

PANH Celebrates 25 Years!

BY DENISE-MARIE MCINTOSH

On October 3, 2008, the Paralegal Association of New Hampshire celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a gala event. The event was held at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. The evening was celebrated with Susan Ippoliti, NFPA VP and Director of Profession Development who was a guest speaker. Also, during the evening the award for "Paralegal of the Year" went to Susan St. Germain, a current paralegal and employee of the law firm Divine Millimet in Manchester for over 32 years. Also, the "Attorney of the Year" award was presented to Robert A. Lubitz, Esq., Professor and Director of the Paralegal study program at Nashua Community College, in recognition of his contributions to the career advancement of paralegals.

Each year the Association presents these two awards. All members statewide are asked to submit nominations for the Attorney of the Year and Paralegal of the Year. All nominations are then presented to the

Board of Directors and voted on by the Board. The criteria for these awards are to recognize lawyers who help promote and advance the paralegal profession as well as to a paralegal who is outstanding in their field.

In the late 1970's, a group of paralegals began to get together on an informal basis to share ideas and resources. The group would meet at people's homes or local restaurant to share experiences. That small group began to grow and the group realized that there was a benefit in meeting with



From left to right: Jennifer Emery (Membership Chair), Stacey Peters (President), Judge James Muirhead, Susan Ippoliti, Aniko Bouley (VP), Brandy Swanson (Treasurer).



Award to Attorney/Professor Lubitz of Nashua Community College from Stacey Peters (President of PANH)

other paralegal professionals and decided a more formal organization would be beneficial. In 1983, the Paralegal Association of New Hampshire was formed for the purposes of promoting and defining the paralegal profession within the legal community and general public through leadership, education and networking. Every year the Association holds the annual meeting. The annual meetings provide the members with opportunities to network and attend continuing legal education seminars to enhance their legal skills and knowledge. Additional continuing education opportunities are provided throughout the year.

PANH has also encouraged improvement in paralegal education and has worked with local schools offering paralegal programs. This coordinated effort has increased awareness by school administrators of the needs of paralegals and has resulted in the appointment of several paralegal members to school advisory boards. Many PANH members are teaching in local programs and the Association receives requests for paralegals to speak as "guest lecturers" at the various paralegal programs throughout the state. PANH has offered scholarships to student members of the Association enrolled in paralegal programs, as well as scholarships to



Kalby Bonelli, CP, Region I Director of NALA (on left) and Tracey Young, RP, Region V Director of NFPA (at the time) were speakers at the PANH Annual Meeting.

members for continuing legal education or CLA exam expenses.

Guest speakers at the celebration were: Susan Ippoliti, NFPA's VP and Director of Profession Development as well as James R. Muirhead, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of New Hampshire. Entertainment was provided by comedian Tony V. Columbus.

Region I Welcomes New Association

BY THERESA A. PRATER, RP

The Korean American Paralegal Association (KAPA) in California is the newest member of NFPA's Region I. KAPA became a member of NFPA in June, 2008, with 25 voting members.

KAPA's members come from all over the state of California. There are members in the Bay Area all the way to the sunny shores of San Diego County. The majority of its members work in the area of immigration law, assisting fellow Koreans to get established in the U.S. In July, 2008, I was privileged to meet many of KAPA's members at a meeting to introduce NFPA and its benefits. Some KAPA members left the Bay Area at sunrise to learn more about their affiliation with NFPA.

Although KAPA representatives were unable to attend the 2008 NFPA convention in Rogers, AR, we look forward to greeting them at the region meeting in April, and again in Portland for the 2009 convention.

PACO Announces Interim President

The Paralegal Association of Central Ohio (PACO) is proud to announce that Trina Hayes has been named, by the Executive Board, as interim President for 2008-2009.

Hayes is currently serving as, and will continue in the capacity of, PACO's NFPA Primary Representative, and represented PACO last month, along with Statewide Representative Karen Pierson, at the National Convention in Arkansas.

Hayes is a contract specialist with Limited Brands, Inc., where she has been employed for 11 years. Her job entails contract negotiation, redlining and drafting of various contracts and other legal documents for the corporate enterprises. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Ohio Dominican University and a paralegal certificate from Capital University Law School.

Hayes was PACO's secretary from 2006-2008, and is a past member of the pro bono and public relations committees. She currently serves on the newsletter committee.

In addition to her job and PACO responsibilities, she is a Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad litem for Franklin County and President of her condo association.

Debbie Sekarak, PACO's Secretary and paralegal at Wiles, Boyle, Burkholder & Bringardner Co., LPA, has been named interim First Vice President. Melinda Small, PACO's Second Vice President, and paralegal at R. Chris Harbold & Associates, has been named interim Student Liaison Director.

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