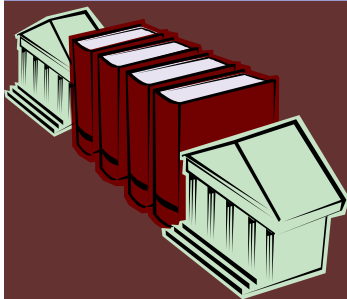


2nd Quarter

June 2005



Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association

Message From The President

Time flies - 2005 is half over! Since the last issue of our newsletter, RVPA has continued to host great speakers. Our speakers for the last quarter have included Sharon Robertson, Region II Director for NALA, Mike Allen of the *Roanoke Times*, Tom Marston of Marston Agency and Anna Karbassiyoon of Sir Speedy. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a meeting this year, I urge you to mark your calendars for the first Thursday of every month and join us. And please, if there is a topic you would like addressed or a speaker you think would be of interest to our members, let one of the officers or board members know. We're always looking for topics and speakers.

Our July Social will be a Deck Party at the July 16 Salem Avalanche game. I will be out of



town, so someone please drink a beer for me!

In August, Brenda Hamilton, Clerk of Roanoke City Circuit Court will be our speaker. She will discuss ways to make the clerks' jobs and our jobs easier when dealing with their office. If you are often on the phone or trekking to the courthouse, don't miss this meeting!

Our April Book/Yard Sale was quite successful. Many, many thanks to Kathy Ward for "hosting" the sale at her home. Not only did she store items but she fielded the Friday calls from yard sale "groupies" who were scoping out their weekend routes and dealt with the extreme early birds who rang her doorbell before the sun was up Saturday morning.

Kathy Ward will be attending the NALA annual meeting in Kansas City in July. I

am sure she will return with lots of information and ideas. The next VAPA meeting will be September 17 and I know Marilyn Hubbard and all the VAPA representatives from the other member associations would welcome attendance by any of our members. VAPA is busy planning the October 2006 state conference which will be held in Richmond. The VAPA conferences are a great place to meet paralegals from other areas of Virginia and to learn a lot in just a few days so plan now to attend.

Since the year is half over, it's time for each of you to consider running for an office or board position. If you have ideas about making RVPA better, please let an officer or board member know that you would be interested in serving. New blood is always welcome! Have a great summer!

CLE Opportunities	2
NALA Report	3
CLE Committee	3
Community Relations Committee	3
Social Committee	3
Financial Development Committee	4
RVPA Book/Yard Sale A Success!	4
Calendar of Events	4
VAPA Update	5
Membership Committee	5

CLE Opportunities

- 07/12/2005 **The Life of an Estate.** Half day seminar at Holiday Inn Select Koger Center, Richmond. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800 979-8253, www.vacle.org.
- 07/19/2005 **Breaking the Code - Bankruptcy Reform Legislation.** Half day seminar at The Wyndham Roanoke Airport, Roanoke. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800 979-8253, www.vacle.org.
- 07/20/2005 **Medical Evidence in Virginia Court: Your Guide to Effective Use.** Full day seminar at Radisson Hotel, Richmond. Contact NBI at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com.
- 08/03/2005 **Getting Maximum Benefits for Your Social Security Disability Clients in Virginia.** Full day seminar at Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke. Contact NBI at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com.
- 08/11/2005 **Introduction to Immigration Law and Practice: Family-Based Issues.** Full day seminar at Doubletree Richmond Airport Hotel, Richmond. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800 979-8253, www.vacle.org.
- 08/18/2005 **Understanding Land Descriptions Surveys and Boundary Evidence.** Full day seminar at Courtyard by Marriott, Roanoke. Contact Half Moon Seminars at 1-715-835-5900, www.halfmoonseminars.com.
- 09/23/2005 **20th Annual Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice.** Two-day seminar at The Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800 979-8253, www.vacle.org.

