



# The Sidebar

DON'T MISS DALLAS  
OCTOBER 15-18, 2008

## Global Issues in Paralegal Education Discussed at 2007 AAFPE National Conference

AAfPE held its 26th Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, October 24-27, 2007. President Hedi Nasheri set the theme of this year's conference: "Across the Globe: Paralegal Practice and Education." We had over 350 attendees this year (an increase of more than 50 over New Orleans attendance) and offered more educational sessions than in the past. Global issues were addressed in a variety of sessions, including Globalization of the Paralegal Curriculum, International Employment Law, Professionalism, Communication and Leadership in a Global and Diverse World, and International Experiences for Students. Global issues were also the focus with two excellent keynote speakers. Attendees heard John P. Dunn, J.D., Partner with Jones, Day specializing in international practice and Dr. David S.

Wall, Head of the Criminal Justice Program at the University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom.

The conference also focused on faculty issues, teaching tips, technology, and sessions geared toward the first-time attendee and/or new program director. In all, over 40 educational sessions were offered. This year, the extended number of sessions allowed for a variety of panelists, including many new members who presented for the first time. We also had three to four concurrent sessions from which to choose in most time slots.

Representatives of the American Bar Association were available throughout the conference to answer specific questions as well as hold an open forum, and conduct sessions on approval, re-approval and interim report issues.

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### REMINDER TO PAY AAFPE DUES

Membership renewal notices were mailed at the end of September. Please remember to pay your dues. **The cut-off date for inclusion in the AAFPE directory is January 31, 2008.**

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**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** continued

Vendors participated in a variety of ways this year. In addition to having booths in the Exhibit Hall, vendors held software demonstrations to help educators better utilize their products and the vendors sponsored some of our events. Their participation and support of AAFPE is greatly appreciated.

AAFPE also offered pre- and post-conference technology workshops in SmartDraw, Adobe Systems and Abacus Toolbox. From hands-on workshops, to numerous sessions on a variety of topics, there was definitely something for everyone at this exciting conference.

One of the best rewards that come from attending AAFPE conferences is networking with colleagues from around the country. Regional meetings and roundtables for Associate degree programs, Baccalaureate degree programs and Certificate programs were offered. Also, first-time attendees networked with each other, current board members and past presidents at an orientation session.

One thing we tried to do was make the conference materials better than ever. Part of being a panelist and/or facilitator requires providing materials by the July 15 deadline so that the conference manual can be compiled and copied. Our goal is to have 100% of the presentations included so that members have materials even if they cannot attend a particular session. Eventually, we would like to offer the conference manual on CD for ease in future use and in transporting the materials.

The National Conference Committee is hard at work on next year's conference already. As you know, the 27th National Conference

President Hedi Nesheri with President-Elect Marisa Campbell (left) and Immediate Past President Bill Mulkeen (right).



AAFPE conference attendees learn about software in the Exhibit hall.

will be held in Dallas, Texas, October 15-18, 2008. If you would like to propose an educational session, be a panelist or facilitator, or have any suggestions to help make next year's conference even better, please contact the Chair, Kathryn Myers, at [kmyers@smwc.edu](mailto:kmyers@smwc.edu), Nicholas Riggs at [nriggs@sullivan.edu](mailto:nriggs@sullivan.edu), Paul Guymon at [pguymon@harpercollege.edu](mailto:pguymon@harpercollege.edu), or me, Joan Spadoni, at [jspadoni@baypath.edu](mailto:jspadoni@baypath.edu).



AAFPE conference attendees enjoy sights at the Maryland Museum of Science.

# Summary of AAFPE Board of Directors Meeting October 2007

The AAFPE Board of Directors held its fall meeting on Tuesday, October 23, Wednesday, October 24 and Saturday, October 27, of 2007.

The meeting took place in Baltimore, Maryland at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the 2007 AAFPE National Conference, which took place October 24 – 27, 2007.

The Board continued its work on strategic planning with the assistance of Gregg Talley of Talley Management Group. The Board heard reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The board reviewed financials for the past year and discussed losses at the past two annual conferences. These losses are of concern to the Board, as annual conferences have, in the past, generated a profit. The 2007 Conference is expected to be profitable and registration is up by over 50 registrants from last year.

The Board discussed new options for revenue and ways to reduce costs. The registration fee has not increased for over five years, despite increases in

food, travel and lodging. A cost/attendee analysis will be prepared for the February Board meeting.

The Board looked at its own travel, food and lodging expenses and these have actually decreased over the past five years. The Board agreed to continue to look at ways to cut costs and increase revenue. Despite recent losses, the Association is doing well. In February the Board will continue its discussion with respect to the budget.

The Board heard from the Policy and Procedures Manual Committee. This committee is developing a Board manual that will include position descriptions, committee descriptions, and Board policy. This will be reviewed and updated yearly. All Board members will review the proposed manual and the committee hopes to have this in place for the February Board meeting.

The Board heard from other committees including Publications, LEX, Mentor/Newcomer, and Technology. The Board considered a proposal from LexisNexis that will provide two weeks of Total Litigator free to AAFPE educators. The Board approved this proposal.

Arrangements will be handled through our management company, TMG, and the LexisNexis administrator.

Reports from all of the regional representatives were reviewed and discussed. All of the spring 2008 regionals have dates and locations in place. The regional hosts met during the National Conference.

