

LINKS



LSPG Information—Networking Key to Success
for the
LEGAL STAFF PROFESSIONALS OF GREENVILLE
(LSPG)



PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

June 2011

On behalf of the 2011-2012 Board, welcome to a new year of possibilities with Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville (LSPG). I am grateful for the privilege to serve with a superb team of professional women who are dedicated to LSPG and to its mission. Through collaboration with each of our members, we will successfully accomplish our goals of 1) contributing to the development of legal professionals, 2) promoting our organization to the legal community, and 3) improving our local community through effective actions and leadership.

We are off to a good start! Our May board meeting was well-attended at Brick Street Restaurant. Amazingly, we plowed through the agenda items and budget approval quickly and succinctly – a result of dedicated women working together for the good of the cause. By the time you read this, we will have adjourned our June board meeting, at which we will have begun laying out our strategic plan for the upcoming year and taking steps toward realizing our goals.

Developing Legal Professionalism

Our May speaker, Stuart Mauney of Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A., entertained us and educated us on how, as legal support staff, we can help make mediations go more smoothly and, thus, be more productive. Our June speaker, David Constantine, former International President of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA), and now COO of Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A., will be speaking on “The Lasting Legal Professional - How Does the World Say our Future as Legal Professionals Must Change.” Anyone working in, or seeking to work in, the legal profession, will find the information gleaned from Constantine’s presentation to be beneficial and relevant to their careers.

Growth through visibility

You may have already read some of the recent articles that have been published in the Greenville News and other business publications. Deb Reynolds has turned up the heat on getting press releases out, which is doing much toward promoting

LSPG to the community.¹ Be on the lookout for regular press releases and feel free to share them with others who may be interested in learning more about LSPG.

Additionally, I had an opportunity to promote LSPG at a recent South Carolina Upstate Paralegal Association (SCUPA) luncheon. Those in attendance were very gracious and the SCUPA president reminded the members that it is always good to support a sister organization. We will continue to visit them and will be leveraging their support in promoting LSPG to their legal staff. Besides the flyers distributed at the SCUPA luncheon, we have delivered them to Godshall Staffing and Carolina Legal to distribute to their legal candidates and clients. Further, we have extended invitations to the students of Greenville Tech and Brown Mackie, as well as other law firms in the area, to attend the June luncheon and presentation. We have been actively pursuing other partnership opportunities with the Federal Bar Association, the Greenville Bar Association, and the Association of Legal Administrators.

Improving Our Community

At the May board meeting, the exemplary efforts of LSPG and its individual members were recognized for making a sustainable difference in our local community. The list of organizations that have benefitted from our efforts is quite impressive. You are to be commended for sacrificially giving of your time and talents! I encourage you to continue your tireless service to our community – it does make a difference.

Most recently, we joined forces with the Federal Bar Association (FBA) by contributing items for the care packages they are sending to soldiers in active duty. The FBA has expressed their genuine gratitude for those donations. Thank you!

¹ See <http://www.greenvillechamber.org/membernews.php>,
<http://www.upstatebizsc.com/articles/1943/>
<http://www.upstatebizsc.com/articles/1836/>

On the topic of the FBA, word went out regarding the need for volunteers to serve at the Trial Academy. The responses received from our members were without hesitation. Our FBA contact was very excited to learn about our organization and our willingness to assist with this event. More details will follow as we get closer to the actual date of the Academy. The FBA is hosting an event in Charleston and we have passed along that information to our sister chapter in the hopes they will be able to assist them as well.

There are endless opportunities to serve – one option might be to mentor a new member or young adult entering the profession. Would you consider mentoring?

Lastly, if you haven't visited our website lately (www.lspg.org), please do. Yvonne Fortner has designed a fresh look with the addition of our new logo created by Martha Crampton. Explaining her inspiration, Martha said "I wanted to create a distinctive logo for the organization that would also identify it as a Greenville location, so I initially thought of using the "S" as an expression of and extension of the river, taking the idea from the City of Greenville "G" with the water theme.

