Statutes amended: *N.D.C.C. § 14-15-01*

**GUARDIANSHIP**

HB 1049 creates a procedure to challenge a guardian’s restriction on visitation and communication with the ward. It provides that the person aggrieved by the restriction can bring a motion to have the restriction removed or modified. There is also a provision for award of attorney’s fees if the restriction is found to be unreasonable or if the motion to lift the restriction is found to be frivolous. Statutes created: *new section to N.D.C.C. ch. 30.1-28*.

SB 2057 requires a guardian to obtain court approval prior to the sale or lease of real property and personal property over \$2,500 and provides the procedure to be followed. Statutes created: *new section to N.D.C.C. ch. 30.1-28*; Statutes amended: *N.D.C.C. §§ 30.1-28-12 and 30.1-29-09*.

**Legislative Highlights continued****JUVENILE**

HB 1035 is a reorganization of the Juvenile Court Act. It creates chapters 27-20.2, 27-20.3, and 27-20.4. Deprived children are now referred to as Children in Need of Protection (CHIPs) and unruly children are now referred to as Children in Need of Services (CHIPs). There is also a new provision for appointment of an attorney for juveniles as they are presumed to be indigent.

*Sara Behrens is a staff attorney in the North Dakota Supreme Court's Office of State Court Administrator. She grew up in Minot, North Dakota but attended school at Des Lacs-Burlington. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota. She graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law with Honors in 2006. After law school, she spent a year as the judicial law clerk for the South Central Judicial District. She then went into private practice in Grand Forks, North Dakota with Zimney Foster, P.C. until 2014 when she took a position with the North Dakota Insurance Department and moved closer to home and family. Sara worked at the North Dakota Insurance Department until she began employment with the Court in August of 2018. In her current position as staff attorney, she serves as staff on several judicial committees tasked with reviewing of court rules, orders, and programs, proposing amendments or repeal of existing rules and programs and proposing new rules and programs for consideration by the Supreme Court. In her spare time, Sara runs a cat rescue called Purrfect Pound Pals.*



## Practicing Civility in an Adversarial Profession

By Kari M. Knudson, Chief Deputy Clerk for the US District Court for the District of ND



“How you treat people means everything – whether they will trust you, build relationships with you, follow you, support you, and work hard for you, or not.”  
- *Mastering Civility* by Christine Porath

The legal profession creates adversarial situations daily. Legal pleading literally begins with “us” versus “them.” Lawyers and other legal professionals are taught to zealously advocate for their clients – obligations we all take very seriously. The adversarial nature of the legal business can often bleed over into our interactions with co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, and clients.

A couple of years ago, I was fortunate to be part of the Federal Judicial Center’s Judiciary Executive Leadership Program. The curriculum consisted of exposure to a variety of leaders from business, government, and academia who offered a range of current thinking about leadership and management competencies and practices. The topic of civility resonated with me. As the Chief Deputy Clerk for the federal district court in North Dakota, I directly supervise other supervisors and a variety of clerk’s office personnel. I also interact with a wide range of people including, lawyers, inmates, prospective jurors, and members of the general public. I’ve navigated a multitude of technological advancements, several new judicial officers, an ever-increasing administrative structure, and a changing workforce. I’ve found that often the most challenging part of my work life is navigating situations involving incivility.

Recent studies show that among staff who have been on the receiving end of incivility: 48% intentionally decreased their work effort; 47% intentionally decreased the time spent at work; 38% intentionally decreased the quality of their work; 80% lost work time worrying about the incident; 63% lost work time avoiding the offender; 66% said their performance declined; 78% said their commitment to the organization declined; 12% said they had left their job because of the uncivil treatment and 25% percent admitted to taking their frustration out on clients.<sup>1</sup> With data like that, how can we not put some effort into practicing civility?

So how can we ensure we practice civility? What follows is a collection of what I found to be the most salient points on the subject from two books: *Mastering Civility: A Manifesto for the Workplace* by Christine Porath and *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-five Rules of Considerate Conduct* by P.M. Forni.