NALA LIVE - ON-LINE SEMINARS

Go to www.nala.org for more information regarding these online seminars. Fees per course are \$75 for NALA members and \$100 for non-members.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|---|
| 09/02/2005 | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. | Basic Business Organizations |
| 09/08/2005 | Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Ethics |
| 09/11/2005 | 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Legal Research |
| 09/21/2005 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Managing the Equitable Distribution Case in the Family Law Practice |
| 10/02/2005 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Ethics |
| 10/04/2005 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Judgment & Legal Analysis |
| 10/09/2005 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Basic Business Organizations |
| 10/06/2005 | Noon -2:00 p.m. | Powerpoint for Paralegals |
| 11/02/2005 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Part 1 - American Legal System |
| 11/09/2005 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Part 2 - American Legal System |
| 11/12/2005 | Noon - 2:00 p.m. | Written Communications |

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NALA Report by Kathy Ward

New NALA Campus Course on ADR Now Available!

The NALA Campus Course on ADR - Alternative Dispute Resolution is now available on a 24/7 basis. This course is designed to provide an overview of the broad array of methods or processes that are used to resolve disputes, their attributes, and how these individual methods are integrated into a dispute resolution strategy. ADR is one of the fastest growing practice areas - this is your chance to become acquainted with this fascinating subject.

NALA 2004 Survey Report Published!



Results are now available from the 2004 National Utilization and Compensation Survey of paralegals conducted by the National Association of Legal Assistants. The survey examines education and experience, firm environment and utilization, billing rates and salary/compensation levels. The full survey report may be seen at http://www.nala.org/survey_table.htm.

CLE Committee by Sharon Hupp

Please join us for our next meeting on August 4, 2005, at 12:00 p.m. on the 4th floor of the SunTrust Plaza. Our featured speaker will be **Brenda Hamilton, Clerk of the Roanoke City Circuit Court**. Ms. Hamilton will discuss tips on how to get the most out of the Court's services, as well as things we can all do to make her job and our jobs easier.

The CLE committee is hard at work lining up speakers for the remainder of the year. We hope to have someone speak on business etiquette in the near future. If anyone has any suggestions for topics, or know of someone who would like to come speak to us, please let us know!



Brenda S. Hamilton
Clerk of Circuit Court

Community Relations Committee by Lois Sumpter



On behalf of the Community Relations Committee, I'd like to thank the membership for their support and generous donations to St. Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation. We were able to donate \$92.00 and some doggie rawhide bones. Thanks for your support!

Even though school just let out for summer, it's not too soon to plan for the "school's back in session." At our August and September meetings, we will be collecting school supplies to donate to the West End Center. A list of preferred items will be forthcoming with the August meeting notice.

Social Committee by Susan Albert

PLEASE HOLD THE DATE: December 1, 2005 for the 2005 RVPA Christmas Social. The event will be held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center from 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. Further information will be coming closer to the date!

RVPA will be holding a Deck Party at the July 16, 2005 Salem Avalanche baseball game. Thanks to all those members who purchased tickets!

See ya' at the ballpark!!!



Financial Development Committee by Susan Albert

The Financial Development Committee would like to thank all the members who donated items for our Yard Sale and "Beach Book Bazaar" on April 23, 2004. The Committee is pleased to announce that RVPA made \$262.75.

The Committee would like to extend a special "Thank You" to Kathy Ward for the use of her home for this event. Thank you to those members who got up early to come help out and to those members who stopped by for a bargain!!!

RVPA Book/Yard Sale A Success! by Laura Skeen

On Saturday, April 23, RVPA held its first (and MAYBE not last) book/yard sale at the home of Kathy Ward. Friday night we had rain, rain and more rain so the nearly clear skies that greeted us on Saturday morning were cause for celebration. For those of you who do not spend your weekends cruising yard sales, a true yard sale junkie apparently gets up at 2:00 a.m. and starts driving around ringing doorbells at the homes of those innocent people who have put up signs or placed ads announcing yard sales that begin at 7:00 or 8:00 a.m - or at least that's what Kathy must have thought as she answered her door before daylight to the "early birds." Quite a bit of merchandise was sold prior to the official start time of the yard sale but hey, we got rid of the stuff and we made some money.