On October 27, following the Conference, the board met with Kathryn Myers, National Conference Committee Chair, and evaluated the 2007 National Conference. The Board agreed to some reorganization with respect to the Information Exchange room. This room will join the Exhibitors room. The ABA Information room will become more proactive with ABA workshop sessions to take place in the Information room itself. These changes are cost-saving measures.

The board discussed the 2008 Dallas, Texas conference. The board will meet in February in Dallas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joy Smucker  
AAfPE Secretary

## AAfPE Treasurer's Report

As those of you who attended the annual business meeting in Baltimore are aware, AAFPE operated at a net loss the past year. My Treasurer's report to the members provided an analysis of what has occurred and the steps being taken by the Board of Directors to correct the situation. In this article, I am providing for members who were not at the Annual Meeting a summary of my annual Treasurer's report.

**CURRENT ASSETS.** AAFPE's finances continue to remain solid. As of the October meeting in Baltimore, the Association had \$165,000 in a checking account and \$50,000 in a certificate of deposit. Both accounts are earning interest.

**INCOME.** AAFPE has traditionally relied on two major revenue streams — annual membership dues and net income from the Annual Conference. To a lesser degree, net income from the LEX program has always been a dependable source of income, usually over \$16,000 a year. Over the past two years, the Association has developed three new revenue streams: income from annual meeting exhibits, regional conference net income, and interest income.

**Annual Conferences.** Only one of these six revenue streams has faltered over the past two fiscal years and it is the loss of this revenue that has been directly responsible for the deficit balance sheet. After reaching a record high net income of \$34,500 in October 2003 for the St. Louis Annual Conference, income dropped to a positive \$24,500 for Albuquerque in 2004, and then to a negative (\$26,700) at Tampa in 2005, and (\$42,100) at New Orleans in 2006. The Tampa loss was the direct result of an approaching hurricane which was entering the Gulf of Mexico and predicted to head for Tampa. Many conferees who had registered simply did not attend and others left early. The board appropriately decided conference fees should be refunded to all whose attendance was impacted by the hurricane. These refunds resulted in the unexpected net loss for that conference.

The following year was AAFPE's 25th anniversary. A special Mardi Gras dinner and dance was planned for the New Orleans conference. The budget for this event alone was roughly \$25,000. The board decided, and no one to my knowledge disagreed, this was an appropriate time to celebrate the continuing

[continued](#)

## TREASURER'S REPORT *continued*

success of our Association. A loss for the New Orleans conference was not unexpected, as was the Tampa loss. However, the size of the loss was unexpected. For reasons not entirely identified, attendance at the conference fell well below expectations. Perhaps another hurricane, Katrina, played a role in that result.

After the Tampa conference, the board approved the purchase of Showstoppers Insurance for each annual conference to cover against weather-related losses, especially since we were headed to New Orleans the following year. As a result, a future Tampa-like loss will not occur. In addition, no New Orleans-like gala celebrations are planned for the foreseeable future. In all likelihood, the Baltimore conference will once again show a profit, although the final figures will not be known until early next year. There were over 50 more registered at Baltimore than at New Orleans which, standing alone will provide \$20,000 more income.

**Annual Dues.** This revenue stream, AAfPE's main source of income, has increased only a few thousand dollars a year, from \$131,000 in the 2001 fiscal year to \$151,000 for FYE 2007. Without going into detail, the Board has devised some new ways which will hopefully continue at least minimal growth in this important source of AAfPE revenue.

**Annual Meeting Exhibits.** Until two years ago, the income AAfPE received from exhibitors who attend our national conferences to display their materials was relatively small and was simply included in the "annual conferences" income figure. However, since it has become such a substantial figure, beginning with the Tampa conference exhibitor income has been listed separately. For Tampa, the figure was \$5600. For New Orleans, it jumped to \$20,000. The budget for the current fiscal year is \$34,200. (Using the former accounting method which included exhibitor income as part of annual conference income, the Tampa and New Orleans conference losses were much less, (\$21,000) for Tampa and (\$22,000) for New Orleans.)

**Regional Conferences.** Until recently, only an occasional regional conference provided income each spring for AAfPE. That has changed over the past two years. The regional conferences netted \$13,000 for the Association in FYE 2006 and almost \$17,750 in FYE 2007. Last spring each one of the five regional conferences made a profit: Southeast, \$5954; Pacific, \$4960; South Central, \$3597; Northeast, \$1998; and North Central, \$1239.

**Interest.** When I became Treasurer, AAfPE had \$225,000 in a checking account, none of which produced any income for the Association. That was changed. Working with our management company, our operating funds are now in a Goldman Sachs sweep account which earns interest on a daily basis. The result for FYE 2007, the first full year our operating fund has been invested, is that the Association's interest income had risen from \$925 the previous year, to \$7400 FYE 2007.

**EXPENSES.** The Board of Directors has carefully examined all of the Association's expenses. Following are some examples of the "belt tightening" which has resulted.

**Baltimore Conference.** The budget for the evening event during the Baltimore Conference was reduced from \$23,000 to

\$10,000. The cost of the online workshops was reduced by asking participants to use their own laptops, eliminating the need to lease computers from the hotel, and by using a wireless Internet connection, eliminating the need for wiring an entire meeting room for Internet access. This removed an \$8500 expense item from the conference budget. At future conferences, the board will consider reducing the number of separate rooms the hotel is required to provide in order to accommodate all of our break-out sessions. This will hopefully allow our management company to negotiate a lower hotel room rate for those who attend the Annual Conference.

