



SOTA

State of the Association

Your News Bulletin for the
Colorado Association of Legal Support Staff

2010-2011, Volume 1

October/November 2010

CALSS: TOGETHER, ONE-OF-A-KIND, AIMING HIGH

It is a true gift to be President of CALSS this year. One of the wonderful things about how our organization is structured is that I've had my entire year as President-elect to get to know us better. Here's what I've learned thus far.

First, we are really together as a group. Rarely have I seen a group with more collaboration and cooperation. I think this stems, in large part, from the fact that we all work in roles supporting others. We are used to making sure that all the pieces come together for the benefit of our clients, our employers and our firms. We also share the history of CALSS, the mission of CALSS and the vision that we have of being an organization that welcomes all and works to support all. Working together is key.

Second, we are truly an organization of people who are beyond unique: we consist of people who are genuinely one-of-a-kind. We work in a variety of contexts, in a huge range of different settings and we all bring something special to what we do. Whether that is a unique perspective, a great skill set, background knowledge from previous work experiences or simply a great attitude, when you look around the room at any of our events, the skills and talents in the room is breathtaking. So is our uniqueness.

Finally, we are aiming high this year. Ann Salek, our host at the tremendous annual meeting which concluded September 18, created a wonderful challenge for all of us: "AIM HIGH". At this point in our shared history, this is a tremendous challenge. Our work lives have never been more complex and

demanding and the need for our support has never been more intense. With everyone in our profession doing the jobs of three or four people and clients' needs reaching an all time high, we are truly called upon to be exemplary every minute of every twelve hour day. In situations like this, it is too easy to simply go home at the end of the day and be thrilled to have survived another one. At the same time, those colleagues who lack a support group like CALSS truly need us more than ever. Understanding this our first challenge is to reach out to support each other.

Our Executive Committee—the elected officials of CALSS—meet in mid-October to continue to build on the theme of "AIM HIGH". Where do you see the challenges being greatest? Where are there opportunities for our skills and expertise? Where can we lead our profession in the weeks and months ahead? Let us know your thoughts, dreams and ideas by calling or emailing any of the Executive Committee to let us know where you would like to guide your organization. We are here to listen, to serve and to be the best we can be right alongside you.

Best Wishes,
Mark Donovan

P.S. On a personal note, many thanks for the Outstanding Member award. There are many, many of us who are far more deserving, so I am humbled and honored. Thank you.

“AIM HIGH”

(A Recap of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting and Educational Conference)

On September 18, 2010, CALSS held its Fourteenth Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, “Aim High.” Planning and pulling together an annual meeting is always a lot of work, and I want to thank everyone who contributed to making the event a success. I hope to thank each of the committee members, vendors, advertisers, donors and speakers by card or letter. Thank you, too, to the participants who came to the event, and to the staff of the Holiday Inn Denver East-Stapleton for being so delightful to work with and responsive to our needs. I personally had a really good time and hope that all of those who attended did, also.

Some highlights of the weekend for me –

- Going out to dinner at the Berkshire Restaurant on Friday night and having to send the van drivers away with pleas for “20 more minutes” so everyone could finish desserts that had proven simply too irresistible to pass up.
- The crowd in my hotel room putting the final items in the registration bags. Twice.
- Having two elections, for Secretary and President-elect, always thrilling because it shows that people are committed to the organization and willing to serve as its officers.
- A whole room full of vendors – wood crafts, kitchen items, jewelry, chocolate, candles, beauty products, legal support, event planning, tools, food products – it boggles the mind and the pocketbook.
- The members’ amazement at the lavish bounty of the “Front Range BBQ” served by the hotel for lunch on Saturday, an entire feast that included three different desserts.
- Ginny Lee’s sweet and hilarious descriptions of the dances she attends with her husband.
- Judy Boker’s memorable installation of the officers during the banquet, invoking archery images to “Aim High.”
- The specially commissioned, one-of-a-kind pins made by Blue Merle’s Gina Gronberg that were given to each newly-installed officer, a fabulous inspiration commemorating their service to the organization.
- Troy and Michala Rackham, one of our speakers and his wife, chatting with members after the banquet, so pleased that we shared our evening with them, and Michala Rackham teasingly

asking what she needed to do to join our organization.