## Practicing Civility in an Adversarial Profession continued

Civility starts with each of us. To begin addressing the issue of civility, we first need to look at ourselves. Do we consistently model civil behavior? Author Christine Porath suggests we take an “incivility test” to look closely at how we treat others. Here’s a sample of questions from her 32-question incivility test:

Do you ever do any of these?:

- neglect to say please and thank you;
- fail to listen;
- allow yourself to be distracted by electronic devices during conversations;
- fail to honor the value of others’ time;
- interrupt others; or
- belittle others nonverbally (e.g., roll your eyes, smirk).<sup>2</sup>

I suspect very few of us could honestly answer that we never engage in these actions. I know I can’t; interrupting seems to be in my DNA. However, by reflecting on how we treat others, we can identify the areas where we can improve.

A few “rules of civility” which we can implement in our daily work lives caught my attention, including: email civility, showing appreciation, respecting others’ time; being assertive; and apologizing earnestly.



Email dominates daily work life. Humor, sarcasm, and criticism often do not come across as you intend in an email. Don’t write things in an email that you wouldn’t say to a person’s face. Don’t take the bait and respond to a snarky or passive aggressive email with the same. My favorite email pointer came from author Christine Porath: “Never send anything to a business address that the recipient would be embarrassed to have the entire organization read.” I think we would all pause before hitting send if we knew the contents of our email would be read aloud over a public address system at opposing counsel’s law firm or in the courthouse.



## Practicing Civility in an Adversarial Profession continued

Take time to show appreciation to those around you. Take time to notice and recognize when someone positively impacts you or your work. All it takes is a quick email, a handwritten note, or a brief conversation conveying what the person did, how it eased your workload, and how much you appreciate the help. Don't confine your appreciation to people in your workplace. As a supervisor, I love receiving a note from a juror or attorney who compliments a member of the court staff. Genuine appreciation is a powerful tool to encourage repeated positive behaviors.

Respect other peoples' time and value it as much as your own. When speaking with someone devote your complete attention to them. It takes effort to ignore that buzzing cell phone or chiming Apple watch but try to focus your attention on the person in front of you and not on your nearby devices. When calling someone or stopping by their office, inquire whether they have a few minutes to talk – you may be interrupting them at an inopportune time. Be ready for the answer to be “no,” and if it is, set a time to speak later, when both of you can devote your full attention to the matter at hand.

It may sound counter-intuitive but learning to say no is part of practicing civility. It's acknowledging when we are over-extended, when we can't devote our full attention to someone, and when engaging in the activity would result in us violating another principle of civility. Think of it this way, it's often the start of a compromise: “No, I can't discuss the project now, but I am available this afternoon.” Failing to say “no” may prevent you from devoting full attention to someone or may prevent you from honoring a prior commitment or deadline.

Make earnest apologies. Apologizing earnestly conveys that we know exactly what we did wrong and that we understand the effect of our actions. Don't offer an excuse. Consider the following apologies, which seems more earnest?

“I'm sorry I yelled at you on the phone, but I'm under a lot of stress these days” or

“I want to apologize for yelling at you. There is no excuse for that. I can only say that it won't happen again.”<sup>3</sup>

The second version takes ownership of the uncivil behavior and does not offer an excuse or explanation.

## Practicing Civility in an Adversarial Profession continued

Finally, let me leave you with author P.M. Forni's response to the question of whether being treated with incivility gives us a license to treat others with incivility.

"Are we always to be polite or are there circumstances that call for a less than civil response?" . . . I simply cannot conceive of any circumstance in our own daily lives when it would be appropriate or advantageous to be rude or boorish. The powerful combination of self-respect and respect for others should make it almost impossible for us to choose incivility, if we manage to remain clearheaded even in challenging situations.

But what if we are dealing with somebody whom we don't respect or who says or does something we believe to be wrong? The answer is simple: let's not lose sight of our own standards of behavior, of our own rules of engagement. It is possible to be civil and true to one's beliefs at the same time. The issue is not whether to stand firm or compromise but how to express our firmness. When we express it with poise rather than rudeness, not only are we truer to our better selves, but we infuse our dissent with a power that it wouldn't have otherwise. To brawl is human. To be civil works.<sup>4</sup>

I encourage you all to consider how you can infuse a bit more civility into your work in the adversarial system of the practice of law.

<sup>1</sup>C. Pearson and C. Porath, *The Cost of Bad Behavior: How Incivility is Damaging Your Business and What to Do about It* ( New York: Portfolio/Penguin Group, 2009); and C. Porath and C. Pearson, "The Price of Incivility." *Harvard Business Review*, January-February 2013.

