



LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA



NALS
the association for legal professionals

engage | inspire | enhance | promote

Demystifying International Child Abduction Claims Under the Hague Convention

By Reid T. Sherard, Esq.

Child custody cases are difficult, and can be made much worse by an international jurisdiction dispute. As South Carolina's population increases—the last census reflected more than 15 percent growth since 2000, ranking in the top 10 of all states¹—the likelihood of an international child custody dispute coming in the door increases for the average South Carolina lawyer. All lawyers who accept child custody cases can improve their practices with a working knowledge of The Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at the Hague on October 25, 1980 (Convention), which treaty seeks the prompt return of children wrongfully removed to or retained in any Contracting State.²

Q. What is the first consideration? A. Confirm the Convention applies. Both the “removed from” and “removed to” countries must be Contracting States, so verifying the Convention applies is a crucial first step. The United States of America is a Contracting State, as are numerous other familiar countries such as Canada, Mexico, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Italy, Israel, Australia, France and Germany.³ Next, ensure the child is not too old, as “the Convention shall cease to apply when the child attains the age of sixteen years.”⁴

Q. The Convention does not apply; are there other options? A. Possibly. The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, S.C. Code § 63-15-300 et seq., may provide relief.

Q. Will the government provide assistance? A. Yes, in certain areas. The United States Central Authority⁵ can assist with both incoming and outgoing abduction cases (those where the child has been removed to or retained in a foreign country and the Convention litigation will take place in that country). For incoming cases, services include processing of an application for return submitted to a foreign country's central authority, assistance with locating the child and seeking a voluntary return.

Q. Voluntary return is not an option, both countries are Contracting States and the child is under 16. What is the next litigation step? A. Consider the implementing authority and its limitation. The International Child Abduction Remedies Act (ICARA) implements the Convention and empowers courts to determine “only rights under the Convention and not the merits of any underlying child custody claims.”⁶ Stated another way, the court handling a matter filed under

(Continued on page 14)

SPOTLIGHT

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Spotlight

Published three times per year by
Legal Staff Professionals of
South Carolina

2013-2014 Editor:
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Post Office Box 10208
Greenville, SC 29603



President's Report

by
Lois J. Belle, PLS
2013-2014 President

I am honored and privileged to be the 2013-2014 President of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina. Your guidance, support and friendship have given me the confidence to pursue this path and I would not be where I am today without all of you!

If you missed our 48th Annual Meeting held and hosted in Spartanburg, you truly missed a wonderful weekend. Not only did we have a great time catching up with friends, we had great CLE speakers, meetings, fabulous vendors, food and fun! Thanks again, Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals for all your hard work!

And, a special thank you to my home chapter, Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville. They have been supportive of me since I was a new member 13 years ago. They presented me with a "Presidential Survival" basket filled with many useful items. One such item was a kitchen 'potholder' to use when things gets too hot to handle, a trowel for when you-know-what gets too deep, and of course, the cure-all necessity – chocolate! They ended their presentation by singing a rendition of "Lean on Me" – I won't soon forget that! You all are the best!

My theme for this year is **ATTITUDE**. Webster's defines attitude as a way of talking and behaving. It's truly a way of life. Think about it – if someone smiles at you, you may smile back. But, if someone is hard-nosed with you, you might snap back at them. Attitudes can make or break us. They can be positive or negative. We are surrounded by people who argue, worry, complain, criticize, blame, envy and gossip. It's no wonder we are exhausted! We need to surround ourselves with positive people – spend time with people who support and energize us. Be positive with yourself. Learn to control your own thoughts.

This year your LSPSC Board will make a concerted effort to **ENGAGE** our members to participate in all aspects of NALS, **INSPIRE** members and non-members alike to strive towards certification, **ENHANCE** our careers through the wonderful education that we offer and **PROMOTE** LSPSC within our association and also

throughout the community. We will strive for a positive attitude so that others will want to be a part of this fabulous association.

Your LSPSC board would like to form a strategic partnership with our local chapters. Maybe your chapter could use assistance with a fundraising project, or a study course, or a CLE event. Please be thinking how we might help your chapter this year. In addition to our chapter visitation we will have a board member (or two) assigned to partner with each local chapter. We will monitor our progress through our "Member/Chapter Outreach Program" (included on pp. 6-7 in this issue of Spotlight.) Individual members and chapters will track specific objectives throughout the year. The list is certainly not all inclusive. Please feel free to add any achievements that have not been included. We plan to strengthen our current members, local chapters and thereby attract new members. With a positive attitude we can improve our health, enhance relationships and most importantly, add years to our lives.

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have!

I hope you will consider attending the NALS Annual Education Conference and National Forum which will be held in nearby Atlanta, Georgia from October 17-20. The early-bird deadline is July 1. I'd love to see you there – and even more so if you have never attended a national meeting. What better chance to attend a national meeting so close! Our Summer Membership meeting will be held on Saturday, July 27 in Columbia. We will have 2 great CLE sessions and we will be learning better how to navigate the NALS website. Don't miss it!

**NALS Professional Development
Conference, Tulsa, OK
February 28 - March 2, 2013
Lois J. Belle, PLS**

Friday morning began with our opening keynote speaker, Erick Burton, with his presentation entitled, "Accelerating to World-Class Leadership: How Leaders Navigate Fear and Risk." Mr. Burton, also a member of the NALS Leadership Identification committee, began his presentation by asking us what we F*E*A*R and explained that FEAR was False, Evidence Appearing, Real. He led us through an energetic, highly interactive session where we divided into teams throughout the room to work as a team to accomplish common goals, all the while with our shoes off. It was very interesting, to say the least, to see how each group came together. Mr. Burton shared with us 12 habits of leaders who think big including seeing people as they could be rather than what they are. We left this session invigorated!

The next session that Meredith and I attended was "Team Building and Collaboration," presented by Linda Jenkins. We learned that each person works together differently. One such exercise showed us just how much! (If you get a chance, ask Meredith about Marien.)



As the morning sessions came to an end, we moved right on to the Networking Luncheon where first-timers, life members and the 2012-2013 Board of Directors were recognized. Doris Compton, PP, PLS, incoming NALS President conducted our business meeting and installation of the NALS Foundation trustees. Our NALS Foundation

raises monies through auctions at the national meetings and provides us with education and certification grant opportunities.

My next session was “Leading on Purpose,” presented by Nathan R. Mitchell. He pointed out many ways that we can become better leaders. We rounded out the afternoon with our Region 4 meeting. Lisa Mitchum, PLS, conducted the meeting in Leslie Key’s absence. Region 4 continues to look for an opportunity for our region to have a special type event in October at the National Education conference as we will not hold a regional conference this summer. The region voted to continue to support Leslie with expenses as long as she visits at least one state meeting. We will hold a Foundation auction in October with a cash premium prize in lieu of the jewelry prize. Region 4 pins (collector’s items soon!) are available at a discounted price if you would like one.



Our evening concluded with the Installation and President’s Reception in honor of our 2013-2014 NALS President, Doris Compton, PP, PLS. Doris was honored by many, many chapters, states and friends.

Saturday began with a joint officer training presented by the NALS leaders. The theme throughout the day for leaders was

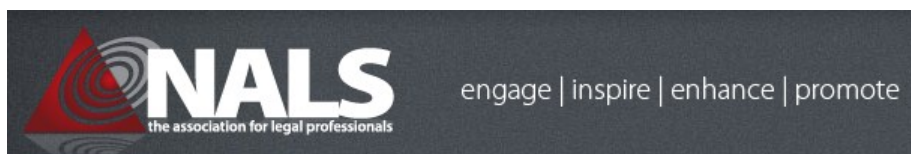
“Leadership Workout”. The morning session was entitled Breakfast of Champions, the afternoon session was Pre-Game Warm-Up and continued through out the day. Our NALS leaders, officers and Past-Presidents all contributed to these sessions dressed in workout clothes (lucky them!) Meredith and I attended the Recognition Luncheon where we were privileged to sit with two NALS Past-Presidents. This luncheon recognized three members in attendance who “Engaged 5”, each recruiting five new members this past year! Also recognized were newly certified and recertified members. The day finished with the NALS Foundation Sweepstakes drawings –we did not win even one! We then topped off the



evening at the networking dinner. While we didn’t dance the night away – we still had a great time people watching!

I have to tell you that I was finally able to take the limousine to Top Dollar Pawn for the wine and cheese reception on Thursday night. What a hoot! We had a great time in the limo and I even purchased a piece of jewelry (or was that two!)

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the NALS Professional Development Conference in Tulsa – I came home with many great ideas and meet a lot of nice ladies!



MEMBER/CHAPTER OUTREACH PROGRAM

Engage | Inspire | Enhance | Promote LSPSC

Name/Chapter Name: _____

	May-July	August-October	November-January	February-April
CERTIFICATION – INSPIRE				
Sit for certification				
Pass one or more sections of exam				
Achieve certification				
Renew certification				
Encourage member to sit for exam				
Inspire non-member to sit for exam				
EDUCATION – ENHANCE				
Achieve CLE Award				
Renew CLE Award				
Earn 3 hours CLE				
Attend NALS OLC session				

MARKETING – PROMOTE					
Write article for publication					
Attend local meeting					
Attend state meeting					
Attend national meeting					
MEMBERSHIP – ENGAGE					
Guest to local meeting					
Guest to state meeting					
Sponsor new member					
Renew membership					

Social Networking



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www.lspsc.org

www.lspg.org (Greenville Chapter)

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www.ning.com

www.nals.org

Click on "NALS Community"

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS

President-Elect
Jan W. Berger, ALS



As I write this article, I must begin with a **big thank you** for the nomination and election as President-Elect. I am continually reminded of the blessings I receive from the leadership, networking, education, and friendship opportunities through this association!

The President-Elect luncheon was wonderful and I am humbled and grateful for the kind words spoken on my behalf and the support of the Association. I thank the association for the beautiful P-E pin!! I thank my chapter for the gifts, my "frog theme" cake and the tiara! Just so you know . . . I have placed my tiara in a beautiful box for safekeeping until the next LSPSC meeting. Thanks to the motion by Chrisanne Porter and approval of the association, I must now wear it at all meetings as your "Princess-Elect! "

I hope all chapters have updated their information with NALS! I e-mailed all Chapter Presidents in May. Remember that your LSPSC Handbook Committee needed this as well!! Please contact me if you have any questions about this process.

President Belle has a wonderful year of activities planned for us! I am honored to assist her this year and am sure all of us will be inspired and motivated by her leadership and enthusiasm. I know I will be! She will be a hard act to follow!

Officer Visitation is always a highlight for your Board members and I will be working with your Chapter Presidents to schedule our visit! We will finalize everything at the Board Retreat in June will visit you in July or August! President Belle's vision this year is to **Engage, Inspire, Enhance, and Promote!** Your Board supports each chapter in their endeavors to **engage** its members, **inspire** them to get out of their comfort zone, **enhance** them with knowledge, education and networking, and to **promote** the Association to increase membership.

I will represent LSPSC (along with President Belle) at the NALS Educational Conference in Atlanta in October. This will be my first national conference and I am so excited to be going. I can't wait to report back to you on my experience and share everything I've learned. Thank you so much for this opportunity!!

Enjoy the start of your summer and I'll see you the end of July in Columbia at our next State meeting!!! Look for me to pop in on as many chapter visitations as I can!!

Functional Director of Certification
Robin Deming, PLS



ERIPSNi – The Road to Certification

I am extremely honored to have been elected to serve as your 2013 – 2014 Functional Director of Certification. This position means more to me than any of you could ever imagine. The

majority of you can never guess how a skunk named Eripsni helped me get there. I sat on LSPSC Board for two years without my certification. Each time the Board was introduced I regretted not have a certification. I chose to come off the Board and to buckle down and study to achieve my PLS. Being in a specific area of law, healthcare, I knew that my road wouldn't be an easy one. I ordered all of the study materials that I could get my hands on and settled down for a long summer of study.

Instead of that steamy romance novel by the pool, it was *Basic Manual for the Lawyer's Assistant*, *Gregg Reference Manual*, *Advanced Manual for the Lawyer's Assistant* and not to forget that page turner, *Bluebook: Uniform System of Citations*. I studied every mock test I could find. It seemed the more I studied, the less I knew.

It finally came exam time. I took the Friday prior to the Saturday testing off to do some last minute praying and studying. I was settling into last minute cramming that Friday morning and my two Cavalier King Charles spaniels had to go outside. One of them came right back in but the other one stayed out a little longer. I was busy studying and heard the other one knock on the door wanting to come back in. When I got to the door, much to my surprise, not only was Andy standing there to come in but a skunk was standing there with him. I screamed, the skunk sprayed, one dog was trying to get out of the house to the skunk and the other was trying to get in to the house away from the skunk. The skunk was scratching at the front door trying to come in. I called my husband to ask what I should do. He says to get the gun and go out and shoot at it. For those who don't know me, I live in the country, no neighbor anywhere around. I'm still in my gown and it's around 10:00 am. Annie Oakley here gets the pistol and goes out the back door. All the while thinking, "If I try to shoot at the skunk, I am either going to end up shooting my dog or blowing a hole in the house and the skunk is going to get in." Just as I get to the bottom step, the skunk comes around to the back and chases me back in the door. He keeps going from the front yard to the back yard and wouldn't you know he runs off into the woods just before my husband gets home. Needless to say after all my screaming the skunk has sprayed everything from my house to my dog. The smell is horrendous. By this time it is almost noon and I am really getting the feeling that this is a bad omen for my certification test.

