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IN THIS ISSUE:

From Our President - Page 1

President-Elect - Page 2

Executive Secretary - Page 3

Certification/Education Director -
Page 5

Marketing Director - Page 6

Membership Director - Page 6

Immediate Past President - Page 8

Parliamentarian - Page 9

2011 Calendar of Events - Page 10

Article - Page 11

*Reprint - "The NALS of Michigan
49th Annual Meeting and
Educational Conference in Bay
City, Michigan, Through the Eyes
of a First Timer"*

Official Call to Annual Meeting -
Page 12

Article – *Lead Yourself – The
Starting Point of Leadership*, by
Betsey Ringer - Page 13

Michigan Trivia - Page 14

NALS of Michigan 2010-11 Order
Form - Page 16

2010-11 NALS of Michigan
Officers- Page 17

2010-11 Committees - Page 18

FROM OUR PRESIDENT BEVERLY BISHOP, PLS

"My First NALS Experience"

Where do I begin? As the title says, you are thinking it should be with my "first" NALS experience. That is difficult because I have to include a couple of "firsts".

To begin with, I first became acquainted with NALS and what it had to offer when my boss at the time (Mr. Wilhite) received a flyer in the mail advertising an upcoming NALS Basic Training Course hosted by NALS of Lansing. We talked about it and both thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for me to expand my knowledge of the legal field. My employer paid for the course and books, which I thought was very generous. They were serious, so I needed to be also. I wanted to get as much out of the course as possible. At that first session, the conference room was full. During that 12-week course, a quarter of those registered decided, for one reason or another, not to finish. I can tell you – it was their loss!

That course showed me that NALS members are passionate about their association, education and wanting to share it with others. The speakers each week were outstanding and candid about the subjects they talked about. Some of the classes were taught by NALS of Lansing members. I was impressed with the members' knowledge, their professionalism, their willingness to help others, and their love for NALS. There were so many NALS of Lansing members who made a great impression on me. They welcomed me and the others every week and asked if there was anything they could do between sessions to help.

Each week I got to know the NALS of Lansing members better. We formed a bond, and I decided to join their chapter. I asked my boss if our company would pay my membership dues. He said "yes". So I became a member of NALS of Lansing in 1999, continued with

the Basic Training Course, took the exam at the end of the course and passed. Several of us from that class decided to form a study group and continue studying for the ALS certification exam given in March of 2000. We all passed!

That was my first experience with becoming acquainted with NALS. I'm very thankful that Mr. Wilhite challenged me to take the course so I could "maximize my potential". I didn't know about that phrase back then, but it has a special meaning to me now.

My other "first" experience was attending my very first national education conference. This particular conference was in Anchorage, Alaska! I had never been to Alaska and thought this would be a great opportunity to see that state. My husband didn't want to go, because he thought it was crazy to go to Alaska in October because the weather would be too cold. So he stayed home – and Alaska had warmer weather than Lansing during the time we were gone! I still kid him about that.

Several NALS members from Michigan went on that trip. Many of us met at Metro Airport in Detroit and traveled together. Marion Stone's husband went on this trip and earned the title of "official tour guide". We rented cars and did a lot of sightseeing for several days before the conference started. Every day was a new experience with NALS members from all over the country. We saw plenty of moose, bald eagle, doll sheep, and the list goes on. Some of us went to a dog sled farm where they raise dogs for the famed Iditarod race. We actually went on a sled ride with the dogs pulling us over a trail in the woods. Some of us flew in a small plane over glaciers and Denali National Park. We drove to Seward and took a cruise out into the bay, seeing lots of sea otters and sea lions. We visited the small town of Talkeetna – where a sign greeted us saying "Welcome to Beautiful Downtown Talkeetna". The whole town was one block long! That is where we hooked up with the man who took us to his dog sled farm and made arrangements for the small plane excursion. One member didn't want to fly in the small plane so she stayed back in Talkeetna, opting to visit

the only bar in town and learn about the local people. I think she learned more that day than we did!

I also found out that there are many towns in Alaska that are only accessible by plane, boat or dog sled. It seems very odd to me that you cannot drive to Juneau, the capital of Alaska. There are no roads leading to that town. You need a plane, boat or dog sled. It is also comical to see a plane and small airstrip in backyards. Residents having their own plane is like us having a second car.

I have been to many, many national conferences since that time. However, this one stands out because it was my first and I learned so much – not just about the state of Alaska and its beautiful people, but about NALS members from every corner of the United States. And, I can't forget about the fantastic education that was also offered once the conference started!



PRESIDENT-ELECT SANDY J. LAVENDER, CHRS

"My First NALS Experience"

When you're here, you're family. No words could ever be more true. You see, my first NALS experience was at an Olive Garden restaurant in Eastpointe, MI. Certainly not your typical meeting place for a NALS meeting, but everything about that night was far from typical!

