MALA MOMENTS

Summer 2021 Edition

A publication of the Montana Association of Legal Assistants*Paralegals an affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants*Paralegals

REMEMBER!
Quarterly Business Meeting on
July 15, 2021 at
NOON MST via GO TO MEETING!
Meeting information is posted on page 3.

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Dianne McDermand www.naturescapephotos.com

President's Message

By Amanda Hewitt

President's Message

Summer is officially here! I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the sunshine (without overheating). It's going to be a hot one this year, folks.

Since our last meeting, the MALA Board and Committees have been working hard to get MALA back on track as quickly as possible. All of the Committees have been formed at this point, but we are always looking for extra hands. If you find yourself with any spare time, please feel free to reach out to us to jump on a Committee.

The Seminar Committee has done a great job of getting some Brown Bag CLE's lined up for us. Here is a tentative schedule of what we have to look forward to:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

July 14:	Trusts (telephonic)
July 22-24:	*NALA Annual Meeting @ Home*
August 11:	Notary Updates (telephonic)
September 9:	*State Bar Paralegal Section Annual Meeting (Missoula)*
September:	Human Rights Bureau: Start to Finish
October:	CP/ACP Course/Review (Missoula)
November:	Criminal Litigation
December:	Social Security
January:	ICWA
February:	Orders of Protection
March:	Annual Meeting (location TBD)

There are many other projects that we have been working on behind the scenes. We are currently working on bylaw revisions, CP/ACP scholarship revisions, library updates, membership updates and many other things. We will bring these projects to the membership once we have them in a more final form. Stay tuned for more on that.

We would like to thank you all again for sticking with MALA through the pandemic. We are thrilled with the direction that MALA is moving in and so grateful that we will all get to gather once again soon.

I'm so looking forward to seeing all of you in person at our CP/ACP Review in October. Have a great summer!

Respectfully submitted

Amanda Hewitt

NOTICE OF MALA'S QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

MALA Quarterly Business Meeting
Thursday, Jul 15, 2021
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/194410045

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412

Access Code: 194-410-045

Join from a video-conferencing room or system.
Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or inroomlink.goto.com
Meeting ID: 194 410 045
Or dial directly: 194410045@67.217.95.2 or 67.217.95.2##194410045

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/194410045

If you are unable to attend, please complete the Proxy Form (page 32) and email to mala@malanet.org

MALA
BROWN BAG SEMINAR:

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TRUSTS IN MONTANA

Presented by: Craig Mungas Bjornson Jones Mungas, PLLC

Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Zoom/Teleconference Only1 CLE Credit (*Pending*)

Craig Mungas was born and raised in Philipsburg, Montana. He attended the University of Montanagraduating in 1998 and is a 2002 cum laude graduate of Seattle University School of Law. After law school, Craig moved to Helena, Montana and practiced commercial law. Afterwards he returned to Seattle, Washington where he received his Master of Laws (LL.M) in 2004 from the University of Washington. While at UW, Craig earned a perfect grade in Estate Planning and Taxation.

In 2006, Craig was appointed by the King County Superior Court to serve as a receiver for a largeconcrete recycling business, which is currently ongoing. Craig's primary focus is in the areas of estate planning, business succession planning, entity formations, tax planning, and probate.

Craig is licensed to practice in Montana and Washington State Courts, the United States District Court for the District of Montana and Western District of Washington, and the United States Tax Court.

In his free time, Craig and his partner enjoy spending time on Flathead Lake, skiing, hiking, and mountain biking.

Registration Deadline – Monday, July 12, 2021

Online Pricing: Register online at www.malanet.org

MALA Member - $16.00 Non-Member - $31.00 Paralegal Students - $9.00

Mail-in Pricing: Email request for registration to mala@malanet.org

MALA Member - $15.00 Non-Member - $30.00 Paralegal Students - $8.00

Make checks payable to: MALA, P.O. Box 9016, Missoula, MT 59807-9016

Call-in information will be emailed - Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Brown Bag Seminar
Calendar of events

