



**CALSS**  
Colorado Association  
of  
Legal Support Staff

**SOTA**

State of the Association

Your News Bulletin for the  
Colorado Association of Legal Support Staff

2010-2011, Volume 5

June/July 2011

### **REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP**

First, save September 16 and 17 for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, “Diamonds and Denim.” With Renie Shevlin and Judy Boker as the hosts for our meeting, a lavish location at the Embassy Suites, Loveland, terrific speakers and a very exciting election, it is the place you’ll want to be come mid September.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CALSS, which we’ll celebrate in September, has me reflecting on leadership. *What traits do leaders share?*

For inspiration I looked no farther than the president’s archives, which stretch back five years. See what leadership traits strike you in the following:

In June, 2006, President Cathy Hansen, PLS quoted English anthropologist, John Lubbock “rest is not idleness” and Greek poet, Hesiod “It will not always be summer: build barns.” Cathy went on to say “this is a wonderful time to take a breather . . . which we all need to do once in awhile to keep our energy and enthusiasm alive! But, lest we become too lazy, we need to also keep in mind that there will be a flurry of activity at the end of the summer. “ *Balance, perspective, planning and wisdom.*

Last year, President Ginny Schermerhorn recounted a favorite poem called “Don’t Quit”:

“Success is failure turned inside out--  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,

And you never can tell how close you  
are,

It may be near when it seems so far,  
So stick to the fight when you’re hardest  
hit--

It’s when things seem worst that you  
must not quit.”  
*Tenacity.*

In September of 2005, reflecting on her year as President, Judy Boker wrote: “Every officer, committee chair and member has been an asset to the successful year we’ve had. We have had excellent educational seminars and great meetings throughout the year and I thank each and every one of you for your continued help and support in keeping CALSS a fun, educational and professional association. I take great pride in being an active member of this great organization and you should too!”  
*Gratitude, sharing credit and graciousness.*

In May of 2008, then President-Elect, Pauli Ingwersen, wrote “ As I looked around the table, I realized that it’s the people who make CALSS the classy and FUN legal organization that it remains. I am thankful to and for each member- - those “seasoned”, active life members whose steadfast commitment and dedication through all the changing seasons of CALSS provide a strong foundation, those building block members who struggle for time to fit CALSS in and somehow do; and those new members, whose hope and energy are the tools for a strong future.” *Perspective, gratitude, commitment and insight.*

In August of 2007, then President Tava Davis wrote: “each of us experiences life as it is thrown at us, which redefines who we are and makes us better individuals. This year revealed strengths and flaws that I challenge myself to work upon to make myself a better person. Although we are a professional association, it takes very special people to be approachable and yet objective, stay grounded and yet be creative, and to temper our individual needs with the needs of the group. I am proud of our association’s ability to maintain this delicate balancing act.” *Wisdom, introspection and self-awareness.*

In August, 2007, then President-Elect, Ginny Lee, wrote of her memories of Grand Junction and then notes “On a personal note, I would love to come visit each chapter during your meeting and just greet everyone there. I really want to make membership and marketing a strong focus on this year. What can we do as an organization to make that happen for you, your chapter and for the state organization?” *Honesty, openness and hospitality.*

Fortunately for all of us, leadership is not a hereditary trait--it is made of circumstances. Now is your time to flex, take a risk, extend beyond your “comfort zone” and volunteer to be a committee chair, an officer candidate or whatever other opportunity CALSS can provide you. I know it has provided me a wealth of gifts beyond measure. Talk with an Executive Committee member or email Ginny Schermerhorn, Chair of the Nominating Committee, or Audrey Brekel, President-Elect, about how we can help you bring your leadership gifts to light.

**Mark Donovan**  
**CALSS President**



## MEMBER NEWS

*Condolences* to Carol Donahue on the recent loss of her grandmother.

## SCHOLARSHIP

The suspense is building and I have to keep a secret for the next three months! The recipient of the Gwendolyn Duran Memorial Scholarship will be announced at the annual meeting banquet in September.

The response to the scholarship was overwhelming. I received 20 applications from applicants representing almost every area of Colorado. Each applicant had a story to tell and the caliber of character, determination, academic excellence, goals and dreams for the future was incredible. Unfortunately only one individual can be awarded this scholarship. I am hopeful the scholarship recipient can join us at the annual meeting so you can see for yourselves what an amazing individual has been chosen to receive this award.

It has been such a privilege and honor serving as chair of the Scholarship Committee. Gwendolyn Duran was a poised, elegant lady who had a real passion for and commitment to CALSS. Gwen was instrumental in forming this organization and making it what it is today. Education was an important facet of her platform and she firmly believed in its value in making strong leaders.

Last but not least, I would also like to thank everyone for their support of this endeavor with donations of raffle items, participation in raffles/nature walk, monetary donations, serving as scholarship application judges/redactors, and the many offers of assistance and encouragement I received.

**We are MAKING A DIFFERENCE** in peoples’ lives!

**Joyce Beach, PLS**  
**Scholarship Chairman**

## PRESIDENT-ELECT

Feels a lot like summer, doesn't it?