I had been a member of NALS (at that time my local chapter was DLSA and NALS of Michigan was MALSP) for a couple of years without ever attending one single meeting. (Shame on me! – I had no idea what I had been missing). Sure, I had reserved a place for myself for numerous events, but something always came up and I found myself easily saying that I would go to the next one. Until the unthinkable happened – our Detroit chapter was facing a difficult decision.....keep going with the help of new volunteers, or cease to exist. Rich in history, the Detroit chapter had an obligation to its members

and to NALS to move forward and change its leadership. The leadership in years past had grown overwhelmed and tired, burdened with “doing it all”. And so it began...a meeting was set up at our local Olive Garden to discuss our options with key leadership from our state association. Kathie Amirante, PP, PLS, then president of MALSP, along with Carole Schneider, PP, PLS, and Roxann Repasy met a group of us there and began to discuss options for our chapter. In no time, they got us motivated, excited and less fearful of the unknown. With their guidance and encouragement, we formed a plan – and decided that all of us could work together to revitalize our chapter. We discussed each office, and determined which one of us had the talents necessary for that office. I knew that I wanted to be a part of this group of wonderful people, and agreed to be our chapter’s Governor (now known as a Director). Throughout the course of the evening, people just started interjecting ideas with the group, and before the evening was through, a chapter had been reborn. Kathie installed us all and we were off and running. And to prove their commitment to our success, each of the state officers contacted us frequently to see how we were doing and offer us ideas and encouragement. In fact, I vividly remember the very next day receiving emails from them to show their commitment to our success.

Within a year’s time, we were stronger than ever and ready to tackle projects we never thought we would be able to do. This small group of women had a mission, and even those who had lead us before were back to coach us. We were unstoppable.

Who knew that several times over the past years we would revisit that same restaurant? Board meetings, planning sessions, “clear the air” sessions, and yes, even a family shower for me when Jim and I became parents.

When you’re here, you’re family. Funny how that simple slogan for a restaurant has become part of the NALS mantra....for you are all my “sisters-in-law”. ▲

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JANET R. VANDENBERG, ALS

“My First NALS Experience”

My First NALS experience that has stayed with me forever was not my first local meeting in 1988, or annually when state officers visited the Northern Michigan chapter, or my first state meeting in 1990, or even my first Region 3 meeting in 2001. Even though I believe that each state educational conference and annual meeting is remarkable and exciting in some form or another, the one annual meeting that sticks with me, was Annual Meeting 2000. The educational sessions, annual meeting and the Awards Banquet all have its part, but when the Clara LaGow Award, Scholarship Recipient(s), and Legal Professional of the Year f/k/a Legal Secretary of the Year, are announced, those top it all. I remember very clearly in 1999-2000 when State President Kathleen Amirante, PP, PLS, gave NALS of Northern Michigan f/k/a Emmet-Charlevoix LSA, the responsibility of being in charge of the LPY Committee. I was appointed by Kathleen Amirante to chair this committee, and Cynthia Taylor, PP, PLS, assisted me with sending out letters to the local chapters, selecting judges to make the selection of this prestigious award, getting the judges approved by the executive committee and directors, receiving nominations, and turning over the nominations for the judges to make their recommendation. That year we had several excellent candidates and I knew two of these individuals quite well. When you hold this chairmanship, you are bound by the Standing Rules that only the president and the committee chair know who the recipient is once the judges decide who the recipient will be. Maybe to many of you this doesn’t sound like a big deal, but to me at that time, it was a big responsibility.

Knowing I was bound to secrecy was a challenge, but one I succeeded at. When Cindy and I reached the Lansing Sheraton Hotel, I got very nervous -- especially knowing who the LPY recipient was and what would I do when I saw her? Could I keep it a secret? I kept thinking of

ways to avoid her, ways to vanish by getting on the elevator ahead of her, trying to avoid contact with her, and then to try to explain or should I deny that anything was wrong with me when the LPY recipient finally made contact with me. My roommate, Cynthia Taylor, PP, PLS, couldn't figure out why I was acting the way I was and I had her even stumped. All I told her was if anything happened to me before the awards banquet, this is where my speech was and this is where the award is. So for two days I kept my suitcase locked at all times because that held all the valuable information.

I took bits and pieces from the nomination papers that were submitted to the judges, things I knew about her, and mixed them all up and kept everyone in suspense until almost the end when I looked over where Karen Shively, PP, PLS, CPS was sitting and gave a remark made by her employer -- and the look on her face was priceless.

After she got the award, she asked me, "Will you talk to me now?" We have laughed together many times since that day about this, especially when we see each other at a seminar, board meeting, or annual meeting, and the subject of that annual meeting continues to come up. Karen paid it forward in 2007, when I was injured in a serious car accident. She found out from one of her chapter members about my accident on her way back from visiting family in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. So, on her way back from the U.P. she made a special stop at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey to visit me in the rehab unit. I was simply flabbergasted.

So my advice to you as a NALS member, even though you could be put in a challenging position (such as LPY committee chair, nominated for office and/or elected), get to know these NALS members as you will make some awesome friendships that will last for years to come. Yes, NALS is a professional organization with high standards. Yes, we are bound by Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility. But, when you need a NALS member to assist you in finding out information such as a process server in your

area, name of a potential speaker, sharing a room so you can attend a state or national conference, take that step forward and reach out to another NALS member and I can guarantee you, you will never regret it. This is the same for NALS members remembering you on your birthday or sending you a card, when you need those extra thoughts and prayers for something that has happened in your life.