I also wanted the colors to include green for "Green"ville and blue for the river. At the suggestion of the executive committee, I reversed the colors on the "G" so that it is actually a green letter." Incorporating the river idea from the City of Greenville concept, Martha was able to fashion a logo that brands LSPG as part of the NALS organization with emphasis placed on our Greenville location. Godshall Staffing has already established a reciprocal link from their site to ours. We will be looking for other opportunities to roll the logo out to the community for greater face recognition of LSPG. If you have any marketing experience or ideas for rolling out the logo, we'd love to hear from you!

We have embarked on a journey – a journey that I am confident will result in lasting and tangible improvements to LSPG, the legal workforce, and our greater Greenville community. If you have not found a way to plug in and would like to, please contact me (mbmorgan1@aol.com, 864.241.7004 or 864.275.3500). When we journey in partnership, the results are always greater than when we walk alone.

Mary Beth Morgan, 2011-2012 LSPG President

The text "ENJOY YOUR" is rendered in a bold, 3D, yellow font with a slight shadow, giving it a pop-out effect.



Ann P. Armstrong, PLS Scholarship

LSPG has set up the **Ann P. Armstrong, PLS Scholarship Fund** through Greenville Technical College. Donations will be accepted at all membership meetings. Please consider adding a few dollars at each meeting. You may donate anonymously or with a note in honor of someone (i.e., In Honor of "LSPG Member" for her birthday or anniversary, In Memory of, etc.), and we will be happy to publish that in the next LINKS! This will not only honor Ann Armstrong, but help Ann's and LSPG's commitment to education through the scholarship.

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Upcoming General Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

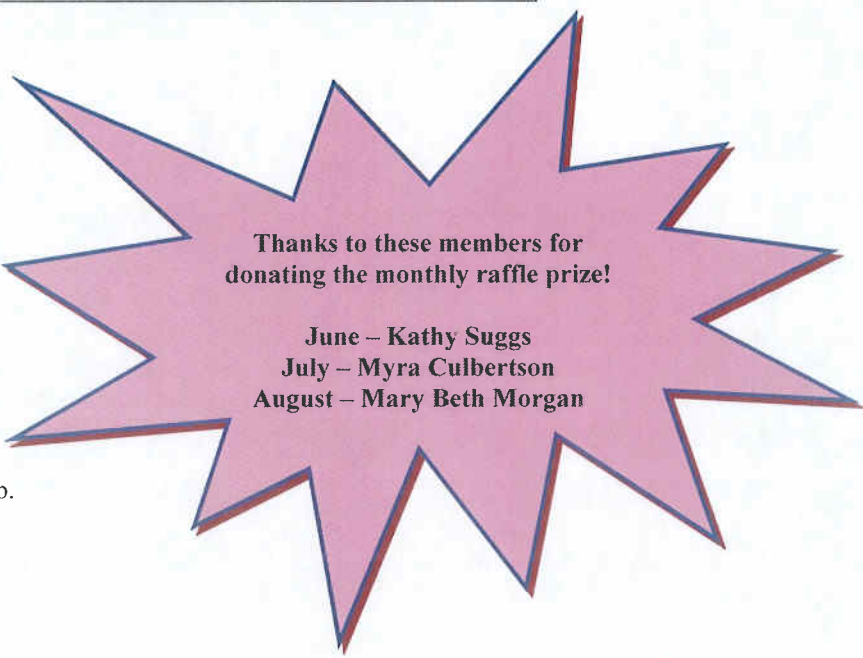
Poinsett Club, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Speaker: David Constantine
Topic: Professional Development
Cost is \$15 inclusive

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Poinsett Club, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Speaker: TBD
Cost is \$15 inclusive

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Poinsett Club, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Speaker: Greenville County Sheriff Rep.
Topic: Identity Theft
Cost is \$15 inclusive



Thanks to these members for
donating the monthly raffle prize!

