NALA Affiliated Associations Annual Report

June 1, 2017

Central Florida Paralegal Association
www.cfpainc.org

Membership: 104 Active Members
12 Associate Members
7 student members
21 Patron Members

Board of Directors 2017:

President
Jennifer Finch, FRP
Vice President/President Elect
Caroline Wilkerson, CP
Secretary
Iris Walker, FRP
Treasurer
Anne Hughes, ACP, FCP, FRP
NALA Liaison
Nancy L. Jordahl, ACP, FRP, FCP
Director
Cassie Snyder, ACP, FRP
Director
Alice McVey, CP
Director
Marisol Gomez, FRP
Director
Deborah Dollar, FRP
Parliamentarian
Katherine Kilgore

The board of directors meets every other month and communicates between in-person meetings via email. The board also meets annually for a budget meeting in December.

This year CFPA has continued its goal of setting the standard for paralegal excellence in Central Florida since 1983. CFPA provides continuing education, networking, and community service opportunities to Central Florida paralegals.

Cassie Snyder has served for many years as the Editor of CFPA’s digital newsletter Carpe Diem. CFPA transitioned in 2017 from a quarterly to bi-monthly newsletter.

In addition to the bi-monthly newsletter, another member only benefit is the Yahoo group that provides message board posting and intra-association emailing to CFPA members.

CFPA’s sponsored charities for 2017 are Base Camp Children’s Cancer Foundation (basecamp.org) and Children’s Home Society of Florida. 100% of all money donated to CFPA on behalf of a charitable fundraising event goes directly to the charity.
Since June 2016, CFPA has held the following events, seminars, networking mixers, and community service events:

CFPA continues to hold networking luncheons in downtown Orlando, Winter Park/Maitland and Seminole County. Members meet for lunch to network. It is also an opportunity to bring prospective new members to meet with some board members and active members in a relaxed environment.

CFPA holds quarterly mixers. We met at World of Beer on June 10, 2016 and at Marlow’s Tavern on September 9, 2016. CFPA and the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) Paralegal Section held a joint Halloween Mixer on October 26, 2016.

CFPA’s CP Exam Review Course was held Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon from July 9 through August 13, 2016. All classes were taught by a Certified Paralegal or an attorney.

Several CFPA members volunteered to assist at the OneOrlando Town Hall meeting on August 4, 2016 which followed the mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub on June 12, 2016. The Town Hall meeting was an opportunity for the victims’ families and survivors to provide feedback and input on the distribution of the money raised for the OneOrlando Fund.

CFPA held a School Supplies Drive from June 15 to August 15, 2016. All donations collected benefited Children’s Home Society in Orlando. In addition to the school supplies donated, CFPA raised money to purchase flash drives, scientific calculators, 1 inch binders and backpacks.

“Pre-Marking Panic: How to Properly Premark Your Exhibits For Trial” by Michelle McKinnie, Operations Supervisor, Trial Clerk Division was CFPA’s October 6, 2016 1.0 hour CLE. Patron member Milestone Reporting provided dinner.

CFPA supported the troops again with a pack day on November 5, 2016. The program began in 2007 and has continued every year since then. In 2016, CFPA received donations to fill 78 boxes that were sorted, boxed and shipped by CFPA to service members.

The new Board was sworn in by Judge John Marshall Kest at the annual holiday social on December 2, 2016 at the Doubletree Hilton in downtown Orlando. CFPA announced several awards at the meeting.

The sitting President awards the President’s award every year to an outstanding CFPA member or CFPA patron member who went above and beyond the call of duty in support of CFPA’s mission. For 2016, President Jean Hinton proclaimed CFPA member Peonca S. Grier, CP, FRP the President’s Award recipient.

Every year, CFPA offers a scholarship to a current student in a Legal Studies program. The 2016 recipient was Kristine Paradis who attends Seminole State College.

Kelly Eubanks was the 2016 Paralegal of the Year. The award honors a local paralegal for her hard work and outstanding contributions to her firm and the legal field as a whole.
The Board of Directors implemented a new Board of Directors Award in 2016 to recognize Caroline Wilkerson for always going above and beyond to help out.

CFPA started its charitable 2017 with the Quack Attack at Lake Baldwin February 18, 2017. This unique event required participants to wear an inflatable duck shaped pool float through a 3.1 mile course. The event raises awareness for the nonprofit United Against Poverty Orlando.

CFPA’s Annual Meeting and Membership Mixer was held at World of Beer March 22, 2017. The meeting was short and sweet. CFPA published the final 2016 income and expenses as well as the approved 2017 budget. President Jennifer Finch welcomed new members and informed us about upcoming events.

Also on March 22, 2017, CFPA sponsored Law Day 2017 (in partnership with the Orange County Bar Association). The event brought more than 50 at-risk kids to the Orange County Courthouse for a courthouse tour, career discussion and mock trial. CFPA provided a lunch.

“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know from the JAs” seminar took place on March 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Patron member Milestone Reporting provided dinner.

CFPA continued its charity on April 22, 2017 at the Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk at Lake Baldwin.

In May 2017, Rick Scott, the Governor of Florida, and Buddy Dyer, the Mayor of the City of Orlando, proclaimed May 15-19, 2017 “Paralegal Week.”

Spring Fling May 19-21, 2017 was CFPA’s premier event of the year. We had an array of fabulous topics and speakers including six local judges for a total of 9.0 possible CLE hours. NALA Treasurer Debbie Overstreet visited. Patron members were very supportive as always.

CFPA has several very active, vibrant committees. Deborah Dollar, FRP is the Continuing Legal Education Committee Chair. The CLE committee sets up all seminars by determining seminar topic, location, speaker and coordinating with NALA for approval.

The Membership Committee is led by Melissa R. Holmes, FRP. This committee maintains the membership roster, issues membership delinquency notices, and oversees updates to membership/renewal applications.

The Public Relation Committee Co-Chairs are Peonca S. Grier, CP, FRP and Alice McVey, CP. That committee oversees all public and social events sponsored by CFPA including networking luncheons, regular membership mixers, charitable events and contributions.

The Job Bank Committee Chair is Leslie Norton, ACP, FRP. The job bank accepts, reviews and posts employment opportunities to CFPA’s private listserv. CFPA “blasted” 105 jobs in 2016 and to date has posted 42 jobs.
Paralegal Regulation & Ethics Chair is Nancy L. Jordahl, ACP, FRP, FCP. This committee is chaired by the NALA Liaison and is the point of contact for issues regarding regulation and ethics.

Student Relations Committee is co-chaired by Teresa “TK” Thomas and Katherine Kilgore. They provide outreach to area schools that have legal studies courses and degrees by making visits and presentations and they also serve as a point of contact for student members. Student members of CFPA pay a discounted membership fee.

In addition to her Director and Editor duties, Cassie Snyder also chairs the Social Media Committee. That committee keeps CFPA on the web through Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter.

The Elections Committee oversees the annual election of the Board of Directors and any other special election throughout the year.

CFPA also has webmasters that manage, maintain and regularly update news and events on the CFPA website.

CFPA is in the process of reviewing its Bylaws. If the Bylaw Committee determines that any updates are necessary, the updates will be put to a vote.

Along with other Florida Affiliated Associations, CFPA is proud to be a local host for NALA’s conference in Orlando, Florida from July 19-21, 2017 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort International Drive. CFPA awarded a “scholarship” to member Cassie Snyder to attend the Social Day 1 registration for free.

Nancy L. Jordahl, ACP, FRP, FCP
2017 NALA Liaison
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