

3rd Quarter

September 2006



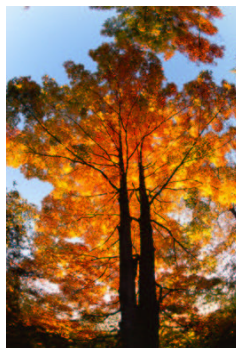
Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association

Message From The President

Welcome to Fall!!!

Can you believe the year is already three-quarters over? And what a year it has been! This past summer found several of our members looking for employment when their firms either dissolved or downsized. But we also saw what I would term a "record" number of job openings for the Roanoke Valley. I wish our friends well in their job searches! If anyone hears of any job openings, please notify the RVPA so that we may get the word out to all interested persons.

This past summer we had a very successful July Social. Held on July 11, 2006, we were treated to a "free" pizza lunch and an excellent CLE program from the Roanoke City Police Department. I extend many thanks to the Social Committee members for planning and presenting this great luncheon opportunity. I also understand that we welcomed several new members to our association as a result of the



luncheon. A hearty welcome and "glad you can join us" to those new members.

I would also like to wish each of our members a "Happy Paralegals' Week!" Governor Tim Kaine has designated the week of October 1 - 7, 2006 as Paralegals' Week in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Wonder what "gifts" our attorneys will bestow upon us this year?!?

The Virginia Alliance of Paralegal Associations' (VAPA) statewide conference is scheduled for October 4 - 7, 2006, at the Richmond Marriott West at Innsbrook. This year it is being held in conjunction with the Local Government Paralegal Association. I cannot wait to hear reports from those members who are able to attend.

On October 5, 2006, our Nominating Committee will request nominations for the 2007 Officers and Board of Directors of RVPA. You will also be asked to nominate the 2006 Member of the Year. Take some time to think about this and come

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CLE Opportunities

- 10/03/2006 **Trials of the Century II**, Featuring Todd S. Winegar. Full day seminar at Wyndham Roanoke Airport. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800-979-8253, www.vacle.org
- 10/04/2006 **Ethics Rocks!**, Featuring Jack Marshall. Half-day seminar at Wyndham Roanoke Airport. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800-979-8253, www.vacle.org
- 10/05/2006 **Litigation Skills: A Short Course for Paralegals**. Full day seminar at Wyndham Richmond Airport. CLE credit: NALA 6.0; NFPA 6.0. Contact HalfMoon LLC at 1-715-835-5900, www.halfmoonseminars.com
- 10/10/2006 **Collection Law From Start to Finish**. Full day seminar at Richmond Marriott. Contact National Business Institute at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com
- 10/11/2006 **Troubleshooting and Title Insurance Problems**. Full day seminar at Richmond Marriott. Contact National Business Institute at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com
- 10/17/2006 **25th Annual Family Law Seminar**. Full day seminar at Roanoke Higher Education Center. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800-979-8253, www.vacle.org
- 10/20/2006 **Financial Settlement Strategies for Your Divorce Clients**. Full day seminar at Crowne Plaza Richmond. Contact National Business Institute at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com
- 10/23/2006 **Internet Strategies for Legal Professionals**. Full day seminar at Crowne Plaza Richmond. CLE credit: NALA 0.6; NFPA 6.0. Contact National Business Institute at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com
- 10/26/2006 **25th Annual Trusts and Estates Seminar**. Full day seminar at Roanoke Higher Education Center. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800-979-8253, www.vacle.org
- 10/27/2006 **The Probate Process From Start to Finish**. Full day seminar at Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. Contact National Business Institute at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com
- 10/30/2006 **Effectively Using Medical Evidence in Court**. Full day seminar at Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. Contact National Business Institute at 1-800-930-6182, www.nbi-sems.com
- 11/3-4/06 **27th Annual Construction and Public Contracts Law Seminar**. Two day seminar at Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville. Contact Virginia CLE at 1-800-979-8253, www.vacle.org

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Message From The President

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prepared to nominate! I would also encourage anyone who would like to run for an office or the Board to go ahead and come forward. We won't think less of you for nominating yourself!! And if you are nominated for a position, please give this serious consideration. Serving as an officer or on the Board really does not take a huge chunk of your time. In November, during our luncheon, we will hold the actual elections. At our Christmas Social in December, we will install the 2007 officers and board members and recognize the 2006 Member of the Year.