**CDs.** A new series of CDs is being developed for sale to AAfPE members. The sale of the earlier series of CDs provided a major revenue source for AAfPE a few years ago.

**Board Travel, Food and Lodging.** With Board members from all over the United States (I travel from Alaska, Joy Smucker from Seattle, Ed Quist from Texas, Bob LeClair for years came from Hawaii), the Board has made a major effort to reduce the cost of providing travel, food and lodging for board members to attend the winter and summer Board of Directors meetings. As recently as FYE 2001, this expense was \$37,850. For FYE 2007, the expense had been reduced to \$25,000.

**RAISING CONFERENCE FEES.** One final issue which will come before the Board at its February meeting in Dallas is the need to raise registration fees for the Annual Conference. Reviewing records back five years, there has been no increase in the registration fee for AAfPE annual conferences during that time. Surely members need not be convinced that expenses over the same period of time have risen significantly. Part of our inability to restore the annual conferences as a major revenue stream is that we are now subsidizing the conferences by paying much higher costs but not increasing the registration fees to meet those increases. It is not unreasonable to consider an increase of \$25, \$50, or \$75 for annual conference registration fees.

On the other hand, the Board is well aware that some of our members attend the annual conferences at their own expense and that a raise in conference registration fees may impact these members' ability to continue to participate. At a minimum, any increase in the cost of the annual conference will likely bring about some loss of conference attendance. But the issue is fairly straight-forward: can the annual conferences be restored as a major revenue stream for our Association if we continue to pay higher expenses without passing at least some of these expenses on to those who participate?

One resolution that has been suggested is to raise membership dues rather than conference registration fees. The logic is that many colleges and universities are willing to pay membership dues, but will not provide travel and lodging for out-of-town conferences. These are issues which the Board will confront in February. If you have input one way or another, contact your regional representative to the Board, or any Board member, or feel free to discuss this, or any item in this report, with me at [ffesh@uaf.edu](mailto:ffesh@uaf.edu).

Ed Husted  
AAfPE Treasurer

# Members Recognized for Service to AAFPE

The following members were recognized at the 2007 Annual Conference by Hedi Nasheri, outgoing President, for their service and contributions to AAFPE. Each member who was recognized received a certificate acknowledging exemplary volunteer service.

The certificates read in part:

*Although AAFPE has a professional management organization to assist with its many operational details, AAFPE has relied extensively upon volunteer assistance from its inception. This volunteer assistance provides the lifeblood for the success of our Association. We have many talented and dedicated volunteers, but upon occasion an individual performs services that warrant special recognition by the AAFPE Board.*

|                            |   |                             |  |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Pamela Bailey</b>       | Chair – Publications Committee  | <b>Kathryn Myers</b>        | Chair – 2007 National Conference Committee   |
| <b>Nicole Ballenger</b>    | Host – Northeast Regional Conference  | <b>Margaret O’Neill</b>     | Host – Northeast Regional Conference   |
| <b>Helen Bongard</b>       | Host – Southeast Regional Conference  | <b>Eric Perkins</b>         | Parliamentarian  |
| <b>Marisa Campbell</b>     | Chair – Policy Manual Task Force  | <b>Diane Pevar</b>          | Chair – Curriculum Committee<br>Chair – Model Syllabi Task Force                                   |
| <b>Marcy Delesandri</b>    | South Central Regional Representative – LEX Advisory Board                            | <b>Barry Puett</b>          | Southeast Regional Representative – LEX Advisory Board   |
| <b>Dora Dye</b>            | Listservs Manager   | <b>Ed Quist</b>             | Member – Policy Manual Task Force  |
| <b>Amy Feeny</b>           | Host – Northeast Regional Conference  | <b>Nicholas Riggs</b>       | Member – 2007 National Conference Committee  |
| <b>Judy Gibbs</b>          | Chair – International Networking Committee  | <b>Jean Hellman Ryan</b>    | Host – North Central Regional Conference   |
| <b>Ronald Goldfarb</b>     | Chair – Policy Committee<br>Co-Chair – Journal Committee                              | <b>Carolyn Smoot</b>        | Chair – Mentoring and New Member Orientation Committee   |
| <b>Thomas Goldman</b>      | Chair – Technology Task Force   | <b>Joy Smucker</b>          | Chair – Information Exchange<br>Chair – Soft Skills Committee<br>Member – Policy Manual Task Force |
| <b>Paul Guymon</b>         | North Central Regional Representative – LEX Advisory Board                            | <b>Joan Fraczek Spadoni</b> | Member – 2007 National Conference Committee  |
| <b>Bruce Hamm</b>          | Chair – Transfer and Articulation Task Force  | <b>Susan Sullivan</b>       | Host – Pacific Regional Conference   |
| <b>Lillian Harris</b>      | Chair – LEX Advisory Board  | <b>Anita Tebbe</b>          | Chair – Credentials Task Force   |
| <b>Paula Hogard</b>        | Host – South Central Regional Conference  | <b>Laurel Vietzen</b>       | Host – North Central Regional Conference   |
| <b>Ed Husted</b>           | Treasurer and Chair – Finance Committee   | <b>Jean Volk</b>            | Northeast Regional Representative – LEX Advisory Board   |
| <b>Mary Kubichek</b>       | Chair – Excellence in Teaching Competition<br>Editor of <i>The Paralegal Educator</i> | <b>Michael Wilson</b>       | Host – Southeast Regional Conference   |
| <b>Robert LeClair</b>      | Pacific Regional Representative – LEX Advisory Board                                  |                             |  |
| <b>Christine Lissitzyn</b> | Chair – Writing Task Force<br>Co-Chair – Journal Committee                            |                             |  |
| <b>William Mulkeen</b>     | Chair – Nominations Committee   |                             |  |

# Marilyn Tayler Honored

Marilyn Tayler was presented with an engraved plaque as an AAFPE Honorary Member on October 26, 2007 at the Annual Business Meeting of Members held at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Marilyn was nominated for this honor by Avram Segall of Montclair State University.