I had to get my focus back and to get back to the job at hand. I continued my studying and got up bright and early on Saturday and went to take the exam. We were told that it would probably take

6 weeks to get the results. I figured we would probably hear the results right before Thanksgiving. On Saturday, October 27, 2012, my husband brought the mail in and right away I noticed an envelope from NALS. Nervously I pulled the envelope out and saw it right away, **Robin C. Deming, Certified PLS**. I had passed and at that very moment in time, I realized how much I had wanted this certification. I was so proud; I called just about everyone I knew.



I could have let the skunk episode dictate my life or I could use it to **INSPIRE** my life. I chose to let it inspire me, hence the name **ERIPSN** which turned around is **INSPIRE**.

I hope my little story can inspire you to consider trying for your certification. If I said it was easy, I would be telling an untruth. It was actually the hardest thing I have ever done but one of the most rewarding. I am here this year to help you in any way I can and I look forward to doing just that.



Congratulations: LSPSC would like to congratulate the following:

- ◆ Robin C. Deming, PLS
- ◆ Sharon Wotherspoon, PLS, for achieving her PLS recertification
- ◆ Tara Jean Brown, PP, PLS, for achieving her PLS recertification
- ◆ Yvonne Fortner, PP, PLS, for achieving her PP recertification

ALP, PLS, PP Exams: The deadline to submit your application for the Saturday, September 28, 2013, testing is Thursday, August 1, 2013. Applications can be obtained at www.nals.org/certification. If you have any questions, please contact me at rdeming@srhs.com or 864-809-4638.



Online Study Group – Fall 2013: All sessions are at 8:00 p.m. central time. Registration is \$99 for NALS members/\$150 for non-members for the entire series. A toll free number is provided for your registration. You may go to the NALS website at www.nals.org, then click on “Advance” and then “Study Options.” This will take you to the registration page.

The following is a schedule of the sessions:

- August 6, 2013 – Written Communications (ALP, PLS, and PP) – 1 hour CLE
- August 13, 2013 – Office Procedures and Technology (ALP and PLS) – 1 hour CLE
- August 20, 2013 – Ethics, Human Relations, and Judgment Skills (ALP, PLS, and PP) – 1 hour CLE
- August 27, 2013 – Legal Knowledge and Skills (PLS and PP) – 1 hour CLE
- September 10, 2013 – ALP Review – 1 hour CLE

- September 17, 2013 – PLS Review – 1 hour CLE
- September 24, 2013 – PP Review – 1 hour CLE
- September 25, 2013 – Test Taking Tips – 1 hour CLE

Total NALS Certifications as of April 1, 2013:

- Professional Paralegal 553
- Professional Legal Secretary 5,709
- Accredited Legal Professional 3,131

Exam Administrators: NALS is always in need of qualified Exam Administrators to give the ALP, PLS, and PP exams. Please remember to register your exam site annually.

NALS Branding: In order to more fully embrace the diversity of legal professionals entering the workforce and provide those individuals with certifications reflecting that diversity, NALS has adapted the name of its Accredited Legal Secretary (ALS) certification. NALS’ entry-level certification will now be known as Accredited Legal Professional (ALP). Effective **May 1, 2013**, persons who attain or have attained this certification may now use either the ALS or ALP designation. Please note that this is a change in name only; the quality of the exam remains the same.

In an effort to ensure that branding for the NALS exams remains consistent, NALS has redesigned its PLS logo to resemble that of the ALP and PP logos. All three NALS certification logos may be viewed below. New ALP/PLS pins and notecards will be available for purchase very shortly.

Additionally, if you wish to receive a reprinted certificate with the new logo, those will be available for the price of \$20. Watch e-News for an announcement as soon as these items are available for purchase in the [NALS store](#).



Functional Director of Education
Carlene B. Kilgore, PLS

We had seventeen members register for our Probate and Estate Planning seminar, nineteen members for our Consumer

Financial Protection Bureau and the Best Practices from ALTA seminar and collected \$550.00 in registration fees. We would like to thank Alan Tewkesbury, Esquire and Martha McConnell, Esquire for taking the time to speak to us.

Mr. Tewkesbury practices in the areas of estate planning and probate with the law firm of Butler, Means, Evins & Browne in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree from Clemson University (1977), his law degree from the University of South Carolina (1980), and his Masters in Tax from Emory University (1990). He served as law clerk to South Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Bruce Littlejohn (1980-1982), as Assistant Solicitor for the South Carolina 7th Judicial Circuit (1982-1983), as Member of the law firm of Holcombe, Bomar, Wynn and Gunn (1983-1991), as Assistant General Counsel of Flagstar Corporation (1991-1995), and joined the Butler, Means law firm in 1995. He served as a Member of the South Carolina Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline (1985-1988), currently serves as an Attorney to Assist Disciplinary Counsel of the

South Carolina Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, is a Member of the Spartanburg County Bar Association and South Carolina Bar Association, and served as Council Member on the South Carolina Bar Probate, Estate Planning, and Trust Section (2004-2007, Chairman 2006-07). He is married to Karen Givins Tewkesbury and has two sons, Matt (age 27) and Rick (25). At his request, we are happy to donate to Mobile Meals of Spartanburg.

Martha K. McConnell, Esquire, is Vice President and State Counsel for Chicago Title Insurance Company. She received her B.A. degree from Winthrop University in 1983 and her J.D. degree from the Charleston School of Law in 2008, graduating at both levels with honors. She was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 2008. She worked for over fifteen years as a real estate paralegal in both residential and commercial closings before joining Chicago Title Insurance Company as an Agency Representative. After serving in that capacity for seven years, she attended law school while maintaining her position with Chicago Title and was added to its underwriting staff in 2008. She has co-authored a Chicago Title/ South Carolina Basic Underwriting Training Manual, and has authored other company training materials. She is a member of the South Carolina Bar, including the Richland Bar Association, and the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. She is the Immediate Past President of the Palmetto Land Title Association, and has also served as the Vice-President/Chairperson of the Convention Committee and Chairperson of the Communications/Public Relations Committee for that organization. At her request we are happy to donate to the Humane Society in Columbia.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our summer meeting which will be Saturday, July 27, 2013, at the Nelson Mullins Law Firm in Columbia. Michael A. Mann, Esquire is a Member of Nexsen Pruet, LLC and he will give a presentation on Patent Reform resulting from the America Invents Act. Leslie Keys, PP, PLS, our present Region 4 Director, and Lisa Mitchum, PLS, a former Region 4 Director and our present NALS Membership Director, will give a presentation on Navigating through the NALS Website. I would like to ask members who have laptop computers to bring same to our meeting. We would like to have a computer at each table for some "hands on" navigating through this complicated and sometimes confusing website.

Tags

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Functional Director of Marketing **Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, PLS**

Promote, Promote, Promote . . . If you cannot tell, I am excited to serve as the Functional Director of Marketing this year. We have gotten off to a great start releasing photographs and information

regarding our 2013-2014 LSPSC Officers Installation to NALS as well as over ten newspaper and business magazine media outlets throughout the state of South Carolina. Let's not forget our social media either - check out photographs and information on Facebook at "Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina" and click on "Like" to get up to date information and reminders as they are posted. Photographs have been downloaded to Snapfish from the state conference. Check them out at www.snapfish.com; email: info@lspsc.org; password: lbelle.



Carolina Paralegal News . . .

The next deadline for CPN is July 11. If you have any information regarding your chapter, including installation of officers, community service activities, certifications, or the like, please forward the information and photographs to Katherine Lewis at Katherine.Lewis@sclawyersweekly.com. Please send a copy of the information to me as well so I can keep up with the exciting activities taking place in your chapter.

Promotional Opportunities and Items . . . The LSPSC Board will discuss promotional opportunities and logo items during its retreat in June. However, do not forget about LSPSC shirts and blankets which are still on sale. If you have something you would like monogrammed, please bring the item with you to the LSPSC Summer Meeting. Cost for the monogram on any item provided by a member is \$10.

Affinity Providers . . . Check out this edition of *Spotlight* (p. 39) for a listing of NALS Affinity Providers and information regarding the special discounts they provide to NALS members.

Chapter Spotlight Advertisements . . . Each chapter is encouraged to solicit one full page advertisement to run three times per year in the *Spotlight*. A free website link is provided for each sponsor purchasing a full page advertisement. Think outside the box in soliciting an advertiser - they do not have to be legal related. An advertisement form is included in the *Spotlight* providing information regarding costs and advertisement dimensions.

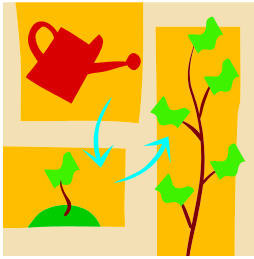
Happy Grams . . . Don't worry; be happy. Share that happiness with your fellow LSPSC members by purchasing a Happy Gram for \$5.00. Happy Gram requests can be forwarded to me at cpitman@greenville.gov. Happy Grams will be included in the next issue of the *Spotlight*.

In closing, I want to challenge you to speak to someone once a week about your local chapter, LSPSC, and NALS. How hard is that to do? Share with someone what being a member or being certified means to you. Remember, "If you don't promote yourself, no one else will." See you at the LSPSC Summer Meeting.

MARKETING
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**Functional Director of Membership
Meredith Lazarski, ACP**

First and foremost, I would like to thank the members of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina for the opportunity to serve as this year's Functional Director of Membership. I am looking forward to engaging our LSPSC members over the next year and helping both our state and local chapters both maintain membership and grow.

NALS would like to have all members full birthday for marketing/survey purposes only. It appears that eight LSPSC members (me included!) have not provided this information to NALS. I will be contacting these members to get this information to report the same back to NALS.

At the Professional Development & Education Conference in Tulsa, NALS had a great seminar on growing our membership via social media. For all you Facebook fans, LSPSC has a group page. Please check it out! Membership and Marketing will be posting information regarding and articles from NALS, the South Carolina Bar, local and state agencies and our local chapters and its members. If a local chapter would like to create a Facebook page, please let me know. I'll be happy to assist in setting one up. Hilton Head Legal Staff Professionals also has a Facebook page that posts information regarding and articles from NALS, the South Carolina Bar and state and local agencies as well as community events HHLPS and its members are involved in.



As of April 25, 2013, LSPSC has 73 members: 6 new members, 59 continuing members, 6 life members and 2 retired members. Local chapters are as follows: Members At Large has 3; Legal Staff Professionals of Orangeburg has 5; Legal Staff Professionals of Midlands has 7; Hilton Head Legal Staff Professionals has 8; Legal Staff Professionals of the Lowcountry has 11; Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville has 23; Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals has 16.

As many of you have seen, in order to continue providing quality programs and services to NALS members, while meeting increased operating costs, beginning May 1, 2013, membership dues was increased to \$120.00. With regard to continuing members, the increase in dues from \$98.00 to \$120.00 will be reflected on renewal notices beginning with May anniversaries.



**Employment
Deborah League Brown, PLS
Betty Parks**

Betty and I would like to thank President Lois for allowing us the opportunity to serve the Association as the Employment Co-Chairs. We ask that the chapter presidents send to both of us the contact information for their chapter's Employment Chairs so we may disseminate employment opportunities to our chapters just as soon as we receive it.

Betty Parks
Betty@wr-lawfirm.com
Work Phone # 843/842-2750

Deborah League Brown, PLS
deborahbrown@butlermeans.com
Direct Phone # 864/699-5655



**Finance
Sonia Hunt
Mary Kay Oliver**

Meeting on July 27th in Columbia. Christmas will be coming early for LSPSC because our theme for the Chinese Auction will be "Christmas in July". Think of something you would like to receive for Christmas and bring it to the July meeting. If you are looking for some ideas, how about bath and body sets, jewelry, scarves, hand bags, totes and wine just to name a few. If you are feeling really creative and don't mind seeking out the hard to find items, Christmas decorations would also be a good item to bring to the July meeting.

The Orangeburg Chapter will be responsible for furnishing the premium prize for the Summer Membership Meeting.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Columbia and to seeing what items you can bring to help us meet our budget for the year!

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LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Two Issues	\$85	\$50	\$25	
One Issue	\$50	\$20	\$10	\$10

* Full Page advertisements include a web link to the business's webpage.

The SPOTLIGHT is published three times per year: March, June and September.
Advertisements must be provided in camera ready format.

Email advertisement and mail payment to: **Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS**
Functional Director of Marketing
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(Continued from page 1)

ICARA is solely to determine the jurisdiction in which custody will be adjudicated—the matter of custody itself is left for another day.⁷

Q. Federal court or family court? A. Either. Though ICARA is a federal statute, there is no requirement the case be filed in federal court, just as there is no requirement of removal to the federal court if filed in the family court. In fact, “[t]he courts of the States and the United States district courts shall have concurrent original jurisdiction of the actions arising under the Convention.”⁸ Choice of court is a strategic decision.

