



### **GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA DECLARES PARALEGALS' WEEK...**

The Governor had declared Paralegals' Week every year, for over twenty years. I recently sat down and read the Certificate of Recognition that Governor Terry McAuliffe signed proclaiming October 22-28, 2017 as "Paralegals' Week." The first time I read this I smiled and thought how nice that was of our Governor to make this Recognition. But then, I began dissecting it and really thought about all that we do as professionals in the legal world. It was then that I was really filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. What *you* do every day in the legal world really does *matter!* (Okay, I am not naïve that I don't realize that this is a demanding and, at times, a very frustrating job!). But in focusing on the words that can be found within the body of the Recognition, we provide to our attorneys skilled and professional services; knowledge about our field; provide clients with quality legal services; and adhere to a high degree of ethical and professional conduct. The Recognition also talks about sponsoring educational programs, seminars and forums designed to bring paralegals together to exchange ideas and methods used.

RVPA strives for each of its members to develop personal and professional growth through educational opportunities and networking with other paralegals and legal professionals. I encourage each of you to stay active and involved in RVPA and our community. Together we can make a difference and promote RVPA and this profession that we have chosen as our careers. I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming Paralegal Networking Social, the monthly CLE meetings and around town.

*Kathie Coulson, VARP*

#### Inside this issue:

Paralegals:  
Registered/Regulated?

Volunteer Opportunities  
In Our Community

Speakers For Upcoming  
Monthly Meetings

VAPA Conference

NALA Information

### PARALEGAL NETWORKING SOCIAL

On **Thursday, May 17, 2018** from **5:00 pm to 7:30 pm**, RVPA will host a Paralegal Networking Social to be held at **Billy's Restaurant**. This is an Open House and will be a time for paralegals to get together to meet some new people and to talk with old friends and colleagues. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine. There will also be some great door prizes (gift cards, boxes of fresh baked goodies, wine and other items donated for this event)! Information about RVPA, the Virginia Alliance of Paralegal Associations (and the Virginia Registered Paralegal Program) and the National Association of Legal Assistants. Huseby will be on hand to give you more information about their services (real-time court reporting, it's awesome!). We hope to see you there!



## PARALEGALS: REGISTERED/REGULATED?

### WHAT ABOUT CERTIFICATION?

I ran across an RVPA newsletter from 1992 with this very same question. In this newsletter, Betsy Biesenbach attended a NFPA meeting for the discussion and passage of a resolution establishing guidelines for paralegal regulation. This topic has been a debate prior to 1992 and still marches on into the present.

In all states it is a voluntary to become registered, regulated, certified or licensed, either through your state or through a national paralegal association.

VAPA has implemented the Virginia Registered Paralegal (“VARP”) in 2015. To become a VARP you have to have the education, experience and be a current working paralegal. VARP was established for many reasons. The main reason was the growing need to establish a benchmark to identify qualified paralegals throughout Virginia.

The VARP credential recognizes a professional paralegal by validating a higher level of achievement through education and experience to the legal community and to the general public.

Many law firms in Virginia require Paralegals to be Certified through a national paralegal association before they will be hired.

*Continued Page 4*

*“Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.”  
Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice*



## VIRGINIA ALLIANCE OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS’ 11<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

VAPA’s conference will be held on October 5, 2018 in Fredericksburg. Plans are underway and here are some proposed topics for the conference. The Role of Special Counsel; Privilege Review; Hot Topics in Employment Law; Virginia 529; Deposition Technology; Human Trafficking, Criminal Defense Law and Home Healthcare/Elderly Law. And it wouldn’t be a proper seminar without a session on Ethics.

This is a one-day conference Please visit [www.vaparalegalalliance.org](http://www.vaparalegalalliance.org) or [www.rvpa.org](http://www.rvpa.org) for continuing details.



#### ✚ **Father's Day Event SW Food Bank**

This event is geared for children. The Roanoke City Police Department will be serving hot dogs. The Foodie Truck will be next to the Police, and they will need volunteers to hand out already prepared side items to the people attending the event.

#### ✚ **Ronald McDonald House**

Has an **immediate** need of volunteers to tidy up their grounds, flower beds, etc. This can be done in groups, large or small.

They also have timeslots available for cooking dinner for its guests. They provide the food and anything necessary to make whatever main dish and sides that will be prepared. Volunteers are also needed to help clean up dinner *every day* at 6:30 pm.

#### ✚ **Roanoke City Clean Up Day**

The City receives funding from HUD each year to assist in targeted communities. This year, on **Saturday, July 14, 2018**, the targeted area will be Melrose/Orange between 24<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Street, along Orange Avenue and the railroad.

#### ✚ **Clean Valley Council**

The second opportunity for trash collection is the **first Saturday in October 2018**. Volunteer Groups are allowed to focus on an area of their choosing, and they will provide the volunteers with orange trash bags and gloves. More detail to come.