In nominating Marilyn for this honor Avram cited all that Marilyn has done for paralegal education and for AAFPE. "She was," he said, "quite literally, present at the birth of AAFPE." Over the years, Marilyn has made presentations at national conferences and written for AAFPE publications, and has been a strong proponent of quality paralegal education.

On a broader scale, Marilyn developed a bilingual program, wrote *Skills for Bilingual Legal Personnel*, and established a

Paralegal Public Interest Law Program in New Jersey.

In recognition of her efforts in the state, she was appointed to be a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Paralegal Education and Regulation.

The Board of Directors agreed whole-heartedly that Marilyn's achievements and contributions deserved recognition as an Honorary Member of AAFPE.

In accepting the award Marilyn demonstrated her compassion, intelligence and devotion to paralegalism, her colleagues and the Association.



Marilyn Tayler being presented the Honorary Member Award by AAFPE President Hedi Nasheri

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## Meet Carolyn Smoot — AAfPE's New President-Elect

I became Director of the Paralegal Studies Program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1998 and have taught in the program since 1990. The program, which was started in 1983, is the only four-year bachelor ABA-approved paralegal program in the State of Illinois and is a proud member of AAFPE. I came into the job as the first full-time Director of the program, as the previous Director's duties were split between two programs. Our program continues to grow. While teaching in the Paralegal Studies Program, I have completed one full ABA report, two interim reports, and I am presently working on the second full report due June 15, 2008. I have also served on site committees for the ABA. As Director, I have been able to create a LEX honor society chapter, to add a Pre-Law Specialization to our degree, and to double the offered classes for the program. I am as devoted to our Paralegal Studies Program, as to the University that employs me. I take pride in the work that I do, and I am always looking for ways to improve our program and the College of Liberal Arts that houses it.

AAfPE has been the single most important activity that I have participated in while Director of the Paralegal Studies program at SIUC, and my involvement has kept me energized and updated in our field. I have been attending regional and national conferences since 1998; I love the support I have received and friendships that I formed from this organization. I look forward to the annual conferences not only for the valuable information that I receive, but also for the opportunities to socialize with members who have many of the same challenges that I face daily at my institution. I can honestly say that many of the improvements I have experienced at SIUC have been the

direct result of suggestions and recommendations that I received from fellow AAFPE members.

In 2002, I decided to run for the Board of Directors because I wanted to give back to the organization that had given so much to me. I just finished my fifth year on the Board. I can tell you we work very hard on the Board; but even with all the work, I have found the Board to be another source of invaluable support. I really look forward to the next three years and plan to give my all to my new position.

On a personal note, I was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa and lived there until I left for college. For those wondering, Oskaloosa is the name of a Native American princess. I moved to Illinois to attend Olivet Nazarene College and graduated from there in 1974 with a degree in Social Work and a minor in Psychology. In college, I was inducted into the Phi Delta Lambda honor society, sang in the choir, and played string bass in the college orchestra. After graduation, I was hired by the Illinois Department of Public Aid as a caseworker and worked all over the State of Illinois for six years. In 1977, I was sent as part of a special task force to issue food stamps to striking coal miners in Southern Illinois. I was there for four months and ended up moving to Marion, Illinois in 1978, where I have lived since. In 1980, I decided to pursue a career in law and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 1983. Prior to my teaching career, I was the Assistant State's Attorney for the Williamson County State's Attorney's Office, employed two years in a private firm specializing in personal injury law, and I have also kept my own law practice since 1983. I now practice part-time, mainly in the areas of adoption and probate.

[continued](#)

## SMOOT continued

Though I am dedicated to my career, I also have an active personal life. I have been married to my husband, Charlie, for 26 years. We have two sons, Mitch and Mike, and a daughter, Michelle, who is currently attending college. We also have two wonderful daughters-in-law and five beautiful grandchildren. We so enjoy the time we get to spend with our children and grandchildren. I have recently taken up golf and also love to spend time on my pontoon boat on Lake of Egypt where we live. I am an active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and serve on the Administrative Board and Finance

Committee and am also the co-coordinator for meals at our church where we serve approximately 175 people every Wednesday night.

I have a very wonderful professional and personal life and consider my involvement in AAFPE as one of my most satisfying and enjoyable activities. I am so thankful for all of the many interesting colleagues that I have met through AAFPE and look forward in the coming year to meeting many of those I have not yet had the chance to meet. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to work with all of you.

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## Meet Jeane Dibble — AAfPE's New North Central Regional Director

I became North Central's Regional Director because Kathryn Myers and Paul Guymon are so incredibly persuasive. They convinced me I should submit my name to fill the position vacated by Carolyn Smoot when she was elected President-Elect at the Baltimore Conference. Actually, I was flattered to be asked and felt it was high time I gave something back to the organization that has given me so much. On the Monday after Thanksgiving, I opened my e-mail to discover I had been appointed by President Marisa Campbell.