July 14:	Trusts (telephonic)
July 22-24:	*NALA Annual Meeting @ Home*
August 11:	Notary Updates (telephonic)
September 9: (Missoula)	*State Bar Paralegal Section Annual Meeting*
September:	Human Rights Bureau: Start to Finish
October:	CP/ACP Course/Review (Missoula)
November:	Criminal Litigation
December:	Social Security
January:	ICWA
February:	Orders of Protection
March:	Annual Meeting (location TBD)

Vice President Report

By: Sabrina Hallsten

Current Membership Numbers:
Active Members: 100 *(4 pending)*
Associate Members: 9 *(6 pending)*
Paralegal Student Members: 6 *(6 pending)*
Total: 115 ***(14 pending)***

Roughly seven weeks ago Amanda sent out an email announcing the new MALA Board, and we have been going a mile a minute ever since. We are extremely excited to get things up and running again and we cannot wait to get together with everyone. It seems like an in-person get together is long overdue and the seminar committee is hoping to make a strong push for a CP/ACP Review in-person this fall. If you cannot wait until then, we encourage you all to consider attending the State Bar Paralegal Section Annual Meeting on September 8th – I believe several of our Board members will be in attendance and we would love to see your faces.

A big 'welcome' to the MALA members who recently joined. We are excited to have you as members of our organization. We currently have 14 pending applications for membership that we hope to have finalized and approved soon. Unfortunately, we also lost roughly 30 members this last year. We are currently planning events and reaching out to the colleges with the hope of connecting with the paralegal community and regaining lost memberships. The Membership Committee consists of myself, Amanda Hewitt, Helen Hauerwas, Kelsey Thelen, and Tamara Funk.

The Mentoring Program Committee and the Student Liaison Committee are actively working to connect with the paralegal programs in Montana as well. Currently we have connected with both the University of Montana and the University of Providence (formerly University of Great Falls). We hope to organize a meet and greet with both school in the fall. If any of our members are interested in participating, regardless of whether of not you are on one of these committees, please let me know.

As a reminder, if you qualify for Active Membership in MALA, you likely qualify for Active Membership in NALA. Please visit their website at https://www.nala.org/Membership and consider joining NALA. As a member of MALA, you get a 25% discount when joining or renewing membership with NALA.

If you have any questions, you can email me at shallsten@jmgm.com or send an email to mala@malanet.org.

MALA is a member-driven association. You are all the key to our success. We cannot thank you enough for your hard work, dedication, and continued support in MALA. Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see you all soon!

Treasurer's Report

March 2020—September 2020

By Kathy Clark, CP

Montana Association of Legal Assistants

Statement of Financial Position

As of July 5, 2021

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
MT Assoc of Legal Assistants Checking (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX king)	2,715.43
MT Assoc of Legal Assistants Savings (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXings)	14,021.30
NALA Convention 2021	3,032.00
Total Bank Accounts	**$19,768.73**
Other Current Assets	
Uncategorized Asset	850.00
Total Other Current Assets	**$850.00**
Total Current Assets	**$20,618.73**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$20,618.73**
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	21,626.90
Retained Earnings	-2,367.54
Net Revenue	1,359.37
Total Equity	**$20,618.73**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$20,618.73**

MALA's Annual Business Meeting Minutes

By Samantha Seidensticker

MALA QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 @ 12:00 PMTele-

President – Amanda Hewitt

Vice President – Helen Hauerwas, CP

Secretary – Velvet Truzzolino

Treasurer – Kathy Clark, CP

NALA Liaison – Michelle Harelson

Montana State Bar Liaison – Vacant

Parliamentarian – Samantha Seidensticker

1. Call to Order –

2. Officer Reports/ Discussion:

President – Amanda Hewitt

Vice President – Helen Hauerwas, CP – Membership

Treasurer – Kathy Clark, CP, Report in Newsletter

NALA Liaison – Michelle Harelson – NALA logo updated; there are currently membership spe cials for anyone signing up as a member; the annual meeting/CLE iscoming soon.

Parliamentarian – Samantha Seidensticker – Received one proxy; per Bylaws, we have A quorum.

Secretary – Velvet Truzzolino - October 29, 2020 Minutes were in the newsletter, and consisted of two meetings in one due to the pandemic; Minutes will be tabled for now and not finalized yet, to give the membership time to review and comment on changes, ifneeded.

