Pikes Peak Paralegals has made a huge recovery over the past three years. In December 2009, the association was on the brink of dissolving when a small group of members made a last-ditch effort to save the organization. It has taken three years, but the association has grown from 10-12 members to more than 50.

Some of the charter members of PPP were determined to rebuild the organization, and one of the reasons for that is that PPP was organized and chartered in October of 1977, and in 1978 it was the FIRST affiliated association with the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. (PPP was then known as Legal Assistants of Colorado).

The primary objectives of PPP are to provide continuing legal education programs at a reasonable price and to promote networking and fellowship among paralegals in Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas. The goal of the board of directors each fiscal year is to sponsor at least 10 hours of CLE programs (per the bylaws) and at least two informal networking events; those goals have been accomplished in each of the past three years. In the past year, PPP has sponsored the following CLE programs:

- New Civil Rules / Civil Access Pilot Project – a 1-hour lunch program on June 20, 2012
- Intellectual Property – a 2-hour dinner program on August 28, 2012
- Pro Bono Roles and Opportunities for the Paralegal (1.5 hours) and Training for new and a refresher for existing Notaries Public, including recent notary law changes (1.5 hours) – a half-day program held in conjunction with PPP’s annual membership meetings
- Tech Media Available for Discovery and Trial – a 1-hour lunch program on January 29, 2013
- A View from the Bench – a 2-hour dinner program on March 20, 2013
- Domestic Law Issues – a 2-hour dinner program on May 9, 2013

In addition to sponsoring CLE programs, PPP also hosts an annual member social and membership drive event in July each year. PPP picks up the tab for appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages and provides an opportunity for paralegals to socialize and just have fun. In the past year and in response to requests from members to offer more social events, the board has initiated several “impromptu” gatherings for happy hour at local bars or coffee shops. Those events have not been as well attended as we hoped, but the board plans to continue to working on ideas for social events.

Now that PPP has reestablished itself and built a small financial reserve, the board of directors has set long-term goals to become more involved in NALA and with the local bar associations. The board plans to review and update its charter documents to more accurately reflect the current operations of the association to accomplish the following:

- allocate funds for the NALA liaison to attend NALA’s annual convention;
- establish a board position as a liaison to the local and state bar associations;
- reorganize the board structure and terms; and
- make general updates, including authorizing electronic communication with members.

Darla Wildeman, CP
PPP President and NALA Liaison