Q. What are the elements of a prima facie case, and what is the evidentiary standard? A. A petitioner must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the child has been either wrongfully removed to this country or wrongfully retained in this country, within the meaning of the Convention.⁹ Specifically, a petitioner must prove: (1) the child was “habitually resident” in “petitioner’s country of residence” at the time he/she was wrongfully removed or retained; (2) the removal or retention was in breach of the petitioner’s custody rights under the law of the petitioner’s “home state”; and (3) the petitioner had been exercising those rights at the time of the retention.¹⁰



Q. What does “habitual residence” mean? A. Habitual residence is a case-by-case determination. “The framers of the Convention intentionally left ‘habitual residence’ undefined, and intended that the term be defined by the unique facts in each case.”¹¹ Because “[a] person can have only one habitual residence,”¹² federal courts have adopted a two-part framework to assist in the highly fact-specific analysis.¹³

1. Shared parental intent

The key question is “[w]hether the parents shared a settled intention to abandon the former country of residence.”¹⁴ There are four categories of cases:

- i. The family as a unit has manifested a settled purpose to change habitual residence, despite the fact that one parent may have had qualms about the move.
- ii. The children’s initial translocation from an established habitual residence was clearly intended to be of a specific, delimited period.
- iii. In between cases where the petitioning parent had earlier consented to let the child stay abroad for some period of ambiguous duration.
- iv. One parent intended to move to the new country of residence on a trial or conditional basis.¹⁵

In a dispute over habitual residence, “the representations of the parties cannot be accepted at face value, and courts must determine [habitual residence] from all available evidence.”¹⁶ Courts have considered the following factors as evidence of parental intent: parental employment in the new country of residence; the purchase of a new home in the new country and the sale of a home in the former country; marital stability; the retention of close ties to the former country; the storage and shipment of family possessions; the citizenship status of the parents and the children; and the stability of the home environment in the new country of residence.¹⁷

2. Acclimatization

Once parental intent has been considered, the next determination is the extent of the child’s acclimatization to the new country. Requirements include “an ‘actual change in geography’ coupled

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with the 'passage of an appreciable period of time, one sufficient for the acclimatization by the children to the new environment.'"¹⁸ "The question here 'is not simply whether the child's life in the new country shows some minimal degree of settled purpose' but whether the 'child's relative attachments to the countries have changed to the point where [ordering the child's return] would now be tantamount to taking the child out of the family and social environment in which its life has developed.'"¹⁹ School enrollment, participation in social activities, the length of stay in the relative countries and the child's age have all been considered as evidence of acclimatization.²⁰ "Happiness" is not the standard,²¹ and the above factors may be more difficult to apply if the family is of considerable means.²²

Q. What's next after proving habitual residence? A. Showing the petitioner had rights of custody and was exercising those rights at the time of the removal or retention.

1. Rights of custody

The next prong is whether the petitioner had rights of custody to the child,²³ defined as "rights relating to the care of the person of the child and, in particular, the right to determine the child's place of residence."²⁴ These rights may arise "by operation of law or by reason of a judicial or administrative decision, or by reason of an agreement having legal effect ..."²⁵ A court may take notice of the law of a foreign country,²⁶ and if the law of the foreign country vests both parents with joint custody until a competent court enters a contrary order, this prong is satisfied.²⁷

2. Exercising custody rights

Simply having custody rights is not enough; the rights must be exercised. On the other hand, "exercising" is sufficient, as the quality of the interaction is not the issue.²⁸ A parent having valid custody rights under the law of the country of the child's habitual residence cannot fail to exercise those rights under the Convention "short of acts that constitute clear and unequivocal abandonment of the child."²⁹ As little as a few visits per year and paying child support is likely sufficient.³⁰

Q. The prima facie case looks strong; what else should be considered? A. Affirmative defenses. "Upon a showing of

wrongful removal, return of the child is required" unless the respondent establishes a defense.³¹ Defenses are to be construed narrowly³² and "are not a basis for avoiding return of a child merely because an American court believes it can better or more quickly resolve a dispute."³³ Moreover, a court has discretion to order a child's return even if an affirmative defense is proven.³⁴

1. Clear and convincing evidence defenses

Two possible defenses are "(1) that return would expose the child to a 'grave risk' of 'physical or psychological harm or otherwise place [the child] in an intolerable situation' and (2) that return of the child would not be permitted by 'fundamental principles of the United States relating to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.'"³⁵

Grave risk should consider "not only the probability of harm, but also the magnitude of the harm if the probability materializes."³⁶ One appellate court found this defense will only apply where return of the child puts the child in "imminent danger prior to the resolution of the custody dispute—e.g., returning the child to a zone of war, famine or disease" or "there is a grave risk of harm in cases of serious abuse or neglect, or extraordinary emotional dependence" and the child cannot be protected by the court in the country of habitual residence.³⁷

The "fundamental principles" defense is reserved for "the rare occasion that return of a child would utterly shock the conscience of the court or offend all notions of due process."³⁸

2. Preponderance of the evidence defenses

Two other defenses are: "(1) that the petition for a return was not filed within one year of the removal and the child is now well-settled in another country, and (2) that the petitioner was not actually exercising his or her custodial rights at the time of the removal or had consented to or acquiesced in the removal."³⁹

The former, known as the "well-settled" defense, cannot be invoked if the petition was filed within one year.⁴⁰ This defense may not be allowed even if the petition was filed outside the one-year period if there are extenuating circumstances underlying the delayed petition.⁴¹ Proof of the well-settled defense will be similar to the acclimatization prong addressed above; factors can include living arrangement, age, schooling, church attendance, immigration

(Continued from page 15)

status, location of friends and relatives, and stability of parent's employment and overall environment of the child.⁴²

For the latter, the defense that petitioner was not actually exercising custodial rights at the time of the removal is simply the converse of the prima facie case element; if a prima facie case is proved, this defense is necessarily rejected.⁴³ As to the remaining issues, any consent can only occur before the removal/retention. The specifics of any consent should be analyzed,⁴⁴ though a mere "authorization to travel," even if signed and notarized, will not likely be sufficient.⁴⁵ Acquiescence, on the other hand, necessarily occurs after the removal/retention and could be "an act or statement with the requisite formality, such as testimony in a judicial proceeding; a convincing written renunciation of rights; or a consistent attitude of acquiescence over a significant period of time."⁴⁶

The preponderance standard also applies to the final defense that "the child objects to being returned and has attained an age and degree of maturity at which it is appropriate to take account of its views."⁴⁷ The authoritative commentary to the Convention suggests that children who are nearing age 16 should ordinarily have their wishes respected,⁴⁸ and 14 years of age has been held sufficient under this defense.⁴⁹ A younger child may have its objection honored if to not do so would mean separating it from an older sibling.⁵⁰ A child as young as eight has been found to be sufficiently mature to provide evidence supporting rejection of return,⁵¹ and one district judge gave some consideration to the views of a five-year-old.⁵² However, undue influence by the removing parent may eviscerate even a mature child's objection.⁵³

Q. Can a petitioner recover fees and costs? A. Yes. If return is ordered, the court "shall order the respondent to pay necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the petitioner, including court costs, legal fees, foster home or other care during the course of proceedings in the action, and transportation costs related to the return of the child, unless the respondent establishes that such order would be clearly inappropriate."⁵⁴ There is no converse provision if the court does not order return.

Q. How long will the case take? A. Probably not long.⁵⁵ The District of South Carolina's Electronic Case Filing shows actions being tried⁵⁶ within a few months of the date of filing of the petition.⁵⁷

Q. Will discovery be allowed? A. Maybe. Though not specifically referenced in the Convention or ICARA, written discovery and depositions may be allowed in this district.⁵⁸ If the matter is filed in family court, the South Carolina Rules of Family Court allow discovery "only by stipulation of the parties or by court order."⁵⁹

Q. Anything out of the ordinary to expect at trial? A. Yes. Live witnesses may testify, including children, potentially "by contemporaneous transmission from a different location" if there is "good cause in compelling circumstances with appropriate safeguards."⁶⁰ There is also the possibility that the court may receive testimony via affidavit.⁶¹ While other evidentiary rules should apply, authentication requirements are significantly relaxed.⁶²

Conclusion

Proof of all necessary elements of a prima facie case will likely be the most important part of any ICARA case. Since the Convention "establishes a strong presumption favoring return of a wrongfully removed child,"⁶³ if a prima facie case is made, the respondent has the ability to prevail by affirmative defense, but such a showing is more difficult and is certainly not a guarantee of success.



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Endnotes

- 1 Population Distribution and Change: 2000 to 2010 (2011), available at www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-01.pdf.
- 2 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, art. 1, Oct. 25, 1980, [hereinafter Convention] available at www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.text&cid=24 (This article only addresses actions seeking return of a child; the

(Continued on page 17)

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- Convention also allows a left-behind parent to merely seek access to/visitation with the removed child).
- 3 Status Table, available at www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status&cid=24 (last visited Feb. 6, 2013). A South Carolina appellate court once relied in part on potential relocation to a non-Contracting State as a reason to affirm the family court's ban on international travel for children. See *Pirayesh v. Pirayesh*, 359 S.C. 284, 299, 596 S.E.2d 505, 513-14 (Ct. App. 2004).
 - 4 Convention, supra note 2, art. 4. This applies even if a petition for return was filed before the child turned 16. Hague International Child Abduction Convention: Text and Legal Analysis, 51 Fed. Reg. 10494, 10504, Department of State Public Notice 957 (March 26, 1986) ("Public Notice 957"); Elisa Pérez-Vera, Explanatory Report on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, ¶ 77, at 450, 3 Hague Conference on Private Int'l Law, Acts and Documents of the Fourteenth Session (1980), available at www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=publications.details&pid=2779 ("Pérez-Vera Report") ("no action or decision based upon the Convention's provisions can be taken with regard to a child after its sixteenth birthday").
 - 5 See International Parental Child Abduction, available at http://travel.state.gov/abduction/abduction_580.html (last visited Feb. 6, 2013).
 - 6 42 U.S.C. §§ 11601 et seq. and 11601(b)(4) (2006).
 - 7 Convention, supra note 2, art. 16.
 - 8 42 U.S.C. § 11603(a) (2006).
 - 9 Id. at §§ 11603(e)(1) and 11603(e)(1)(A) (2006).
 - 10 See *Maxwell v. Maxwell*, 588 F.3d 245, 250 (4th Cir. 2009) (citation omitted).
 - 11 Id. at 251 (citation omitted).
 - 12 *Miller v. Miller*, 240 F.3d 392, 400 (4th Cir. 2001) (quotation omitted).
 - 13 *Maxwell*, 588 F.3d at 251.
 - 14 Id. at 251 (citation omitted).
 - 15 Id. at 251-52 (citing *Mozes v. Mozes*, 239 F.3d 1067, 1075 (9th Cir. 2001) and *Papakosmas v. Papakosmas*, 483 F.3d 617, 622 (9th Cir. 2007) and others).
 - 16 *Maxwell*, 588 F.3d at 252 (quotations omitted).
 - 17 Id. at 252 (quotations omitted).
 - 18 Id. at 251 (quotations omitted).
 - 19 Id. at 253-54 (quotation omitted).
 - 20 Id. at 254 (quotations omitted).
 - 21 *Mozes*, 239 F.3d at 1079.
 - 22 *Reyes v. Jeffcoat*, 3:12-cv-00298-JFA, Order filed 6/27/12, docket no. 81, p. 10, ¶ 11.
 - 23 *Maxwell*, 588 F.3d at 254.
 - 24 Convention, supra note 2, art. 5(a).
 - 25 Id. at art. 3.
 - 26 Id. at art. 14.
 - 27 See *Bader v. Kramer*, 445 F.3d 346, 351 (4th Cir. 2006) ("Bader I").
 - 28 *Friedrich v. Friedrich*, 78 F.3d 1060, 1065-66 (6th Cir. 1996) ("Friedrich II").
 - 29 Id. at 1066.
 - 30 *Sealed Appellant v. Sealed Appellee*, 394 F.3d 338, 345 (5th Cir. 2004).
 - 31 *Bader v. Kramer*, 484 F.3d 666, 668 (4th Cir. 2007) ("Bader II") (citation omitted).
 - 32 42 U.S.C. § 11601(a)(4) (2006); *Friedrich II*, 78 F.3d at 1067.
 - 33 See *Miller*, 240 F.3d at 402 (quotations omitted).
 - 34 *Public Notice 957*, supra note 4, at 10509; *Danaipour v. McLarey*, 286 F.3d 1, 14 (1st Cir. 2002) (quotations omitted).
 - 35 *Bader II*, 445 F.3d at 668 (citation omitted).
 - 36 *Van De Sande v. Van De Sande*, 431 F.3d 567, 570 (7th Cir. 2005) (quotations omitted).
 - 37 *Friedrich II*, 78 F.3d at 1069 (emphases in original).
 - 38 *Hazbun Escaf v. Rodriguez*, 200 F. Supp. 2d 603, 614 (E.D. Va. 2002) (quotation omitted).
 - 39 *Bader II*, 445 F.3d at 668-69 (citation omitted).
 - 40 Convention, supra note 2, art. 12; 42 U.S.C. § 11603(b) (2006).
 - 41 *Public Notice 957*, supra note 4, at 10509; see *Furnes v. Reeves*, 362 F.3d 702 (11th Cir. 2004); but see *Toren v. Toren*, 26 F. Supp. 2d 240, 244 (D.Mass. 1998), vacated on other grounds by *Toren v. Toren*, 191 F.3d 23 (1st Cir. 1993) (the one year language used by the Convention is unambiguous and puts "some limit on the uprooting of a settled child").
 - 42 *Koc v. Koc* (In re *Koc*), 181 F. Supp. 2d 136, 152-54 (E.D.N.Y. 2001).
 - 43 *Bader II*, 484 F.3d at 672.
 - 44 *Nicolson v. Pappalardo*, 605 F.3d 100, 105 (1st Cir. 2010).
 - 45 *Mendez Lynch v. Mendez Lynch*, 220 F. Supp. 2d 1347, 1358-59 (M.D. Fla. 2002).
 - 46 *Friedrich II*, 78 F.3d at 1070 (quotations omitted).
 - 47 Convention, supra note 2, art. 13; 42 U.S.C. § 11603(e)(2)(B) (2006).
 - 48 *Pérez-Vera Report*, supra note 4, ¶ 30, at 433 ("[T]he fact must be acknowledged that it would be very difficult to accept that a child of, for example, fifteen years of age, should be returned against its will").
 - 49 *McManus v. McManus*, 354 F. Supp. 2d 62, 71 (D. Mass. 2005).
 - 50 Id. at 71-72.
 - 51 *Blondin v. Dubois* (*Blondin IV*), 238 F.3d 153, 166 (2nd Cir. 2001).
 - 52 *Reyes Olguin v. Cruz Santana*, 2005 WL 67094 at *10 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 13, 2005).
 - 53 *Giampaolo v. Erneta*, 390 F. Supp. 2d 1269, 1285 (N.D. Ga. 2004).
 - 54 42 U.S.C. § 11607(b)(3) (2006).
 - 55 See Convention, supra note 2, art. 11.
 - 56 Technically, a court can act without a trial. See *March v. Levin*, 136 F. Supp. 2d 831, 834 (M.D. Tenn. 2000) (quotations omitted).
 - 57 *Fabijanic v. Fabijanic*, 2:05-cv-1050-PMD; *Reyes v. Jeffcoat*, 3:12-cv-00298-JFA.
 - 58 *Reyes v. Jeffcoat*, 3:12-cv-00298-JFA; *Carron v. Grant*, 2:05-cv-1046-PMD.
 - 59 Rule 25, SCRFC.
 - 60 Rule 43(a), FRCP.
 - 61 *Maxwell*, 588 F.3d at 254 n.19.
 - 62 42 U.S.C. § 11605 (2006).
 - 63 *Danaipour*, 286 F.3d at 13-14 (quotations omitted).