3. Old Business

Pandemic Issues – There has been some trouble connecting everyone, but the Board iscommitted to getting back on track.

Voting – The Board has an opening for the State Bar Liaison; anyone interested can reachout to Amanda Hewitt or MALA.

4. New Business:

Resolution re CLE Requirements – The Board has prepared a Resolution to waive CLE credits in 2020, and this is a work-in-progress to obtain approval through NALA as well;Kathy Clark, CP commented on the language, asking that the time period identified be edited to clarify based upon MALA's fiscal year(s); Amanda Hewitt updated this language before sending to NALA for approval. The membership will be updated, once there is more information to provide.

Voting – Ballots will be sent to the membership in the next couple weeks, to be submittedelectronically, and then MALA will follow-up with an announcement on the new board; Kathy Clark, CP asked about a deadline to submit votes; a deadline will be set and identified when the ballots are emailed.

Planning Seminar Portion of Annual Meeting – The seminar/CLE portion of the annualmeeting is postponed for now, and the new Board will schedule this for the future.

NALA Virtual Conference Attendance – The Board has decided to pay for some members to attend for free; the Board will identify a cap on the amount MALA is willingto pay, to be offered on a first-come, first-served, basis; the Board will identify for the members how to obtain the financial assistance to attend, and send more information to the membership, by email.

5. Announcements:

Annette – Requested the process for attendance at the NALA conference; Amanda Hewittwill send out email instructions, after she speaks with Kathy Clark, CP to identify the total amount MALA is able to contribute to pay for membership attendance.

Motion made to adjourn meeting. Second. Adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

MALA QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 29, 2020 @ 12:00 PM

Telephonic

Officers:

President – Amanda Hewitt, CP
Vice President – Helen Hauerwas
Secretary – Velvet Truzzolino - Absent
Treasurer – Kathy Clark, CP
NALA Liaison – Terry Hale, ACP
Montana State Bar Liaison – Vacant
Parliamentarian – Samantha Seidensticker

1. Call to Order –

2. Officer Reports/ Discussion:

President – Amanda Hewitt, CP

Vice President – Helen Hauerwas – Helen read the member report.

Parliamentarian – Samantha Seidensticker - Per Bylaws, we have quorum

Secretary – Velvet Truzzolino - Absent

Treasurer – Kathy Clark, CP

NALA Liaison / Montana State Bar Liaison – Terry Hale, ACP – NALA elected the new board members at the July 2020 meeting. MALA was able to pay for members to attend. NALA is planning for 2021 convention and the information about the convention was posted in the October 2020 newsletter. Terry Hale, ACP reminded the MALA Board that there are webinars, self-studies on the on the NALA website. Check out NALA.org for these CLE opportunities. Anyone interested in the CP exam to should contact Terry Hale, ACP.

3. Old Business

MALA Contributions - At the last meeting, MALA discussed contributing to a nonprofit to get the MALA name out and to give back to the community. With the pandemic, MALA's revenue is projected to have a bit of a decline. The MALA Board has decided to hold off on making any contributions until 2021, and revisit this subject at the next Annual MALA Business Meeting.

MALA Survey - Alisia Duganz, CP started a Survey Monkey utilization and compensation survey, based off of the NALA survey. MALA's survey would include Montana's paralegals. Amanda Hewitt, CP was not clear on where Alisia Duganz, CP's progress was on the project, but asked if there are any volunteers to finish this project. Anyone interested in volunteering for the Survey Monkey utilization and compensation survey can contact Amanda Hewitt, CP.

4. New Business:

   MALA President - Alisia Duganz, CP resigned as MALA President and appointed Amanda Hewitt, CP as Interim President of MALA. The MALA Board approved this appointment. Amanda Hewitt, CP, as the Interim MALA President, appointed Terry Hale, ACP to fill Amanda Hewitt, CP's position as the NALA Liaison. The MALA Board approved this appointment.

   MALA State Bar Liaison – This position is open. Anyone interested can reach out to Amanda Hewitt, CP.

   MALA Quarterly Meetings - MALA's Bylaws require quarterly meetings. The pandemic has hindered this from happening. To stay compliant with the MALA Bylaws, the MALA Board has decided to combine this quarterly meeting with the previously, not held, quarterly meeting, due to the pandemic. resident of MALA. The MALA Board approved this appointment asked for any questions, concerns or comments and none were raised.