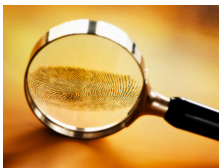
Speaking of the Christmas Social - the Social Committee has chosen Thursday, December 7, 2006 as the date for our annual event. This year we are going to try a new venue for the Social - Schaal's on Campbell. Please mark your calendar and join us for a scrumptious meal in a really beautiful setting. Can't wait to see everyone there!!

Lastly, I invite all members, and non-members, to check out the remainder of the newsletter for sections on CLE Opportunities, committee reports and the Board of Directors reports, as well as other articles.

Hope you have fun this Fall!!

Social Committee

by Susan Albert



The Social Committee is pleased to report that the July 11, 2006 Social, entitled "CSI: Roanoke-style" was a great success. We had over 40 attendees - including many new faces

and others we had not seen in a while. The presentation by David Sink and Rick Drewery from the Roanoke City Police Department was very informative and a lot of fun. They knew how to captivate an audience!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 7, 2006 for the RVPA Christmas Social. It will be held this year at Schaal's on Campbell located at 124 West Campbell Avenue (near Studios on the Square and Zak's Café).

Please stay tuned for additional information concerning our ever popular Christmas Social! Hope to see you there!!

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

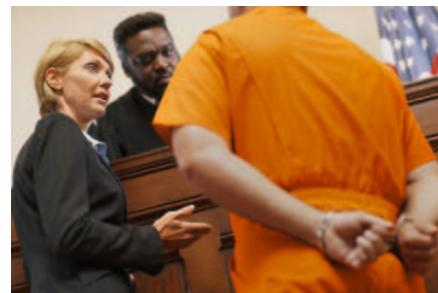
The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association (RVPA). Information published is based solely on materials submitted in writing. RVPA assumes no responsibility for verification of the information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

NALA Report by Colleen Doyle

The summer of 2006 saw the introduction of the Advanced Paralegal Certification Program by NALA. The APC Certification Board began by offering advanced certification programs on the subjects of Contract Administration/ Contract Management, and Introduction to Social Security Disability. Programs on Business Organization and Discovery were also introduced later in the summer.

Programs proposed for introduction through the end of 2006 and 2007 include Trial Practice, Land Use, Personal Injury, Criminal Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Intellectual Property.

The APC Certification Program has been under development for over three years. The courses have been developed by a board composed of CLA Specialists, paralegal educators, attorneys and paralegal managers. The board has sought input from others who work directly in the practice area. The concept of the advanced certification is information and education.



Offered for the convenience of busy paralegals, the programs are all web-based and available on a 24/7 basis. Candidates for advanced certification are awarded a certificate after completion of a course and tests, and submission of a Certificate of Completion to the APC board. As with the CLA Specialty examination program, completion of a program leading to the ACP (Advanced Certified Paralegal credential) qualifies the participant for 20 hours of CLE credit toward maintaining the CLA/CP credential.

The APC educational programs are available to non-certified persons, however, award of the credential is withheld. If a person achieves the CLA or CP credential within one year of completion of an APC course, the ACP credential is awarded. Otherwise, a non-CLA/CP will need to retake an APC course to achieve the credential. New ACP certificates were also issued to those paralegals who currently hold a CLA Specialty certificate.

Confused? Interested? Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding either the CLA/CP exam or the new Advanced Certified Paralegal certification.

Community Relations Committee by Lois Sumpter



We collected 2½ boxes of school supplies for the West End Center. The supplies were delivered to the Center on September 12 and they were thankful for the donation. Our support goes a long way to helping children in need. Thank you to the members for your generosity.

For the months of October through December we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Second Harvest does a tremendous job in supporting the needs of our citizens of Southwest Virginia. They also provide assistance in times of disaster such as Hurricane Katrina.

Let's Go Surfin' by Laura Skeen

Press "one" if you'd like to scream!

I doubt that there are too many of you out there who have never thought, as you followed the interminable prompts at a customer "service" number, "I just want to talk to a human being - is that too much to ask?" Alas, apparently it IS too much to ask. When I want to talk to a human at a company I don't want to spend precious minutes deciding which number on the phone pad will lead me to a human. Many times I press that number and end up with yet another menu of choices and by the time I reach the elusive customer service representative I'm at my wit's end and tend to be a bit snippy.