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HAPPY GRAM:

Good Morning!

~Mandisa



Wave away my yesterday
Cause I'm leaving it behind me.
Hello sunshine, come what may.
I feel something new inside me.
I hear the birds singing
Now my alarm's ringing
Get up, get up, hey!

It's a good morning!
Wake up to a brand new day
This morning,
I'm stepping, stepping on my way
Good morning,
You give me strength,
You give me just what I need
And I can feel the hope that's rising in me.
It's a good morning

Slow down, breathe in,
Don't move ahead
I'm just living in this moment
I've got my arms raised, un-phased
Jump out of bed
Gotta get this party going
I went to bed dreaming,
You woke me up singing
Get up, get up, hey!

It's a good morning!

Wake up to a brand new day
This morning,
I'm stepping, stepping on my way
Good morning,
You give me strength,
You give me just what I need
And I can feel the hope that's rising up in
me.
It's a good morning

Now I'm smiling, and I'm kissing all my
worries goodbye
Got the feeling, if I spread my wings I might
even fly
You are my truth, my way
Give me the strength to say
Get up, get up, get up
Cause it's a good morning, hey

Make It A Great Day! ~Lois

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10:00am – 11:00am Seminar
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9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

TOPIC: Patent Reform resulting from America Invents Act
SPEAKER: Michael A. Mann, Esquire, Member of Nexsen Pruet, LLC

Mr. Mann has practiced in the areas of Intellectual Property law focusing on patent, trademark and copyright issues with the law firm of Nexsen Pruet, LLC in Columbia, South Carolina since 1998. He received his bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from Pennsylvania State University, and his law degree from the Duquesne University. Mr. Mann currently serves on the SC Technical College System board and the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Foundation board.

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

TOPIC: Navigating through the NALS Website
SPEAKER: Leslie Keys, PP, PLS and Lisa Mitchum, PLS

Leslie and Lisa both are well known to most LSPSC members. Leslie is our present NALS Region 4 Director and Lisa has served in that capacity in the past and is presently our NALS Membership Director. Leslie has been employed for the past 12 years as a Legal Assistant for three attorneys at the litigation trial law firm of Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC in Atlanta. Lisa has been employed for the past seven years with the law firm of Smiley Bishop of Porter, LLP in Atlanta.

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COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Summer Meeting 2013



The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is our Summer Membership Meeting Community Project. SCCADVASA is a state wide coalition made up of the 23 domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy programs in South Carolina. Since 1981, SCCADVASA has been a leader in representing the critical needs of survivors and their families. SCCADVASA's dedicated staff works to make the community aware of issues, problems, policy and legislation regarding Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault is a public health problem and a community problem as well as an interpersonal one. It destroys relationships and households, and has adverse affects on everyone who lives in the home, including pets. SCCADVASA's mission supports domestic violence and sexual assault member programs, provides education, and advocates for social reform to eradicate interpersonal violence in South Carolina. SCCADVASA's vision is to make South Carolina a place where all women, children, and men are safe in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, and communities

In additions to the items listed below SCCADVASA will also accept monetary donations and gift cards to purchase items (i.e. gas cards and gift cards to WalMart, Target, etc.).

Items currently needed:

Shelters: alarm clocks; baby food, wipes, diapers, strollers, bath products, car seats; gloves, bats, all kinds of balls, board games (new), DVDs, books/magazines; bath towels, wash cloths, sheets (twin/double), bath/hair/female toiletries, pillows; laundry baskets, light bulbs, mops, brooms, cleaning products, irons, trash bags (XL), shower curtains; book bags, lunch boxes, calculators, all kinds of school supplies; toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, plastic cups/utensils, paper plates, zip lock bags; pots/pans, dish sets, bakeware, glassware, nonperishable food; coffee makers, can openers, toasters.

Assault Victims: All new: adult sweat pants with elastic waistbands (all sizes), packs of underwear (all sizes), kids' clothes (4T and up), adult plain shirts (all sizes), flip flops (all sizes), sports bras (all sizes), crafts (for kids).

Thank you so much for your donations to SCCADVASA! LSPM will take the donations to the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Respectfully submitted,

LSPSC Community Projects Committee
Vickie Halstead and Jamie Early

Chapter Reports



Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville Deborah J. Reynolds, PP, PLS

Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville has gotten off to a great start in 2013. New officers were installed at the regular monthly meeting on April 17, 2013, at the Poinsett Club in Greenville by Roy Reynolds, husband of incoming President Deb Reynolds. The full slate of officers includes:

- President – Deborah Reynolds, PP, PLS, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
- President-Elect – A. Yvonne Fortner, PP, PLS, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP
- Vice President – Mary D. (Dee Dee) Callison, Law Offices of Evelyn M. Angeletti
- Secretary – Vickie Halstead, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
- Treasurer – Tara Jean Brown, PP, PLS, Greene Law Firm
- Immediate Past President/Parliamentarian – Patti Bacon, Court Reporter

The officers are excited and honored to be leading this wonderful group for the coming year. We were also thrilled to welcome new member Michelle Dender of Snelling Staffing to our chapter.

On April 28, our own member Lois J., Belle, PLS, was installed as LSPSC President at the Annual Meeting in Spartanburg. It was a lovely ceremony and many of our members were on hand to congratulate her, as well as others from the Greenville chapter serving on the LSPSC Board: Camilla G. Pitman, PLS, CMC – FD Marketing; Jimi L. Bullard, ALS – Treasurer; and Tara Jean Brown, PP, PLS – Secretary.

In May, we met at Nose Dive Pub for our Board meeting. Our plans are underway for marketing, networking, educating, and serving the legal community during the coming year. At our May meeting, we welcomed Reid Sherard of Nelson Mullins, who spoke about a case involving international child abduction claims under the Hague Convention. Next month we will hear from Jon Hammond of Womble Carlyle about the Clinton impeachment trial. In July we will host our LSPSC officers for their visit. A busy group with many engaging events in store!

We look forward to seeing all of you from our sister chapters in Columbia for the Summer Membership meeting. In the meantime, we hope you all enjoy the vacation and graduation season.



Hilton Head Legal Staff Professionals Susan L. Olmstead, PLS

I don't know about you ladies, but time flies by at such a fast pace that I lose big chunks of time. Could be that we fill our lives with God, family, and friends with work and recreation thrown in. HHLSP has been holding regular monthly meeting to

include legal education. Doug Delaney was our guest speaker at our February meeting and spoke about estate planning, life insurance, and reverse mortgages. Our nominating committee was selected at that meeting and they set to work on a slate of proposed nominees for this year's board. At the March Meredith Lazarski, ACP gave us the highlights of her Tulsa trip to include the CLE topic, keynote speakers, and fellowship activities. It was evident that she had a great time and came back with her batteries charged and lots of great ideas. Also at that meeting the following members were nominated and elected to serve: President-Elect: Susan Olmstead, PLS; Secretary: Carolyn Fender; Treasurer: Christine Vandenberghe; FD Certification: Meredith Lazarski, ACP; FD Membership: Betty M. Parks; FD Marketing: Lu Hansen; and FD Education: Meredith Lazarski, ACP. Carlene Kilgore, PLS will serve as President. I would like to thank our two newest members for agreeing to serve on the board as well as thanking Carlene and Meredith who will be serving on the state board. Congratulations to you ladies for accepting the challenge of leadership. Several members of our group contributed and participated in the April 13 Heart Walk. On April 9, Carlene's boss, Cary Griffin, Esq., of the McNair Law Firm, did the installation of officers which was followed by refreshments and libations. Later in April, Meredith, Carlene, Betty, Stephanie and Susan with five suitcases and boxes of files and Chinese auction items traveled up I95 and I26 to Spartanburg for the Annual Meeting and Education Conference. We looked like the Keystone Cops all piling in and out of the car. It made for a jolly fun trip with lots of togetherness. The seminar speakers were excellent, the food delicious, and the events all went off without a hitch. Many thanks to Spartanburg ladies for a wonderful job.



Legal Staff Professionals of the Midlands Jan Berger, ALS

With summer upon us, we want to wish all our LSPSC friends a fun and hopefully "cool" summer. Hope you have some exciting plans with friends and family. Remember to take time for yourself!

Our legal education topics for the next few months:

- June: Six Insider Mortgage Secrets You Should Know (Part 1)
- July: Six Insider Mortgage Secrets You Should Know (Part 2)
- August: LSPSC Officer's Visitation
- September: Contract Tips and Tidbits

We are fortunate that NALS provides free CLE downloads from their website! Look in the Member's Section in the NALS Library. Download and add these presentations to your CLE library for your local chapter! It works for LSPM!

We want to welcome our newest member: MARIS CANON. Maris is a delightful person and is a faithful attendee to our meetings. We look forward to more involvement from her in our chapter activities! Maris, welcome to LSPM, LSPSC, and NALS!!!

Community service continues to be a dynamic part of our chapter. All members are involved in some way in their communities: through church, school, or civic organizations. In addition, as a chapter, we also donate our time and financial contributions to local organizations.

We all came back from Annual Meeting very motivated and dedicated to move our group forward. We are happy to announce that we have put our chapter newsletter, Midlands Messenger, back into quarterly publication! We are working toward President Belle's mission to engage, inspire, enhance, and promote!!

Hope to see everyone in Columbia in July for our Summer meeting!!

**Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals
Deborah League Brown, PLS**

Thank you to all our members who attended the State Annual Meeting here in Spartanburg!! We hope that you had a great time, as well as learned a lot at the seminars. We enjoyed being able to see so many of our friends from across the state.

Our 2013-14 officers were installed at our April meeting. Paul B. Zion, Esquire, of the law firm of Butler, Means, Evins & Browne, P.A., served as Installing Officer. Our 2013-14 Board members are:

President	Kerry Ann Waldrop
Pres.-Elect/Parliamentarian	Deborah League Brown, PLS
Secretary	Linda F. Harris
Treasurer	Nancy J. Lemmons, PLS
Functional Director – Education	Linda F. Harris
Functional Director – Membership	Robin C. Deming, PLS
Chapter Liaison	Deborah League Brown, PLS

The speaker at our May meeting was the Honorable R. Keith Kelly, whose topic was "The Process in Becoming a Judge." We didn't realize how much goes into being appointed as a South Carolina Circuit Court judge.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Summer Membership Meeting in Columbia. Until then, please have a fun, but safe, Memorial Day and 4th of July!!

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

NOTICE is hereby given that the Summer Membership Meeting for 2013-2014 will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013, at:

**Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
1320 Main Street
Meridian Building, 17th Floor
Columbia, South Carolina**

The meeting will begin at 1:45 p.m.

(Dress is business attire.)

(Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.; Seminars begin at 10:00 a.m.)

(Exact meeting information is available on the registration form.)

Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina

**By: /s/ Tara Jean Brown
Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS
LSPSC Secretary**



Recipes



Ambrosia Salad

By Lois J. Belle, PLS

- 1 can mandarin oranges
- 1 can pineapple tidbits
- 1 cup flaked coconut (*optional*)
- 1/2+ bag miniature marshmallows
- 1 8 oz. sour cream

Mix all ingredients together. Chill overnight.



