

NALS Region 4 – Tina L. Boone, PLS – Region Director (615) 251-4179 x1010



*Alabama, Florida, Georgia,  
North Carolina, South Carolina  
and Tennessee*

## “Maximize Your Potential Where History Lives”

### Message from the Region Director

Wow!! What an experience! If you have not experienced a NALS Professional Development and Education Conference, please do. It is an outstanding opportunity to meet other members who believe in what you believe in and, of course, you are jumpstarting your year as either a local/state president or membership chair. These are very important positions that many will embark upon this year and Tulsa is where it all begins. But, do not let your not being an incoming president or membership chair discourage you from enjoying the experience because this year you could have enjoyed any of the following sessions:

\* Friday Afternoon Attitude Adjustment

- \* On Your mark, Get Set, Goal. Maximize your dreams!
- \* You Can Do That – Using Technology In A Progressive Law Firm
- \* Multiplicity – How to Work with Multiple Bosses and Survive
- \* It’s Not a Foreign Language! – How to Read and Understand Medical Records
- \* Listen Up Write it Down – Maximize your listening skills
- \* Identity Theft/ Consumer Protection – How it Can Happen and How to Protect Yourself
- \* Give Me a “C”! The Power of Confidence. Maximize your self-esteem!

\* Roundtables – I personally enjoyed listening to Tammy Hailey as she explained the negotiation strategies of securing a hotel and what to look for in contracts when planning meetings.

All I can say is that the Professional Development Conference is an excellent beginning to your new year.

In this issue of the Region 4 Cognizant, you will find a wealth of information, beginning with details on the upcoming Region 4 Education Conference in Charleston, SC. This was a challenge; but, I am confident that you will be pleased with the final hotel accommodations and CLE that has been lined up with you in mind.

# Message from the Region Director

Yes, I tried to consider financial situations when planning this meeting because I would LOVE to see many Region 4 members come together to learn and have fun together . . . Where History Lives.

I still need help in some areas. If you are interested, check out "Are You Still Looking For Something To Do?" and contact me. Also, you will find detailed information regarding sponsorship/ads opportunities. Please ask as many businesses as you can. The way I see it, they are not advertising right now; but, may decide to if you ask them.

I just cannot resist mentioning that we will have an opportunity to presell sweepstake tickets for the gorgeous Foundation ring donation. For more information, read "Charleston in Detail . . ." and on the last page of this issue of the Region 4 Cognizant is a close-up of the ring by offering the tickets prior to the Conference, this will give everyone a chance to win. Please let me know if you want to sell tickets and/or want to purchase tickets.

Under "Looking Beyond Now. . ." you will notice that I am trying to get a headstart on planning for the 2006 Education Conference. Begin to think about where you want to go and let me know at least by May 15.

If you will be sitting for one of the certification exams in July, please remember to register before June 15.

Are you ready to vicariously experience what we experienced in Tulsa? Be sure to read "Tulsa Recap."

Last, but certainly, not least, please join me in congratulating Ponda A. Caldwell, PLS who was appointed Probate Judge for Spartanburg County, SC. Way to go Ponda!!!

Also, our national past president, Jill J. Hale, PP, PLS, CLA of Roberts & Carver in Prescott, AZ has been chosen one of the 15 most successful paralegals in America to be recognized in the forth coming book, "Lessons From The Top Paralegal Experts." Congratulations Jill!!!

## Come — Maximize Your Potential . . .

I'm excited about embarking upon Charleston, SC the weekend of July 29 – 31, 2005. Attached is the registration form and schedule for the NALS Region 4 Education Conference. We all knew that when we voted for Charleston last November, it would be more expensive than usual. With that in mind, I tried to stay cognizant of our financial budgets. Hopefully, giving you this information now will help you plan for an exciting weekend in July. Our hotel

accommodations will be at DoubleTree Guest Suites in the heart of Charleston for \$125, plus 12% tax (single/double) and \$15 for each additional guest in a suite. Please be sure to mention "**NALS Region 4**" when reserving your hotel room to obtain the discounted rate. The toll free number is 877-408-8733. If it rings several times, please be patient. We have a block on 30 rooms, with an option to increase. I'm

confident that we will meet our room block. Please reserve early to ensure a room in July.

Parking will be \$12 (plus tax) per day.

I wanted to let each of you know that this was not my first choice. I initially received a bid from Mills House (\$164 a night) and then Embassy Suites (\$154 a night). I just couldn't ask any of you to even consider these amounts.