I began teaching in the Paralegal Program at Southern Illinois University- Carbondale in 1985. I was practicing law full-time and I heard about an adjunct opening at SIU. I applied and, to my amazement, I was hired to teach the Law of Business Organizations. I began teaching in January of 1985, within days of discovering that I was carrying my second child. I taught two nights per week from 7:30-8:45. Needless to say, it was a struggle to stay awake that late by the end of the term. I am not sure if it was the pregnancy or the subject matter. A few years ago, I was fortunate enough to trade Business Organizations for Family Law and have been loving it ever since.

Carolyn Smoot is my "boss" at SIU these days, but many years ago I told her about an adjunct position at SIU in the paralegal program and urged her to apply. She got hired and she got hooked on teaching. In 1997, the Program Director, Dr. Browning Carrott, retired, and Carolyn became the new director. It is interesting how things are interwoven. Carolyn and I are also law school classmates and have known each other 27 years. A little known interesting fact: Carolyn and I rode together to law school every day our first year. Some days we rode in my beat up car and some days we rode in her beat up car. Carolyn's husband, Charlie, has known my husband since childhood. When my husband and I lost everything in a tornado in 1982, Carolyn and Charlie showed up to help.

In 1996, I became the Coordinator of Paralegal Studies at

Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville, IL. It was a brand new program that I had been contracted to help create in 1995. Now we have approximately 250 majors. It is a two-year program and SWIC is an institutional member of AAFPE. We are located within a few miles of St. Louis, MO.

Teaching has been a lifelong love of mine. My undergraduate degree from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL is in Learning Disabilities and I am also certified to teach Elementary School. I taught one year in K-12 and headed to law school. I taught Junior High and High School Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders.

I attended my first AAFPE conference in Memphis, TN. I fell in love with Memphis and I fell in love with AAFPE that fall. I attended the cocktail hour and met a really fun young woman named Jennifer Coté. Yes, our Jennifer Coté from Madonna University. She introduced me to another very interesting young woman and we had a spirited conversation about our most embarrassing moment. I related that I had lost my skirt during mass one day when the button broke and it fell to the floor. The next day the conference started and, to my dismay, my new friend was the keynote speaker. She told everyone about a funny woman she had met the night before and then introduced me to the entire assembled group. You see, the keynote address was about humor. Everyone at AAFPE knew me immediately. As I got on the elevator after lunch, someone said, "Hey, aren't you the woman who lost her skirt?" And so it began.

Before I became the Coordinator of Paralegal Studies at Southwestern Illinois College, I was a practicing attorney for 12 years. I practiced in a firm for 3 years and with a partner or on my own for another 9 years. I had a general practice with a concentration in domestic relations and creditors rights. I also represented a large number of businesses including a major bank in our small town and a small village of 600 souls, Pittsburg, IL, so I practiced some municipal law and some

## DIBBLE continued

labor law. I represented the second largest employer in southern Illinois, Marion Pepsi-Cola, as well as a large number of contractors and material men. I know more about construction than do most women. That is the beauty of the law- you just don't know what you will have to become an expert on. I have actually tried jury trials about septic tanks and heavy equipment. Who would have thought that life would take a special education teacher there?

Southwestern Illinois College is about two miles from Scott Air Force Base, which houses TRANSCOM. For those of you who don't know, TRANSCOM moves everything- soldiers, supplies, and equipment. I have partnered with the military and provided training to military paralegals in a four-day symposium in May. It is named after General Thomas Hemingway, who has become a great friend to me. This symposium also led to teaching opportunities at Maxwell Air Force Base where the Air Force Judge Advocate General School is located. I have had the honor of teaching there, also.

I have a personal life, as well. Many of you have met my husband, John, who frequently travels with me to the conferences. He says AAFPE is a great "travel agency" that has allowed us to visit many beautiful places in the United States. John is an

administrative law judge and he hears Worker's Compensation cases, so our careers give us much in common. We have two great children. Jim is 24 and a graduate of Monmouth College. He works for Edward Jones and hopefully by the spring of 2008, he will be a broker. Our daughter Kate, 22, is a student at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and by all accounts is having the time of her life. We are also hopeful that she is getting a degree in International Economics and Spanish. John and I are empty nesters now. I would say that it is highly underrated. We are having the time of our lives. I am an avid cook which I try to offset by being an avid swimmer. I lap swim about 5 miles per week and lift weights at least twice per week. I was a college athlete (yes, one of the original Title 9 babies) so I love physical activity. I played college basketball and volleyball and still play a mean game of HORSE. I also read voraciously and love a good trashy novel.

I have made so many friends through AAFPE over the years. It is a dynamic organization and people are so gracious and willing to share their expertise, ideas, and enthusiasm. I am so pleased to be named to the Board and will do everything I can to help continue the organization's goals. For those of you in the North Central region, I look forward to seeing you in Cleveland.

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## Meet Nancy Caine Harbour — AAfPE's New Director, Baccalaureate Programs

(Let me say "thanks for listening" before you read any further!)

**T**his wonderful membership elected me to serve on the Board as Director for Baccalaureate Programs. I appreciate this opportunity. The fact of the election is still sinking into my mind. I am known as a hard worker so I will put that talent to work for everyone.

I am entering my fourth year as a professor in the Paralegal Studies Program here at Eastern Michigan University. Prior to accepting this position I was a trial lawyer doing plaintiff's personal injury litigation for almost 28 years. My focus was asbestos trial work. I loved to train my paralegals in that work and they were the reason for my success. I also spent time coaching young lawyers and paralegals on legal writing skills in between trials. I spent one year as the first full-time professional development director at a major Michigan law firm, Butzel-Long, PC.

