

FALL 2009
OHIO STATEWIDE PARALEGAL MEETING

September 12, 2009
Lane, Alton, & Horst - Columbus

Attendees:

CPA (Cincinnati) – Angela Baker-Colyer, AACP, José Pedro Santos, AACP, OSBA Certified Paralegal, Carolyn Saenz, AACP

CAP (Cleveland) – Becky Rickelman, Heidi Smith

GDPA (Dayton) – Krista Smith, Jennifer Blessing

PACO (Columbus) – Colleen Mosley, Catherine Hawes, Nell Chambers, Trina Hayes, Diana Severance, Vicki Babbert, Barry Kiser, Teresa Scharf, Melinda Livingston, Christina Adam, Kemmily Kwok and Quvadius Hennings.

PANO (Toledo) – No attendees, but did send report.

MVPA (Miami Valley) – No attendees

A meeting of the six Ohio paralegal associations was held on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the offices of Lane, Alton & Horst, Two Miranova Place, Suite 500, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The meeting was called to order by Colleen Mosley, PACO Statewide Representative, who acted as chairperson for the meeting. Nell Chambers, PACO President, welcomed the attendees on behalf of PACO.

OSBA

Melissa Quick, OSBA Certification Manager, gave a presentation on the benefits of paralegal membership in OSBA and its paralegal committee. She also discussed the requirements, application procedure, schedule, and content of the OSBA paralegal certification program. The test will be held on Saturday May 1, 2010 at the OSBA office in Columbus, Ohio.

Minutes From Last Meeting

The minutes of the April 18, 2009 Ohio statewide meeting were then reviewed and after corrections made, motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

National Association Reports

American Alliance of Paralegals

Carolyn Saenz reported that the AAP will hold its 4th Annual Paralegal Summit via Webinar regarding ethics and employment law updates on Friday, September 18, 2009 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. The Summit has been approved for 3 CLE hours by both NFPA and NALA. The cost is \$55 for non-members. The American Alliance will also be holding its annual meeting by teleconference on October 22, 2009 where new officers will be elected to take office in January, 2010.

National Federation of Paralegal Associations

Trina Hayes reported that the NFPA annual convention will be October 29-November 1, 2009 in Portland, Oregon, which she will be attending with Colleen Moseley. Agenda topics have just come out and are being reviewed. Region III, of which PACO and CAP are part of, will be electing a new Region Director at the convention. Cheryl Scheer of Greater Lexington is presently serving as Interim Region III Director.

National Association of Legal Assistants

There was no report regarding NALA.

Statewide Forum Seed Money

After discussion at the Spring 2009 meeting in Cincinnati and the decision to discontinue the Statewide Forum, checks for the seed money currently held by PACO were distributed to the associations in attendance. CAP, CPA, GDPA, PACO, and PANO each received \$240 as their share of the \$1,200 seed money. PANO's check will be mailed to President Jennifer Miller. MVPA did not receive a share of the seed money as they did not contribute to it.

Association Reports

1. PACO has many new board members for 2009-2010 and all are very excited about their roles. PACO has seen membership drop due to the economic climate and are planning events to attempt to maintain membership, including an "extreme paralegal makeover" job fair in on November 14, 2009. Last year's board in connection with the CBA offered a "stimulus plan" which lowered dues for renewing members from \$130 to \$100. PACO will continue to reach out to paralegal schools and update our bylaws and procedures, including take an immediate look at potentially increasing the time period that a member may be out of work. PACO recently participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and held an Oscar Party to recognize members for their contributions.
2. CAP has a full executive board, with several new board members. They are focusing on outreach to students and also community service to give back. CAP feels it is important that their organization begin to get recognized as a viable and professional organization. CAP created a speaker's bureau and have started a weekly email newsletter to their members to cut down on the number of email messages being sent. CAP will be participating in the Bench/Bar run on October 31 with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.
3. CPA has also seen membership drop due to the economic climate and is cutting their budget with less scholarships, cutting the price of association meetings, and eliminating the office of national affairs. José Pedro Santos is acting as the statewide representative. CPA has created an administrative coordinator to act as a liaison between the association, its committees, and their vendors. CPA will be making a presentation to firms with no paralegal members. CPA will also try to go after their vendors and request a one-time payment, like sponsor a booth at an event because they realize most vendors prepare their budgets at the beginning of each year.
4. GDPA has also seen membership drop due to the economic climate and is focusing on reaching out to schools by mentoring and creating their website. GDPA has formed a marketing committee to get their association out to the public. They have a

gift wrapping fundraiser in December, a wine social, an outlet mall outing planned. GDPA is planning an ethics seminar in 2010 with Sinclair Community College. The association is also investigating using flash drives to transfer information between board members after elections. GDPA recently celebrated their 25th anniversary.

5. PANO submitted a written report. PANO is planning brown bag lunches and social events. They are continuing student activities with a career panel at the University of Toledo and giving a scholarship to a UT student.
6. MVPA did not submit a written report.

Common Issues Affecting the Paralegal Profession

Kandice Boley of Lumen Legal gave a presentation of common issues facing the paralegal profession, speaking about the trends in the paralegal market, current unemployment rate, factors contributing to the unemployment rate, individual paralegal options in today's economic climate, things to remember when working with a staffing agency, and transferring your paralegal skills to other industries.

The next statewide meeting is scheduled to be hosted by MVPA. As they have not been in attendance at the last couple of meetings, PACO will send them an email with a deadline to respond if they will be hosting the Spring 2010 meeting, otherwise PANO will host the meeting the schedule below be adjusted by each association moving up a meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting ended.

Upcoming meetings:

Spring 2010	MVPA – Miami Valley
Fall 2010	PANO – Toledo
Spring 2011	CAP – Cleveland
Fall 2011	GDPA – Dayton
Spring 2012	CPA – Cincinnati
Fall 2012	PACO – Columbus
Spring 2013	MVPA – Miami Valley
Fall 2013	PANO – Toledo