- The quiet mountain view from my hotel room balcony Sunday morning.

It was my pleasure at the banquet to be able to present just past President Ginny Schermerhorn with gifts from a grateful membership for her service. Your contributions purchased a Starbucks gift card, a box of Godiva chocolates, a fully paid suite for the night of Ginny’s choice at the Magnolia Hotel in downtown Denver, and a generous gift card to Maggiano’s. Ginny, enjoy the pampering.

An annual meeting is always a great participatory experience – learning, laughing, caucusing at the meeting, shopping from the vendors, and visiting with friends. Judy Boker and Renie Shovlin “have some ideas” and will be putting together the Fifteenth Annual Meeting and Educational Conference. I can’t wait, because the ideas these ladies get are always spectacular.

If you did not attend this year’s annual meeting, consider making a commitment to attend next September’s annual meeting. Your first annual meeting will not be your last. Finally, remember that the annual meeting committee is a state committee, and your time and talent as committee members are always welcomed.

Ann Salek, Chair
CALSS Fourteenth Annual
Meeting and Educational Conference

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Pauli Ingwersen on the birth of her granddaughter, Sophie!



COMMENTS FROM FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES AT A CALSS ANNUAL MEETING

I was thrilled to attend this event held on September 18, at the Holiday Inn Denver East - Stapleton. I saw how efficient – and fun - CALSS annual meetings are, and I relished the opportunity to learn from all the high caliber speakers and attendees.

I really enjoyed the fellowship of the CALSS members! I really liked the annual meeting program materials (the very full agenda, CALSS Statement of Purpose, Annual Meeting Rules, Meet Your Officers, etc.) and found them very helpful as a newbie.

I particularly like that CALSS members are professionals in the legal field that warmly embrace newbie members, that CALSS maintains and offers the Gwendolyn S. Duran Memorial Scholarship, and that CALSS is an active and thriving state-wide association. I appreciate the opportunity to attend this event and look forward to being an active CALSS member!

Laura Teter
MHALSS

As a fairly new member to the Larimer/Weld Chapter of CALSS I am honored to hold the position of State Representative. I thoroughly enjoyed attending my first CALSS Annual Meeting on September 18th in Denver. It was wonderful meeting the members and seeing firsthand the high level of commitment, hard work and excitement that they all bring to our organization.

As a person who is new to the legal profession, I found the two guest speakers to be extremely informative. CLE classes are a great way to stay on top of the ever-changing field of law.

I look forward to the upcoming year as a LWALSS Member and am excited to become more involved with this great organization in the future.

Cheryl Ellmann
LWALSS



Message From the Editor

State of the Association (“SOTA”) is published every other month, during the even-number months.

Please submit all articles, updates, news from your chapter, committee, etc., to me (audrey.brekel@hro.com). Future deadlines are December 5, February 5, April 5, June 5, and August 5.

Also, if you have any suggestions for items to be included in deNovo, please pass those along also.

Thank you,
Audrey Brekel

2010-2011 INSTALLATION CEREMONY
Written and conducted by Judy Boker

Will the 2010-2011 Officers please come forward as I call your name:

Treasurer – Lisa Ritter
Secretary – Cathy Vlasak
Vice President – Sherry McWethy
President Elect – Audrey Brekel
President – Mark Donovan

“AIM HIGH” is the theme selected by our 2010-2011 officers. To “aim” is to intend to move toward a certain goal. To move with purpose. To have the will and intention to carry out some action or plan.

When Mark asked me to install the officers, I thought of my skill as a bowhunter and archer. Aim is everything. Machiavelli once said, “A wise man ought always to follow the paths beaten by great men and to imitate those who have been supreme, so that if his ability does not equal theirs, at least it will savour of it. Let him act like the clever archer who, designing to hit the mark which yet appears far too distant, and knowing the limits to which the strength of his bow attains, takes aim much higher than the mark, not to reach by his strength or arrow to so great a height, but to be able, with the aid of so high an aim, to hit the mark he wishes to reach.”