<sup>2</sup>*Mastering Civility: A Manifesto for the Workplace*, Christine Porath p. 51-53.

<sup>3</sup>*Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct*, P.M. Forni, p. 107.

<sup>4</sup>*Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct*, P.M. Forni, p. 157.

*Kari M. Knudson graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2001. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Dale V. Sandstorm of the North Dakota Supreme Court; and the Honorable Patrick A. Conmy and the Honorable Daniel L. Hovland of the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota. Since 2007, she has served as the Chief Deputy Clerk for the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota.*

## Court Reporting

By Ronda Colby, RPR, CRR, RMR, District Court Reporter



The ABA definition of a court reporter states: A person who transcribes by shorthand or stenographically takes down testimony during court proceedings, a deposition, or other trial-related proceeding. My translation would simply state we are the guardians of the record. Think of it this way, court reporting is like playing piano. There are 22 keys on my machine representing the most-used consonants and vowels. Court reporters press the keys in groups, like piano chords, to form other letters or words phonetically. The more syllables for a word, the more strokes we may need. That is, unless we create a brief, or shortcut, for those multisyllabic words and phrases that would most often occur during a trial or hearing. It's very similar to learning a foreign language. Most often I can read another court reporter's notes, but if you were to try and read it, it would look like a foreign language.

Remember how long it took you to learn the QWERTY keyboard? Once you learn the steno keyboard, all you need to do is build up your speed and away you go! Imagine being able to text someone at 300 words per minute only using acronyms. That's court reporting in a nut shell.

I have been a court reporter now for 28 years and it never ceases to amaze me how challenging and exciting this career is. When I first began reporting, I soon realized just how little I knew about what it meant to be a court reporter. My first job I took was working freelance in Fargo, North Dakota. Back then there wasn't much time for on-the-job training...it was more like being thrown to the wolves. What I do remember is walking into that attorney's office and being greeted by a very friendly paralegal who quickly swept me into the conference room and helped put my mind at ease. Through the years I learned to build relationships with more paralegals than attorneys. They would often help me find spellings of names I couldn't locate (pre-Google) and dig through exhibits to help me find what I was look-

## Court Reporting continued

ing for to get the transcript produced and off my desk.

The ABA definition of a paralegal is as follows: A person, qualified by education, training or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible. My translation, the bread-and-butter of a law firm. Truly there's no job too big or too small for a paralegal. I'm privileged to get to work with you.

PARALEGAL



If you think about what you may do in your role, perhaps most importantly would involve keeping lawyers organized and prepared so that they can do their job and do it well. Not only do you do that, but you also help people like me do my job well. I wanted to highlight a couple things for you to consider when thinking about a court reporter's role in a trial or deposition.

Have you ever gotten a call at your office from a court reporter asking for help with a spelling or case citation? While it may seem strange that you might receive a call out of the blue asking you if you're familiar with a case citation that sounds like "DAH-BEAR," please know that we've looked high and low to find the correct spelling. Court reporters are perfectionists, and we will go to the ends of the Earth trying to locate such things. (Imagine what my Google history looks like.)

If you have any part in prepping witnesses for trial, please explain the role of a court reporter to them. Remind them to wait for the attorney to finish their question, take a breath, and then speak slowly and clearly when providing their answer. Stress to them it is important to wait to hear the entire question

## Court Reporting continued

before providing an answer. If a court reporter does ask them to repeat something, do not provide further explanation just repeat their answer.

Finally, the next time you're sitting in trial or deposition, look at the court reporter and put yourself in their shoes. Could you imagine listening to every word -- every single word that a lawyer says for hours on end? On average a typical court reporter can make as many as 90,000 strokes a day. That's a lot of work. We most definitely need and appreciate those breaks throughout the day. Put in a good word for us when you talk to the attorneys you work with reminding them that reporters need a lunch break too!

Thank you for answering my calls through the years and for the enormous amount of help you have provided me. I appreciate the opportunity to visit with you. Call me if you ever need help with a punctuation rule or if you'd like to debate the use of an Oxford comma.