But there may be some hope in my quest for "intelligent life" at the other end of the phone line. The other day I happened upon this website, <http://gethuman.com/us/>. I have not yet tried to call any of the 499 companies listed (as of 09/14/2006) but I did note that there were a few companies listed that I have had to contact in the past regarding matters we have handled in our office so I plan to keep this website in mind the next time I need to reach a customer service representative and really don't want to play their "Press 1 if you want to waste time" game. If you try any of the numbers on this website, please let me know if you were pleased with the results.

And how much does it cost to "fill 'er up?"

Why back in 19-, well, a number of years ago, I can remember being able to fill up my Ford Pinto for under \$10.00. I know, it's all relative and that \$10.00 would be, what, like \$50.00 today? I am not interested in the economics and politics of the cost of a gallon of gas. I just want to know whether I'm going to gasp in dismay when I pull up to the pump. If you have not already checked out <http://www.gasbuddy.com/>, I suggest you give it a look. You can check gas prices all across the United States and Canada by inserting a zip code or clicking on a state/province. This could be handy when you're planning trips and would like to get an idea of the cost of gas in another area of the country.

Oh my gosh - I'm doomed!



That's right, I did not forward that chain e-mail on to ten people. My life will be filled with bad luck, no one will pray for me, and due to my crazy habit of using antiperspirant, I'll probably suffer serious health consequences. I like a good joke as much as anyone and often pass on a good chuckle to friends who need a laugh but I despise being one of 300 "close friends" to whom a chain e-mail has been forwarded. There are a number of websites out there that debunk urban legends and reveal the latest in chain e-mails but an interesting one I visited recently is <http://www.breakthechain.org/>. Check this site for the latest in chain e-mails, urban legends, spam and scams, and valid virus warnings.

I still anxiously await to hear from you - what are websites you visit regularly for business or general information that you have found to be helpful? Please e-mail your favorites to me at lskeen@colemanmassey.com.

Board of Directors Report (June - August)

Each month the Board first reviews, revises and approves minutes from the prior month's meeting. The Board then receives the Treasurer's report. Next, current RVPA business is addressed. Following is a summary of our June through August Board meetings.

Board business was light in June. The upcoming yard sale was discussed. A new location for the yard sale was needed because the first location was no longer available.

The Community Relations Committee reported that RVPA would collect supplies for the Bradley Free Clinic in July and that August and September we would again collect school supplies for West End Center.

The Social Committee reported that plans for the July meeting, "CSI Roanoke," were complete.

Colleen Doyle, NALA Liaison, reported that she was ready for the NALA convention in Tampa.

Our VAPA Liaison, Marilyn Hubbard, reported that all speakers for the October VAPA conference had been confirmed and brochures would be sent out soon.

The Board also discussed increasing our visibility with the Roanoke Bar Association, a

request by Radford University for panel discussion speakers, and RVPA's website.

There was no Board meeting in July.

At August's meeting it was noted that four new members had joined RVPA.

President Susan Albert requested that the Nominating Committee be activated for 2007 elections. The Board briefly discussed the possibility of disbanding RVPA if no members are willing to take officer/board positions

The CLE Committee reported that plans for the 2007 seminar were on hold pending the outcome of elections.

Financial Development reported that the yard sale would be held at Kathy Ward's home on September 16.

Publications Committee requested that reports from all committee chairpersons be submitted by September 15 for the September 20 issue of the newsletter.

Community Relations requested that members be asked to drop off school supplies at Gentry Locke in September due to our September meeting being held at the Roanoke Bar Library. For October through December RVPA

will collect non-perishable food items for Second Harvest Food Bank.

NALA Liaison Colleen Doyle passed out some materials from the NALA convention. She reported that it was a very worthwhile event and stated all RVPA members should consider attending.

Marilyn Hubbard, VAPA Liaison, reported that the VAPA conference will have good attendance and that the block of VAPA-reserved hotel rooms had already been booked up. RVPA will donate three door prizes for the conference.

RVPA received a donation of three \$5.00 gift certificates from Quizno's. The Board decided these would be raffled at September's meeting and that raffle tickets would be free to those attending the September meeting.

Each Board meeting concludes with the scheduling of the next Board meeting and set-up for the upcoming membership meeting.

All RVPA members are welcome to attend any Board meeting. If you are interested in attending or have a concern you would like addressed by the Board, please contact any RVPA Officer or Board member for information on the date, time and location of the next meeting.

