



a monthly publication of The Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc.

BRING ON APRIL!!!

ALL Regions Career Fair April 23, 2022 *



MAY

ALL Regions Paralegal Day May 4, 2022 *

**more information on page 4*

SPRING FORWARD WITH AAPI

This issue of the *AAPI Brief* applauds our wonderful region directors and the great job that they are doing. Each works hard to plan events for the members in their region. With the pandemic, it has been challenging to host the usual monthly region lunches, but each director tried to come up with ways to keep the members engaged and connected. In this issue, we learn a bit about each of them and about their planning for the upcoming Paralegal Day events in May.

Also in this issue, members are able to see where we stand financially with the "State of Affairs." At the second regular board meeting, the Board of Directors discussed and approved, taking a portion of the general fund to set up "a Rainy Day" fund. This account is being established to secure one year's operating expenses for AAPI, as an emergency fund. Just as we all are told as adults, to have an emergency account, AAPI should do the same for the benefit of our Association.

In its forty (40) years of existence, AAPI has experienced great participation from its members. Some years had more participation than others, but this organization reflects a steady representation of paralegals in the state of Alabama. Right now, there are 141 members in our Association. Are you the only AAPI member in your firm? If so, why? Tell your co-workers about AAPI. Tell them about the many opportunities/benefits for members; tell them about the fun events; tell them about the educational offerings to stay current in our profession (technical, skills and legal knowledge); tell them about the professional opportunities they can learn to advance in their jobs; tell them about the community service projects; tell them about the sponsors and great services that they provide; tell them about the networking opportunities of being able to reach out to someone in another part of the state to answer a question about a certain practice of law or court procedures in that municipality; tell them about the great summer conferences you can attend; and tell them about tell them about the friendships you gain as a member- because

(continued)



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SPRING FORWARD WITH AAPi (cont.)



that in itself keeps me coming back year after year.

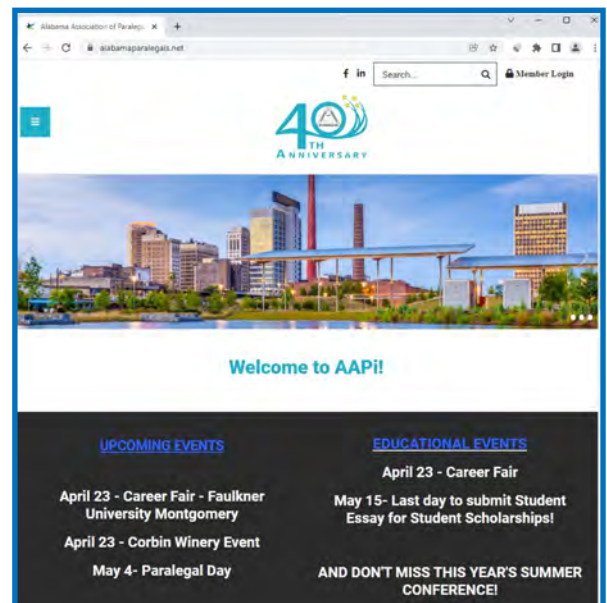
Be sure to check out the many events planned for April and **definitely** mark your calendars for the upcoming 40th anniversary celebration to be held at this year's Summer Conference and Annual Meeting. The seminar committee headed by 2nd Vice President-Seminars, Jeanie C. Johnson, ACP, has been and is hard at work planning a phenomenal conference for attendees. The topics are relevant to today's areas of practice from preparing for a civil or criminal trial to learning the latest about real estate; learning how the pandemic changed court proceedings from deposition to hearings/trials; hearing about NALA certification and the benefits of NALA as a member of AAPi; and so much more. Long-time serving members are scheduled to attend, including past presidents who will be on hand to share stories about AAPi, when it was known as AALA!! And need I mention the beach - this year's setting- The Island House hotel, where *each room is gulf-front with a beach view!!*



Finally, our website has been revamped! I encourage you to visit our website, www.alabamaparalegals.net Some of you may remember when AAPi first got a website. Did I just date myself? There have so many changes - the format, the software, the database, and many other technical upgrades. To stay current with technical trends, the AAPi website was upgraded. It took a while to coordinate all of the needed and requested changes, but now members should be able to better navigate their way to gather information, register for events, and learn more about AAPi. Please check it out!

As always, thank you for your continued support in *our* organization. Do your part to build AAPi's success for the next forty (40) years.