***"Thank you  
for  
answering  
my calls  
through the  
years and for  
the  
enormous  
amount of  
help you  
have  
provided  
me."***

*Ronda Colby is an Official District Reporter for the District of North Dakota. Ronda is a Registered Professional Reporter, a Certified Realtime Reporter, as well as a Registered Merit Reporter. Throughout her career she has covered all aspects of court reporting that include freelance and CART for hard of hearing students. Outside of work Ronda enjoys camping, walking her dog, and watching her kids participate in their sporting activities.*





**Paralegal Day: June 24, 2021**

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### LEGAL ASSISTANT/PARALEGAL DAY

JUNE 24, 2021

WHEREAS, legal assistants, also known as paralegals, use their skills and expertise to make vital contributions to the quality of legal services offered to North Dakota's citizens; and

WHEREAS, with a wide variety of roles and responsibilities, legal assistants/paralegals improve the efficiency and capacity of their organizations in both the public and private sectors; and

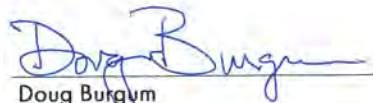
WHEREAS, there are currently two professional legal assistant/paralegal associations in North Dakota: the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants and the Red River Valley Paralegal Association; and

WHEREAS, both associations are affiliates of the National Association of Legal Assistants – NALA – the Paralegal Association, which is celebrating 46 years of service to legal assistants/paralegals and the legal community nationwide; and

WHEREAS, legal assistants/paralegals are making important contributions to their profession and workplace, and North Dakotans are encouraged to recognize the significant role they play in the legal process of our state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
June 24, 2021, LEGAL ASSISTANT/PARALEGAL DAY in the State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Alvin A. Jaeger  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## Paralegal Day: June 24, 2021 continued



State of North Dakota  
Office of the Governor  
Doug Burgum  
Governor

*Doug Burgum*

Anna Heinen; Alice Johnson, ACP; Governor Doug Burgum; Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Charlene Smith, ACP; and Melissa Klimpel, ACP



Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Melissa Klimpel, ACP; Alice Johnson, ACP; Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem; Charlene Smith, ACP; and Anna Heinen



Region III Paralegal Day Luncheon at Stonehome: Jen Defoe, ACP; Alice Johnson, ACP; Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Anna Heinen; Becka Wohl, ACP; Vicki Kunz, ACP; Candy Schafer, CLA; Ashley Miller; and Melissa Klimpel, ACP



## Paralegal Day - A Blast from the Past



Paralegal Day 1995: Former Governor Ed Schafer; Char Jacober, ACP; Laurie Guenther, ACP; and Dianne Taix, ACP



Paralegal Day 2006: Linda Hagen, CLA; Former Governor John Hoeven; and Marsha Greenup (Former WDALA Member)



Paralegal Day 2007: Tami Hulm, ACP; Former Governor John Hoeven; and Melissa Hamilton, ACP



Paralegal Day 2012: Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Laurie Guenther, ACP; Former Governor Jack Dalrymple; Jen Defoe, ACP; and Melissa Klimpel, ACP

## Officers/Board of Directors' Reports

### 1st Vice President's Report

By Holly A. Radke



How is summer almost over already??? Does anyone else feel like this year has been flying by? From politics to pandemics to fires, it's been one heck of a year. I hope everyone's summer has been going well and everyone is staying healthy with all the smoke in the air. I know the increase in smoke has really flared up issues with individuals with asthma and allergies, so I worry about everyone and their health. How was everyone's 4<sup>th</sup> of July? Ours was a little different this year for us as our area was under a fire ban and we were in the "red zone" so the kids were a tad disappointed that we couldn't do fireworks, but they understood. We have had a

few fires a little too close to our home the last few months so my anxiety level may be rising a little more and I may be stalking the weatherman! Haha. Pray for rain!!

I'm so glad that we were able to hold the 2021 WDALA Spring Seminar this year both in-person and virtually. If you were not able to make it to our Spring Seminar but still need some CLE credits you are in luck! The 2021 WDALA Fall Seminar is right around the corner! Mark your calendar for September 13-14. When I say you will not want to miss this seminar you better believe it. The education committee worked hard on securing some amazing speakers and I'm so excited to see their presentations! We have a great line up of professionals - judges, court reporters, attorneys, and more. We will be learning about Ethics in the Courtroom, Criminal Law, Women's Suffrage and much more!!! To say I am excited about this seminar might be a total understatement – I am ecstatic and can barely hold my excitement!!! We are offering the seminar both in-person and virtually so if you are unable to attend in-person there is the virtual option. We feel fortunate to be able to offer this to our members and just know that we are trying our very best to not only put on an amazing seminar for our members but to give you other options if you are unable to attend in-person so I hope you take advantage of this! Come show some love and support to these amazing ladies that have put in so much work to pull this seminar off for you.