June – Kathy Suggs
July – Myra Culbertson
August – Mary Beth Morgan

Myra Culbertson is our reservations contact. She will be emailing the menu choices the week before each meeting, and reservations are due no later than 10 a.m. on the Monday of our meeting week. PLEASE NOTE: Cancellations received after this time will be billed to you (as the restaurant still charges LSPG).

CONGRATULATIONS! TO OUR 2011-2012 LSPG OFFICERS




LSPG Officer Installation



Tara Prevatte, PP, PLS, Immediate Past President, Mary Beth Morgan, President, Patti Bacon, President-Elect, Kathy Suggs, Vice President-Membership, Myra Culbertson, Treasurer, A. Yvonne Fortner, PP, PLS, Secretary

President Mary Beth presenting Tara Prevatte with outgoing President gift





*Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville (LSPG)
invites you to a presentation on
professional development*

**THE LASTING
LEGAL
PROFESSIONAL**

**How does the world say our future as
legal professionals must change?**

- ◆ Back in the day—a short look back
- ◆ How did we get where we are today—
what happened?
- ◆ What can we expect? The client's
perspective
- ◆ What can you do *now*?

June 15, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

The Poinsett Club, 807 E. Washington St, Greenville, SC

***Lunch reservations (\$15 per person) must be made in advance by contacting
Myra Culbertson (864.239.5959 or mculbertson@wcsr.com)***

WELCOME New Members



President Mary Beth Morgan pinning our newest members



Ann Marie Minerva, Kaitie Steckiel, Olivia Reimers

KAITIE STECKIEL

- I have lived in 5 states (Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and South Carolina)
- I graduated from Bob Jones University from Bob Jones University with a degree in Human Resources Management in May 2011
- I have worked at Thomas and Fisher, P.A. for one year and just started full-time as a legal assistant.
- I love Disney World and Dunkin Donuts

OLIVIA REIMERS

- Born and raised in Greenville
- Graduated with a degree in Business Administration in May 2010 from Bob Jones University
- Starting working at Thomas & Fisher, P.A. my junior year of college. Now a paralegal – been at the firm for almost 3 years
- Married my best friend in October 2010
- Heavily involved at Cornerstone Baptist Church
- Play the double bass and piano
- Loves going on cruises ☺

ANN MARIE MINERA

Ann Marie is an experienced independent paralegal. Her legal career began in 1986 when William Wickham, Attorney-at-Law of the law firm of Wickham, Bressler, Gordon & Geasa, P.C., Mattituck, Long Island, New York hired her as his personal legal secretary.

Over the years when the other attorneys of the Wickham law firm were shorthanded or between legal secretaries, she filled in and worked as a floater in many aspects of the legal field (Litigation, Collection,

Landlord-Tenant, Estate, LW&T, Real Estate, Matrimonial, Bank Residential & Commercial Lending, Bank Litigation, General).

From 1993 to 1997, Ann Marie was under the direct supervision of Alice MacDonald, Estate Paralegal, who was under the direct supervision of Abigail A. Wickham, Attorney-at-Law. In 1997, Mrs. MacDonald left the law firm to pursue her own freelance career after more than 14 years of service to the Wickham firm. Upon Mrs. MacDonald's departure, she replaced her as the head of the Estate Department.

Ann Marie's first child was born in June 1998 and in August 1998 we relocated to South Carolina. It was at this time that she began my work as an independent paralegal, long distance with the Wickham firm. In July 1999, (pregnant & with a toddler) she answered a help wanted advertisement for an estate/trust administration legal secretary and thus began my work as an independent paralegal for various South Carolina law firms. Her second child was born in November 1999.

With respect to my education, she holds an Associates of Science in Accounting from Suffolk Community College, Riverhead, Long Island, New York and a Bachelors of Science in Business Management (minor in Psychology) from St. John's University, Jamaica, New York, where she has received the College of Business Administration Dean's Certificate of Achievement in recognition of High Scholarship in Management as well as the College of Business Administration Certificate in recognition of High Scholarship in the Professional Honors Program.

Ann Marie has just finished my term as the PTO Treasurer for Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School and will begin her two (2) year term on the school board for Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School.