   Committee Sign-up Sheet - The MALA Board met on September 29, 2020 and talked about sending out the committee/volunteer sheet via email to see if, due to the pandemic, a new member or other current members have time to volunteer on the committees.
   Amanda Hewitt, CP will send the sign-up sheet out to the membership in the next few days.

5. Announcements:

   Volunteers – Terry Hale, ACP brought up that our biggest thing, and where she thought we need our volunteers the most right now, is with webinars and volunteers for the committees. MALA's main source of income and revenue besides the membership dues is with webinars. Terry Hale, ACP stated that if there is anyone working from home, or not at home, they should share their ideas of a speaker they may have seen or heard, or a webinar they may have attended. Please let Amanda know if you have an idea for a speaker or webinar, or if a MALA member is interested in being on a committee.

   Amanda Hewitt, CP stated she has a speaker for November and would keep us informed. MALA's biggest call for help is getting speakers for webinars and volunteers for committees.

6. Discussions:

   MALA Library – Alex Miller inquired on whether the MALA library could be put on a platform in an on-demand type form for the webinars and CLE. Terry Hale, ACP and Helen Hauerwas stated this has been discussed before and Helen has talked to Jill about the MALA library being on an online on-demand platform. Terry Hale, ACP, stated that Alisia Duganz, CP was looking into online platform/on-demand for the CLE library but wasn't sure if she'd gotten any information. Helen Hauerwas will talk to Jill about the online platform for the MALA library.

7. Motion made to adjourn meeting. Second. Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

NALA LIAISON REPORT

By Helen Hauerwas
NALA Liaison

Thank you for allowing me to act as your NALA Liaison for MALA. I have been involved with the MALA board for many years and I am so excited to continue to be on the board in this capacity.

Please update your records to reflect that the NALA Office changed location.

I strongly encourage all of you to become members of NALA. In addition to the wonderful benefits listed below you are able to attend the Virtual NALA Conference for a reduced price. I attended the Virtual NALA Conference last year and was so impressed by the quality and content of the CLE's. NALA really did an amazing job and I am looking forward to attending the conference again this year. If you would like additional information regarding NALA please visit www.nala.org.

Advanced PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION

Established in 1976, the CLA /CP (Certified Legal Assistant/Certified Paralegal) program has enabled the profession to develop a strong and responsive self-regulatory program offering a nationwide credential for all paralegals. Today over 15,000 paralegals have achieved this esteemed credential.

Join NALA

WHY CHOOSE NALA?

NALA is a member-driven association. That means our members are the key to our success. Their dedication, participation, and enthusiasm within both NALA and the paralegal field are the reasons we continue to grow. Joining NALA gives you access to a number of benefits that can help you advance your paralegal career.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Facts & Findings - members receive a subscription to the association's quarterly magazine featuring educational and informative articles for paralegals *($35 value).*

NALA Career Center - the perfect place for NALA members to search for new job opportunities and career tips.

Access to SimpleLaw - an online platform where NALA members can grow their contract income opportunities for no additional charge.

NALA Commons - a private member-only collaboration site developed to help paralegals learn and engage from around the globe.

Utilization and Compensation Report - a valuable tool for successfully negotiating compensation and benefits *($79 value).*

Discounted Rates - members can save money on NALA continuing education programs and select
Products.

Affinity Discounts - receive special local and national discounts on affinity products and services such as office supplies, car rentals, and identity theft protection.

NALA Conference & Expo

Registration for the **2021 NALA Conference @ Home** is open! Last year's historic conference was one for the books with over 900 virtual attendees. We are elated to make this year's virtual conference even BETTER! We invite you to join us for the **2021 NALA Conference @ Home** July 22-24, 2021, from the comfort of your home or office.

The **2021 NALA Conference @ Home** featuring our digital exhibitors will showcase dynamic speakers discussing relevant and timely topics for paralegals. Just like past years, we will still have electronic voting for the upcoming Board of Directors election. This year we will have two virtual candidate forums. We will gather virtually for all sessions and meetings, including the NALA Annual Meeting and NALA Affiliated Associations Annual Meeting. Increased networking opportunities will be available this year as well!