*"Dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contribution of members in the legal services profession"*



***"most coveted jewelry item"***

*Also, at the Region 4 Meeting you will have another opportunity to purchase sweepstake tickets as part of the Chinese Auction. \$1 per each auction ticket and 20 for \$20 (include a premium sweepstake ticket).*

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***State Meeting in Charleston***

*If you will hold your State Meeting in Charleston, please let me know ASAP so I will have proper accommodations for your meeting. Email me at [tlb@h3gm.com](mailto:tlb@h3gm.com).*

## Charleston in Detail . . .

The registration will be \$129 for early bird (June 3) and \$149 after June 3. Here, again, I tried to consider each of our financial budgets and the only meal that you will need to come prepared for will be Saturday night, unless the light hors d'oeuvres will not hold you for Friday night. I chose to include as many meals as possible that would ensure the registration being maintained at a reasonable rate because the food will

be expensive during our stay. Hey – you'll have more money to purchase tickets for our GORGEOUS Foundation Amethyst gold ring and great Chinese Auction items. Word has it that Avery will donate an item.

As a way to boost the sales for the Foundation's donation to Region 4, we will have an opportunity to sell and buy sweepstake tickets prior to Charleston. They will be only \$5 a chance

and five chances for \$20. By offering the sweepstake tickets prior to Charleston, anyone will have an opportunity to win the "most coveted" jewelry item from the Foundation (every other Region wanted this piece of jewelry; but, we picked first and luckily I was able to get out of Tulsa with it still in hand).

If you would like to purchase or sell the sweepstake tickets, please let me know.

## What Do I Want From You ???

I'm asking each State to obtain a minimum of \$500 in sponsorships, obtain at least one exhibitor and each Chapter to obtain at least five advertisements for the program and donate at least two items for the Chinese Auction.

**The levels of sponsorship will be:**

- Platinum - \$500 and above (incl. a full-page ad)
- Gold - \$250 - \$499 (includes half-page ad)
- Silver - \$101 - \$249 (no ad space)
- Bronze - \$100 (no ad space is included)

**Prices for Ads will be:**

- \$100 -- Full-page Ad
- \$75 -- Half-page Ad
- \$50 -- Quarter-page Ad
- Business card or something comparable

Please forward all sponsorships and advertisements to:

Michelle Huff, PLS  
Alton & Bird, LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 S. Tyron St., Ste. 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280  
(704) 444-1174 (phone)  
[MHuff@alston.com](mailto:MHuff@alston.com)

Please copy me on all correspondence at:

Tina L. Boone, PLS  
Region 4 Director  
H3GM  
Suite 1800  
315 Deaderick St., Ste. 1800  
Nashville, Tennessee 37238  
[tlb@h3gm.com](mailto:tlb@h3gm.com)

Price for Exhibitors is \$125, includes lunch for one. Additional guest lunch is \$20.

All ads will need to be in camera ready format when submitted.

# Are You Ready For The Challenge of Getting Certified?

If you are sitting for one of the certification exams at the Region 4 Education Conference in Charleston, the application ***must be postmarked no later than June 15*** to the NALS Resource Center. Also, as an added study resource, consider logging in to the Online Study Group, which will start up again on May 31. The link to access the OLSG is (<http://www.nals.org/onlinestudygroup>). All you will need to do is use a login name. The other items are optional. But, always remember to type in your email address as soon as you are logged in to the chat so you will receive a copy of the chat log the next day, or shortly thereafter.

## Are You Still Looking For Something To Do?

We still need someone to volunteer for the following needs

- One person to be the contact person for exhibitors
- One person to assist Deborah Waters of Florida with the registration desk
- One Chapter to be responsible for Goody Bags

Every chapter will be responsible for getting something for the goody bags; but, we need one chapter that will be the contact chapter.

- One or two persons to conduct the cram session.
- One or two persons to administer the certification exams.

Please contact me if you see yourself in one of these needs.

## I Want To Stay in Contact With You . . .

After your State and Chapter's 2005-2006 Elections, please forward me the following information regarding the 2005-2006 officers for your state:

- State President's Name, Address, Phone, Fax and Email
- State Publication Editor's Name, Address, Phone, Fax, Email and Name of Publication
- Local Chapter Publication Editor's Name, Address, Phone, Fax, Email and Name of Publication
- Date and locations of state meetings for 2005-2006.