I am so glad in 1988, when I moved from Big Rapids to Petoskey, that I was invited to a newly formed local NALS chapter meeting, and in 1990 had the opportunity to go to Grand Rapids for my first NALS of Michigan meeting with other local members. I again met some very talented and caring individuals who made me feel welcome and became my friends. Many still are 22 years later. Beverly Bishop, PLS, NALS of Michigan's current president, had her theme as **Pay It Forward**, and I challenge each and every one OF YOU, as we celebrate the **50th Anniversary for NALS of Michigan**, to take that leap of faith and **Pay It Forward** for years to come by attending as many seminars and board meetings as possible on the local, state, and national levels; study for certification if that appeals to you; and make new friendships and renew seasoned ones. As I stated in my last article and will reiterate it again: **BELIEVE** in yourself, *set boundaries to start, gain knowledge, increase your skills and see where it leads you.* **OPTIMISM** – Helen Keller said that "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." Bill Gates stated: "If you give people the tools and they use their natural **ABILITY** and their curiosity, they will develop things in ways that will surprise you beyond what you had expected." **ACCOMPLISH** – Anne Frank stated: "Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be. How much you can love. What you can accomplish. And what your potential is." **EMPOWERMENT** – stated so simply by Oprah Winfrey: "I think education is power and being able to communicate with others is power. Encourage others to empower themselves." So **BELIEVE, be OPTIMISTIC, and have FAITH; know your ABILITY,**

ACCOMPLISH your potential, and EMPOWER yourself to succeed.



**CERTIFICATION/EDUCATION
DIRECTOR
CYNTHIA A. TAYLOR, PP, PLS**

“My First NALS Experience”

This may come as a surprise to some of you, but I can hardly remember my first NALS experience. I believe it was 1980 or maybe 1981 when I was living in Gaylord and my co-worker and I were invited to attend a meeting in Traverse City, which was the closest local chapter at the time. Most of the evening is a blur but what I remembered was how welcome I felt and how special the members of that chapter were. I especially remember Margaret Scott and Betty Armour – two very special women who made me want to learn more and be more than my two years of legal experience had given me. I came back from that meeting and I knew that I wanted to be part of something at that time that I did not understand, but I knew it would play an important part of my life at some point.

Within the next year, I became a charter member of the Otsego County Legal Secretaries Association and took on the position of Chapter Governor (as we were called at that time). I was very excited to be an officer, although I had no idea what my responsibilities were and I floundered miserably in my attempt to keep the chapter “on track” and not make it a social group. I resigned from that association within a year.

I again encountered NALS in the late 1980’s when a chapter was trying to form in Mt. Pleasant. I was at the initial seminar that NALS of Michigan held there at the Holiday Inn and again felt the “tug” of the Association calling me. Unfortunately a chapter did not form in Mt. Pleasant until after I had returned to Northern Michigan.

Now for my most memorable NALS experience. When I moved to Petoskey the apartment I lived in had no laundry facilities so I went to the laundromat weekly. I was working as a medical transcriptionist at the time (because I thought I was burned out on the law) and I met a woman who was working for a local attorney. She kept telling me I needed to get back into the legal field because I had so much to offer -- and kept telling me about NALS. I told her I was familiar with NALS, but that I was not going back into the legal field. While not pushy, she continued to talk about NALS and the legal field and how I should reconsider my decision.

During that time my significant other saw an ad in the local paper for a legal secretary and said I should apply for the job. I was not happy (or healthy) working midnights at the local hospital and sent in a resumé for the position. I was called in for an interview -- and the attorney asked how soon I could start. I said I had to give a two-week notice, and he said he needed me in three days. I went home from the interview and thought about it for a few short hours and then called him and said I would take the job if he wanted to hire me. I gave a two-day notice at the hospital and went in on a Saturday to prepare for the job with the soon-to-be former employee. I had a one-hour orientation and the office was handed over to me. My employer’s former employee was a member of NALS and the employer was of the impression that NALS had taken her away from him, which was not the case. I spent several years proving to him that NALS could only enhance his office, not hinder it, and in the early 1990’s I joined the Emmet/Charlevoix Legal Secretaries Association, even though my employer still had reservations.

It will be twenty years in March of this year that I made the decision to get back into the legal field. I have never looked back. I became involved with NALS on the local, state and national level. I obtained two certifications and am very proud of my accomplishments. My boss, while he supports me in my association with NALS, wishes I would use my free time for something

fun (I told him NALS was fun, but he is still undecided about that.)

It has been a long road for me to get to NALS, but I truly believe that it was the voice of that woman in the laundromat that made me reconsider what I was doing, and what I should be doing, and what NALS could do to help me. NALS has provided me with some of the best opportunities I have ever experienced in my life. I thank my now best friend for stepping out of her "comfort zone" to encourage me to get involved with NALS -- and for NALS for never giving up on all their efforts to continue to add members, add chapters and grow this association into what it has become -- the association for legal professionals.



