

Region 3 Connection

August 2009



Illinois - Indiana - Kentucky - Michigan - Ohio - West Virginia

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Director's Message



Region 2 has asked to have a joint region meeting in 2010. Region 2 includes Delaware, DC, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. We discussed this at our meeting in Tulsa but no decision was made at that time. Please email me and let me know your feelings. I suggested Pittsburg which is between the regions. Let me hear from you.

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Marion R. Stone, PP, PLS
NALS Region 3 Director
c/o Jackson County Circuit Court
312 South Jackson Street
Jackson, MI 49201
mstone@co.jackson.mi.us
517-768-8501 (work)
517-592-8955 (home)
517-788-4623 (fax)

Membership Highlights

We welcome the following new members to NALS and Region 3. We look forward to meeting you at a meeting, seminar, or conference.

June

Christina N. Howard (KY)
 Patricia Weed (MI)
 Katie Johnson (MI)
 Karianne Shurlow (MI)
 Diane Chiles (MI)

July

Patricia J. Suppus (MI)

Membership Report

The breakdown of membership within the Region as of June 1, 2009, is:

State	No. of Members
Illinois	19
Indiana	12
Kentucky	7
Michigan	295
Ohio	71
West Virginia	4
Total Members	408

Certification



One way to demonstrate your preparedness for the demanding field of law is by becoming an ALS. This designation is awarded after passing a four-hour, three-part examination. Attaining this goal demonstrates your commitment and aptitude for succeeding in the ever-changing legal environment. **Current Number Certified: 2,746**



How do your skills compare with the hallmark of a professional? PLS® is the designation for lawyer's assistants who want to be

identified as exceptional. Certification is received after passing a one-day, four-part examination which demonstrates not only dedication to professionalism but acceptance of the challenge to be exceptional. Personal motivation is necessary to attain such a goal. **Current Number Certified: 5,544**



Are you looking for a way to establish your credentials nationwide as a Professional Paralegal? Established in 2004 at our members' request, the Certified PP designation is an attainable goal for paralegals who wish to be identified as exceptional in all areas of law. The certificate is received after passing a one-day, four-part examination. **Current Number Certified: 436**



Region 3 Pin



Region 3 Pins are still available. Your cost is only \$5, unless order is mailed (add \$1 shipping and handling fee).

NALS Education Conference & National Forum

One way to demonstrate CALIFORNIA DREAMING ON SUCH A WINTER'S DAY . . . Become a Star and Attend the NALS Education Conference & National Forum in Irvine, California, October 8-11, 2009. NALS will be celebrating its 80th year by going back to the state it was formed in.



The NALS Foundation has scheduled another wonderful event for the Irvine, California conference—the Purple Gala event. Chapters, state associations and even regions will have the opportunity to “dress” a Foundation Trustee, a NALS Board Member, and even a NALS Past President. Region 3 has already made arrangements to “dress” Cathy Hankins, PP, PLS, as Big Bird (to coincide with our Think Big color). I have searched the Internet and cannot find a Big Bird custom. If anyone has one or knows where we might find one, please let me know.

The Foundation Trustees would like those attending the Purple Carpet Gala in Irvine to “glam” it up for the event—the more ‘bling’ the better! You never know who you’ll meet on the Purple Carpet and we want you to sparkle and shine.

Region 3 Retreat - Meeting

The 2009 Region 3 Retreat was held July 24-25, 2009, in LaPorte, Indiana, with 40 members in attendance. The welcome party was great and I want to thank Brenda Jones, PLS, for introducing us to NALS Poker—Certification Style. I think everyone had a great time and learned something in the process. We toured the Barker Mansion in Michigan City, Indiana, on Saturday, which was very interesting. Photos of the Barker Mansion can be seen at nalsnet.ning.com/group/3istheplacetobe

A Region 3 meeting was held on Friday evening. There were several first-timers in attendance including:

Julie Cowles, PLS, Mid-Michigan
 Ericka Ede, Stark County (OH)
 Tonya Mashue, ALS, NALS of West Michigan
 Kay Neumann, PLS, Mid-Michigan
 Janice E. Staudacher, PLS, Greater Kalamazoo

There was a THINK BIG competition prior to this meeting. The chapter with the most new members from March through July 1 won a free registration to this meeting. The winning chapter was NALS of Stark County Ohio and the free registration went to new member and first-timer Ericka Ede. We were also going to have a drawing for a free membership for any non-members in attendance. We only had one non-member in attendance so the free membership went to Kathleen Klish, PLS. Congratulations, Kathleen and Ericka.

Potential locations for the 2010 Region 3 Conference were discussed. There were three proposals from hotels in Toledo, Northwood, and Perrysburg, Ohio. The members were asked if they wanted the same format, Friday and Saturday, and that was the consensus.

The THINK BIG membership campaign and our new competitions were discussed. The team leaders are Mary Baldechhi, PP, PLS, CLA, Membership Committee, Marketing Committee, Mary Lenhart, PP, PLS, NALS Foundation, Joanne C. Davis, PP, PLS, Membership Committee. Think Big shirts are for sale for \$10.

The Award of Excellence Finalists were announced as: Linda Adair, Arkansas, Cathy Hankins, Ohio, Karen McElroy, Arizona.

We did not have a Chinese auction at the meeting and used the ring raffle to obtain donations for the Foundation. We were able to donate \$675 to the Foundation. The Spin to Win Foundation raised \$286. Foundation raffle winners were Judy Pluta, NALS of Northeast Ohio, first prize (second year in a row), Becky Quimby, NALS of West Michigan, second prize, ring donated by Sharon Bradley, third prize - webinar certificate to Antoinette Geanneses, NALS of Northeast Ohio.