- Adrienne Berry, CP
AAPi President



PARALEGALS IN THE STATE OF

ALABAMA

ARE RECOGNIZED

STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the Legal Assistant profession has evolved and developed in legal communities across the United States over the last twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Legal Assistants, also known as Paralegals, comprise a group of men and women, who with the highest professional responsibility and ethics, strive to enhance the public service provided by Alabama's lawyers, judges, administrative agencies, and a multitude of other community-minded organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, Legal Assistants sustain and support the daily operations of the state and federal courts, providing much needed and cost-effective services to Alabama's judicial system; and

WHEREAS, on any given day, Legal Assistants research law, investigate facts, interview witnesses, and structure legal documents which assist attorneys and other legal professionals in the efficient and timely administration of justice for the citizens of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Alabama are urged to recognize the Legal Assistants and Paralegals in Alabama who make important contributions to our lives and the legal community and are encouraged to share in the appreciation and gratitude we express with this recognition:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Fob James, Jr., Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 3, 1995, as

LEGAL ASSISTANT/PARALEGAL DAY

in Alabama.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, and the Great Seal of the Governor's Office at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this the 22nd day of March, 1995.

Fob James, Jr.
FOR JAMES, JR.



MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Resolution
PERMANENTLY DESIGNATING EACH WEDNESDAY OF LAW WEEK
AS LEGAL ASSISTANT AND PARALEGAL DAY IN ALABAMA
By Senator Windom

WHEREAS, the legal assistant profession has evolved and developed in legal communities across Alabama and the United States over the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS, legal assistants, also known as paralegals, comprise a group of men and women who, with the highest professional responsibility and ethics, strive to enhance the public service provided by Alabama's lawyers, judges, administrative agencies, and a multitude of other community-minded organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, legal assistants maintain and support the daily operations of the state and federal courts, providing much-needed and cost-effective services to Alabama's judicial system; and

WHEREAS, on any given day, legal assistants research law, investigate facts, interview witnesses, and prepare legal documents which assist attorneys and other legal professionals in the efficient and timely administration of justice for the citizens of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Alabama are urged to recognize the legal assistants and paralegals in Alabama who make important contributions to our lives and the legal community and are encouraged to share in the appreciation and gratitude we express with this recognition; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby declare that the Wednesday of Law Week in 1996, and each year thereafter, is officially and permanently designated as Legal Assistant and Paralegal Day in Alabama.

I hereby certify that the above is a true, correct and accurate copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 95, adopted by the Legislature of Alabama on April 23, 1996.

McDowell Lee
McDowell Lee
Secretary of Senate



ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF PARALEGALS CELEBRATES PARALEGAL DAY!!!



WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

Region 1's Paralegal Day Luncheon


We are excited to celebrate Paralegal Day with you on **May 4, 2022**. This year's luncheon is sponsored by **Veritext** and is being held at Faulkner University's Birmingham campus. See event details below.

A SPECIAL GIFT WILL BE GIVEN OUT TO ATTENDEES AND THERE MAY BE OTHER SURPRISES, AS WELL!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT AND WILL CLOSE ON MAY 2, 2022.

**May 4, 2022 | 11:30 am | Faulkner University
Southlake Village, 4524 Southlake Pkwy
Birmingham, AL 35244**

THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING TO ATTEND
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



PARALEGAL DAY CELEBRATION MAY 4, 2022

REGION II

Please join AAPI in celebrating all Alabama paralegals for a complimentary luncheon on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Faulkner University located at 5345 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, Alabama 36109. AAPI will provide its members with great food catered by Eastbrook Café & Catering, a special presentation of TrialDirector provided by Huseby, and a special gift of appreciation for all your hard work and dedication. Being a part of AAPI is truly a wonderful organization and this is an appreciation of its members.

Please register for this event online through StarChapter at alabamaparalegals.net or notify Region II Director Doe Dorsey at region2@alabamaparalegals.net. Registration ends on May 2, 2022.

TIME
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

PLACE
FAULKNER
UNIVERSITY

CATERED BY EASTBROOK
CAFÉ & CATERING

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF
TRIALDIRECTOR COURTESY
OF HUSEBY GLOBAL
LITIGATION SUPPORT
SERVICES

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

REGISTER ONLINE
STARCHAPTER AT
ALABAMAPARALEGALS.NET

OR

CONTACT
REGION II DIRECTOR
DOE DORSEY AT
[REGION2@ALABAMA
PARALEGALS.NET](mailto:REGION2@ALABAMA
PARALEGALS.NET)

MEMBERS ONLY
COST \$0



YOUR INVITED TO THE
REGION 3 PARALEGAL DAY LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022
12:00 NOON

OFFICES OF ALABAMA COURT REPORTING
7 N. CLAIBORNE ST., MOBILE, AL

Our title sponsor for the luncheon is Alabama Court Reporting. The Hon. Nick Matranga, Mobile County License Commissioner, will be our featured speaker. This event is for AAPI members only and free of charge. AAPI has purchased a gift for each attendee in honor of our 40th anniversary.

Please register on our website or RSVP to Region3@alabamaparalegals.net by April 22, 2022.



ACR invites you to an

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

celebrating paralegals and legal assistants.

WEDNESDAY 4th MAY
from 11:00-2:00

AC HOTEL
435 Williams Ave SW
Huntsville, AL 35801
2nd floor

A FEW WORDS FROM THE AAPI REGION DIRECTORS!



REGION 1

Say hello to Susan Conger

Region 1 Director

It has been fantastic to be back on the AAPI Board this year and I have thoroughly enjoyed representing AAPI again as its Region 1 Director for 2021-2022.