MARKETING DIRECTOR SHARON E. BRADLEY, PLS, CER

My First NALS Experience

I have been a member of NALS since the early 90's. It is very difficult to remember what was the FIRST NALS experience in my NALS career. My witness for NALS was Olive Pessetti. She was -- at that time -- secretary and court recorder for Judge Phillip Harter. They would ride circuit to the VA Medical Center to hold commitment hearings one or two times per week. I was the commitment clerk at the VA Medical Center and the liaison between the medical center and the court. Olive was instrumental in my NALS experience. She would talk about the organization, how great it was, and how it provided education to mold you into a more professional legal support person. She invited me to a meeting of the local association. I guess that is where my experience began. I was in awe of the women that attended. There I was like an unfinished rock someone picked up at a jewel farm. The formal structure of the meeting was a bit overwhelming because I had never attended such a formal meeting. The social structure was great. These women who did not even know me made me feel welcomed. Their faces glide through my mind like the film on a

movie projector clicking away. The years have passed and I must say that it was the members of my chapter, both past and present, that taught me the principles the members of NALS are bound by. I may not be a diamond yet, but I will settle for a polished gem.

I encourage everyone to take the time to discover the advantages of all the benefits the organization offers so that you can "be all that you can be". Thank you to NALS of Calhoun County.



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR TERESA M. GARBER, PP, PLS

"My First NALS Experience"

Approximately twelve years ago, a coworker and I went to a local NALS chapter meeting. We were not members of NALS, but were interested in the presentation for the day. We did not know anyone else there, so we sat at a table with four complete strangers. My coworker and I stayed for the meeting, then quickly left, complaining the entire way back to work that we would never join any association like that. Our reasons: (1) the others at our table spent the entire time complaining about their bosses, (2) no one was at the door to welcome us, (3) no one at our table spoke to us (they were too busy complaining about work), and (4) no one followed up with us as we were leaving. "What a bunch of grumps," was our mutual thought.

About six months later, I received an invitation to attend a Region 3 conference to be held in southern Indiana on a casino boat. Aside from the fact that we would be at a casino, the topics for the conference were right up my alley (grammar, DNA testing, etc.). Despite my dreadful time at the local chapter meeting, I was willing to give this conference a try simply because of the topics of the event. So, I went to the conference in Indiana. Again, I sat at a table with complete strangers who did not welcome me or talk to me. Thinking this was just like the last meeting (and getting ready to head for the

nearest slot machine), I was just about to give up when it was lunch time. We had a buffet lunch. I stood in line waiting for my plate when the woman in front of me turned around, looked at me with a bright smile, and said, "Are you a first timer to our conference? Welcome!" That member spent the rest of the day introducing me to other NALS members and asking me questions about my thoughts of the conference, etc. That woman? Olive Pessetti, PLS, former NALS of Michigan president! The fact that she took time to talk to me convinced me to join NALS.

There's more. Only a couple of months after I joined, the new fiscal year started. I received a call from the incoming local chapter president asking if I wanted to take on a committee position for the upcoming year. After I threw every excuse in the book at her (I just joined, I had never done anything like this before, I hate handling money), I relented and became the next Awards Night chair. I had six months to plan a nice dinner for about fifty people at a great restaurant and find a speaker to entertain. Not too daunting for someone who had only been a member for a month, right? However, with the new president's help (and the help of some other members), I got the speaker set up, and we had a great evening. My first successful chair position! Whom do I have to thank for this? Cindy Root, PP, PLS, former NALS of West Michigan president.

It gets better. As the evening was wrapping up, a member came up to me and told me that I did an excellent job as the emcee for the evening. She told me I should run for local chapter office. I told her she was nuts. What happened next? I became the chapter vice president a few months later, followed by being president-elect, two terms as president, two terms as parliamentarian, and the chair for several other committees. I have also made presentations to our members on CLE topics and have spoken to classes at Davenport and ITT about the importance of membership in NALS. Who started all of that for me? Deb Pieczynski, PP.

Back in 2007 I wrapped up my time on the local chapter board and decided I wanted to pursue something on the state level. I decided to run for executive secretary for NALS of Michigan. We had our annual meeting up in Gaylord, and I went to become the next executive secretary. I lost. Someone nominated me from the floor for treasurer. I lost that race as well. Afterward, a member told me that I lost because no one knew me and that I should just stick with committee work for now. I felt deflated. Two weeks after that annual meeting, I received a call stating that the person who was elected to treasurer was unable to stay on the executive committee. The NALS of Michigan president was asking if I would like to take her place. Thus began my tenure on the NALS of Michigan executive committee. That president? Dolores Oliver, PLS.

Over the years I have had a tremendous support system from many other members of NALS in our local chapter and from across the state. They have guided me in making important decisions that affect the association, helped me understand the workings of the other levels of NALS, encouraged me to strive for success in achieving certification, and just been all-around terrific friends and mentors. Because of them, I have cultivated a professional attitude that I carry with me in everything I do. I am being regarded as a leader by my supervisors at work and am now the one many in NALS turn to for guidance and support. I am truly grateful for the gifts I have received from other NALS members, and I am equally grateful to pass those gifts on to others.