Registration types:
Virtual conference registration: $199 for members, $249 for non-members, and $149 for student members, which includes education sessions and public meetings.

Public meetings: access to the NALA Annual Meeting, NALA Affiliated Associations Annual Meeting, both NALA Board of Directors meetings, both Virtual Candidate Forums, and the NALA panel discussion is free to everyone. *(Please note to attend the public meetings, you must register; however, if you register for the full virtual conference you do not need to register for both.)*

REGISTRATION TYPE	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	STUDENT MEMBER
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION *(INCLUDES PUBLIC MEETINGS)*	$199	$249	$149
PUBLIC MEETINGS ONLY *(BOARD MEETINGS, ANNUAL MEETINGS, NALA PANEL DISCUSSION, CANDIDATE FORUMS)*	FREE	FREE	FREE

Cancellation Policy: Refund requests received on or before June 25th will receive a full refund. Any refund requests from June 26th until the time of the event will be subject to a $75 cancellation fee. Please join your fellow paralegals and other legal professionals July 22-24 for this top-notch online educational event. We hope you are as excited as we are.

NALA Election

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

NALA has continued to grow and prosper simply because our members are involved and invested in the growth of the paralegal profession. NALA is a membership organization. This means that the individual voices of our members matter greatly.

As an Active type member of NALA, you get the privilege to vote for important issues within the association. This includes voting for who you think is the best candidate to represent your interests on the NALA Board of Directors and also any bylaw amendments. This voting guide will help provide you with the necessary information about each candidate and the bylaw changes in order to assist you in casting the right vote.

ADD TO CALENDAR:

2ND VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUM

HOW TO ATTEND: To attend the virtual candidate forums, you must first register for either the **Conference @ Home** or the **Public Meetings Only** option. An email invitation will be sent out prior to the forums, which will include the live meeting link and additional instructions

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS:

VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President is responsible for special projects as delegated by the President or the Board, sits on the Executive Committee, and assumes responsibilities of the President in the President's absence. The Vice President focuses on membership issues including membership solicitation programs, ensures that the membership application review, and approval process is in compliance with the membership qualifications as outlined in the NALA bylaws. The Vice President is elected by the membership and serves a term of one year from election.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Debra Overstreet, ACP
View Profile

SECRETARY

The Secretary is responsible for the integrity of Board documents, provides accurate minutes of board meetings, oversees mail votes conducted for the Board, and sits on the Executive Committee. The secretary is elected by the membership, and serves a term of one year from election.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

Breanna K. Little, ACP
View Profile

Cheryl J. Nodarse, ACP
View Profile

TREASURER

The Treasurer submits recommended policies to the Board concerning financial planning and budgeting, approves all Board expenses for payment, serves as chair of NALA's budget committee which develops a budget for each fiscal year, presents financial reports to the Board and membership, and sits on the Executive Committee. The Treasurer is elected by the membership, and serves a term of one year from election.

CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER

Peonca S. Grier, CP
View Profile

Michele T. Pfeiffer, ACP
View Profile

AT LARGE DIRECTORS *(2 SEATS OPEN)*

Each of the directors are elected by Active type NALA members and serve two-year terms. Directors report regularly to the Board of Directors on notable activity occurring within the region.

CANDIDATES FOR AT LARGE DIRECTOR

Sheila A. Grela, ACP
View Profile

Richard Hahn, ACP
View Profile

Danielle M. Santiago, ACP
View Profile

Desire D. Smith, ACP
View Profile

Cassie D. Snyder, ACP
View Profile

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

The Board of Directors is recommending for approval of the members one amendment to the NALA Bylaws.

At the Spring Board of Director's Meeting, the NALA Board of Directors received the following recommendation from the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee. We recommend that the DEI Committee become a permanent part of NALA. This committee would include a chair and at least one or two members who will work with the Corporation to ensure DEI in all areas of the organization.

View Proposed Bylaw Amendment

ABOUT THE VOTING PROCESS

All voting for Board of Directors candidates and bylaw changes will be cast BEFORE the Annual Membership Meeting held at the July conference.