Also, please provide the following information for your local chapter's NALS Region 4 Liaison:

- Chapter Name, Liaison's Name, Address, Phone, Fax, Email and State Affiliation





## Looking Beyond Now . . .

As a way to get our Region 4 meetings planned well in advance where we will have an advantage for negotiating better room rates, etc., we will decide on where we will hold our 2006 Region Meeting at the July 2005 Region 4 Education Conference in Charleston at the Town Hall meeting on Sunday.

This way, by October's Region 4 Meeting in Buffalo, NY we should have 2006 conference information ready for everyone to plan well in advance for their trip to the 2006 Region 4 meeting.

Please let me know where you are interested in having the 2006 Region 4 Education Conference by May 15 and I will begin to obtain quotes and have the information ready for the Charleston's meeting.

If this is successful, we could decide where

we will have our 2007 Region Meeting at next year's Professional Development Education Conference in Tulsa, OK.

Hopefully, in setting the meetings in advance two things will be achieved:

- (i) everyone will have time to financially prepare for the Region 4 Education Conference; and
- (ii) hopefully more people will have an opportunity to experience a Region 4 Meeting.



*Where do you want to*

*go in 2006??*

*Let me know now and I*

*will have information*

*ready to vote on in*

*Charleston*

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## Welcome Our New Members

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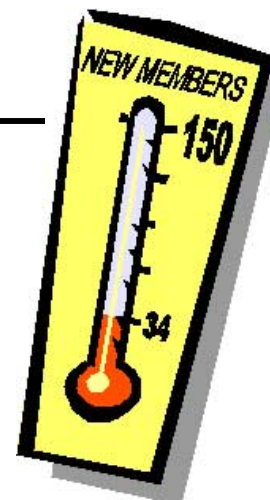
- Amelia L. deBuys (amelia@elglaw.com)  
BLSA, AL Chapter
- Dylan Hall —Dallas County LSA, AL Chapter
- John Agee (jwa8033@hotmail.com)  
Rutherford/Cannon County Chapter
- Ana Jemmy Chapin – NALS of Central Florida Chapter
- Sue Ingels  
(sue.ingels@mitchellattorneys.com)  
NALS Assoc. of Legal Prof., Nashville Chapter
- Anna McCormick  
(ammccormick@comcast.net)  
Rutherford/Cannon County Chapter
- Tracy Mullins (tracy.mullins@mitchellattorneys.com)  
Rutherford/Cannon County Chapter
- Gina Gammon (ginagam@comcast.net)  
Rutherford/Cannon County Chapter
- Melissa Burnett — Rutherford/Cannon County Chapter
- Rae Ann Chelette (racheleo812@wmconnect.com)  
Rutherford/Cannon County Chapter
- Kimberly N. Wilson (kimwilson@knology.net)  
NALS of Georgia Chapter

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**NALS Total membership as of February 28 was 4663. Of this total, the following are Region 4's membership breakdown:**

ALABAMA:	340 Members with 71.02% retention
FLORIDA:	50 Members with 52.94% retention
GEORGIA:	151 Members with 77.03% retention
NORTH CAROLINA:	10 Members with 70.00% retention
SOUTH CAROLINA:	121 Members with 77.24% retention
TENNESSEE:	113 Members with 65.74% retention

Total Members — 2003-2004 were 792  
YTD Members — 2004-2005 are 786



# Tulsa Recap

## Have You Experienced It Yet?

Approximately 203 NALS members converged on Tulsa, Oklahoma for the 2005 Professional Development and Education Conference.

And so the journey begins ... after a year of preparation, Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS, was eagerly anticipating being installed as the 35th President of NALS. The committee assignments were filled, operational plans completed and ready for distribution to the committees, the President's address written, and the Board of Directors stood ready to support Mary Jo's goals and objectives during her term as the 2005-2006 President of NALS . . . the association for legal professionals. President Mary Jo continues the use of the NALS swish "MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL."

### The Conference Begins

Soon-to-be NALS Immediate Past President Mary E. Burns, PP, PLS, opened the conference by introducing the 2004-2005 NALS Board of Directors, Resource Center Staff, and the 2004-2005 Leadership Team. Betty Wells, PP, PLS, Foundation Chair, then introduced our opening keynote speaker.