So, what does all of this rambling mean? It means that if someone had not reached out to me personally, I would not be playing such an active role for our association now, let alone have become a member in the first place. As members of NALS, we have to remember the good things about NALS. We have to remember what it was like being the new member. We have to remember why we renew our membership. Then, **we have to pass that enthusiasm on to new members and visitors.**

I encourage everyone to reach out to those who may be considering to drop their memberships or who are unsure if they want to join and tell them why you are a member of NALS and encourage them to become active in their membership. After all, you may be talking to someone like me: a future NALS leader.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ROXANN REPASY

“What Goes Around, Comes Around”

This is one of my mother’s favorite (and my least favorite) sayings, but it certainly applies to this article about my first NALS experience.

I have to be honest...I can’t remember exactly what my FIRST experience was, but I do know that soon after starting my job as a Judicial Secretary in Jackson, I was asked to join our local chapter (then called Jackson County Legal Secretaries Association). I found this to be such an honor—to be a part of a professional association.

Then there was.....

- accompanying chapter members who were serving on the state level in their Officer Visitation to other chapters. What a wonderful experience.
- attending a NALS meeting as a delegate (yes, there were delegates on the National level) only to have there be amendments to amendments to amendments. Makes our meetings look like a piece of cake.
- participating in the bid to host the 1981 Annual Meeting in Jackson. And speaking of bids—who can forget the elaborate presentations that made the choices so much more difficult.
- volunteering to chair the Annual Meeting committee and hearing my name announced (much to the surprise of my chapter members).

- crying in my boss’ office when I learned the hotel we were going to use for the Annual Meeting was destroyed by fire a few months prior to the meeting.
- standing in front of the room reading my Governor’s Report (yes we had Governors, and everyone reported on the chapter’s quarterly events) and afterwards, receiving a postcard from State President Marcia Davis with the word BREATHE on it. Seems I never took a breath from the beginning to the end of the entire report. I still have that postcard.
- the pride of having members of my local chapter nominated and elected to the State Executive Committee, and eventually serving as President.
- the pride of having two members of my local chapter selected as Legal Professional of the Year.
- serving as a delegate or alternate delegate and being in “awe” of the executive committee. What examples of professionalism and leadership!
- the hugs of congratulations
- the embrace of sympathy
- the joy of friendship
- the butterflies when asked to serve on a local, then state, then national committees.
- the feeling of accomplishment while serving as a local or state chair/co-chair.
- sitting through the years of discussion on a name change, only to have it happen “just like that” at a national meeting.
- a great sense of loss when I missed an Annual Meeting because my boss didn’t understand the necessity of giving up ONE SATURDAY tee time!
- the exhilaration of attending National events, and Regional events, and being able to “hob nob” with the Board and find they aren’t really that much different!
- being in Carole Schneider’s room at the end of Annual Meeting and realizing that in a day I would be boarding a plane for California and leaving the association and my friends behind for a year! I am sure Carole’s husband will always

remember the many times he came by to see if we were ready to leave yet—he thought we would never stop crying!

- the campaign parties that went on until the wee hours of the morning, only to be able to bounce out of bed a few hours later and manage to stay awake during the business meeting all day.
- rooming with three (or four) other women and still all getting showered, dressed, and to the events on time.
- sharing the handouts from the meetings with my co-workers and watching their expressions as I explain that giving up a weekend is worth it.
- not practicing my “elevator speech” only to find myself having to give one.
- the jokes and the laughter
- the Emerald City Martini and Marion’s cooler.

So it is true—“What Goes Around Comes Around” --- as I write my last article as a member of the NALS of Michigan Executive Committee, there is still:

- the benefits of membership that at times are too numerous to mention, and too wonderful to describe
- the opportunities for networking that increase on each level of this association
- cutting-edge legal education and professional development programs
- butterflies and feelings of accomplishment
- a prepared elevator speech
- the Emerald City Martini and Marion’s cooler

And no matter how “seasoned” of a member I become, I will always have the sense of pride, of honor, to be a member of such a professional association.

And the friendships, the laughter, the hugs, the embraces, the jokes, and the tears --- they just become more special!

Here’s to NALS, NALS of Michigan, and all members—may we continue to be a part of

“What Goes Around Comes Around” for another 50 years....and 50 years after that...and 50 years after that!



PARLIAMENTARIAN JEANETTE L. RANSOM, PLS

“My First NALS Experience”

As I was preparing to write this article on my first NALS experience, many fond memories flashed through my head. My very first NALS meeting was actually a NALS of Lansing Installation of Officers. It was held at a banquet room of a local hotel and there were probably 50 people there. They lit candles and each new officer was called to the front of the room. The lights were turned down low and you could hear a pin drop in the room. It was quite the pomp and circumstance. The year was 1984 and I was hooked from that night forward.

In those days, when you were a local officer, you sat in the front of the room at the membership meetings, which were attended by 40+ people at the State Bar of Michigan building. I remember my first experience being a local officer was very intimidating at the time. I remember I couldn't even eat my lunch at those meetings because I was so worried about giving my officer report. That was my first introduction to speaking in front of a group. Wow, that was something.