We will be using a vote-submit-confirm process. Your vote will not officially count until you have confirmed your vote. Only Active type members in good standing forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting shall be qualified to vote.

Voting will open on June 30 at 7:00 a.m. CT, and it will close on July 21 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Election results will be announced during the Annual Membership Meeting at Conference on July 22, 2021.

STATE BAR LIASON REPORT

By Michelle Harelson, CP

PARALEGAL SECTION
ANNUAL MEETING & CLE

September 8, 2021

Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown

Free CLE for all Paralegal Section Members and all Annual Meeting Attendees

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

POST-PANDEMIC: What worked, what didn't, and what does the future hold? (3 CLE credits)

Annual Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

Election of OfficersFabulous Prizes!

RSVP: Jennifer.Allen@mt.gov

Welcome Reception 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown

Sponsored by the Paralegal Section
Of the State Bar of Montana

PARALEGAL SECTION
STATE BAR OF MONTANA

APPLICATION FOR THE PARALEGAL SECTION COUNCIL

*Name:*_____

*Address:*_____

*Telephone:*_____

Email:_____

*Employer:*_____

1. What position are you applying for and why?

2. Why would this position be a good fit for you, and what are your qualifications?

3. In your opinion, what are the major issues facing the Paralegal Section and theParalegal profession in general?

4. What innovative and creative ideas would you bring to the Paralegal Section andwhat would your vision for the next two to five years consist of?

PARALEGAL SECTION
STATE BAR OF MONTANA

OFFICER POSITION STATEMENTS

Chair: The Chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of the Section. He or she shall be a member of the Council of the Section and shall preside at all meetings of theSection and the Council. He or she shall prepare a report of the activities of the Sectionfor the previous year for presentation at the annual meeting of the Section and for submission to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar.

Vice-Chair: The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chairperson at any time the Chairperson is unable to perform such duties. He or she shall be a member of the Council of the Section and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

Secretary/Treasurer: The Secretary/Treasurer shall be a member of the Council ofthe Section. He or she shall be responsible for the proper keeping of minutes and records, including records of all expenditures out of Section dues. The Secretary/Treasurer shall assist the Council in preparing the annual budget and in presenting it to the board of Trustees of the State Bar. The Secretary/ Treasurer shallmaintain a roster of members of the Section.

State Bar Liaison: The state Bar Liaison shall be a member of the Council of the section and shall act as a liaison between the Section and the State Bar.

Professional Development Officer: The Professional Development Officer shall be a member of the Council of the Section and promote educational and leadership programs to support the Purpose identified in the By-Laws.

Member-At-Large: *(Appointed by the Chair)* The Member-At-Large shall be a memberof the Council of the Section and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

PLEASE NOTE

Being an Officer of the Paralegal Section requires a time commitment on your part. While it isn't a huge commitment, the fact remains that it is a commitment. Please helpus make our Section strong!

Professional Development Committee

By: Susan Marshall, PDC Chairman

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) will review scholarship applications and award these scholarships on a first-come, first-serve basis. To promote the Certified Paralegal (CP) and Advanced Certified Paralegal (ACP) designations, five scholarships of up to $475 will be awarded for the exclusive use of obtaining NALA's CP credential and another five scholarships of up to $400 will be awarded for the exclusive use in obtaining NALA's ACP credential. We encourage you all to apply and take that next step!

The CP/ACP Award Applications and Criteria are currently being updated and should be available on MALA's website no later than the end of July, 2021 for the FY 2021-2022 scholarship awards. Any applications received after April 1, 2021 but prior to the updated forms being available will still be considered.

A huge 'congratulations' to Kathy Clark as our first ACP Scholarship recipient of 2021-2022. Kathy has worked as a paralegal for over 27 years and performs contract work for multiple civil litigation attorneys. She was awarded NALA's Certified Paralegal

designation in July, 2017 and currently serves as the Treasurer of MALA and the Secretary of the Paralegal Section of the State Bar of Montana. We will continue to support Kathy as she works through the study materials and the testing phase and hope that you will join us in wishing her the best of luck.

Lastly, the PDC would like to hear from you. Your input as to what the committee and/or MALA could do to help our members access educational and professional development resources will help us determine the opportunities available to us that we should focus on. Please email any suggestions to mala@malanet.com.