I met Dan Ray, my predecessor, in 1994. Dan asked me if I wanted to teach a single research and writing course. The next thing I knew, Dan left EMU to teach law school, I was on a tenure track and the program coordinator. I'm settling in here with a great faculty and, of course, my passion, the clinical

program for our paralegals. I truly enjoy my students and do not miss the early morning trial calls. I have finally told Dan that I forgive him for leaving me! When I attended my first AAFPE meeting, the feeling of professionalism, sharing and friendliness among the group was overwhelming. I felt that I had truly found "a home."

I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, where I graduated from Cleveland State's John Marshall College of Law in 1979. I received my BA from the University of Detroit in Journalism a looong time ago (1970). I worked as a reporter in Cleveland, Alexandria, Virginia and Newburgh, New York before entering the legal field. When I'm not teaching and program coordinating, I work out in a gym with a former Navy Seal. I am currently learning weight lifting with a promise from my trainer that I will not get bulky! HAH! We'll see. I like the physical challenges. Although, I don't know at what age they got so difficult to accomplish! I also love to play tennis.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. Thank you so much to those who have sent kind e-mails. 2008 proves to be a wonderfully challenging year. I start out the year with my ABA re-approval site visit!

Have a great holiday season!

# Meet Ruth Harrison —

## AAfPE's New Pacific Regional Director

I am honored to have this opportunity to serve as the Pacific Region Representative to the Board. I am humbled to have been asked to run for the position and thankful that no one ran against me!

I grew up in Eureka, California, a small fishing and logging town 5-6 hours north of San Francisco. My father was an attorney who wanted to be a rancher so I lived on my horse, chased cattle, and painted fences every summer.

I began my career in law as a legal secretary for my father far longer ago than I care to remember. Back in those days we had no paralegals, just legal secretaries who did paralegal work, and technology that my students have never heard of (manual typewriters). I left that career to finish my undergrad degree so that I could eventually attend and graduate from San Francisco School of Law. I moved from San Francisco to Arizona for love. I have been married 21 years and have 4 children, Heather, 20, Denise, 18, and Danny and Brian, 15.

I began my career as an attorney working in a labor and employment law practice in Phoenix but soon moved to the Yavapai County Attorney's Office as a prosecutor in the civil division where I handled forfeiture cases, advised department heads, and defended the county in civil suits. Once in a while they recruited me for criminal cases.

Serendipity presented me with the opportunity to teach a Legal Research and Writing class at Yavapai College 12 years ago and I was simply hooked on teaching. I taught as an adjunct in the program for a couple of years until being hired as full-time faculty in 1997. Last year I became the Program Director. I also mediate for the Superior Court in domestic and civil cases.

I love the outdoors. We vacation at the beach in California each summer so I can walk in the sand and listen to the waves. There is nothing quite like waking up hearing the restless ocean. This last summer we bought a boat and have been spending a lot of time camping, fishing and dragging the kids around Arizona lakes on a variety of inner-tube contraptions and water skis. You should know that I am a rock hound, so if you see me walking along, watching the ground, it is not because I am trying to ignore you, I am just used to looking for rocks everywhere I go (yes, even in hotels....it is a bad, bad habit). I spend the rest of my free time watching the kids play baseball and basketball, playing their instruments in orchestra, helping with school and the vagaries of their tragic teenage lives and working out at the YMCA.

I am looking forward to getting to work with all of my Pacific Region constituents and to the challenges of being on a national board.

## W I N N E R

### 2007 Cengage

## Learning Excellence in Teaching Competition

Congratulations to the three contestants in this year's Cengage Learning Excellence in Teaching Competition. **Linda Chin** of St. John's University, **Anne Murphy Brown** of Ursuline College and **Toni Marsh** of George Washington University inspired their peers with their presentations.

Anne Murphy Brown won the \$500 prize with her lesson on corporations. She used gingerbread men as a way to explain the corporate structure. She had excellent handouts. I am going to buy gingerbread men for my students when I teach this unit so they can nibble away at the officers and shareholders. Thanks to Anne, I can spice up corporations.

To those of you who have "played students" — become participants next year. Contact Mary Kubichek at [kubichek@caspercollege.edu](mailto:kubichek@caspercollege.edu).

# IN MEMORIAM

## Lynne Dahlborg

June 18, 1947-July 15, 2007

In October 2006 AAFPE celebrated its 25th Anniversary in New Orleans, Louisiana. In some ways, it was a bitter-sweet celebration. AAFPE member extraordinaire, Lynne Dahlborg, had been diagnosed with gall bladder cancer, a rare and aggressive type of cancer, in June. True to her spirit, she was at the conference to see friends and to remain engaged in one of her many passions. As she hugged us before she left, she said that it would probably be the last time that she would see us. It was a terribly poignant moment, but her spirituality was so clear.

Lynne earned a bachelor's degree in education at Ohio State University. She received a master's degree from Suffolk in mental health counseling and then a law degree from Suffolk. She ended up directing the Paralegal Program at Suffolk University and shepherded it through the ABA approval process. She was a long-time member and contributor to AAFPE as a writer, presenter and AAFPE's chosen representative on the ABA Approval Commission. She was a well-loved instructor and talented administrator.