RVPA Marketplace

Please contact Laura Skeen at lskeen@colemanmassey.com if you are interested in purchasing any of these RVPA items:

RVPA Cookbooks	\$7.00 (only 8 left!)
RVPA Rulers	25¢
RVPA Mugs	\$1.00
RVPA T-Shirts	\$5.00

(We have the following t-shirt sizes left: 6 navy tees in size Large; 1 white tee in Small; and 1 white tee in XXL)



New Members

by Lisa Wirt

RVPA would like to welcome the following new members:

Cynthia Graves

Medical Facilities of America, Inc.

Jennifer Norris

Krooth & Altman, LLP

Carolyn Rock

Magee, Foster, Goldstein & Sayers, PC

Arlene Usery

Medical Facilities of America, Inc.

SAVE THE DATE!

**The 2006 RVPA Christmas Social
will be held on
Thursday, December 7, 2006**

at

**Schaal's on Campbell
124 West Campbell Avenue**

(between 1st and 2nd Streets -
near Zak's Café).

*The holidays will be here
before you know it!*

Financial Development Committee

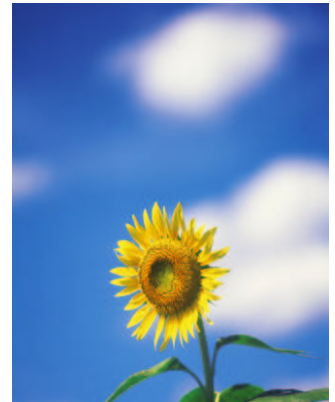
by Laura Skeen

RVPA YARD SALE A SUCCESS!!

The weather was perfect, the company was good and the laughs were many. RVPA's second yard sale was again a success. Our Treasurer, Diana Wills, reports that RVPA made approximately \$175.00.

Not bad for a morning's work! Big thanks go out to all of you who donated and/or worked at the yard sale!!

And ESPECIALLY huge thanks to Kathy Ward for allowing RVPA to commandeer her garage, her driveway and her time, and for graciously getting up "before the crack of dawn" to help run the sale!!



CLE Opportunities (continued...)

(Continued from page 2)

- 11/15/2006 **VTLA Annual Paralegal Seminar.** Full day seminar at Richmond Marriott West. Contact VTLA at 1-800-267-8852, www.vtla.com
- 12/01/2006 **Basic Workers' Compensation.** Full day seminar at Holiday Inn I-64 West-End, Richmond. CLE credit: NALA .6 units. Contact Lorman Education Services at 1-866-352-9539, www.lorman.com

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.

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|------------|-------------------------|--|
| 10/03/2006 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Elder Law Issues |
| 10/04/2006 | Noon - 2:00 p.m. | Power Up Your PowerPoint |
| 10/05/2006 | 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. | Immigration and Employment Issues |
| 10/06/2006 | Noon - 2:00 p.m. | Written Communications |
| 10/11/2006 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Tax-Exempt and Lease-Purchase Financing |
| 10/12/2006 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Managing the Equitable Distribution Case in the Family Law Practice |
| 10/13/2006 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Product Liability Litigation for Paralegals |
| 10/17/2006 | 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. | Successful Leadership Techniques and Meeting Strategies |
| 10/20/2006 | Noon - 1:30 p.m. | What do You Mean . . . Execute, Witness, Attest, Notarize & Apostille? |
| 11/03/2006 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Basic Business Organizations |
| 11/07/2006 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Workers' Compensation Law Overview |
| 11/09/2006 | 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Effective Use of the Internet for Paralegals |
| 11/10/2006 | Noon - 2:00 p.m. | Judgment & Legal Analysis |

VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fall semester classes are in session. Classes offered in the Legal Administration program this fall include Intro to Law & Legal Assistant, Real Estate Law for Legal Assistant, Family Law, Ethics for the Legal Assistant, Estate Planning & Probate, Legal Transactions, and Internship. Contact VWCC at 857-7272 or www.virginiawestern.edu.

LAST CALL!!!!

The Virginia Alliance of Paralegal Associations ("VAPA") will hold its biennial state conference in Richmond October 5 thru 7, 2006, at the Marriott-Richmond West (near the Short Pump mall). The event will be co-sponsored by the Local Government Paralegal Association.

This is a great opportunity to network with paralegals from across the state, attend informative seminars with excellent speakers and to have a great time in our state capitol! There will be options to attend 1 day for \$75, 2 days for \$125 or all 3 days of the conference for a true bargain price of \$175. Don't miss this wonderful event!!