An archer must first have the right equipment. Not too heavy that it overpowers, not too light that the effort is wasted.

He must assume the correct stance, planting his feet firmly, his arrow sharp and straight, “nocked” on the string.

The bow is then raised and drawn in one fluid motion, pulled toward the face where it rests lightly at an “anchor point”, consistent from shot to shot, his eye focused on not just the target, but a spot in the very center, blocking out all other distractions.

The arrow is released without hesitation and the archer “follows through” with the shot so as to not cause the arrow to stray from the target. The further the target, the higher his aim must be.

To become skilled, one must practice, practice, practice. Continually aiming for that desired target, so skilled that every arrow hits the bullseye.

And so it is with the elected Officers of CALSS. You have the right equipment, your feet are firmly planted, your thoughts and ideas at an anchor point, focused on the goal, ready to follow through with whatever plans necessary to achieve that goal. We have faith in you and know that you will aim high for the benefit of our association and its members.

It is my pleasure to install you as the duly elected officers of the Colorado Association of Legal Support Staff. We promise to encourage and support your upcoming quest to Aim High. Congratulations!



2009-2010 SCHOLARSHIP

Twelve scholarship applications were evaluated by a panel of three judges, and Helly Hernandez was chosen as the recipient of the CALSS 2009-2010 scholarship award.

Helly is a 2010 graduate of Greeley West High School. In addition to being an active member in the IB Program, she was President of the Principal's Mentoring Council, and an instrumental part of the Advancement Via Individual Determination, or AVID, program and LULAC club, promoting school involvement relating to the Hispanic community. As a member of the group "No Place to Hate Organization", Helly was influential in leading the change in getting Greeley West High School to be designated as an Anti-Racism site by the Anti-Defamation League.

Helly has been described as having a heart of gold, a passion for education, a drive for success, and an optimism that cannot be matched. She is everything that is right about public education. By laying the foundation for Greeley West's new-found acceptance of diversity, Helly has guaranteed that the school will continue to be the most successful school in Greeley. She will do the same in college and beyond.

Helly is attending UNC in Greeley and hopes to major in Criminal Justice. The knowledge of working with people motivates her to pursue this goal, to keep moving forward, and to make a non-stop difference, not only for herself, but for the rest of the world.

Pauli Ingwersen
2009-2010 Scholarship Chairman

OUTSTANDING MEMBER

As the new year begins for us, start watching the people in your local chapter for that one that stands out. They come in many shapes and sizes, many personalities and even sit next to us. Watch them and smile, knowing they are the person who deserves Outstanding Member. Stay tuned for more information about how to nominate them and watch their surprise.

Ginny Lee
Chairman

MEMBER NEWS

Our sympathy to Julie Kulbe Cook on the recent loss of her mother.

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT WEBSITES FOR CLEs

Rocky Mountain Paralegal Association (RMPA) has a great website with a super, easy calendar that lists meetings and CLEs for their organization as well as others. Go to rockymtnparalegal.org and check the Calendar tab.

The Colorado Bar Association's Paralegal Committee also has a very informative, helpful website. Their address is: cobar.org/index.cfm/ID/20101/CLAS/Paralegal.

Also, be sure to check our own website at CALSS.org for the latest on what is happening.

WEBSITE

Greetings, All! Just a quick announcement that the Officers & Chairs have been updated on the website for the coming year. Please let me know if you see any typos, so I can correct them. For any Chairs that need updated forms posted, please email me a copy of the updated form that you would like added to website. If you have additional information that you would like to see added (events, upcoming seminars, etc) pass it along, so it may be posted for everyone.

Carol Donahue, RP
Chairman

MEMBER NEWS

Wishing a speedy recovery to Peg Bell, who recently broke her shoulder in a fall!



Happy Thanksgiving!