Speaking of seminars – who was able to attend the NALA Conference? I am so glad I made the decision to attend again this year. This was my second year attending and again it was amazing! I may have to make this a yearly thing! The only problem I had was trying to decide which session to pick when faced with two sessions in the same



## 1st Vice President's Report continued

time slot that were both of interest to me. I wanted to do them both! Lol. I truly did learn a lot! I also made some great new connections! I really hope the NALA Conference next year is in-person as I have made it a bucket list item of mine to attend one in-person!!! Have I mentioned how awesome it is to have two of our own WDALA members serve on the NALA Board of Directors!!!! Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, serves as the President and Melissa M. Klimpel, ACP, serves as the Professional Development Committee Chair. Please help me congratulate these two! Congratulations Melissa J. Hamilton and Melissa M. Klimpel!!! Making North Dakota and WDALA proud!!!

At the NALA Conference I was awarded the 2021 Affiliate Award. I feel completely humbled that WDALA nominated me. You guys are simply amazing!!! I truly do love my job and I feel fortunate to get to be a part of WDALA. I strive to help in any way that I can and give back to the current members as all the members before me have done for myself and all of us. I have some pretty big shoes to fill. WDALA has had some outstanding ladies pave the way and make WDALA what it has become today.

In this profession, social networking is not only vital to our careers, but it is a good way to try to stay sane in the legal profession. Having a group of amazing legal professionals that you can lean on for support whenever needed is amazing. I am extremely grateful for my mentors! I strongly encourage anyone who hasn't been able to attend a WDALA seminar yet to take the plunge and attend our upcoming Fall Seminar. Do some networking, make some friends, relax, get your CLE's in, learn something new, and have fun!!!

The last few months the education committee has been busy planning the Fall Seminar. We are working with the Heritage Center to make sure we meet all the COVID-19 requirements and recommendations to hold a seminar and keep everyone's health and safety our #1 priority. Hoping to see all you amazing paralegals on September 13-14, 2021 at the Heritage Center in Bismarck!

Be watching your inbox for information on the 2021 WDALA Fall Seminar and other new and exciting events coming soon from the education committee!

Hope to see everyone next month!

## **Officers/Board of Directors' Reports continued**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**By Anna Heinen**



Hello SUMMER!! I hope everyone is getting their summer fix with all of this heat! We have been busy with summer activities and I feel like this summer has flown by. I am looking forward to our Fall Seminar in Bismarck on September 13-14<sup>th</sup>, and cannot wait to see all of you again!

The treasurer balance for the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants as of July 28, 2021, is \$12,964.25.

### **NALA Liaison's Report**

**By ReBecca Wohl, ACP**



We are “back” from the NALA virtual conference, and it was another complete success. Every speaker I listened to was knowledgeable, easy to follow, and did live Q&A as follow up to their recorded sessions! One of the most exciting things to be announced at conference this year is that NALA is working on a new, easier to use website. The new website should be accessible soon, and I’m very excited to see what the new platform looks like and how it interacts.

The dates for NALA Conference 2022 were announced. Conference will be held July 14-16, 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona. I am very excited for an in-person conference, as I have only attended virtually. While virtual is a fantastic option, I look forward to physically networking and introducing myself to those whose names I have come to recognize on my screen.

## NALA Liaison's Report continued

There was a wide range of material available for the 2021 conference. Some of the seminars I was able to attend were Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Lasting Legacy, Avoiding Unauthorized Practice of Law, the Art of Search, Effective Allyship, and Anatomy of a Complex Murder Case. The beauty of conference is that it allows to you attend CLE sessions that you may not have access to, or think to attend otherwise. Both the allyship and anatomy of a murder case sessions were extremely eye opening, and very informative! I enjoyed learning about new areas of the law that I would not normally think to delve into.