My first NALS of Michigan Annual Meeting was in the Spring of 1985. I remember looking at the officers on the risers at the front of the room and being in awe of each of them. In those days, we stayed four people to a room and it was a real bonding experience with your local chapter members. We had to get up very early in the morning in shifts to shower so everyone would have time to get ready for the seminars and meetings. Of course, we stayed up until 2 a.m. visiting, so we were always totally exhausted. I had never been away from home for a weekend like that without my husband. I was a new mother with a toddler at home and it was such a

novelty to be with my NALS friends learning about legal education.

I had always been fascinated with the legal field and, after receiving my associate's degree in legal secretarial science, I finally had my first job at a law firm and felt like I was "living my dream." I had wanted to be a legal secretary since 8th grade guidance class when I read the description of a legal secretary and found out I had aptitude for the job. I was finally fulfilling my career -- and then I met this group of women (NALS) that all had the same aspirations. Wow, I remember feeling so lucky I had met all these new NALS friends that I had so much in common with.

As I look back, NALS really formed who I am today. Sure, things have changed since those days, but I still feel the special kinship with my fellow legal professionals when we all get together at our local and state meetings.

Thanks to all my NALS friends for enriching my personal and work life all these years. You are the greatest!



**NALS OF MICHIGAN
2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

March 11-13
NALS Professional Development & Education Conference
Tulsa, Oklahoma

April 29 – 30
NALS OF MICHIGAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING
Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa

May 15
Deadline to submit articles for the Summer Issue of *The Official Record*

June 10 – 11
Region 3 Annual Conference / NALS of Michigan Summer Board Meeting
Grand Haven/Spring Lake, Michigan

August 15
Deadline to submit articles for the Fall Issue of *The Official Record*

October 13 - 16
NALS 60th Annual Education Conference and National Forum
Cincinnati, Ohio

November 5
NALS of Michigan Directors' Meeting
State Bar of Michigan Building, Lansing

November 15
Deadline to submit articles for the Winter Issue of *The Official Record*

This article was printed in the summer 2010 issue. It is being re-submitted by Sheila Murphy, PLS, NALS of Lansing member who attended her first NALS of Michigan Annual Meeting in Bay City in April 2010. This is a must read for anyone who will be attending their first Annual Meeting in April at the Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa.

The NALS of Michigan 49TH Annual Meeting and Educational Conference in Bay City, Michigan by Sheila Murphy, PLS, NALS Lansing Chapter, Delegate, and First Timer

First Timers Breakfast: “We’re off to see the Wizard”

The Doubletree lobby was still fairly quiet at 7:30 AM as I made my way across searching for the Davidson Room. I was certain it was obvious I was one of the “First Timers”. In a moment I was met by a warm, energetic woman who I would later learn was Gloria Gonzales, Mid-Michigan ALSP, 2010 Annual Meeting Chair. She handed me a reusable shopping bag full of information and led me to the conference room where a buffet of fresh fruit, assorted pastries and muffins (little did I know that this was only the beginning of the food and goodies that awaited us that weekend!) awaited along with many more enthusiastic and friendly welcomes from NALS of Michigan officers. There were four “First Timers” in attendance. Each officer introduced herself and explained the duties of her office, and enticed us with a clue. We all worked as a *team* to find the officer’s names and clue words in a word search. The experience was a great introduction to NALS of Michigan’s and how it works. I wish I could recall the clues for *beer, sex, and Canada Dry!* As the breakfast drew to a close Lorraine Nemecek, CLA, PLS of Genesee ALSP, presented each of us with a gorgeous handmade reversible evening bag, and a “ruby” (for the ruby slippers) necklace a friend of hers had fashioned. (I spotted several of the evening bags and one of the necklaces at dinner Saturday night.) By the time I headed across the hall to the Leadership Training Session I felt like I had been a member for years, I no longer felt like an odd duck. Thank you officers and Gloria!

Exhibitors: “Oz the Magnificent”

If you have a bag (or pockets or two hands) you get to fill it with some cool goodies, and if you have business cards, a/k/a “a scrap of paper”, you can enter drawings for cool prizes!

Legal Education Seminars Topics:

Leadership Training: “Follow the Yellow Brick Road”

Professional Development: “Professor Marvel Reveals”

Real Estate: “There’s No Place Like Home”

Homeland Security: “Who’s Guarding the Castle”

The majority of the day (between yummy meals and luscious snacks) was spent absorbing a ton of stuff from some very knowledgeable speakers. There was a little something for everyone. Some speeches were packed with facts, some enticed you to stand, mingle, play a game, and even go a bit outside your comfort zone all in the name of exercising and expanding your noodle! At first I couldn’t understand why they had topics that did not seem related to our work, but by the end of the weekend (yes it took me a bit) I realized, after observing more experienced members, that the annual meeting, like NALS itself, is not just about professional growth, it is about personal growth too. And when you can grow your personal self it improves your professional self.

Welcome Party/Spelling Bee: “Who’s Guarding the Castle Now?”