### Opening Keynote Speaker

"New Year—Better You, Maximize Your Health" Shirlene Solomon is from the Daily Family YMCA. Shirlene emphasized that we must focus our energy on doing our jobs. Wellness is a state of physical, mental and social well being. She hopes to encourage us to promote wellness in our lives. To promote wellness you must focus on the Mind, Body and the Spirit. In order for us to focus on our Mind, we must try new things—read widely, learn a new language, learn to play an instrument or read something fun. There is time to turn off your brain. The Body is fitness and has three components— aerobic activity, strength training and flexibility. And finally there is Spirit. This can be your faith or personal time to yourself. We also learned some relaxation techniques. Shirlene ended with a poem directed to NALS.

### Past Presidents

We were privileged to have 6 NALS Past Presidents in attendance, including Anita

Cottrell, PP, PLS, Jill Hale, PP, PLS, CLA, September Holmblad, PP, PLS, Debbie Nickerson, PP, PLS, Marie Ringholz, PP, PLS, and Susan Turner, PLS.

### Upcoming Education Conferences

2005 NALS National Forum and Education Conference will be held October 20-23, 2005 at the Adams Mark, in Buffalo (Niagara Falls) New York. Room rates are \$105 single/double. Don't wait until the last minute - call 1-800-444-2326 to make your 2005 reservations.

2006 NALS National Forum and Education Conference will be held October 26-30, 2005 at the Reno Hilton, Reno, Nevada. Room rates are only \$89 single/double. Because the block fills up fast, members are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as possible. Call 1-800-648-5080 and ask for the group rate for the NALS Education Conference and National Forum 2006 to make your reservations now!



*"Dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contribution of members in the legal services profession"*

# *Tulsa Recap (continued)*

## *Have You Experienced It Yet?*

Members were encouraged to share their stories of why they joined the association and why they continue to renew their dues. The following is a brief summary of those shared:

**Diana Lunch, PP, PLS (MA)**, a Professor at the Community College, said this was her first conference and she felt welcome. She will take all of the information back to her students.

**Tina Hurley (TX)** -- NALS had empowered her.

**Leslie Keys, PLS (GA)** -- NALS made her what she is.

**Nancy Gates, PP, PLS, (MS)** took several courses through NALS and considers all of its members "sisters-in-law"

**Karen Jackson, PLS (DC)** -- NALS made her a better person.

**Lillian Murphy (NJ)** has been a member since 1966 and has only missed 3 national meeting.

**Kim Price (AL)** just sat for the PP.

**Melinda Childress, PP, PLS (VA)** took the PP in 2004 and started a Chapter in Lynchburg. She will soon be president of VALS. This is her third meeting.

**Sandy Lavender (MI)** -- I would not have a family without NALS. There was not a dry eye in the entire room after Sandy's story.

**Edi Heavner, PLS (AL)** -- NALS had encouraged her.

**Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS (AL)** -- NALS brings out the best in you through its education and other relationships.

**Sheryl Christophersen, PLS (MT)** -- NALS was an uplifting experience.

**Vernelle Aiyela, PLS (MI)** sang "This Little Light of Mine".

**Candace Sholing, PP, PLS (NV)** -- NALS gave her confidence in her job.

**Marsha Smitherman, PP, PLS (MO)** rejoined NALS to help in a study group. Certification is you know something and can prove it.

**Toria Means (SC)** arrived alone, but does not feel alone any more. This is the chance to grow, help others and support the program.

These were wonderful stories. Look for more to come.

### **I Present To You the 2005-2006 NALS Board of Directors**

President ..... Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS (GA)  
President-Elect ..... Catherine A. Hankins, PP, PLS (OH)  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... Kathy J. Siroky, PP, PLS (WY)  
Immediate Past President ..... Mary E. Burns, PP, PLS (WI)  
Certification Director Caryn S. Wolchuck, PP, PLS, CPS/CAP (CA)  
Education Director ..... Kathleen Amirante, PP, PLS (MI)  
Marketing Director ..... Tammy Denson, PP, PLS (AL)  
Membership Director ..... Reynetta DeVeau, PP, PLS, TSC (TX)  
Region 1 Director ..... Cheryl A. Zeranti, PP, PLS (NY)  
Region 2 Director ..... Karen J. Switzer, PP, PLS (VA)  
Region 3 Director ..... Sherri J. Bowden, PLS (MI)  
Region 4 Director ..... Tina L. Boone, PLS (TN)  
Region 5 Director ..... Tamara N. T. Michalak, PP, PLS (WI)  
Region 6 Director ..... Julie A. Abernathy, PP, PLS (TX)  
Region 7 Director ..... Jeanne M. Preston, PP, PLS (OR)  
Region 8 Director . Joani A. Yingling, PP, PLS, CLAS, CNSA (AZ)  
Foundation Chairman ..... Betty Wells, PP, PLS (TX)  
Executive Director ..... Tammy L. Hailey, CAE (OK)

The president's pin and gavel was passed to Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS, and Mary received her past president's pin, gift, plaque and President's Gift Fund before being welcomed into the fold of "official" past presidents.