**CALSS Leadership
2010-2011**

Officers (Executive Committee):

President:	Mark Donovan	(303) 436-9121	med@h-l-mlaw.com
President-elect:	Audrey Brekel	(303) 417-8502	audrey.brekel@hro.com
Vice-President:	Sherry McWethy	(970) 493-2550	colocode3@frii.com
Secretary:	Cathy Vlasak	(970) 498-7450	cvasak@larimer.org
Treasurer:	Lisa Ritter	(970) 482-9770	lrutter@ftccolaw.com
Parliamentarian:	Pauli Ingwersen	(719) 475-6487	pingwersen@hollandhart.com

**CALSS Committee Chairs
2010-2011**

Annual Meeting	Judy Boker and Renie Shovlin Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Audit	Ginny Lee / Sherill Mullins / Vivian Acott Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Bulletin	Ginny Schermerhorn Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Continuing Legal Education	Jodi Morse Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Credentials	Shelley McKinstry Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Guidelines	Peg Bell Member-at-Large
History Book	Teresa Chamberlain/Janet Knoll Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Marketing/Professional Association Liaison	Ann Salek Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Membership	Laura Teter / Carol Donahue / Vivian Acott Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Nominations	Ginny Schermerhorn / Judy Boker / Pat Thompson Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff / Member-at-Large
Outstanding Member	Ginny Lee Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Pro Bono	Cathy Hansen Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Professional Certification	Janet Price Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Scholarship	Joyce Beach Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Ways & Means	Ginny Schermerhorn Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Website	Carol Donahue, RP Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff

CREDENTIALS

It is my privilege to serve as CALSS Credentials Chairman this year. I don't have anything to report at this time, but my contact information is below.

Shelley McKinstry
 Harris, Karstaedt, Jamison & Powers, P.C.
 10333 East Dry Creek Road, Suite 300
 Englewood, CO 80112
 720/875-9140 Fax: 720/875-9141
smckinstry@hkjp.com

SCHOLARSHIP

I am very excited to chair this very important committee. I am proud to be a part of an organization that places such a high value on education and has made it a priority to provide an annual scholarship to a worthy recipient striving to attain further education in the legal field. As most of you know, one of the main fundraising events for the scholarship fund is the annual "Gwendolyn Duran Nature Walk" held at the CALSS Third Board Meeting. This event alone cannot sustain the perpetuity of the scholarship fund. I will gladly take offers of donations for raffles at our board meetings and entertain any suggestions or ideas to fundraise for this very important endeavor.

Joyce Beach, PLS
 Chairman

**Larimer-Weld Association
 of Legal Support Staff**

Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Meeting = October 19, 2010
 (Time and Location TBA)
- Monthly Meeting = November, 16, 2010
 (Time and Location TBA)

Recent News:

Joyce Beach graciously hosted the September meeting at her home where she served a wonderful dinner and officers were installed. LWALSS currently has 21 members.

LWALSS Officers for 2010-2011:

- President = Sherri Meadors
- Vice President = Paul Carstensen
- Secretary = Kate Miller
- Treasurer = Jan Knoll
- CALSS-LWALSS Rep = Cheryl Ellmann

We are proud to announce that LWALSS members Cathy Vlasak, Sherry McWethy and Lisa Ritter have been elected to serve as CALSS Officers for the 2010-2011 term.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all of the members who continue to donate their time and talent to help make our organization a huge success. We look forward to the upcoming year with great anticipation!

Cheryl Ellmann
 CALSS-LWALSS Representative



to Our October and November Birthdays

Deborah Bishop	October 1	Julia Stephens	October 29
Shelley McKinstry	October 1	Mark Donovan	October 31
Julie Finley	October 3	Luann Walker	November 7
Cindie Williams	October 6	Susie Curtis	November 9
Janet Price	October 6	Ginny Lee	November 10
Judy Boker	October 15	Marlyn Salley	November 12
Stephanie Hood	October 18	Peg Bell	November 13
Robbie Saunders	October 20	Cathy Vlasak	November 21
Julie Kulbe Cook	October 22	Mary Jones	November 22
Kay Sorg	October 24	Ronda Bilby	November 23
Ann Salek	October 28	Lisa Ritter	November 27