Go to RVPA's website for information.



"Your Honor, my client was wondering if he could serve his sentence in dog years?"

REGISTERED continued from page 2

There is opportunity to become a Certified Paralegal through NALA (NALA.org) by taking their exam. The exam consists of the Knowledge Exam and the Skills Exam. NALA established this examination in 1976.

“As of 2017, there are over 19,000 paralegals who have achieved the certification credential and over 3,400 who have achieved the Advanced Certified Paralegals in the United States. Since its inception, over 28,000 paralegals have participated in this program.”

Many states have certification and registration of paralegals. California allows paralegals to appear in immigration proceedings under an attorney’s supervision. Nevada allows Legal Document Preparers who must register and meet minimal requirements. New York permits volunteer non-attorneys to appear in certain courts as “Court Navigators” subject to formal training. North Carolina has a voluntary Registered Paralegal, which many NC law firms require paralegals to have. Washington state adopted the Legal Technician/Limited License Practitioner (“LLLT”) IN 2016. “Think of them like nurse practitioners, who can treat patients and prescribe medication like a doctor. “Licensed Legal Technicians bring a similar option to the legal world, making legal services more accessible to people who can’t afford an attorney.” LLLT’s cannot represent clients in court, but are able to consult and advise, complete and file necessary court documents and support a client in navigating the often confusing maze of the legal system.

You may or may not agree with paralegal registration, regulation or licensing, but you can’t disagree with continuing your education in order to grow in your professional career.

***“Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.” Ralph Waldo Emerson***





RVPA has been affiliated with the National Association for Legal Assistants (NALA) since 2000! NALA is the leading paralegal association in the United States. NALA offers continuing legal education through webinars, annual conferences and the Paralegal Certification.

The Certified Paralegal (CP) credential is a great way to stand out in the paralegal profession. In order to become a CP, you must pass an exam that contains two parts: a knowledge exam and a skills exam.

Every year NALA hosts an annual conference where you will have the opportunity to network with thousands of paralegals from all across the country, sit in on CLE sessions and develop professional skills and personal growth as a paralegal. This year the conference is being held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri on July 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Are you interested in becoming a member of NALA?

RVPA now has the study materials available for anyone who is interested in becoming certified. The study materials include a mock examination and a hard copy of the book, Certified Paralegal Review Manual: A Practical Guide to CP Exam Preparation, Fourth Edition.

Reach out to RVPA's NALA Representative, Shaina Hupp, for more information on joining NALA, and how to borrow the study materials for the Certified Paralegal Exam.



**RVPA is on Facebook! Check out our Facebook page for up-to-date information on upcoming meeting dates and locations, speakers, and more!**

## **UPCOMING MEMBER MEETINGS**

### **June 14, 2018**

Johneal White, Esq.  
Glenn Robinson Cathey Memmer and Skaff  
Ms. White's topic will be Foreign Subpoenas.

### **July 12, 2018**

Christine Poarch, Esq.  
Poarch Law Firm  
This will be Part 2 of Ms. Poarch's presentation on Immigration Law.

### **August 9, 2018**

Evening Meeting with the Judges  
More details to follow.

### **September 13, 2018**

Monica T. Monday, Esq.  
Gentry Locke Attorneys  
Appellate Law

### **October 11, 2018**

Justin Lugar, Esq.  
Gentry Locke Attorneys  
US v. Stewart Parnell  
(Peanut Corporation of America; Decided January 23, 2018)

### **November 8, 2018**

Lauren Ellerman, Esq.  
Lauren Davis, Esq.  
Frith Ellerman and Davis  
Elder Law

### **December 13, 2018**

Annual Holiday Social  
Hotel Roanoke

Visit [www.rvpa.org](http://www.rvpa.org) for additional information to come.

You can also check out our Facebook.

## **2018 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

Kathie Coulson—President  
Gentry Locke Attorneys

Shaina Hupp—NALA Representative  
Woods Rogers

Tara Barnett—Vice-President  
Gentry Locke Attorneys

Luke Priddy—Board Member  
Glenn Cathey Robinson Memmer & Skaff

Shannon Honaker—Secretary  
Glenn Feldmann Darby & Goodlatte

Gwen Johnson—Board Member  
Glenn Cathey Robinson Memmer & Skaff

Whitney Jennings—Treasurer  
Glenn Feldmann Darby & Goodlatte

Stephanie Bede—Board Member  
Whitlow & Youell

Beth Reed Cundiff—VAPA Representative  
Guynn & Waddell

Cindy Graves—Board Member  
Medical Facilities of America



**Don't forget the upcoming  
PARALEGAL NETWORKING SOCIAL  
on May 17, 2018 from 5:00 pm until  
7:30 pm.**

**OPEN HOUSE!**

**We hope you can come and check out  
RVPA!**