President Mary Jo's first address to the members was to challenge yourself to ...certification, meeting participation, and taking care of yourself. We need to control what is inside of us. Be empowered, educate yourself. Mary Jo indicated that much of the Board's time is actually spent strategic planning and not meeting. Mary Jo encouraged all members to accept the NALS Health Challenge. Maximize your potential in your family, your job, your spirit and your body.

In Biloxi in November 2004, the Board adopted a resolution regarding growing future leaders. Mary Jo announced there would be scholarship available soon for Buffalo and Tulsa registrations and this would be based on need.

***"Dedicated to enhancing the competencies and  
contribution of members in the legal services profession"***

# Tulsa Recap (continued)

## Have You Experienced It Yet?

### And the Winners Are . . .

The Awards Luncheon is always the anticipated event of the conference as the successes of our leaders, chapters, states, regions, and members are announced.

The Oklahoma members were recognized.

**Tina Boone, PLS, 2005-6 NALS Region 4 Director and past Membership Committee Chairman, gave us the winners of the Divisional Championship Series of the 2004-2006 Get in the Game with NALS Membership Campaign as follows:**

**Rookie Award:** Jan Tuller, PLS, Grand Traverse County, MI. This award is presented to the winner of the drawing for recruiting one (1) or more members from October 2004 to March 2005 and the award is \$25 in NALS bucks.

**Slugger Award:** Misty Lewis, PP, PLS, Biloxi, MS. This award is presented to the winner of the drawing for recruiting five (5) or more members from October 2004 to March 2005 and the award is \$50 in NALS bucks.

**Most "RBI"s Award:** Mary Hardberger, PP, PLS, Houston, TX. This award is presented to the winner of the drawing for recruiting ten (10) or more members from October 2004 to March 2005 and the award is \$100 in NALS bucks.

**Minor League Award:** NALS of Greater Minnesota. This

award is presented to the chapter with the most student memberships from October 2004 to March 2005 and the award is one (1) free NALS membership for the following year.

**Scouting Award:** NALS of Wisconsin. This award is presented to the state with highest retention from October 2004 to March 2005 and the award is one (1) registration to the next National Forum or Leadership Conference.

**Spring Training Award:** Region 6. This award is presented to the region with the highest recruitment from October 2004 to March 2005 and the award is one (1) free registration to the next National Forum or Leadership Conference.

**Batting Champion Award:** Mary Hardberger, PP, PLS, Houston, TX. This award is presented to the member recruiting the most members from October 2004 to March 2005 and will receive one (1) free registration to the National Forum or Leadership Conference.

**Foundation Chair Betty Wells, PP, PLS, then announced the members of the NALS circles - organizations and individuals who have invested in NALS' future by contributing to the various NALS Foundation circles.**

The announcement of the Jett Award winners is always welcomed to encourage chapters and states to take the next step as we "MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL."

This year's class of Jett Award winners included:

**Cornerstone Awards: The Cornerstone is the foundation on which everything is built.**

**Chapter Development:** Large Chapter — Award entitled "Working with a Changing Membership Base" was presented to Houston Association of Legal Professionals (Texas) and accepted by Rita C. Alesi, PP, PLS, TSC

**Chapter Development:** Large Chapter — Award entitled "Lasagna Made Simple" was presented to Austin LSA Inc. (Texas) and accepted by Sharmai Rucker, PP, PLS, TSC

**Chapter Development:** Medium Chapter — Award entitled "RVLSA...the association of legal professional Community Projects " was presented to RVLSA (VA) and accepted by Betty C. Moorman, PLS

**Keystone Awards. The Keystone Award represents the crowning support of an arch. Without it, the arch would collapse. The Keystone Award recognizes the excellence in chapter and state programs in each category and signifies that without the**

**chapter and state associations, the arch would collapse.**

**Membership Development:** Large Chapter — Award entitled "Get in the Game with NALS and PLSA" was presented to Phoenix Legal Support Association (PLSA) and accepted by Karen McElroy, PP, PLS

**Chapter Development:** State Chapter — Award entitled "U.S. District Court Electronic Filing – What It Is and How To Do It " was presented to NALS of Oregon and accepted by Kevin P. McKenzie, PLS