Well I must admit I was under the impression going into this activity I would be a spectator...I must tell you there isn’t much about the annual meeting that is a spectator sport! Even if you are a wall flower you will find yourself a participant...and not the kind where they make all the “first timers” dress up and put on a skit, against their will, (although they did tell us that was what we had to do!), but the kind of participant that feels very much a part of the group. You would feel like the odd woman out if you *didn’t* participate. NALS ladies all have a way of making you feel like you are a long lost friend and embrace you with warm, cozy, open arms. Back to the “Bee”...it was a group effort. It was extremely challenging but loads of fun! Having just sat for my PLS and passing I was quite surprised at how many facts from the Beginning Manual I still had to learn. What a great way to keep your knowledge base broad.

Business Part of the Meeting: “Pay No Mind to the Man Behind the Curtain”

Wow! More food. More rich, scrumptious snacks. More treats (to sway your vote). Raffles. Awesome prizes. Fundraisers. Stuff to buy. Ceremony. Pride. Tears. Reports. Voting on adoption of rules and procedures. Minutes. Voting. Input. Voting. Reports. Input. Speeches. Voting. How wonderful to experience all this for the first time as a delegate!

A yummy lunch break with an inspirational woman, Catherine S. Reder, PLS, 1992-1993 NALS of Michigan President. If you were uncertain where NALS could possibly lead you/take you Ms. Reder is a beacon—from secretary to attorney.

Budgets. Amendments. Voting. Bids. Cookies. Updates. Announcements. Drawings! Whew! Grab up all your goodies and get washed up for more.

Awards Banquet & Oaths of Office Saturday Evening: “Behold, the Emerald City”

If you are looking for inspiration, look no further than the final evening. Inspiring, touching, motivating, emotional, and quite awesome. From a young woman destined to be a future leader (Scholarship Winner), to current NALS members /leaders (Clara LaGow Award and the Legal Professional of the Year recipients), to past NALS leaders, the room was filled with women to aspire to. The ceremony and dignity as the new President took office was something to be a part of.

I truly enjoyed meeting NALS of Michigan leaders of the past, the present, and the future. NALS is full of amazing women. It would be hard not to leave the annual meeting feeling inspired to reach beyond your comfort zone, and strive for the next goal. The evening was so memorable it doesn't matter if I didn't get the memo on the dress code, I never felt out of place. It was truly an honor to be there as a delegate, and unforgettable as a First Timer.

Tips for newcomers:

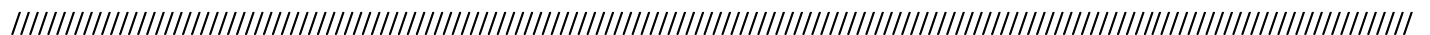
- If you can, stay at the hotel the final evening. After a day full of meetings it would have been nice to have a room to go back to rest and freshen up.
- Pack a nice outfit for the final evening; the evening runs semi-formal to formal. Casual work wear made me feel very under dressed. Pack work attire for the main part of the weekend (seminars/business meeting portion); pack a casual outfit (and a swim suit if desired) as the first evening can be a casual dinner and there is a break between the day's events and the evening activities for a walk, jog, shopping, whirlpool dip or swim. And cool jammies for the night meeting before bed to discuss with your Chapter how voting will go!
- Bring snacks. The more seasoned gals will provide the Jello and pudding shots!
- Bring lots of singles to enter all the drawings. Don't bring ultra fitted clothes...too much good food and chocolate snacks! And most of all bring an open mind and be ready to be awed!



OFFICIAL CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The 50th NALS of Michigan Annual Meeting will be held April 29-30, 2011, at the Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa, Thompsonville, Michigan. The registration forms can be downloaded from the NALS of Michigan website at www.nalsofmichigan.org.

We hope to see you there for the Night of Networking, great education, electing new officers and voting for a scholarship recipient, plus the banquet on Saturday evening including more networking, the installation of the 2011-2012 officers, announcement of the Legal Professional of the Year and the Clara LaGow recipient.



Lead Yourself – The Starting Point of Leadership



By [Betsy Ringer](#) (Keynote Speaker for the [2011 NALS Professional Development & Education Conference](#))

We are all leaders. A leader influences others and all of us have people in our sphere of influence. Whether you lead your family, friends, service teams, corporate teams or organizations the starting point of all leadership is learning to lead yourself.

You are the CEO of your life. Step into that role and live intentionally. Too many of us rush through the days which slip into months and years and we end up skimming our lives rather than truly living them. Consider everyday choices you can make that will help shift your life into one of meaning and influence.

You have choices and decisions to make that affect the quality of your life including how to:

- Take care of your mind
- Love and respect your body
- Rest, laugh, play
- Enjoy loving relationships
- Make money, save money, spend wisely
- Know peace, compassion, and share what you have
- Grow in your faith
- Treat yourself with respect; know your boundaries
- Take time to breathe
- Choose your attitude

...and many more

Think about leading yourself throughout the day in the words you choose, making opportunities to laugh, making the conscious decision to be gracious.

Choose one thing you will focus on for the next week. Choose one of these ideas or come up with your own:

How will you take care of your mind?

- Say no to junk information and media
- Try something new
- Read a book that nourishes your mind and soul

How will you treat yourself with respect and keep important boundaries?

- Take inventory of all you are doing and let go of some of your activities
- Give yourself permission to say “no” or to let go of the pressure you put on yourself to “fix” others.

Take time to really enjoy some loving relationships in your life.