Broccoli Salad

By Carlene B. Kilgore, PLS

- 1 1/2 bunches broccoli crowns (broken into smaller pieces)
- 1/2 cup red onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 1 12 oz. pkg bacon (cooked hard and crumbled). I buy pre-packaged real bacon bits and they work great and save time and mess)
- 1/3 cup pecans, chopped

Dressing:

- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar (or less – very sweet)

Mix dressing and toss with vegetables. Refrigerate at least six hours before serving but not overnight or it gets too soggy.

This is a simple recipe that even my husband prepares for us sometimes.

Enjoy!



Chinese Chicken Salad

By Jan W. Berger, ALS

- 2 pkg Chicken Top Ramen
- 1 head of cabbage, shredded (I use 2 bags of pre-shredded cabbage when I can find them in the store)
- 4 green onions chopped (green part only)
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds (*optional*)
- 1/4 cup sesame seeds
- 3 Tbsp. margarine
- Cooked, Shredded chicken breasts (to your liking – I usually use 3 as my family enjoys lots of chicken. I cook the chicken in the crockpot while at work so it's ready to shred when I get home from work).

Dressing for the Salad:

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup vinegar

(I double the recipe when using 2 bags of cabbage. And we like the dressing!)

Melt butter in pan. Break the Ramen noodles in smaller pieces and add to pan. Fry until golden, adding sesame seeds and almonds near the end (you don't want to burn your sesame seeds). Let this cool (I actually take it out of the hot pan and pour it in a different bowl to cool a few minutes). In a separate mixing bowl, add the cabbage, green onions and the Ramen seasoning packs and mix together. Add the noodle mixture and mix. Then add the chicken just before serving. You can pour the dressing over salad right before serving or keep it separate. (We keep ours separate as we each like different amounts of dressing. AND, it helps to keep your cabbage crunchy if you don't mix it!)

A nice, cool dinner for summertime! Enjoy!



(Continued on page 27)

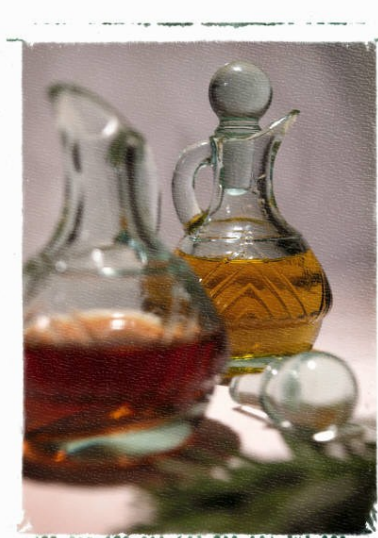
(Continued from page 26)

Marinated Shrimp

By Susan Olmstead, PLS

- 1 quart cooked shrimp (peeled and deveined)
- 1 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 6 whole bay leaves
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 1-1/4 cups salad oil
- 1-1/2 tps salt
- 2-1/2 tps celery seed
- 1 bottles of capers (drained)
- Dash of red pepper sauce

This is one of those recipes that get better the longer it marinates. I try to make it several days ahead of time.



Salmon Picatta – for 2

By Lois J. Belle, PLS

- 3/4 C Water
- 1 1/2 TBSP Fresh lemon juice
- 1 Chicken cube (crushed)
- 2 Salmon fillets
- 1 TBSP Butter
- 1 TBSP Capers
- 1/4 Cup Italian herbs

- Bring water and lemon to boil in skillet
- Stir-in chicken cube
- Reduce heat to simmer and place fillets in skillet
- Cover and simmer over low heat (4/5 min. per side)
- Remove salmon from skillet...keep warm in oven
- Boil remaining liquid until reduced to about 1/4 cup
- Stir-in butter and capers
- Place salmon on bed of mashed potatoes
- Spoon sauce over salmon and potatoes
- Garnish food and plate with herbs.

Chewies

By Jamie I. Early, PP, PLS

- 1 pound box of light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups of self-rising flour
- 1 stick of butter (softened)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 cup of walnuts (chopped)

Mix sugar and butter, then stir in eggs and flour. Add vanilla and nuts. Spread in a 9x13 greased pan. Bake in preheated 350° oven for 25-30 minutes. Cool completely before cutting into squares.



Chocolate Nut Clusters

By Jamie I. Early, PP, PLS

- 1 bag of milk chocolate drops
- 2 cups of Spanish peanuts (or your favorite nuts)
- 2 tablespoons of peanut butter (creamy)

Melt chocolate over low heat in saucepan. Stir in peanut butter and remove from heat. Add nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto cookie sheet lined with foil. Refrigerate until firm.



Cheese Ball

By Yvonne Fortner, PP, PLS

- 1 pkg. 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 8 oz. spreadable Kraft Cheddar
- 2 green onions (chopped with the green ends)
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 dashes onion salt
- 1-1/2 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- Chopped pecans

Let cheese set out of refrigerator about 2 hours before mixing. Mix this with a wooden spoon and roll in crushed nuts. Parsley can be added to the crushed nuts if desired. Freezes very well.



**LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
MINUTES OF THE 2012-2013 OUTGOING MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 26, 2013
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**

The outgoing meeting of the 2012-2013 Board of Directors of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina was called to order by President Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS, on Friday, April 26, 2013, at 2:35 p.m. at the law offices of Butler, Means, Evins & Browne, PA in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

President Stephanie welcomed everyone and reminded them that matters discussed in the board meeting stay in the board meeting.

Roll Call. The following board members were in attendance:

President	Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS
President-Elect	Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS
Secretary	Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS
Treasurer	Jan W. Berger, ALS
Functional Director of Membership	Susan L. Olmstead, Certified PLS
Functional Director of Marketing	Sharon K. Wotherspoon, Certified PLS
Functional Director of Education	Meredith Lazarski, ACP
Functional Director of Certification	Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS
Immediate Past President / Parliamentarian	Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS

Secretary – Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS.

Jamie stated that the Consent Agenda will be distributed at the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 27, 2013, during the members' sign-in for credentials prior to the meeting. The Consent Agenda will contain the minutes of the 2012-2013 Winter Board Meeting, the minutes of the 2012-2013 Winter Membership Meeting, and the 2012-2013 Treasurer's Third Period Report. Reports of Officers and Committee Chairpersons will also be distributed. Jamie will remind the members to submit all signed, original reports to her for the association's permanent records.

Treasurer – Jan W. Berger, ALS.

Jan distributed the 2012-2013 Treasurer's Third Period Report for review by the board. She stated that a financial review had been done and would be submitted to the members in the Reports of Officers and Committee Chairpersons at Saturday's meeting. She also stated that the financial review of the Treasurer's Second Period Report had been completed and the report was published in the March *Spotlight*. Jan noted that an additional check for dues had just been received for the members employed with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP and would be deposited next week, bringing that item more in line with the budget. She stated the expenses for the Winter Membership Meeting did not include the facility charges as Nelson Mullins had not submitted a bill to LSPSC even though it was requested several times, reflecting a savings in that line item. Discussion was then held regarding the cash accumulation in the accounts of LSPSC. Several ideas included using it for charitable donations, members' registrations, marketing drives, and educational programs. President Stephanie reminded Jan that she will count the auction money with the President and Finance Chair at Saturday's meeting. Jan lastly noted that she had obtained money for the cash incentives for the meeting.

President – Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS.

President Stephanie asked for proofreaders of the minutes of this outgoing meeting of the 2012-2013 Board of Directors of April 26, 2013, and the Annual Membership Meeting of April 27, 2013. Jan and Sharon volunteered to do so.

The Consent Agenda containing the three items presented earlier in the meeting by Jamie and Jan was then noted by President Stephanie. She stated that all items needed to be approved by the board for presentation to the membership. Upon motion duly made by Tara and properly seconded by Sharon, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the 2012-2013 Winter Board Meeting, the minutes of the 2012-2013 Winter Membership Meeting, and the 2012-2013 Treasurer's Third Period Report.

The NALS Foundation Grant deadline of June 1 will be announced by President Stephanie at Saturday's meeting. Fundraisers were discussed by President Stephanie, with the Chinese Auction and the "Buck-a-Book" exchange continuing at Saturday's meeting. LSPSC will also donate the usual amount to the designated charity of the meeting as approved by the board.

President Stephanie then advised the board that she had received 20 BINGO cards as of this meeting. She may receive more as she had given the members until noon before Saturday's meeting to submit them to her for inclusion in the drawing for an early bird registration to the NALS National Conference in Atlanta in October of 2013. The board further discussed an additional drawing for a paid registration. Upon motion duly made by Sharon and properly seconded by Lois, the board unanimously approved a second drawing from the attendees' list at Saturday's meeting for an early bird registration to the NALS National Conference in Atlanta.

President-Elect – Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS.

Lois reported that, as incoming President, she had attended the NALS Education Conference in Tulsa in March of 2013 and participated in the leadership development arenas. She noted that Meredith had also attended as incoming Functional Director of Membership. Lois stated that she will give a report to the members at Saturday's meeting. She lastly noted the chapter PE reports on community service published in the *Spotlight*.

Functional Director of Membership – Susan L. Olmstead, Certified PLS.

President Stephanie asked Susan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday. Susan will also report on the breakdown of current membership numbers. The current statewide membership is 73, which is down 3 from the last meeting in January. Susan will also report on the various programs for waiver of membership dues currently offered by NALS. Discussion then followed about training for the NALS website. President Stephanie stated she had received an e-mail from a member noting the difficulties with the NALS website. It was noted that a CLE seminar given by Lisa Mitchum, PLS and Leslie Keys, PLS at a state meeting would be beneficial, especially with hands-on interaction offered for the members.

Functional Director of Marketing – Sharon K. Wotherspoon, Certified PLS.

Sharon will remind the members to send articles and pictures to the *Carolina Paralegal News* (CPN). She stated this is a good time for all chapters to send in information on officer installations. Sharon will also discuss ads in the *Spotlight* with the members again. Discussion was held regarding marketing for retention of members. The value in NALS membership, as with certification and education, should be stressed with prospective members. The board further discussed the sending of personal, hand-written notes to the absentee members, as well as the attendees, of state meetings.

Functional Director of Education – Meredith Lazarski, ACP.

President Stephanie asked Meredith to read the NALS Code of Ethics at the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday. Meredith reported on the seminars for the Annual Membership Meeting, stating that, at this time, there were 17 registrants for the probate and estate planning seminar by Alan Tewkesbury and 19 registrants for the ALTA consumer practices seminar by Martha McConnell.

Functional Director of Certification – Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS.

Camilla stated she will recognize all new ALS/PLS/PP certifications and re-certifications at the Annual Membership Meeting. The only new certification of which Camilla was aware was Robin Deming, Certified PLS, and she will be pinned at the Annual Meeting. Camilla will also report that Tara has recertified as a PLS and obtained her initial CLE award, and Jamie has renewed her CLE award. She will remind members of the WebEd training available on the NALS website and of the exam administrators' renewal. Camilla will advise the members of the next certification exam date of September 28 with an application deadline of August 1. She will also announce the current numbers for NALS certification and specialty areas, as well as the state certification numbers.

Immediate Past President / Parliamentarian – Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS.

Regarding the Standing Rules, Tara stated that the several pages reflecting the revisions approved at the Summer Membership Meeting of August 2012 will be included in the Reports of Officers and Committee Chairpersons to be distributed at Saturday's meeting.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS, Secretary

Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS, President



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**LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
MINUTES OF THE
2012-2013 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
APRIL 27, 2013
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina for the year 2012-2013 was held on Saturday, April 27, 2013, at 1:45 p.m. at The Marriott Downtown in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Call to Order. President Stephanie called the Annual Membership Meeting of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina for the year 2012-2013 to order. She reminded everyone to check in with the Credentials Chairperson, Deborah League Brown, Certified PLS. She asked members to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Each chairperson or officer giving a report was asked to make it from the lectern. She also requested members addressing the meeting to stand and give their names, certification and chapter. President Stephanie introduced herself to the membership.

Thought for the Day. President Stephanie introduced Stacy R. Burke, Certified PP, PLS, to give the Thought for the Day. Stacy gave a meaningful lesson about not letting your doubts and fears become your limits. She reminded members to shape, face or break your fears by stepping out of your comfort zone to succeed.

Pledge of Allegiance and Code of Ethics. President Stephanie asked the members to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for the NALS Code of Ethics. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Susan L. Olmstead, Certified PLS, Functional Director of Membership. The NALS Code of Ethics was then presented by Meredith Lazarski, ACP, Functional Director of Education.

Welcome. President Stephanie welcomed everyone to the Annual Membership Meeting for the year 2012-2013. She requested all members attending their first LSPSC membership meeting to stand and give their names, certifications, and chapters. The members then welcomed Dee Dee Callison of Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville and Jadi Martin of Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals. President Stephanie then asked if there were any members-at-large in attendance, and there was not. She recognized the fourteen LSPSC Past Presidents in attendance, noting that the last decade of Past Presidents were present.