I was also able to attend the Affiliated Associations Annual Meeting and Exchange Presentation, where WDALA Vice President Holly Radke received the Affiliate Award. This award recognizes members or committees of affiliated associations for their contributions to the goals and programs of the nominating affiliated association. Congratulations and thank you for all you do for WDALA, Holly!

Another WDALA member, Melissa Klimpel, ACP, was installed on the NALA Board of Directors as the Professional Development Committee Chair. This is Melissa's second year as PDC Chair. Melissa is also our Summons Editor and although she likes to fly "under the radar" she has done a great job for both WDALA and NALA. Congratulations on your achievements Melissa!

And last but not least, Melissa Hamilton, ACP was installed as NALA President for her second term. It is so neat that WDALA has such a solid presence in NALA. Melissa is doing wonderful things for NALA and I look forward to seeing what the next year holds! Congrats Melissa and good luck for your next year!

## Region III Volunteer Projects

By Laurie Guenther, ACP and Melissa Klimpel, ACP



Region III hosted its 10th Annual Picnic for Drug Court on June 16th at Sertoma Park in Bismarck. Around 60 people attended the picnic which included the Drug Court participants and their families, the Drug Court staff (including Judge Romanick and Judge Feland), and Region III WDALA members. The picnic turned out to be a huge success.



We want to thank the following Region III members and local businesses who donated money, food, time, and amusement park bracelets:

- Bonnie Banks, CP
- Linda Hagen, CLA
- Melissa Hamilton, ACP
- Anna Heinen
- Alice Johnson, ACP
- Vicki Kunz, ACP
- Candy Schafer, CLA
- Becka Wohl, ACP
- Richard Fleckenstein of Super Slide Amusement Park and Mini-Golf

Melissa Klimpel, ACP;  
Melissa Hamilton, ACP;  
Laurie Guenther, ACP; Alice  
Johnson, ACP; Linda Hagen,  
CLA; and Candy Schafer,  
CLA





## Notice of Annual Meeting and Slate of Officers

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants will be held at the ND Heritage Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, hear reports of officers and committee chairs, adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and hear other business which may come before the membership.

### **SLATE OF OFFICERS**

Pursuant to Article XII of the Bylaws of the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants, a slate of officers shall be presented to the membership thirty days prior to election.

The following individuals have consented to have their names placed on the ballot for election of officers at the Annual Meeting of the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants on September 14, 2021, at Bismarck, North Dakota.

President	Alice Johnson, ACP
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Holly Radke
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Kathy Johnson, CLA
Secretary	Charlene Smith, ACP
Treasurer	Anna Heinen
NALA Liaison	ReBecka Wohl, ACP

Nominations from the floor shall be accepted and election shall be by majority vote of the members present, either in person or by individual proxy. The term of service shall be one year or until their successors have been elected or appointed and qualified.

## FOLLOW WDALA ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

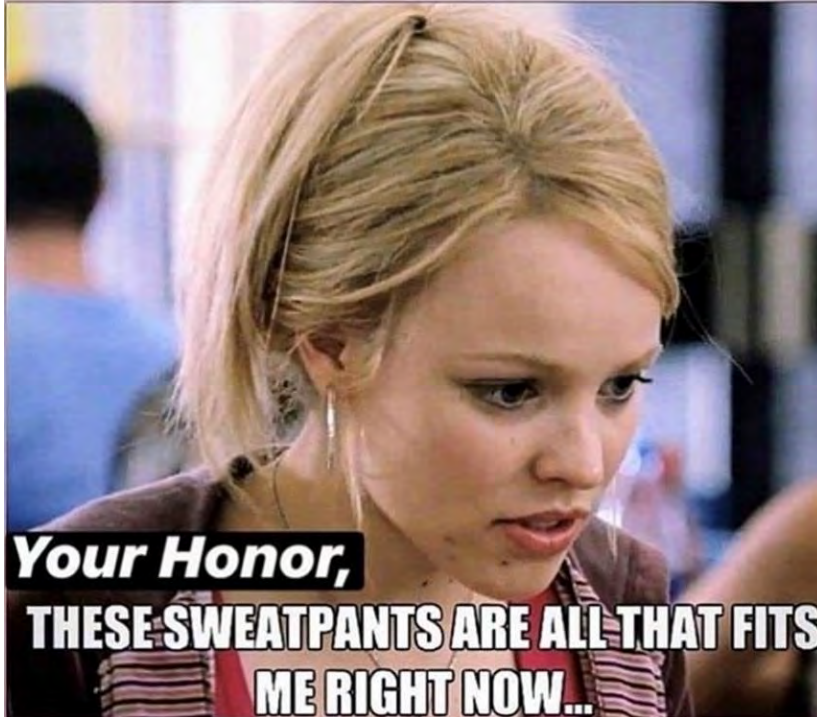
Facebook: WDALA (Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants)