Please give these ladies a warm welcome to LSPG! We are so glad to have you as members and look forward to many years of getting to know you and forming long-lasting friendships!

MEMBERSHIP

Our theme this year will continue to be *think big*. The membership theme is "Engage 5...Building a Foundation for the Future." Let's work together to build our future. By recruiting new members and retaining our current members we will do great things.

DID YOU KNOW? ... YOU CAN GET YOUR NATIONAL DUES WAIVED!!

NALS members that sign up five NEW members beginning March 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012, will get their national dues waived for the year (this excludes state and local dues). The five new memberships must be in the same category of membership as the waived member, for example if you are a regular member who pays \$98 national dues then you must sign up five new members in that same category. The new members must report you as their sponsor when they submit their application to NALS and you must fill out the waiver that COMES IN your renewal notice when your Dues are due. On the waiver form you will indicate all five NEW members by name that you sponsored and submit it back to NALS. As long as everything matches up and all five new members have been acquired within the time period then your national dues will be waived for the year and you will only be required to pay your state and local dues along with submitting the completed waiver form. *(If your employer pays your dues you are entitled to \$98 credit towards any NALS Store purchase, NALS registration towards a conference, Webinar or towards a certification exam.)*

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Tara Prevatte, PP, PLS, who received the Award of Excellence from Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville during the April Membership Meeting. Tara joined LSPG in February 2004 and has served in numerous positions on both the LSPG and Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina executive boards. Tara served as president of LSPG for 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and was recently sworn in as President of LSPSC on April 29. Best wishes are extended to Tara and her fiancé Chris Brown on their upcoming nuptials.



Camilla Pitman, PLS presenting Tara Prevatte, PP, PLS with LSPG's Award of Excellence

And, speaking of Camilla – she was the recipient of the LSPSC Award of Excellence at our Annual Meeting in Hilton Head on April 30th. Sharon Wotherspoon, past Award of Excellence recipient, presented Camilla with the Award of Excellence.





A RACE TO THE FINISH FOR FILING SECOND INJURY FUND CLAIMS

The deadline is fast approaching to file claims for reimbursement from the South Carolina Second Injury Fund. All claims must be filed by June 30, 2011. S.C. Code Section 42-7-320(B)(2) (2007). The Fund reimburses employers, self-insurers, or insurance carriers for increased disability and medical costs for an employee's 'second' injury. S.C. Code Section 42-9-400. In order to perfect a claim, the employer, self-insurer, or insurance carrier must have put the Fund on notice of a potential claim by December 31, 2010. S.C. Code Section 42-7-320(B)(1).

Perfecting a Claim

In order to perfect a claim, the employer, self-insurer, or insurance carrier must establish:

1. Date of injury prior to July 1, 2008;
2. Employer knowledge of permanent physical impairment;
3. Permanent physical impairment;
4. Hindrance or obstacle to employment or re-employment; and
5. Increased liability for compensation and medical expenses.

The first and most important requirement for establishing a potential claim for Second Injury Fund reimbursement is that the accident must have occurred prior to July 1, 2008. Any accident after that date cannot qualify for reimbursement. In addition, the Fund must have been put on notice of the potential for a claim prior to the 78th week of payment of compensation, but absolutely no later than December 31, 2010.

Establishing employer knowledge is simple. An employer must have knowledge of an employee's permanent physical impairment prior to the date of the accident. In the absence of actual employer knowledge, an employer can meet the knowledge requirement by proving the employee concealed the condition. In an accident prior to June 30, 2003, knowledge can be established if the claimant did not know he had the condition prior to the accident. S.C. Code Section 42-9-400(c).

After establishing employer knowledge, the prior condition must be determined to be permanent in nature. S.C. Code Section 42-9-400(a). Generally, the treating physician will make the determination if a condition is permanent. In addition to the condition being permanent, it must also be a hindrance or obstacle to obtaining employment or re-employment. A statement from the treating physician can establish hindrance.