**Chapter Development:** Large Chapter — Award entitled "Justice for Your Open House " was presented to Phoenix Legal Support Association (PLSA) and accepted by Karen McElroy, PP, PLS

**And now . . . the best of the best!**

**The Founder's Award: An honor that recognizes the most exceptional program among all chapter and state entries.** This award was presented to Phoenix Legal Support Association (PLSA) for their "Get in the Game with NALS and PLSA" project and was presented to Karen McElroy, PP, PLS

*"Dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contribution of members in the legal services profession"*

## *Tulsa Recap (continued)*

### *Have You Experienced It Yet?*

Finally, the NALS Foundation presented 8 ATM ("At This Meeting") Grants to the following chapters/states:

VALS (Virginia) - \$300  
NALS of New York - \$275  
Capital Area ALP - \$275  
Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville - \$500  
NALS of California - \$500  
NALS of Spokane - \$300  
Douglas Carson Legal Professionals - \$200  
Houston ALP - \$250

NALS Members help the NALS Foundation through their support of the various sweepstakes drawings at NALS conferences, and in turn the NALS Foundation helps our NALS Members. Drawings for the Foundation sweepstakes prizes was then conducted.

The "sold out" Networking Dinner topped off our weekend of education, networking, and fun as everyone relaxed and said their good-byes. We enjoyed an Italian dinner buffet and again proved that Olivia "Fig" Newton-John (aka Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS – NALS President) still is moving and getting us in shape; Ricci Lee Simmons (aka Leslie Keys, PLS (GA)) is as crazy as ever; and Hanz & Franz (aka Kerry Jackson (Tammy Shatwell Mullins' brother) and Dennis Gilleland) are still pumping us up!

### **Special Thanks**

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors, Avery, SetDepo, and Journey House (the official travel agent of NALS), who displayed their programs and products during the conference.

Special recognition also goes to the staff of the NALS Resource Center. Without their tireless efforts, our association would not function. Our fabulous Resource Center Staff includes: Tammy Hailey, CAE, Executive Director; Saundra Bates, Membership Services Manager; Carol Jorgenson, Executive Administrator; Tammy Shatwell Mullins, Education & Certification Manager; Cindy Rosser, Executive Assistant; and Jay Moore, Communications Manager. Words cannot express how thankful we are for each of you and your dedication to our association and its members.



**Did you know that NALS.org is now online at ([www.nals.org/nalsorg](http://www.nals.org/nalsorg)). This outstanding section includes everything you will need to run your Chapter. This section has replaced the CD that you normally would get from the Professional Development Education Conference in Tulsa, OK.**

***"Dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contribution of members in the legal services profession"***

*The following is the press release announcing NALS' very own  
Jill J. Hale, PP, PLS, CLA of Roberts & Carver, PLLC (Prescott, AZ)  
being 1 of 15 most successful paralegals in  
America to be recognized in a forthcoming book:*

**THOMAS DELMAR LEARNING AUTHOR, CAROLE A. BRUNO, ANNOUNCES  
THE 15 MOST SUCCESSFUL PARALEGALS IN AMERICA**

SANTA ROSA, CA, March 15, 2005

Thomson Delmar Learning author, Carole A. Bruno, announces the top 15 TOP PARALEGAL EXPERTS IN AMERICA to be recognized in the forthcoming book, **LESSONS FROM THE TOP PARALEGAL EXPERTS: *The 15 Most Successful Paralegals in America and What You Can Learn From Them***:

Jennifer E. Arnold, CLA, Sullivan & Grace, P.A., Raleigh, NC; Michele M. Boerder, CP, Board Certified Legal Assistant; Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Hughes Luce, LLP, Dallas, TX; D. Grace Carter, CLA, Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, Raleigh, NC; Susan M. Custer, Glast, Phillips & Murray, PC, Dallas, TX; Celia C. Elwell, RP; Patricia J. Gustin, CLA, CFEI (Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator), Principal, Freelance Associates; Harrisburg, PA; **Jill J. Hale, PP, PLS, CLA, Roberts & Carver, PLLC, Prescott, AZ**; Deborah A. Hampton, Limited Brands, Inc., NYC; Nancy B. Heller, RP, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP, Columbus, OH; Susan G. Ippoliti, Harter, Secrest & Emery, LLP, Rochester, NY; Dwayne E. Krager, Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren, s.c., Milwaukee, WI; Mathew D. Laskowski, Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, PC, Morristown, NJ; Victoriarei.N.Naka'ahiki, RP, Seagate Technology, LLC, Scotts Valley, CA; Mary E. "Becky" Rolland, Heller, Draper, Hayden, Patrick & Horn, LLC, New Orleans, LA; and Siobhan S. Smith, Steptoe & Johnson, LLP, Washington, DC.