Twice I have roomed with AAFPE members as a way to save money — responding to “roommate wanted” messages on the listserv. Both times I was fortunate to get to know an extraordinary AAFPE member. I roomed with Lynne one of those times and ended up talking with her about our commitment to our professions and to AAFPE — but also about our families. Lynne always seemed to carry a light inside of her — but she positively beamed as she showed me pictures of her family. As important as her work was to her, her family was clearly the center of her being. Her spouse and partner for 18 years, the Rev. Patricia Kogut of North Congregational Church in Middleborough, Massachusetts, was to Lynne a wonderful partner, mother and source of tremendous joy. She would tell me stories of the everyday rituals and times that she spent with her daughter Lucyna (11 years old) and son Nathaniel (8 years old). It was clear that she was one of those rare individuals who lived life not only in the big moments of celebration, but in all of the little moments that make up a life.

Lynne started a blog when she was diagnosed with cancer — she began the blog with a question: If you were dying,

“would it make a difference in how you live?”

In one of her last blogs, Lynne imparted her life lessons. There were three. The first lesson that she learned is that she is truly lovable; of course she was, we all knew that. How many of us, deep down, feel that we are not?

The second lesson was to ask for help. Many of us operate paralegal programs that consist of a Director, maybe an assistant and adjunct instructors. We are used to doing it all on our own. What a wonderful lesson to learn to ask for help. Use the listserv, pick up the phone, attend the annual and regional conferences — and always feel that you can ask for help. AAFPE is about being there for each other and creating the highest quality paralegal programs we can.

The final lesson that she imparted was to see herself as part of community — and, of course, she was a member of many communities — her family, her church, her program, her school, and AAFPE to name but a few. She urged us all to look at ourselves as part of a community — and I urge all AAFPE members to look at our Association as a community. Attend the conferences, help others, seek help, and know that you are valuable and valued.

I would encourage all of you to read Lynne's blog — it can be found at <http://dahlborg.blogspot.com/>. Her blog is inspirational and gives a glimpse into a life well lived. She and her spouse, Patti, have asked that anyone who knew Lynne write a letter to her children telling them stories of their mother — to provide them with memories that they can return to again and again throughout their lives. Please send those letters to [pakogut@aol.com](mailto:pakogut@aol.com).

A friend wrote, “Lynne imagined life like Monet's garden. In addition to her gardens, Lynne helped others grow and blossom into the fullness of their being.” Lynne's life has helped all of us at AAFPE to grow and blossom. Thank you, Lynne. You have made a tremendous difference in all of our lives.

Marisa Campbell  
AAfPE President

# One Good Thing

*What “One Good Thing” did you learn at the annual meeting that you intend to implement in your classroom?*

Here are some responses:

**Carolyn Smoot:** There was a student self-evaluation form regarding internships submitted by Pam Bailey that I got from the Information Exchange room. I am going to start using this form this week. I found other helpful forms on the Information Exchange CD, including an interesting fundraiser idea and several games.

**Deborah Posen:** I liked hearing the advantages of using focus groups over traditional surveys. I also liked Bill Putman’s outlining technique, and plan to extend it to other writing assignments, even simple letters.

**Lori L. Kissich:** I learned some great guidelines on having a member of the general public on my Advisory Board and where I might look to find that person. As soon as I got home, I began to pursue it, and have found someone who fits the model perfectly.

**John Bowler:** The idea I liked best was incorporating the Westlaw certification as a required assignment for students in Legal Research – one more goodie for their résumés.

**Cathy Underwood:** One of the most helpful was “tricking” the students to read, which Tracy Spencer put on. On a more advanced level, the writing the legal memorandum session that Bill Putman did was excellent.

**Daniel A. Silver:** I was extremely taken with what can be done with Sanction. I look forward to figuring it out. I also broke my students into groups today to use a rubric to grade each other’s case briefs, and I have to say that it worked out very well.

**Patricia Nozinich:** I thought Tracy Spencer’s presentations were great. The writing rubrics and suggestion for peer grading were even better.

**Sherry Walkabout:** One idea I came away with is using our paralegal students more in community service. I volunteer for our local Legal Aid and have already thought of ways to use my students to help with that. Further, hearing about using students with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class reminded me of when I did mock trials as a law student at a local grade school. They just loved it.

**Susan Jaworowski:** I intend to use the CLAD predictive reading techniques. This was the technique where the students are given a pre-reading quiz on concepts in the reading (ungraded) in class, then do the reading outside of class, checking their pre-reading quiz and correcting it as they go. At the start of the next class, they are given a post-reading quiz on the materials and then are broken up into groups to do the same quiz as a group, with group feedback, which is where the peer learning occurs.

**Marya Rogers:** I already talked with my students about the reading methods that Tracy Spencer shared with us.

**Ellen Boegel:** Many presenters emphasized the importance of group work to encourage engaged learning. I tried it today with great success. I was appalled to discover that in small classes of 15-20, my students did not know the names of their colleagues.

**Pat Medina:** My favorite session was on Saturday about expert witnesses. Our presenter was excellent.

## Professional Pursuits

**Bob Van DerVelde** is embarking on a new chapter in his professional career, announcing his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Lake County Common Pleas Judge (general division) in the March 2008 Ohio primary.

The Common Pleas Court is the court of general jurisdiction in Ohio. Municipal courts handle misdemeanors and civil cases of up to \$15,000, and there are separate domestic, juvenile, and probate judges in Lake County. The four general division judges handle all other Lake County cases. The senior-most judge is retiring, and there are at least three candidates vying in the primary for the right to run in the November general election. Lake County, Ohio is a predominantly suburban county just east of Cleveland, with a population of just over 200,000, and is a “purple county” evenly split between Republican red and Democratic blue.

