

Legal Assistants of Wyoming - May 2019

The Legal Assistants of Wyoming (LAW) holds two seminars each year in different towns and cities around the state (and occasionally out of state). One seminar in the fall and another in the spring allow LAW to offer CLEs to its members and non-members and a chance for all the paralegals from around the state to get together. LAW also holds its annual meeting at the spring seminar. Our most recent seminar was in Saratoga, Wyoming, a small town in southern Wyoming (population less than 2,000), known for its natural hot springs and golfing.

The First Vice President of LAW is in charge of setting up the seminars and our current First VP, Tammy Wuertley, ACP, did a great job organizing the event! Speakers included Joanne Sweeny, J.D.: "Marijuana Edibles in Wyoming"; Mary Kubichek, J.D.: "Ethics in Jury Practice"; Loretta Hansen, MSW, LCSW: "Functions of the Carbon County Victims' Services Department"; Wallace Trembath III, J.D.: "So, You Want to Sue the Government? The Governmental Claims Act in Wyoming"; and Melissa Martin: "Preparing Defensible Projects in the Forest Service". The customary Friday-night social gathering was at the Saratoga Hot Springs Resort with a delicious array of heavy appetizers and some friendly competition in Tammy's "Minute to Win It" contests where players had to attempt to do things such as stacking pennies as fast as possible with only one hand or transferring candy from one plate to another by picking up the candy with only a drinking straw and their mouths.

At the beginning of the annual meeting, LAW presented its yearly awards. The Outstanding Student Award went to Kimberly Bizak; the Member Making a Difference Award went to our President, Ashley Barkley, CP; and the Future CLA/CP Attainment Award went to Amanda McClain. We also held our election of new board members for the 2019 fiscal year, beginning June 1, 2019. The incoming board includes: Barbara Heisner, CP, President; Amanda Nelson, ACP, President-Elect; Annette Sause, First Vice President; Kathy Lackey, Second Vice President; Susan Lewis, CP, Secretary; Laura Greeson, Treasurer; Wendy Trembath, CP, NALA Liaison; Savannah Shaffer, Region 3 Director; and Taylor Roybal, Region 4 Director. We will also appoint a student liaison(s) from the paralegal programs at Casper College in Casper, WY and possibly Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY.

At each seminar, LAW collects donations for a specific charity. While we often pick charities local to the seminar location, at this seminar our charity of choice was the American Cancer Society. We chose this in part to honor our friend, colleague, and past President, Mark Robbins, CP, who passed away in 2017 after a short battle with this terrible disease. We collected approximately \$270.00 to contribute to this cause.

We look forward to seeing fellow paralegals from all over the country at the NALA Convention this summer, and we enjoy being a NALA affiliated organization!

-Barbara Heisner, CP, LAW President-Elect