Introduction of LSPSC Officers for 2012-2013. President Stephanie introduced the officers of LSPSC for 2012-2013 in attendance:

Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS	President-Elect (Greenville)
Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS	Secretary (Columbia)
Jan W. Berger, ALS	Treasurer (Columbia)
Susan L. Olmstead, Certified PLS	Functional Director of Membership (Hilton Head)
Sharon K. Wotherspoon, Certified PLS	Functional Director of Marketing (Columbia)
Meredith Lazarski, ACP	Functional Director Education (Hilton Head)
Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS	Functional Director of Certification (Greenville)
Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS	Immediate Past President / Parliamentarian (Greenville)

President's Remarks. President Stephanie continued with her theme of "Crossing the Line" by reminding the members of her request at the last meeting to find time for an activity that was once important to that member personally. She noted that "crossing the line" takes both courage and commitment, but the second time is easier and it eventually becomes a habit. While the past cannot be changed, she stressed to the members to look to the future and cross that line. She stated she had 20 BINGO cards from nine members for the drawing to win an early bird registration to the NALS National Conference in Atlanta in October of 2013. She was pleased to report that the board had approved at its Friday meeting an additional drawing for an early bird registration to take place from the attendees at this annual meeting. President Stephanie closed by thanking the board and all the members for this wonderful journey for her in "Crossing the Line" as LSPSC President.

Business Meeting. President Stephanie reminded everyone that any member of LSPSC may make motions, second motions, and enter into discussions. All motions should be reduced to writing, and Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS, Parliamentarian, has forms for that purpose.

Roll Call. President Stephanie asked Credentials Chairperson Deborah League Brown, Certified PLS, for roll call. Deborah reported 30 members present and 16, which was one member over one-half, represented a quorum. Two-thirds of the members present was 20.

Consent Agenda. President Stephanie stated that all members were provided at the credentials sign-in with the consent agenda packet of items that were approved by the board on April 26, 2013. The packet included the minutes of the 2012-2013 Winter Board Meeting, the minutes of the 2012-2013 Winter Membership Meeting, and the 2012-2013 Treasurer's Third Period Report. There being no comments or objections, President Stephanie declared these items approved by consent.

The first incentive drawing was held, and Linda Harris of Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals won the top cash prize.

Reports from Elected Officers.

President Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS. President Stephanie reminded everyone to make sure NALS and LSPSC have their correct addresses if not receiving the *@Law* or *Spotlight*. NALS corrections can be made in the member log-in section of the NALS website.

President Stephanie reminded the members that the submission deadline for the NALS Foundation Grant was June 1. Regarding chapter community service activities, she thanked all the chapters for their time and effort in helping others less fortunate. She advised that the charity for this meeting was the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence And Sexual Assault ("SCCADVASA"), with LSPSC making the usual monetary contribution in addition to the members' donations. President Stephanie stated that the Chinese Auction and "Buck-a-Book" continued as fundraisers at this meeting. She then reported on the nine members and their number of BINGO cards submitted, as follows: Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS with 3; Lois J. Belle, Certified PP, PLS with 1; Jan W. Berger, ALS with 1; Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS with 5; A. Yvonne Fortner, Certified PP, PLS with 1; Meredith Lazarski, ACP with 2; Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS with 4; Deborah J. Reynolds, Certified PP, PLS with 1; and Sharon K. Wotherspoon, Certified PLS with 2 cards.

President-Elect Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS. Lois thanked the chapters for their community service and their reports in the March *Spotlight*. She noted how she personally was touched and inspired by such generosity of time, energy, and money. As LSPSC President-Elect, Lois attended the NALS Education Conference in Tulsa in March with Meredith Lazarski, ACP, and thanked the membership for allowing her to represent the state association at this conference. She gave a brief report of her attendance at the leadership development meetings and noted her full report would be in the next *Spotlight*. She stated that Lisa Mitchum, PLS, conducted a NALS Region 4 meeting. Discussion was held of possibly having a special event during the NALS National Conference in Atlanta with the remaining Region 4 funds since there will be no Region 4 conference this summer.

Secretary Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS. Jamie reminded everyone again that all signed, original reports should be submitted to her for the association's permanent records and thanked those who had done so. She expressed appreciation for the members' allowing her to serve them once again on the LSPSC board.

Treasurer Jan W. Berger, ALS. Regarding the 2012-2013 Third Period Treasurer's Report, Jan stated that, while the dues were a little under budget, a check had just been received for the members who are employed with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP and will be deposited next week. She also noted the drop in expenses for the Winter Membership Meeting and stated that a bill was never received from Nelson Mullins for the facility charges, which reflects the savings in that item. Jan thanked the membership for the trust in her abilities and expressed how much she had learned about the association itself from serving as Treasurer.

Immediate Past President Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS. Tara had no report.

Committee Reports. President Stephanie continued with the committee reports, asking each chairperson to stand and give a report.

Annual Meeting 2013 [Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals (SCLSP)]. Kerry Ann Waldrop stated that she hoped all members were enjoying themselves and that all was going well with the vendors and facilities. President Stephanie and the members expressed much appreciation to all the Spartanburg County Legal Staff

Professionals for a wonderful weekend.

Award of Excellence. Paula M. Taylor, Certified PLS, announced there were no applications received this year for the LSPSC Award of Excellence.

Certification. Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS, thanked the members for allowing her to serve and encouraged those not already certified to become certified. She announced that the next examination was scheduled for September 28, with the application being due by August 1, 2013. She reminded the members to be sure to let NALS know they want to test in or near their own home city. She also reported that the exam administrators' applications are due by June 1. Camilla advised members that, while online training is no longer available, NALS offers WebEd seminars both at night and lunchtime in all time zones, with some being free of charge. She then reported on NALS certification numbers of 3,131 ALSs, 5,709 PLSs, and 553 PPs; which include 2 ALSs, 29 PLSs, and 10 PPs in South Carolina. Camilla then congratulated Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS on her renewal of the CLE award and Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS, on her PLS re-certification and initial CLE award. She asked Robin C. Deming, Certified PLS, to come to the podium, where she pinned Robin with a PLS pin for receiving her certification.

The second incentive drawing was then held, and Deborah League Brown, Certified, PLS, of Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals won the middle cash prize.

Community Projects. Jimi L. Bullard, ALS, announced that the charity for this meeting was SCCADVASA, which benefits centers for domestic violence and sexual assault all over the state. She reminded members that checks and cash would also be accepted.

Continuing Legal Education. Meredith Lazarski, ACP, Functional Director of Education, reported there were 20 members signed up for each of today's seminars on probate and estate planning presented by Alan Tewkesbury of Butler Means and on ALTA consumer practices presented by Martha McConnell of Chicago Title. She also reported on the fees generated. The speakers' charities were Mobile Meals of Spartanburg and the Humane Society of Columbia. She thanked everyone for their support of these speakers.

Credentials. Deborah League Brown, Certified PLS, had nothing further to report.

Employment. Roxanne R. Reynolds, Certified PLS, was not present – no report.

Finance. Carlene B. Kilgore, Certified PLS, reported the total funds generated from the Chinese Auction at today's meeting and stated there were more tickets for sale.

Financial Review. Linda Wilson, Certified PLS, and Debra H. Bailey, Certified PLS, were not present but their report was in the Reports of Officers and Chairpersons.

Handbook. Deborah J. Reynolds, Certified PP, PLS, advised that her report with updates to the Handbook was published in the March *Spotlight*.

Historian. Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS, had no report.

Marketing. Sharon K. Wotherspoon, Certified PLS, reminded members to send articles and pictures to the *Carolina Paralegal News* (CPN). She stated that this is a good time to submit information on the chapter officer installations. She also reminded members that the *Spotlight* needs Happy Grams and ads from the chapters. Sharon stressed the importance of the nationwide link with NALS and asked for any marketing ideas from the members. She thanked everyone for allowing her to serve LSPSC.

Membership. Susan L. Olmstead, Certified PLS, stated that her full report was in the Reports of Officers and Chairpersons. She stated that LSPSC has a total of 73 members, which includes 6 new members, 59 continuing members, 6 life members, and 2 retired members. Susan advised the membership of the continuance by NALS of the Engage 5 program and the financial hardship waiver for one year. She appreciated this opportunity of serving on the board.

NALS Foundation. Lauritza S. Hill had no report.

Nominations and Elections. Naomi W. Nation, Certified PP, PLS, CLA had no report.

Publication. A. Yvonne Fortner, Certified PP, PLS, had no report.

Scholarship. Kerry Ann Waldrop was pleased to report that LSPSC had a winner of its annual scholarship. In attendance was Brianna Pauley, the recipient of the 2012-2013 LSPSC Scholarship. Brianna is a student at Spartanburg Community College in the paralegal program. She stated to the members that, due to financial constraints, she would have been set back in her studies; but because of this scholarship, she will now be able to graduate on time.

Scrapbook. Stacy R. Burke, Certified PP, PLS, asked members to send her pictures for the outgoing President's scrapbook.

Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS, was then asked to come to the podium, where Naomi Nation, Certified PP, PLS, CLA; Chrisanne Porter, Certified PLS; Paula Taylor, Certified PLS; and Sharon Inman, PLS presented her with a scrapbook of her year as LSPSC President 2011-2012.

Standing Rules and Bylaws. Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS, stated there were pages of the Standing Rules reflecting the approved revisions of August 25, 2012, in the Reports of Officers and Chairpersons for updating the LSPSC Handbook.

Technology. A. Yvonne Fortner, Certified PP, PLS, asked members to send pictures for the website.

Upcoming Meetings. President Stephanie announced future meetings as follows:

2013-2014 LSPSC Spring Membership Meeting. April 28, 2013; Marriott Downtown, Spartanburg, SC.

NALS 62nd Annual Education Conference and National Forum. October 17-20, 2013; Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center in Atlanta, GA.

LSPSC Annual Meetings. President Stephanie stated that the hosting chapters for the LSPSC Annual Meetings through the year 2018 were listed in the agenda.

New Business. President Stephanie stated that the election by acclamation of the 2013-2014 LSPSC Officers was held at the Winter Membership Meeting in January 2013, and they would be installed at tonight's Installation Ceremony as follows:

President	Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS
President-Elect	Jan W. Berger, ALS
Secretary	Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS
Treasurer	Jimi L. Bullard, ALS
Functional Director of Membership	Meredith Lazarski, ACP
Functional Director of Marketing	Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS
Functional Director of Education	Carlene G. Kilgore, Certified PLS
Functional Director of Certification	Robin C. Deming, Certified PLS
Immediate Past President/Parliamentarian	Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS

President Stephanie then asked if there was any other business. Deborah League Brown, Certified PLS, asked the association to give thought to the annual meeting, noting that it was becoming more difficult for smaller chapters and expensive for the members for the weekend. She had two suggestions: (1) a more central location, such as Clark's Inn in Santee hosted by Legal Staff Professionals of Orangeburg last year, which would cater to small groups and be more affordable, or (2) even a one-day meeting in Columbia if necessary to keep down expenses, but that would not be as feasible for the usual annual meeting events. Chrisanne Porter, PLS, then advised the members that Legal Staff Professionals of the Lowcountry, as hosting chapter for 2014, had already booked Clark's Inn for next year's annual meeting. It was further mentioned that, with using Clark's Inn, either a chapter could host as done now or a committee could be formed for the annual meetings.

The third incentive drawing was held, and Nancy J. Lemmons, Certified PLS of Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals won the low cash prize.

The drawings for the early bird registrations to the NALS National Conference in Atlanta in October 2013 were then held. The winner of the BINGO drawing was Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS; the winner of the attendees' drawing was Jimi L. Bullard, ALS; and the alternate winner was Sonia L. Hunt.

Carlene G. Kilgore, Certified PLS, was pleased to report that the Finance Committee had exceeded the budget for the year by several hundred dollars and thanked the members for their support of LSPSC Chinese Auctions and other fundraisers.

The Premium Prize for the LSPSC Annual Membership Meeting 2012-2013 was then won by Vickie Halstead of Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville. It was a beautiful basket of Harry & David goodies provided by Legal Staff Professionals of Hilton Head.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the meeting, and there being no objection, the 2012-2013 Annual Membership Meeting of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina was adjourned by President Stephanie at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS
Secretary

Approved:

Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS
President



**LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
MINUTES OF THE 2013-2014 SPRING MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 26, 2013
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**

The first regularly scheduled meeting of the 2013-2014 Board of Directors of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina was called to order by President Lois J Belle, Certified PLS, on Friday, April 26, 2013, at 4:09 p.m. at Butler, Means, Evins & Browne, PA, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

President Lois welcomed everyone and reminded them that matters discussed in the board meeting stay in the board meeting.

Roll Call. The following board members were in attendance:

President	Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS
President-elect	Jan W. Berger, ALS
Secretary	Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS
Treasurer	Jimi L. Bullard, ALS
Functional Director of Membership	Meredith Lazarski, ACP
Functional Director of Marketing	Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS
Functional Director of Education	Carlene B. Kilgore, Certified PLS
Functional Director of Certification	Robin C. Deming, Certified PLS
Immediate Past President / Parliamentarian	Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS

Secretary – Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS.

Tara stated the Consent Agenda will be distributed at the spring membership meeting on Sunday, April 28, during the members' sign-in for credentials prior to the meeting. The Consent Agenda will contain the 2013-2014 LSPSC Budget, Committees, and Calendar. Tara will remind the members to submit all signed, original reports to her for the association's permanent records.

President – Lois J Belle, Certified PLS.

President Lois welcomed the new board members, thanked them for their willingness to serve and said she looks forward to working together with each of them. President Lois handed out individual packets for each office and explained what was in them.

President Lois asked for proofreaders of the minutes for the incoming board meeting of April 26, 2013, and the spring membership meeting of April 28, 2013. Camilla and Stephanie volunteered to do so.