Susan Marshall, PDC Chairman

ACCREDITED

Certified Paralegal Program Receives Accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)

On April 30, 2014, The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) granted accreditation to the NALA Certified Paralegal program for demonstrating compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs.

NCCA is the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. The NCCA Standards were created to ensure certification programs adhere to modern standards of practice for the certification industry.

The NALA Certified Paralegal program joins an elite group of more than 120 organizations representing over 270 certification programs that have received and maintained NCCA accreditation.

More information on the NCCA is available online at www.credentialingexcellence.org/NCCA.

Information describing the Certified Paralegal program is available at www.nala.org/certification.aspx.

CP
CERTIFIED PARALEGAL

THE ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS • PARALEGALS

NALA

ACP

Advanced Certified Paralegal

Advance your paralegal skills with our specialized self-study courses.

- Learn at your own pace, with one year to complete the course.
- You can take the exams as many times as you need to, until you pass.
- Self-Study courses include a PDF e-Book.
- The new interactive format includes many activities to engage learning.

ACP AREAS INCLUDE:

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS
CRIMINAL LITIGATION
DISCOVERY
E-DISCOVERY
FAMILY LAW
LAND USE
REAL ESTATE PRINCIPLES
TRIAL PRACTICE

To see a full list of courses available, visit www.nala.org.

BEST EVER RHUBARB STRUDEL MUFFINS

RECIPE CORNER

INGREDIENTS

For the muffins:

- 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2-3 cups fresh, chopped rhubarb
- 1 cup low fat milk
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs

For the streusel topping:

- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 tablespoons cold butter

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and prepare a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners.
2. Add the flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and cinnamon to a large bowl and whisk together to combine. Add the rhubarb and toss well to coat.
3. Measure the milk and vegetable oil into a large measuring cup, adding the eggs and whisking until all the wet ingredients are combined.
4. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix just until no streaks of flour remain.
5. Combine all the ingredients of the streusel topping and mix with a fork until crumbly. Start with 4 tablespoons of butter and then add one more only if necessary to create a crumbly texture.
6. Distribute the muffin batter evenly among the 12 prepared muffin cups and top each with the streusel topping.
7. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for about 20 minutes or until the streusel topping is a light golden brown and a toothpick inserted into one of the muffins comes out clean.

Notes: These muffins keep at room temperature in an airtight container for about 3 days.

SHAVED BRUSSELS SPROUT SALAD

INGREDIENTS

VINAIGRETTE

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

¼ teaspoon granulated sugar

Pinch of salt

4–5 grinds of freshly cracked black pepper

SALAD

1 cup walnuts

1 pound Brussels sprouts

1 cup dried cranberries

½ cup thinly sliced red onion

2 ounces goat cheese with honey (or plain goat cheese), crumbled

Honey, optional (*see note below)

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a small bowl, add vinaigrette ingredients and whisk to blend. Set aside.
- In a dry skillet, lightly toast the walnuts over low heat until golden brown. Remove from heat and set aside to allow the walnuts to cool completely.
- While the nuts cool, rinse and drain the Brussels sprouts, leaving the stem end untrimmed but removing any bruised leaves. Dry wet Brussels sprouts by patting with a paper towel.
- Using a mandoline (this one works well on the thinnest setting) or very sharp knife, hold onto the stem end of each sprout and carefully shave the Brussels sprouts into very thin slices, discarding the tough stem ends. (One pound of whole sprouts should yield about 5-6 cups shaved.) Place sprouts into a large mixing bowl.
- Coarsely chop cooled walnuts and add to mixing bowl with sprouts along with dried cranberries and red onion to the bowl. Toss gently to combine.
- When ready to serve, whisk the vinaigrette ingredients once more, then pour over the Brussels sprouts mixture, tossing gently again to evenly coat the salad.
- Place dressed salad onto a serving platter, then sprinkle with goat cheese. (*See note above if using plain goat cheese and optional honey.)

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I,_____an active MALA member, hereby appoint

_____, an active MALA member, to serve as my proxyholder at the MALA Quarterly Business Meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

Dated this___day of _____, 2021.

_____
Signature

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