Bob says the judicial campaign is a great opportunity to work hard to ensure equal access to justice for all, an issue near to the hearts of all AAFPE members. He is also discussing the expansion of alternative dispute resolution, as well as the need for our courts to keep pace with 21st century technology in courtrooms designed for 19th century cases, to be more efficient in the administration of justice.

It is hard to believe that the 2008 election season is already upon us; absentee voting in the Ohio primary begins on January 29th (the day after Bob’s 50th birthday!). He will not be teaching in the spring semester for Eastern Michigan University due to campaign obligations, and will not be able to conduct any site visits as a member of the ABA Approval Commission until after the March 4th primary (though he expects to have at least one or two assignments immediately post-primary).

# American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. Hosts Second Annual National Paralegal Summit

The American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. (AAPI) hosted the second annual National Paralegal Summit in Wilmington, Delaware on September 14, 2007.

Laura Ahtes, AACP, RP, DCP, Director of Education and Deborah A. Repass, AACP, RP, President of the American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. presided over the meeting.

The future of regulation was the first topic. Regulation, certification, and licensure with updates from attendees in the states of Wisconsin, California, Kentucky, and New Jersey highlighted the increased possibility that licensure may soon be a reality and that it is likely to create a domino effect once enacted. Many states have begun voluntary regulation schemes that have the framework in place should mandatory criteria take effect. There are still many states struggling with this issue, and each state's selection of the regulating authority was discussed at length. The decision for the states currently creating a voluntary vs. mandatory regulation scheme was addressed extensively.

Exempt status of paralegals was the highlighted topic of the Summit. The recent *Wersinger v. Bank of America* case in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware regarding the exempt status of a paralegal kicked off the discussion. The outcome could have ramifications nationally since the state issues in the case have been waived leaving only the federal issues. This case could affect the use of the title "paralegal" across the United States. It is a case that everyone in the legal community should watch.

A late addition to the agenda for the Summit was the recent case in the Southern District of Texas regarding certification marks. This case makes designations such as those earned through national paralegal associations not valid, proprietary, nor protected by trademark law. This case further diminishes the national associations' certifications that are already being diminished by the state certification programs. It was felt by the majority of the attendees that as more and more states develop their own certifications, unless a national standard is developed, the need for the national associations' certifications will continue to diminish. If given a choice, paralegals will probably choose to be certified by their own states, rather than attaining a national paralegal certification.

National and local education requirements remained an important topic. The discussion focused on whether standardized education criteria would be recognized by all programs offering paralegal education. This is becoming increasingly important as each state develops its own certification program. If states do not develop standardized education criteria, then paralegals will have difficulty relocating from one state to another and yet meet the requirements established in another state.

The success of the second annual National Paralegal Summit was evident. The attendees agreed and the American Alliance accepted the request to host the Summit again next year.

## AAfPE Calendar of Events 2008

**February 22-24**

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Dallas, TX

**March 1**

**Educator articles due**  
to Editor for Spring issue

**March 28-29**

**North Central Regional Meeting**  
Cleveland, OH

**April 3-5**

**Pacific Regional Meeting**  
Las Vegas, NV

**April 4-5**

**South Central Regional Meeting**  
Baton Rouge, LA

**April 11-12**

**Northeast Regional Meeting**  
Mt. Kisco, NY

**April 11-12**

**Southeast Regional Meeting**  
Birmingham, AL

**June 1**

**Educator articles due**  
to Editor for Fall issue

**June 27-29**

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
TBD

**October 15-18**

**27th Annual Conference**  
Dallas, TX

**November 1**

**Educator articles due**  
to Editor for Winter issue



# Schedule of Nominations for Office

*The schedule is for the year of nomination. The term of office shall be for three years, beginning with the following year (e.g., nominated in 2008, serve 2009 through 2011). The ABA Approval Commission positions are one-year terms with reappointment to a maximum of three years; ABA Approval Commission positions begin in August of the year following nomination.*

| Office   | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| President-elect                                  | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    |
| Secretary  |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      |
| Treasurer  | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |
| Director- Associate Programs                     |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |
| Director – Baccalaureate Programs                |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |
| Director- Certificate Programs                   | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |
| Director – Northeast Region                      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |
| Director – Southeast Region                      |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      |
| Director – North Central Region                  | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |
| Director – South Central Region                  |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      |
| Director – Pacific Region                        |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |
| ABA Approval Commission – Certificate Programs   |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      |
| ABA Approval Commission – Associate Programs     |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |
| ABA Approval Commission – Baccalaureate Programs | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |      | x    |      |

## MyParalegalSpace Hits the Paralegal Social Scene

ParalegalGateway.com, a site devoted to everything paralegal-related, has launched the first social networking site for paralegals: MyParalegalSpace.me.com. If the name sounds slightly familiar, that’s because it’s meant to. The site was designed to mirror the popular social networking site MySpace.com. Unlike its counterpart, this site is specifically geared toward paralegals. MyParalegalSpace.me.com allows paralegals to share pictures, view blogs, and connect with other professionals in the industry. They can sign up and create their own profiles, much like on MySpace.com.

## FYI

The AAfPE website now hosts an **Employment Opportunities** page. Member institutions may post job openings by contacting AAfPE at [info@aafpe.org](mailto:info@aafpe.org).