A distinguished panel consisting of the following professionals selected the final contestants: William P. Statsky, Esq., paralegal educator and prolific author; Therese Cannon, Esq., paralegal educator, author, dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Law, and member of the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals; James Wilber, law office management consultant, and principal of Altman Weil, Inc. (Milwaukee, WI); and Gary Melhuish, president of the International Paralegal Management Association (IPMA) and paralegal administrator at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, and Jacobson, LLP, Washington.

Achievements that contribute to expansion of the paralegal profession and improve the efficiency of performing paralegal duties, including creativity, leadership, expertise in specialty, skills, knowledge, CLE, mentoring abilities, career highlights, honors, awards and recognitions, challenges faced, and career encompassed the criteria for the selection of the TOP 15 PARALEGAL EXPERTS. The experts practice in various areas of law. "The primary goal of *LESSONS* is to learn through these paralegal leaders," says Delmar Learning author Carole Bruno. "They will share their unique techniques, tools, ideas, and methods that have helped them become the *best of the best* in their profession." To schedule interviews with the TOP 15 PARALEGALS and obtain pictures, please contact the author.

CONTACT: Carole Bruno, Author (707) 569-7409  
carole\_bruno@sbcglobal.net  
Website: [www.carolebruno.com](http://www.carolebruno.com)

*"Dedicated to enhancing the competencies and  
contribution of members in the legal services profession"*

*Just thought I would give you a close up view of the Foundation jewelry item that will go to someone in July!!*

*Isn't it gorgeous!!*

*I think I can, I think I can . . .  
win this!!*



# **“Maximize Your Potential Where History Lives”**

## **NALS Region 4 Educational Conference**

**July 29 – 31, 2005**

**DoubleTree Guest Suites  
181 Church Street  
Charleston, South Carolina**

### **Schedule of Events**

#### **Friday, July 29, 2005 (Casual Dress)**

<b>8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>NALS, PES and PP Study Sessions</b>
<b>2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Optional Carolina FoodPros Tour (addition to registration)</b>
<b>6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Early Registration/Welcome Reception (light hors d'oeuvres)</b>

#### **Saturday, July 30, 2005 (Business Casual Dress)**

<b>7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast (included in registration)</b>
<b>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Certification Exams</b>
<b>8:00 a.m. – 8:25 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>8:25 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome – Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of the City of Charleston</b>
<b>8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>CEE – Possibly Gedney Howe</b>
<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>John Hamilton Smith – SC Bar Ethics Committee</b>
<b>10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Break</b>
<b>10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Beth Galante – Environmental Law</b>
<b>12:00 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch (included in reg.)</b>
<b>1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sergeant Scott Frier – Blood Spatter Analysis</b>
<b>3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
<b>3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Chinese Auction &amp; Drawings</b>
<b>5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Optional Excursion Ghost Tour or Carriage Ride (addition to reg.)</b>

#### **Sunday, July 31, 2005 (Business Casual Dress)**

<b>7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakfast (included in registration)</b>
<b>8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Mary Jo Denman – NALS 35<sup>th</sup> President</b>
<b>9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Possibly David Fedor – Trial Atty. - Motivational Speaker</b>
<b>10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Town Hall Meeting</b>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>State Board Meetings</b>
	<b>Adjourn and Box Lunches to Go (included in registration)</b>

### **Schedule of Fees**

<b>Early Bird Conference Fee (by June 3, 2005)</b>	<b>Conference Fee (after Jun3 3, 2005)</b>
<b>NALS Members \$129.00</b>	<b>NALS Members \$149.00</b>
<b>Nonmember \$149.00</b>	<b>Nonmember \$169.00</b>