Kathy was assisted at the sale by Susan Albert (and her money box), Marilyn Hubbard, Lois Sumpter and yours truly, Laura Skeen. We had a grand time selling, mingling with the buyers and chatting among ourselves.



By the time the skies grew threatening again, we had sold the majority of the books and a lot of the other items our members had graciously donated. We even had a few folks interested in Bill Hoffman's sports car but all those guys seemed to think that their wives or mothers would be pretty mad if they arrived back home and said they'd bought a car that morning. Sorry, Bill!

The first drops of rain pelted us as we packed up the unsold items for delivery to various charitable organizations. We donated items to Goodwill, Salvation Army Women's Shelter and over a hundred books to the Literacy Volunteers book drive.

All in all, it was fun. We made some money and enjoyed meeting the motley crew of folks who frequent yard sales. This could turn into an annual event so start setting aside those books and items you have no use for anymore - we may be begging for them next Spring.

Calendar of Events

July 16, 2005	Salem Avalanche Deck Party
August 4, 2005	RVPA Membership Meeting <i>Brenda Hamilton, Roanoke City Circuit Court</i>
October 6, 2005	RVPA Membership Meeting <i>Douglas Stark, Esquire, Crandall & Katt Law Firm</i>
November 3, 2005	2006 RVPA Elections
December 1, 2005	RVPA Christmas Social



VAPA Update by Marilyn Hubbard

Plans are underway for the October 2006 VAPA conference in Richmond, Virginia. The location for the conference is the Marriott Hotel at Innsbruck. We are really excited about the venue and about the tentative seminars that will be offered. FYI: Innsbruck is only a mile or two from the new mall at Short Pump. So besides, really good seminars ... there should be some really good shopping during off hours!



Changes, Announcements, etc.

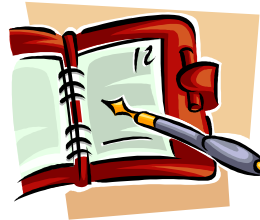
If you have any changes, announcements or suggestions regarding the Newsletter, please contact Vicki Shrewsbury at Woods Rogers PLC at 540.983.7695 (Phone) or 540.983.7711 (Fax) or by e-mail at shrewsbu@woodsrogers.com

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association (RVPA). Information published is based solely on materials submitted in writing. RVPA assumes no responsibility for verification of the information submitted.

Membership Committee by Marilyn Hubbard

The Membership Committee plans to distribute updated 2005 Membership Directories in the next couple of weeks.



If you have any changes to your contact information, please notify Marilyn Hubbard as soon as possible at (540) 983-7564 or hubbard@woodsrogers.com.

Did you make a donation?

At the United Way in a fairly small town a volunteer worker noticed that the most successful lawyer in the whole town hadn't made a contribution. This guy was making about \$600,000 a year so the volunteer thought, "Why not call him up?"

He calls up the lawyer. "Sir, according to our research you haven't made a contribution to the United Way, would you like to do so?"

The lawyer responds, "A contribution? Does your research show that I have an invalid mother who requires expensive surgery once a year just to stay alive?"

The worker is feeling a bit embarrassed and says, "Well, no sir, I'm..." "Does your research show that my sister's husband was killed in a car accident? She has three kids and no means of support!"

The worker is feeling quite embarrassed at this point. "I'm terribly sorry..."

"Does your research show that my brother broke his neck on the job and now requires a full time nurse to have any kind of normal life?"

The worker is completely humiliated at this point. "I am sorry sir, please forgive me..."

"The gall of you people! I don't give them anything, so why should I give it to you!"



Courtesy of www.ahajokes.com