## **REMINDER:**

WDALA scholarship applications must be received by ReBecka Wohl, ACP (WDALA's NALA Liaison) no later than September 1, 2021.

**Me, when court reopens:**



**Your Honor,  
THESE SWEATPANTS ARE ALL THAT FITS  
ME RIGHT NOW...**



*Thanks*

for the phone call about the email about  
the fax about the voicemail about the note  
you left me.

- Anonymous

## Officers/Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Committees

### OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.....	Alice Johnson, ACP
First Vice President.....	Holly A. Radke
Second Vice President.....	Kathy Johnson, CLA
Secretary.....	Charlene Smith, ACP
Treasurer .....	Anna Heinen
Parliamentarian .....	Corrina Pfaff
NALA Liaison.....	ReBecka Wohl, ACP

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Region I.....	Holly Radke
Region II.....	Becky Hillerud and Andrea Johnson
Region III .....	Unfilled
Region IV .....	Josie Schaefer

### COMMITTEES

Education.....	Holly Radke (Chair); Josie Schaefer; Andrea Johnson; ReBecka Wohl, ACP; Anna Heinen; Anna Oleksik; and Alice Johnson, ACP
Membership .....	Kathy Johnson, CLA (Chair); Josie Schaefer; and Holly Radke
Finance/Budget .....	Anna Heinen
CLA Chairman and Student Liaison .....	ReBecka Wohl, ACP
Nominations/Elections .....	Melissa Hamilton, ACP
Auditing .....	Corrina Pfaff and Vicki Kunz, ACP
Legal Assistant Day .....	Melissa Klimpel, ACP and Melissa Hamilton, ACP
Ethics/Professional Development .....	Andrea Johnson and Josie Schaefer
State Bar/NDTLA Liaison .....	Melissa Hamilton, ACP
Historian.....	Laurie Guenther, ACP
Public Relations .....	Melissa Klimpel, ACP ( <i>Summons</i> Editor); ReBecka Wohl, ACP (Facebook Administrator); Alice Johnson, ACP (Website); Candy Schaefer, CLA, Laurie Guenther, ACP; and Tami Hulm, ACP



# AUGUST 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 National Sisters Day	2	3	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day	5	6 National Root Beer Float Day	7
8	9 Dianne Taix, ACP 	10	11	12 National Middle Child Day	13	14
15	16 National Tell a Joke Day	17	18	19 Darcy Ackerman, CP 	20	21
22	23 National Hero's Day	24	25 National Banana Split Day	26	27 Tami Hulm, ACP 	28
29 Traci Hilsabeck, ACP 	30 Deadline to RSVP for Melissa H.'s Installation Celebration	31 Eat Outside Day				

# SEPTEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Deadline to apply for WDALA's Scholarship	2	3	4 Candace Schafer, CLA 
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9 International Sudoku Day	10	11
12 Grandparents Day	13 WDALA's Fall Seminar  Melissa H.'s Installation Celebration	14 WDALA's Fall Seminar  WDALA's Annual Meeting	15	16	17	18 National Cheeseburger Day
19	20 Jen Defoe, ACP 	21	22 National Ice Cream Cone Day	23	24 National Punctuation Day	25
26 National Pancake Day	27	28	29 Mary Sue Knutson, CP 	30 Donna Seright 		

# [ OCTOBER 2021 ]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 National Homemade Cookies Day	2
3	4	5 National Do Something Nice Day	6	7 National Frappe Day	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13 National M&M Day	14 National Dessert Day	15	16 Boss's Day
17 National Pasta Day	18	19	20	21	22 International Caps Lock Day	23
24	25 National Greasy Foods Day	26	27	28 National Chocolate Day	29	30 National Candy Corn Day
31 Halloween 						