**Conference fees include breakfast and lunch on both Saturday and Sunday**

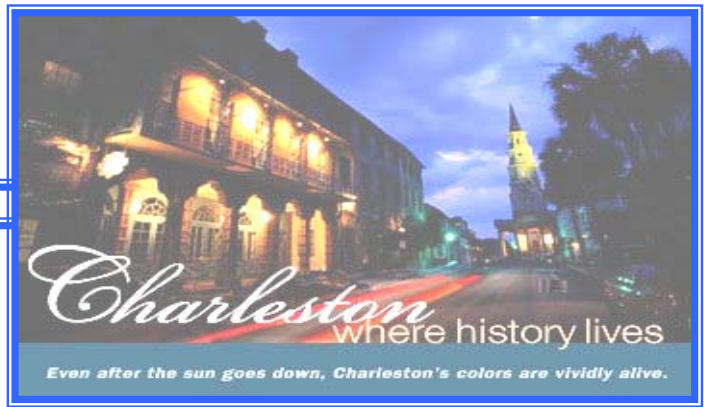
**Guest Breakfast \$16.00**

**Guest lunch \$20.00**

**Late Fee (after July 1) -- \$25.00**

**No Refunds Will Be Given After July 8, 2005**

**Hotel Accommodations at the  
DoubleTree Guest Suites  
Charleston, South Carolina**



**Room Rate: \$125 (single/double)  
Call: 877-408-8733  
Mention "NALS Region 4" for negotiated rate**

**Deadline for hotel reservations:  
June 24, 2005**

**Are You Ready?? Are You Ready?? Are You Ready??**

**To Participant in Region 4 Chinese Auction!!**

We are asking each state and local chapter to donate two or more items to be auctioned at our Chinese Auction. Our theme this year is "Maximize Your Potential Where History Lives." We need to maximize our potential in every area of our lives -- personal, parent, spouse, profession. Please use your imagination and be creative in putting together your auction item. If you would like to donate an item as an individual, that will be appreciated as well.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certification:  PP  PLS  ALS  CLA  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of office held, if any: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of State Association: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of office held, if any: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print exactly how you would like your name to be listed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you sitting for a certification exam?  Yes  No If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your contact information to be listed in the NALS Region 4 Educational Conference Program Book?  
 Yes  No

Excursion I: Culinary Food Tour- \$45  
 Excursion II: Ghost Tour - \$14.00  
 Excursion III: Palmetto Carriage Tour - \$16.00

Lunch Options: Saturday:  Backyard Burger  Quiche Lorraine  
 (Check one) Sunday:  DoubleTree Club Croissant  Chicken Dijon Sandwich  
 Enclosed is: Conference Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ Late Fee: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest Breakfast: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Lunch: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Excursion I: \_\_\_\_\_ Excursion II: \_\_\_\_\_ Excursion III: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to "NALS Region 4 Conference"**

**Return Registration Form To:** Deborah Waters  
 1630 Coquina Drive, Merritt Island, Florida 32952

# **Charleston's Excursions**

**The following are the descriptions of the possible excursions that you can enjoy while in Charleston. These are the excursions that we decided would be probably the most exciting while in Charleston.**

**If you're interested in one of the excursions, please include the extra fee with your registration.**

## **Excursion I**

**Culinary Food Tour - \$45.00 – Friday, July 29, 2005 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

This tour will include "The Bountiful Coast: Foodways of the South Carolina Lowcountry" exhibit at the Charleston Museum ([www.carolinafoodpros.com/tours/special.aspx](http://www.carolinafoodpros.com/tours/special.aspx)). This tour will have to be on Friday afternoon because the only tour they have on Saturday morning is from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

## **Excursion II**

**Ghost & Graveyard Tour - \$14.00 – Saturday, July 30, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.**

You'll get an exclusive opportunity to walk inside the gates of one of Charleston's oldest graveyards after dark. When all the other walking tours are looking in through the wrought iron fence, you'll be on the inside. Explore the graveyard's dark corners, closely inspect the headstones to see what you might learn, and take a moment to step across the graves, if you dare. Learn about the history of Charleston's graveyards and hear tales about the famous individuals who found their final resting place in the Holy City.

This up close and personal tour takes you where others won't dare go. Graveyards – full of history, intrigue and tales of love and loss. ([www.charlestdungeon.com](http://www.charlestdungeon.com))

## **Excursion III:**

**Palmetto Carriage Tours - \$16.00 – Saturday, July 30, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.**

Experience the grandeur and charm of America's most historic city with a one hour carriage tour, narrated by Charleston's most experienced guides. Slip back into the elegant past as your carriage meanders through historic neighborhoods. During the one-hour tour you will be experiencing 25 – 30 blocks of Charleston's historic downtown district. You will see houses, gardens, mansions, churches, and parks. You will hear about buildings, history, architecture, flora and people. Most importantly you will become one with all that Charleston has to offer the visitor. ([www.palmettocarriage.com](http://www.palmettocarriage.com))