Only 3 months until a new beginning – the 2011-2012 CALSS year. Please consider taking on a leadership position with the organization – either as an officer or a chairman.

Please let me know any ideas you may have to make *your* association the very best it can be during the upcoming year!

**Audrey Brekel**



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## OUTSTANDING MEMBER

Well the time is here! Send in your nomination for Outstanding member. You know that person you look up to, sit beside and just like being around. We want to hear how they have shaped your life. Send to me, in 300 words or less, information about this nominee. Send your nomination to [glee@kcfpc.com](mailto:glee@kcfpc.com).

**Ginny Lee  
Chairman**

## CALSS NEWS

*Plan now to attend* Diamonds & Denim, the CALSS Fifteenth Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, on September 16-17, 2011, at the Embassy Suites in Fort Collins. Join us for CLE, networking, fun, and shopping!

*Merci*

*A heartfelt "thank you"* to Connie Rossi of Rossi Staffing, LLC, for sponsoring the Saturday morning break at the CALSS Third Board Meeting and Educational Conference held in Silverthorne on May 13 and 14, 2011!

## REMEMBER OUR HONORARY MEMBERS

Three or four years ago, we made three very special ladies honorary members. These three ladies were a very vital part of our association. For various reasons they cannot join us at our state meetings. We should still let them know we miss them and we think about them often. Send them a card every now and then to tell them hi, how are you or just thinking about you, a birthday card on their birthday, or any other occasion.

Dolly Eager  
2915 Hayman Terrace  
Colorado Springs,  
Colorado 80910  
Birthday: July 29

Karen McKelvey  
5180 Coral Burst Circle  
Loveland, Colorado 80538  
(970) 203-4006  
Birthday: June 26

We are attempting to locate information on Doris Kane. We will update you if we find an address for her.

**Cathy L. Vlasak  
CALSS Secretary**

## MEMBER NEWS

*From Pat Thompson:* Some of you have been informed of my health issues and some have not. For those who I did not confide in, please don't feel badly. After advising some folks, I found that it was getting difficult maintaining a good outlook on life.

I didn't take the news kindly that I would need treatments for my chronic lymphocytic leukemia when the oncologist told me about it. I spent at least two to three days feeling really sorry for myself. Then I "bucked up" and accepted the fact that there wasn't any other solution - well, there was one, but I wasn't ready for that either. For the first four Fridays of April, I sat in a "chemo" chair at the oncologist's office with an IV in my arm while they ran the medication into me. The first one wasn't very pleasant - I had a slight reaction to it all - so they stopped it and gave me some Benadryl and after that, I really didn't care what was going on. Boy, that stuff is potent - at least for me. The last three treatments went a lot faster and easier. I was never sick nor was there any chance that I would lose any hair. The nurses in the chemo room took really good care of us all. I continue to say that compared to the breast cancer, these treatments were a piece of cake.

I have checked back with the oncologist and the latest blood work shows that all the numbers that should have gone up - did, and all those that needed to go down - did. My immune system isn't back to where it should be but hopefully, my body will be working on that. I have lots of energy and am feeling fine.

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, telephone calls, e-mails and good thoughts. Without all of you, it would have been a bit difficult.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Our June and July Birthdays

Connie Rossi	June 4
Cathy Hansen	June 20
Chris Shearer	July 4
Linda Smith	July 4
Barbara Chavez	July 12
Debbie Heglin	July 16
Jodi Morse	July 20
Ruth Rogge	July 20
Carol Donahue	July 22
Karen Smith	July 24
Judy Stevens	July 24
Sherry McWethy	July 28
Sonja Ostrom	July 30
Teresa Chamberlain	July 31



## MEMBER NEWS

*From Ann Salek:* I am happy to report that my son-in-law, Pete, who is a TSgt in the Air Force, has returned from a year in Korea, and he and my daughter, Rebecca, are settling into their new home in Asheville, North Carolina. I will not be at the MHALSS meeting in October because Art and I will be in Asheville visiting them and celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary while we are there.

**CALSS Leadership  
2010-2011**

<b>Officers (Executive Committee):</b>			
President:	Mark Donovan	(303) 436-9121	<a href="mailto:med@h-l-mlaw.com">med@h-l-mlaw.com</a>
President-elect:	Audrey Brekel	(303) 417-8502	<a href="mailto:audrey.brekel@hro.com">audrey.brekel@hro.com</a>
Vice-President:	Sherry McWethy	(970) 498-9229	<a href="mailto:colocode3@frii.com">colocode3@frii.com</a>
Secretary:	Cathy Vlasak	(970) 498-7450	<a href="mailto:cvasak@larimer.org">cvasak@larimer.org</a>
Treasurer:	Lisa Ritter	(970) 482-9770	<a href="mailto:lritter@ftccolaw.com">lritter@ftccolaw.com</a>
Parliamentarian:	Pauli Ingwersen	(719) 475-6487	<a href="mailto:pingwersen@hollandhart.com">pingwersen@hollandhart.com</a>

**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	Vacant
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