President Lois presented the proposed budget for 2013-2014 and noted a budget worksheet was used at the January board meeting to compare last year's budget line items and create the proposed budget for 2013-2014. Since there will no longer be a Region 4 meeting, President Lois recommended placing the funds in the President-elect line item to cover the registration fee of the President-elect to the 2013 NALS National Education Conference and National Forum in Atlanta, Georgia. After further review and discussion, and upon motion duly made by Camilla and properly seconded by Robin, **the board unanimously approved the LSPSC Budget for 2013-2014.**

President Lois stated the President's and President-Elect's registration fees for the 2013 NALS 62nd Annual NALS Education Conference and National Forum in Atlanta Georgia, is due by July 1 and she and Jan will be attending in those capacities. As provided in the budget, Jimi will submit the early registration fees plus any networking lunch/dinner fees to NALS before the deadline.

President Lois stated since Region 4 has money left in its accounts, Region 4 will be offering each state one [1] Early Bird Registration for National. After discussion, the board decided the Early Bird Registration fee will be offered to any member attending a National Conference for the first time. President Lois will send out an email to all Chapters asking members who are interested in attending their first National Conference to send their names to her no later than May 15, 2013, with a drawing to be held by June 1, 2013. President Lois mentioned the hotel information for the National Conference has changed from the information printed in @Law.

President Lois noted the deadlines for the Handbook and *Spotlight*. The chapter rosters of officers, members, and committees are due by May 10, 2013, to Sharon K Wotherspoon, Certified PLS, for the LSPSC Handbook and should also be submitted electronically to NALS. The deadline for reports of officers, committees, and chapters for the June issue of the *Spotlight* are due by May 15, 2013, to A. Yvonne Fortner, Certified PP, PLS.

President Lois reminded the board they should meet with the prior board members in their positions to exchange notebooks, files, position nametags, and duty summaries after the annual meeting.

Regarding the state officers' retreat, President Lois advised it would be held this year at The Kilgore House in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, from June 7-9, 2013. Annual chapter visitations by the state board will be discussed in detail at the retreat. President Lois stated she would like visitations to be done in July and August, if possible.

The board discussed the continuation of cash incentive drawings for the members at the meetings. Upon motion duly made by Carlene and properly seconded by Meredith, **it was unanimously approved by the board** to have cash incentive drawings of \$25, \$50, and \$75 at each of the membership meetings of Summer 2013, Winter 2014, and Annual 2014.

President Lois presented the list of LSPSC Officers, the LSPSC Committees, the LSPSC Executive Committee and the Calendar for 2013-2014. Upon motion duly made by Jimi and seconded by Stephanie, the 2013-2014 LSPSC Officers, the LSPSC Committees, the LSPSC Executive Committee and the Calendar **were unanimously approved**.

Regarding community service for the coming year, President Lois suggested, and the board agreed, to continue to rotate support for Harvest Hope and SCCADVASA for summer and winter membership meetings and the annual meeting will be selected by the hosting chapter, for contributions by the members, as well as the reports of individual/chapter community service activities. President Lois also suggested continuing the \$100 cash donation by LSPSC to the charity chosen by the Community Services Committee each meeting. President Lois noted special events for community service will be brainstormed at the retreat.

President Lois began discussions on fundraisers and ideas for the Finance Committee. The board agreed to continue with the Chinese auction at each meeting as well as Happy Grams in the *Spotlight*. After discussion, the board agreed to continue to offer "Buck-a-Book" only at the winter membership meeting and that books, CDs, and/or DVDs left after the meeting would be retrieved by the member who brought them or the items would be donated to a local charity. The board also discussed encouraging members to bring as many items as they wanted to have a wide variety for selection. Upon motion duly made by Robin and properly seconded by Carlene, **it was unanimously approved by the board** to offer "Buck-a-Book" at the winter membership meeting only and after the meeting to have members either retrieve the items they brought or donate them to a local charity. The Board discussed continuing the \$100 charitable donation for community service at each meeting as discussed.

Regarding her theme "Member/Chapter Outreach Program," President Lois talked about the theme as an ongoing incentive program for the year. President Lois explained as part of the program adding the NALS tagline "ENGAGE, INSPIRE, ENHANCE AND PROMOTE" to the end of LSPSC. President Lois discussed how each word of the tag line has been connected to each functional category: Certification – INSPIRE; Education – ENHANCE; Marketing – PROMOTE; Membership – ENGAGE. President Lois stated she would like the Board to mentor/partner with local chapters. President Lois also stated she would contact each local chapter to determine their needs. The board will continue to brainstorm and discuss the matter further at the retreat.

President-elect – Jan W Berger, ALS.

Jan stated she will make sure the chapter presidents submit the new rosters of officers, members, and committees by May 10 to the LSPSC Handbook Chairperson and to NALS. She will also check with the individual chapters on possible dates for state officers' visitations. The dates, times, and places of meetings will be discussed at retreat. Jan will chart and advise each chapter of its specific date and officers making the visitation.

Functional Director of Membership – Meredith Lazarski, ACP - ENGAGE.

President Lois asked Meredith to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the spring membership meeting on Sunday.

Meredith discussed a membership marketing combo about sending hand written notes to members who attended to the annual meeting thanking them for coming and sending notes to members that were unable to attend the meeting letting them know they were missed. President Lois will talk with Camilla about getting postcards printed for this use. Meredith also talked about another membership idea discussed in Tulsa using social media.

Functional Director of Marketing – Camilla G Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS - PROMOTE.

President Lois advised Camilla will discuss using the Belk Charity Days as a fundraiser for local chapters. Camilla will remind everyone at the spring membership meeting to send articles and pictures to the *Carolina Paralegal News*. The board will brainstorm further about marketing ideas at retreat.

Functional Director of Education – Carlene B. Kilgore, Certified PLS - ENHANCE.

President Lois asked Carlene to read the NALS Code of Ethics at the spring membership meeting on Sunday. Carlene presented some ideas she has for seminar topics including Lisa Mitchum and/or Leslie Keys presenting a NALS website overview and maybe making it an interactive workshop, money laundering, and Obama Care. It was mentioned that the Bar Association has a number you can call for speakers. Carlene will ask for input at the meeting from the members and will remind the members about online webinars.

Functional Director of Certification – Robin C Deming, Certified PLS - INSPIRE.

Robin stated she will recognize all new ALS/PLS/PP certifications and re-certifications at the spring membership meeting and remind members of the upcoming application deadline and next examination date. She advised NALS requires an annual filing of the exam site and administrator for each chapter or region of the state, and she will remind the membership to submit applications to her and NALS. Robin talked about her new mascot Eripsni, generated from her word “inspire.”

Treasurer – Jimi L. Bullard, ALS.

President Lois informed Jimi she will count the auction money with the President and Finance Chair at each meeting. Jimi stated she will obtain money for the cash incentives at future meetings. Board members discussed updating the signature cards for the bank accounts. The President, President-elect, and Treasurer are the signatories, with two of the three required for checks. The LSPSC checking, savings, and certificates of deposit are on account with TD Bank. Regarding the annual meeting account which is with BB&T, the authorized signatories will be the LSPSC President and Treasurer and the hosting chapter President and Treasurer, with two of the four required for checks.

Immediate Past President / Parliamentarian – Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS

Stephanie stated she will review and update the Bylaws and Standing Rules as needed. Stephanie advised of some items that need to be updated and reorganized in the Bylaws including alphabetizing the committees, creating a community projects paragraph and creating an index for the Bylaws. President Lois mentioned she would like to see a punch list of responsibilities for the annual meeting including who is responsible for what. Tara stated she would be responsible for working on this project with the assistance of the President and input from the board.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS
Secretary

Approved:

Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS
President

NALS AFFINITY PROVIDERS

Through outside sources NALS is able to bring members many services that otherwise might be substantially more expensive.

Current NALS Affinity Providers

Aflac

NALS is making Aflac's accident, cancer/specified-disease, and dental insurance policies available to its members. For more information visit www.aflac.com/nals/.

Avis Car Rental

We are pleased to announce that Avis is now a supplier of rental car services for members of NALS. For personal and/or business rentals when making a reservation, use Avis Worldwide Discount number (AWD) **S018600**.

FedEx

By participating in the FedEx® Advantage Program, NALS members are eligible for the following discounts:

Up to 16% off select FedEx Express® U.S. shipping

Up to 12% off select FedEx Ground® shipping

Up to 20% off select FedEx Office® services

There are two ways for NALS members to enroll in the Advantage Program — [apply online](#) using passcode **MW2LGZ** and your **NALS membership number** or call a FedEx Advantage enrollment specialist at 1.800.345.6227 and provide passcode MW2LGZ and your NALS membership number to enroll over the phone.

Hertz Car Rental

Take advantage of special discounts available through your organization's Hertz Member Savings program. [Your Association Hertz CDP# 1485573 is the key](#). Be sure to include it on all your reservations and be sure to present your membership card or Hertz discount card for identification at the time of rental. Visit Hertz.com or call Hertz at 1-800-654-2210.

Liberty Mutual

Special Offer on Auto and Home Insurance

As an NALS member, you could receive exclusive savings on Liberty Mutual Auto and Home Insurance. You may visit a local office or call 1-800-524-9400 and mention client #4606.

UPS

UPS is the newest partner with NALS and now offers NALS members a discount of up to 26%. For complete details or to let other members know how to sign up, visit <http://www.savewithups.com/nals/> or call (800) 325-7000. Use **promo code WES403 to enroll**.



**LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
MINUTES OF THE
2013-2014 SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
APRIL 28, 2013
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Spring Membership Meeting of the Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina for the year 2013-2014 was held on Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 9:06 a.m. at The Marriott Hotel in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Call to Order. President Lois called the first membership meeting of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina for the year 2013-2014 to order. She reminded members to check in with the Credentials Chairperson, Patti E. Bacon. She asked members to turn off all cell phones and beepers. President Lois requested each chairperson or officer giving a report to make it from the lectern and members addressing the meeting to stand and give their names, certification and chapter. President Lois introduced herself to the membership.

Thought for the Day. President Lois introduced Patti E. Bacon, to give the Thought for the Day. Patti gave a heart-warming lesson on "Tiny Frogs and Be Positive Attitude" and reminded members to never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic because they can take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you. Patti concluded by reading a poem by Raja in India.

Pledge of Allegiance and Code of Ethics. President Lois asked the members to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for the NALS Code of Ethics. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Meredith Lazarski, ACP, Functional Director of Membership. The NALS Code of Ethics was presented by Carlene B Kilgore, Certified PLS, Functional Director of Education.

Welcome. President Lois welcomed members to the Spring Membership Meeting for the year 2013-2014. She thanked the members of Spartanburg County Legal Staff Professionals (SCLSP) for hosting the LSPSC 48th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference and the first membership meeting of 2013-2014. She asked the members of SCLSP to stand and be recognized.

President Lois requested all members attending their first LSPSC membership meeting to stand and give their names, certifications, and chapters. Dee Dee Callison from Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville was recognized and welcomed. Dee Dee also attended her first LSPSC Annual Meeting on Saturday during the conference weekend. President Lois asked members-at-large to stand and be introduced, and there were none.

President Lois recognized 15 LSPSC Past Presidents, including an entire decade, in attendance. President Lois presented Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS, with a plaque recognizing her service as President of LSPSC during the past year. President Lois thanked Stephanie for her hard work and dedication to the organization.

Introduction of LSPSC Officers for 2013-2014. President Lois introduced the LSPSC Officers for 2013-2014:

Jan W. Berger, ALS	President-Elect (Columbia)
Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS	Secretary (Greenville)
Jimi L. Bullard, ALS	Treasurer (Greenville)
Meredith Lazarski, ACP	Functional Director of Membership (Hilton Head)
Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS	Functional Director of Marketing (Greenville)
Carlene B. Kilgore, Certified PLS	Functional Director of Education (Hilton Head)
Robin C. Deming, Certified PLS	Functional Director of Certification (Spartanburg)
Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS	Immediate Past President / Parliamentarian (Charleston)

President's Remarks. President Lois thanked the membership for their trust in her and she pledged to do her best during the coming year. President Lois provided the definition of "Attitude" and commented on how positive and negative attitudes affect us. She encouraged members to be positive and to learn to control their own thoughts.

President Lois shared that the Board will be making a concerted effort during the year to:

ENGAGE members to participate in all aspects of NALS.

INSPIRE members and nonmembers alike to strive towards certification.

ENHANCE careers through wonderful education that is offered.

PROMOTE LSPSC within the Association and throughout the community.

President Lois discussed how the Board looks forward to forming a strategic partnership with each of the local chapters by maintaining contact on a regular basis and providing assistance as needed. She introduced the "Our Member/Chapter Outreach" program and stated the program will allow members and chapters to track specific objectives throughout the year. President Lois encouraged members to have a positive attitude and to strengthen one another, thereby attracting new members.

Business Meeting. President Lois reminded members that any member of LSPSC may make motions, second motions, and enter into discussions. All motions should be reduced to writing, and Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS, Parliamentarian, has forms for that purpose.

Roll Call. President Lois asked Credentials Chairperson Patti E. Bacon, for roll call. Patti reported 28 members in attendance with 15 representing one member over one-half, constituting a quorum, and 19 representing two thirds of the members present.

Consent Agenda. President Lois advised all members were provided at the onset of the meeting with the consent agenda packet that was approved by the board on April 26, 2013. The packet included the 2013-2014 Budget, the 2013-2014 Committees, and the 2013-2014 Calendar. There being no other comments or objections, President Lois declared the items in the agenda packet approved by consent.