Following the meeting I received the following note from Kathleen Klish: “Just wanted to send you a little note to thank you and everyone in Region 3 for the one year membership I received at the Region 3 Meeting in LaPorte, Indiana. I had my membership application filled out and even brought my checkbook with me. What a nice surprise to be able to save a little money. It was a great meeting. The speakers were informational and

fun and the tour of the Barkley mansion was incredible.”

Officer Rosters

Please remember to complete chapter and state Officer Rosters on the NALS website. nals.org/membership/officerrosterform.html

Why is this important? Completion of the officer roster allows NALS to target updates and news items geared toward specific areas (such as membership, education, certification, etc.) to the appropriate state and local officer or committee chair. Without this information, your state and local leaders are missing out on this important means of communication directly from NALS.

The completion of the officer roster should be one of the first duties completed by the state or local president each fiscal year shortly after the installation of new officers.



membership cards, renewal notices and magazine address labels. Example: John Jones (#01234) gained access the first time using the following:

Login Name = 01234 Password = Jon01234

If you do not know or if you are an existing user and have forgotten your username and/or password:

- Click on the forgotten password link above.
- Enter your email address.
- Your login name and password will be reset to the default explained above, then emailed to you.

If you are not an existing user:

- Click on the "sign up here" link.
- Enter all required information.
- You will get added to our database as a new user, then you will be prompted to create a new login name and password.



Update Your Membership Information

Did you know you could update your contact information right on the NALS website. On the top of the web page it says "Members Log in Here." When you click on that you go to the log in page. Here's how you sign in:

- Login Name and Password are always case sensitive
- Login Name is your member or constituent number.
- Password is the first three letters of your last name plus your membership or constituent number, where the first letter of your last name is capitalized.

Member or constituent numbers are found on

Just a reminder about the new membership campaign. Each region has a team and they are in competition to increase membership. The region with the highest net gain membership for the next year will receive a free reception at their 2010 conference. Region 3 has two competitions at the present time. The first one is a drawing for a renewal membership for the member who provides us with the names of prospective members. Send the name of your prospective member along with your name to Marion Stone, Region 3 Director, [mstone@co.jackson.mi.us]. The second competition is a drawing for a free registration to a national conference (Branson) for the member in Region 3 who sponsors the most new members.



NALS FOUNDATION GRANTS – YOUR \$\$\$ AT WORK

Since 1992 the NALS Foundation has pursued its mission to ensure top-notch legal services by funding quality education programs for legal professionals. One of our strategies to accomplish this mission is our quarterly grant program – designed to assist all NALS chapters, state associations, and regions. Applying for a grant is a simple two step process.

Step One: Decide on a project!

Grants will be awarded for programs which support certification and education. Applicants are encouraged to develop new and exciting programs – but it does not have to be a new program! Need program ideas? Check out our extensive program idea bank for award winning, successful programs under Jett Awards on the link in the NALS Foundation section of the NALS website.

Step Two: Complete the on-line grant application!

Outline your proposal by completing the easy on-line application form and answering each question as thoroughly as possible. To qualify for consideration, all requested information must be included with the application. When your application has been completed, simply click on the submit button to automatically and electronically submit your grant proposal. The deadlines for receipt of proposals are:

- March 1st
- June 1st
- **September 1st (note - deadline is fast approaching)**
- December 1st

You CAN receive a grant - it's that easy!

So what's the catch?

There is no catch! All grant proposals will be reviewed by the NALS Foundation Board of Trustees and grants will be awarded at the discretion of the Board. The only two things the NALS Foundation requires in return are:

1. The grant recipient's participation in a post project follow-up interview and/or report.
2. All marketing and distributed materials relating to the funded program must include the Foundation Logo with the following statement, **"This project was made possible through a grant from the NALS Foundation."** Downloadable statements with the logo are available upon request.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Reed at reed@nals.org or call her at the NALS Resource Center 918-582-5188 ext. 23. Applications may also be mailed to the NALS Foundation at 8159 East 41st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74145.

So go ahead - have your chapter, state, or region apply for a grant and let the certification and education "FUN" BEGIN!!!

Mary J. Lenhart, PP, PLS
2009-2010 NALS Foundation Trustee
MLenhart@pwhd.com
Telephone: (757) 223-4593



I still have YELLOW THINK BIG shirts for sale for \$10.00 plus shipping. Let me know if you want one.

NALS Region 3 Chronicle

Regional Directors

1997 - 1998	Pamela K. Bryson PP, PLS	Michigan
1998 - 1999	Vickie L. Hays, PLS	Michigan
1999 - 2001	Catherine A. Hankins PP, PLS	Ohio
2001 - 2003	Kathleen R. Amirante PP, PLS	Michigan
2003 - 2005	Carole M. Schneider PP, PLS	Michigan
2005 - 2007	Sherri J. Bowden PLS	Michigan
2007 - 2008	Jane Cramer	Ohio
2008 - 2009	Marion R. Stone, PP, PLS	Michigan

Regional Meetings

October 2 - 4, 1997	- Kalamazoo, MI
August 20 - 22, 1999	- Dayton, OH
July 28 - 30, 2000	- Lawrenceburg, IN
July 27 - 29, 2001	- Bridgman, MI
August 2 - 4, 2002	- Fort Wayne, IN
July 25 - 27, 2003	- Bloomingdale, IL (Joint Regions 3 & 5)
July 30 - August 1, 2004	- Fremont, OH
August 5 - 7, 2005	- Bay City, MI
June 16 - 17, 2006	- Novi, MI
August 10 - 12, 2007	- Ashtabula, OH
July 18 - 19, 2008	- Lexington, KY
July 24 - 25, 2009	- LaPorte, IN