- Who are you going to invest in?
- What is something loving you can do for them?
- Who is valuable to you—let them know.

As the CEO of your life you can actually choose your attitude. Choose how you will treat others. Choose how you will enjoy your job and your assignments. Choose to give your best even when you aren't feeling your best. Choose to embrace challenges and to triumph over adversity. The attitude you choose influences how you approach life, your job and the effectiveness in what you do. I'd like to introduce you to a very inspiring video. There are times when we think we are handling life well and times we know we need to make a shift in order to be more effective. A tweak in our attitude can positively impact the people and projects around us. The person in this video is incredible. He is an example of someone who has leads himself well and inspires others.

Betsy Ringer is a Speaker, Life Coach, Personality Specialist and Author. She has trained supervisors and managers, worked with leaders in many organizations, and owned her own business. She now works with the iBloom team (www.ibloom.us) where she coaches entrepreneurs and speaks to many groups about personalities, leadership and living a thriving life.

Originally published at www.nals.org by NALS...the association for legal professionals.



MICHIGAN TRIVIA

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

From 1910 to 1920, Hamtramck, Michigan, grew from 3,589 to 45,615 residents, leading the nation in growth for that period.

During the lumber boom era, the row of saloons that lined Water Street in Bay City was known as 'Hell's Half Mile'.

In 1936, Escanaba, Michigan harvested and processed 100,000 sq. ft. of birds eye maple to be used in the English Luxury Liner, the Queen Mary.

When the territory of Michigan was created on Jan. 11, 1805, Detroit was chosen as its capital.

Bagley's Corner was the original name of Bloomfield Hills.

The world's only marble lighthouse is located on Belle Isle. (Livingston Lighthouse)

Hog's Hollow was the original name of Utica, Michigan.

There are over 11,500 lakes in Michigan.

The home offices of Life Savers Candy, Beech-Nut Gum, and Squirt soft drinks are in Holland, Michigan.

In 1870, Detroit became the nation's first telephone customers to have phone numbers assigned to them.

Charles A. Lindbergh was born in Detroit on Feb. 4, 1902.

The Stars and Stripes first flew over Michigan soil on July 11, 1796.

In Sept. 1908, William C. Durant organized several independent automobile plants into what was to become General Motors.

Michigan began charging an annual license fee of 50 cents in 1915 for autos.

Michigan's first police woman began walking the beat in Detroit in 1893.

In 1942, the Davison Freeway in Detroit was completed and became the world's first urban freeway.

The first soft drink, (Vernor's Ginger Ale) was introduced by a Detroit Pharmacist, James A. Vernor, in 1866.

Note: There were several 'elixirs' on the market at that time, including what would later be called Coca Cola. These contained alcohol, whereas Vernor's didn't. Thus the name 'soft' drink.

The intersection of Woodward Avenue and Grand Avenue in Detroit proudly displayed the world's first traffic light in 1915, leaders of 19 countries and 26 states came to check it out in the first six months.

In 1688, Father Jacques Marquette founded the first permanent settlement in what would later become Michigan.

The world's first shopping mall (Northland Mall), opened in the Detroit suburb of Southfield in 1954. Newspapers from overseas as well as this country wrote that it would never catch onDuh?

The world's first painted highway center lines were featured in Trenton, Michigan in 1911. They were then used in other towns and was how Center Line, Michigan got its name.

Michigan ranks Number 1 nationally in the production of dog sleds.

The nation's largest indoor/outdoor museum complex is Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

Opened in 1904, the nation's oldest freshwater aquarium (was) the Belle Isle Aquarium.

The onion is Michigan's largest fresh-market vegetable crop.

NALS OF MICHIGAN 2010-11 ORDER FORM



Name: _____
 Delivery _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Product	Size	Color	Price	Quantity	Total
Oxford Shirt (long sleeve) (M-XL) (peach or blue) (1XL, XXL,XXL) Both NALS and NALS of Michigan logo available			\$32 \$36		
Cardigan (NALS of Michigan) (S-XL) (red, black, white, gray)			\$33		
Fleece Vest (Med only) 1 each black, rose (NALS) and red (NALS of Michigan)			\$32		
"Legal Cover Up" Nightshirt (one size fits all) Black or White (very roomy and comfortable!)			\$15		
Golf Shirt – 1 V-neck with collar (black) (Small) (NALS of Michigan)			\$22		
Silk Touch Pique Sport Shirt * (S-XL) (mint green – red – hibiscus – light blue) (XXL-2X)			\$25 \$30		
Sterling Silver NALS Pendant (limited edition – only 1 left!)			\$80		
NALS of Michigan Pin (NEW ITEM!)			\$5		
<i>Now Available!</i> 50th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt (S-2X)			\$15		
ORDER TOTAL:					
Shipping (price is per item):			\$3.00		
FINAL ORDER TOTAL w/Shipping:					

*Esprit de corps (pronounced es-pree deh core) translates from French as *group spirit*. It is a synonym for words like *morale*, *comradeship*, and *purpose*. It is often used in common language to refer to any group that appears united and protective of its members.

Make your check made payable to:
"NALS of Michigan"

and return this form to:



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*** Be sure to call ahead to confirm size and color availability ***

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