Reports from Elected Officers.

President Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS. President Lois reminded members not receiving @Law or *Spotlight* to provide their correct address to NALS and LSPSC. NALS corrections can be made in the member log-in section of the NALS website. President Lois stated the submission deadline for the June issue of the *Spotlight* is May 15. President Lois also stated the LSPSC officers' planning retreat is scheduled for Saturday June 8 at The Kilgore House in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. She reported the 2013-2014 LSPSC Handbook is scheduled to be completed in June, and CDs will be sent to each chapter president for distribution to the members. President Lois advised the nomination submission deadline for the NALS Award of Excellence is May 1. She informed members of the NALS dues hardship waiver found under the "Join" tab of its website.

President Lois stated the board has agreed to continue with the "Food for Thought" and SCCADVASA contributions for the Summer and Winter Meeting, the hosting chapter choosing for the Annual Meeting, and the reports of individual/chapter community service activities. President Lois also stated the board has agreed to continue the monetary contribution of \$100 by LSPSC to a charity chosen by the Community Services Committee each meeting. The Board has decided to offer "Buck-a-Book" once a year at the Winter Meeting with items not purchased being returned to the members or donating the items after the meeting.

President Lois announced Region 4 is donating one [1] Early Bird registration for the Annual NALS Education Conference and National Forum in Atlanta, Georgia. President Lois advised the board has decided the Early Bird registration fee will be offered to a member attending a National Conference for the first time. President Lois stated she will send out an email to all Chapter Presidents asking for names of any first time attendees interested in attending the National Conference to be sent to her no later than May 15, with a drawing to be held by June 1. President Lois mentioned the hotel information for the meeting has changed from what was printed in @Law.

President Lois talked about an ongoing incentive program for the year using the NALS tagline "ENGAGE, INSPIRE, ENHANCE AND PROMOTE" at the end of LSPSC. President Lois discussed how each word of the tag line has been connected to each functional category: Certification – INSPIRE; Education – ENHANCE; Marketing – PROMOTE; Membership – ENGAGE. President Lois stated the Board will work to mentor/partner with local chapters and she will contact each local chapter to determine their needs.

President-Elect Jan W. Berger, ALS. Jan advised the deadline for the new chapter rosters of officers, members, and committees to be submitted for the 2013-2014 LSPSC Handbook and to NALS to update chapter information is May 10. Jan also advised she will check with the individual chapters on dates for the annual state officers' visitations and discuss those dates with board members at the board retreat. Jan reminded the chapters to submit their community service reports.

Secretary Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS. Tara reminded members all signed original reports should be submitted to her for the association's permanent records.

Treasurer Jimi L. Bullard, ALS. Jimi reiterated cash incentives will continue to be given at future meetings during 2013-2014.

Immediate Past President Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS. Stephanie thanked members for their support as President during the past year.

Committee Reports. President Lois continued with the committee reports, asking each chairperson to stand and give a report.

Annual Meeting 2014 [Legal Staff Professionals of the Lowcountry (LSPL)]. Naomi W. Nations, Certified PP, PLS, CLA and Chrisanne T. Porter, Certified PLS. Naomi advised LSPL has booked the Clark's Inn in Santee for the 2014 Annual Meeting to be held on April 25-27, 2014. More information regarding the meeting will be presented at the Summer Meeting.

Award of Excellence. Susan L. Olmstead, Certified PLS - no report.

Certification. Robin C. Deming, Certified PLS, showed members her friend Eripsni (Inspire spelled backwards) and stated she wants to Inspire each member to think about becoming certified. She reminded members of the next application deadline and certification examination date. She noted NALS requires an annual filing of exam administrator applications and requested applications be submitted to both her and NALS. Robin recognized members who recently received PLS and PP re-certifications and CLE awards.

Community Projects. Jamie I. Early, Certified PP, PLS and Vickie Halstead – no report.

Continuing Legal Education. Carlene B. Kilgore, Certified PLS, presented ideas for future seminars including Lisa Mitchum and/or Leslie Keys presenting a NALS website overview and maybe making it an interactive workshop, money laundering, Obama Care, and general ethics. Carlene ask for input from the members. Carlene reminded members about Webinars offered on the NALS website and promoted the CLE Award.

Credentials. Patti E. Bacon - no report.

Employment. Deborah League Brown, Certified PLS and Betty Parks. Deborah asked Chapters to share employment opportunities with her and Betty.

Finance. Mary Kay Oliver and Sonia Hunt advised the theme for the Summer meeting will be "Christmas in July."

Financial Review. Deborah J. Reynolds, Certified PP, PLS, and Paula M. Taylor, Certified PLS – no report.

Handbook. Sharon K. Wotherspoon, Certified PLS and Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS, reminded members to submit chapter rosters and meeting information by May 10 in order to have the handbook ready for the officers' retreat in June.

Historian. Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS - no report.

Marketing. Camilla G. Pitman, CMC, Certified PLS, stated she will be working to promote LSPSC during the year. Camilla provided marketing information regarding publication and social medial opportunities and encouraged members to "like" the LSPSC page on Facebook. Camilla encouraged members to purchase shirts

and blankets and commented on Belk Charity Day as a fundraising opportunity for local chapters. She reminded members of the Infinity program offered by NALS and encouraged members to use the program as a marketing tool. Camilla informed members that each chapter is responsible for obtaining an advertisement for *Spotlight*. Camilla encouraged members to upload their pictures to Snapfish at www.snapfish.com.

Membership. Meredith Lazarski, ACP, discussed plans to engage members this year by working closely with Camilla to market LSPSC as well as local chapters through social media. Meredith informed members that NALS would like them to provide their birth year with their membership information for marketing purposes in sending out surveys.

NALS Foundation. Naomi W. Nation, Certified PP, PLS, CLA and Myra Culbertson - no report.

Nominations and Elections. Debra H. Bailey, Certified PLS and Roxanne R. Reynolds, Certified PLS – not present - no report.

Publication. A. Yvonne Fortner, Certified PP, PLS and Dee Dee Callison. Yvonne reminded members that the deadline for submitting reports and articles for the June issue of *Spotlight* is May 20.

Scholarship. Kerry Ann Waldrop and Lauritza S. Hill – no report.

Scrapbook. Deborah J. Reynolds, Certified PP, PLS and Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS, - Deb asked members to start sending pictures to snapfish so they can work on the scrapbook on an on-going basis for presentation soon after the presidency year.

Standing Rules and Bylaws. Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS, - no report.

Technology. A. Yvonne Fortner, Certified PP, PLS, reported the password to the secure member section of the LSPSC website will be changed in the way usually done each year. She reminded members to send her the new chapter rosters and meeting information.

Parliamentarian. Stephanie A. Saporita, Certified PLS – no report

Upcoming Meetings. President Lois announced future meetings as follows:

LSPSC Summer Membership Meeting. July 27; Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in Columbia.

NALS 62nd Annual Education Conference and National Forum. October 17-20; Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center; Hotel room rate of \$99; Hotel reservation deadline of October 1; Early bird registration of \$299 before July 1; Regular registration before August 1 of \$329; Late registration after August 1 of \$355.

LSPSC Annual Meetings. President Lois referred to the hosting chapters for the LSPSC Annual Meetings through the year 2019 as listed in the agenda.

New Business. President Lois announced the Premium Prize for the LSPSC Summer Membership Meeting will be provided by Legal Staff Professionals of the Orangeburg. She asked for any other business.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the meeting, and there being no objection, the 2013-2014 Spring Membership Meeting of Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina was adjourned by President Lois at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Jean Brown, Certified PP, PLS
Secretary

Approved:

Lois J. Belle, Certified PLS
President

LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
2013-2014 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP Post Office Box 10208 Greenville, SC 29603 Email: lbelle@wcsr.com	Lois J. Belle, PLS Office (direct) 864.239.5990 Fax: 864.255.5440 Home 864.268.1009 Cell 864.979.7180
PRESIDENT-ELECT/NAALS Liaison Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP Post Office Box 11070 Columbia, SC 29211 Email: jan.berger@nelsonmullins.com	Jan W. Berger, ALS Office (direct) 803.255.9314 Fax: 803.255.9008 Home 803.788.0057 Cell 803.331.5101
SECRETARY Greene Law Firm, PA 11 McGee Street Greenville, SC 29601 Email: tara@davidgreeneattorney.com	Tara Jean Brown, PP, PLS Office 864.271.7940 Fax: 864.370.3413 Cell 864.350.0937
TREASURER 602 Cannon Circle Greenville, SC 29607 E-mail: jimi@theclardyfirm.com	Jimi L. Bullard, ALS Office 864.233.8888 Office 864.233.8889 Cell 864.430.7027
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LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 – 2014 CALENDAR

MAY 2013

- 1 Deadline for NALS Award of Excellence Nomination
- 9 *Carolina Paralegal News* Deadline (May)
- 10 Deadline for LSPSC Chapter Rosters to NALS
- 10 LSPSC Handbook Deadline
- 15 Deadline for LSPSC *Spotlight* (June)
- 27 NALS Closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2013

- 1 Deadline for NALS Foundation Grant
- 1 Mailing of NALS Summer @Law
- 1 NALS ALS Examination Date (National)
- 7-9 LSPSC Officer Retreat, Lake Junaluska, NC

JULY 2013

- 1 Early Registration Deadline for NALS 62nd Education Conference & National Forum in Atlanta, GA (October 17-20, 2013)
- 4 NALS Closed for Independence Day
- 11 *Carolina Paralegal News* Deadline (July)
- 18 Registration Deadline for LSPSC Summer Membership Meeting in Columbia
- 26 LSPSC Summer Board Meeting in Columbia
- 27 LSPSC Summer Membership Meeting in Columbia, SC

AUGUST 2013

- 1 Regular Registration Deadline for NALS 62nd Education Conference & National Forum in Atlanta, GA (October 17-20, 2013)
- 1 NALS September ALS/PLS/PP Exam Application Due

SEPTEMBER 2013

- 1 Deadline for NALS Foundation Grant
- 1 Mailing of NALS Fall @Law
- 2 NALS Closed for Labor Day
- 12 *Carolina Paralegal News* Deadline (Sept.)
- 15 Deadline to file IRS Form 990N
- 28 NALS ALS/PLS/PP Examination Date

OCTOBER 2013

- 1 Hotel Reservation Deadline for NALS 62nd Education Conference & National Forum in Atlanta, GA (October 17-20, 2013)
- 14-18 NALS Court Observance Week *Theme: Our Courts, Working to Assure the Survival and Success of Liberty*
- 14 NALS December ALS Exam Application Due
- 17-20 NALS 62nd Education Conference & National Forum in Atlanta, GA
- 31 *Carolina Paralegal News* Deadline (Nov.)

NOVEMBER 2013

- 1 Call for Nominations of LSPSC Officers for 2014-2015
- 15 Close of Nominations of LSPSC Officers for 2014-2015

- 15 Deadline for LSPSC *Spotlight* (December)

- 28-29 NALS Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2013

- 1 Early Registration Deadline for NALS Professional Development and Education Conference in Tulsa, OK (March 2014)
- 1 Deadline for NALS Foundation Grant
- 1 Mailing of NALS Winter @Law
- 5 Dissemination of Acceptance and Qualification Forms to LSPSC Nominees for 2014-2015 offices
- 7 NALS ALS Examination Date (National)
- 15 Deadline for return of Acceptance and Qualification Forms by LSPSC Nominees for 2014-2015 offices
- 23-1/1 NALS Closed for Holidays

JANUARY 2014

- 1 NALS March ALS/PLS/PP Exam Application Due
- 9 *Carolina Paralegal News* Deadline (Jan.)
- 15 Regular Registration Deadline for NALS Professional Development and Education Conference in Tulsa, OK (March 2014)
- 15 Distribution of Rules and Applications for LSPSC Scholarship Award for 2014-2015
- 15 Distribution of Rules and Applications for LSPSC Award of Excellence for 2014-2015
- 16 Registration Deadline for LSPSC Winter Membership Meeting in Columbia
- 24 LSPSC Winter Board Meeting in Columbia
- 25 LSPSC CLE Seminars and Winter Membership Meeting in Columbia

FEBRUARY 2014

- 5 Dissemination to Members of Ballots to Elect LSPSC 2014-2015 Officers
- 10 Deadline for LSPSC *Spotlight* (March)
- 27-3/2 NALS Professional Development and Education Conference in Tulsa, OK

MARCH 2014

- 1 NALS ALS/PLS/PP Examination Date
- 1 Deadline for NALS Foundation Grant
- 1 Mailing of NALS Spring @Law
- 13 *Carolina Paralegal News* Deadline (March)

APRIL 2014

- 8 Registration Deadline for LSPSC Annual Meeting hosted by Charleston, SC
- 15 NALS June ALS Exam Application Due
- 25 LSPSC Annual (Outgoing) Board Meeting and Spring (Incoming) Board Meeting in Charleston, SC
- 26 LSPSC CLE Seminars, Annual Meeting and Installation in Charleston, SC
- 27 LSPSC Spring Membership Meeting in Charleston, SC

NALS Code of Ethics

Members of NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the standards of conduct required of the legal profession.

Every member shall:

- ◆ Encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice;
- ◆ Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information;
- ◆ Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy;
- ◆ Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence; and
- ◆ Pursue a high order of professional attainment.



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