I am confident that I already know many of you and many of you know me, but I would briefly like to introduce myself to you and I look forward to you doing the same.

I have worked at the Sirote & Permutt law firm for approximately 27 years. We are now known as Dentons Sirote PC which has been hard to get used to, but it has been a super positive experience. It is also surreal to know that I work for the largest law firm in the world. I really enjoy reading Denton's weekly newsletters about its people in 200+ locations and 80+ countries around the world.

I have worked as a paralegal in Sirote's litigation department since 2000, but I started working at Dentons Sirote in 1995, which was approximately two years after completion of my paralegal studies. I have been married to Rick Conger forever and we have three amazing children and six perfect grandchildren.

The first picture below is a photo of my family that was taken this past Christmas. The second picture, also taken this past Christmas, contains four generations of "Catherine's." My Mom

is Catherine, everyone calls her Kit, and she will be 93 on her next birthday which is in May. Then there is me, Susan Catherine, and you probably don't want to know my age. Next is my daughter Jodi Catherine and she is a registered dietician and a New Year's baby. Finally, we are blessed with Estella Catherine, and she is our only granddaughter at this time. She is also the caboose after we were blessed with five handsome grandsons.



I'm super extroverted so please let me know if you want me to plan something you might enjoy doing and I will be happy to oblige. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Paralegal Day celebration on May 4, 2022.

*Susan Conger
Region 1 Director*

A FEW WORDS FROM THE AAPI REGION DIRECTORS!



REGION 2

Meet Region 2 Director — Doe Dorsey!

Doe moved from her hometown of Alton, Illinois to Pike Road, Alabama on July 2, 2017. She met her husband, Mark, on a blind date on October 31, 1997, and have been together ever since. Together Mark and Doe have three children Alexis Bohannon, Steven Dorsey, and Samantha Dorsey. They also have one granddaughter, Kinsley Mae, who will be three years old in August. In addition, they have a miniature schnauzer named Gypsy that pretty much rules their home.

Doe received a paralegal degree in 2002 from Kansas State University and worked for 18 years at the Heyl Royster law firm in Edwardsville, IL. She is currently employed as a paralegal at Rushton, Stakely, Garrett & Johnston, P.A. in downtown Montgomery. Doe is an avid “gamer” in her free time, enjoys crafting wreaths and home decor, and also loves to care for her hummingbirds in season. Mark and Doe are active members of St. James United Methodist Church in Pike Road. They enjoy serving the church every Sunday during the contemporary service and in several capacities on a weekly basis. They also love to volunteer through St. James’ outreach programs throughout the year, assisting those in need in the Montgomery area. The majority of Mark and Doe’s family and friends reside in Illinois, and it’s always a blessing when they come to visit.

Mark joined the Alton Police Department in 1989 after graduating from Southern Illinois University. He retired from the Alton Police Department in 2017 after serving 28 years. Throughout Mark’s career, he served the majority of his time as a detective within the department and was an investigator with the Illinois Major Case Squad. He also served several years with the St. Louis, MO, division of the Drug Enforcement Administration where his cases lead him around the country. Mark could only sit still for a few months after retirement, and in 2018 was offered and accepted a position as an analyst with Optum-United Health Care in Montgomery and works remotely from home. Mark enjoys watching Alabama Crimson Tide football (Roll Tide!), and reading.



*Doe Dorsey
Region 2 Director*

A FEW WORDS FROM THE AAPI REGION DIRECTORS!



REGION 3

Greetings from the Region 3 Director, Kim Tillman.



I have been employed by the Mobile County License Commission since June 1, 2022. I have two married children ages 31 and 33. I currently have two grandchildren, Addie (age 8) and Charles (age 3), and enjoy spending time with them on the weekends. My hobbies include playing the piano, traveling and camping with family.

We continue to hold monthly functions on an “as announced” basis in our area. The beginning of this year has brought many new things to AAPI. Region 3 currently has 26 members. Please check out new webpage design at www.alabamaparalegals.net. You will see that we are “calling all cooks”. We are requesting that you send your favorite recipe to ways@alabamaparalegals.net for inclusion in the AAPI cook book that will be available for purchase at the Summer Conference and Annual Meeting in Orange Beach. Speaking of semi-

nars, don’t forget to register and make your hotel reservations. It is our 40th anniversary!! There are many special things planned for the weekend and I hope to see all of you there.

Our association has faced many challenges over the past few years but we remain committed to support, educate and mentor our fellow paralegals. We have continued to support our student members with constant contact with area colleges and also continue our partnership as a NALA affiliate on the national level.

I want to express my gratitude for allowing me to serve as Region 3 Director for the past two years. I could not have done it without your support and the assistance of my two of my fellow board members, Deb Paul and Jane McKinnon. They are to be commended for their unwavering support, help and guidance over the past two years. To that end, I would like to hear from you. Please reach out with suggestions for luncheon topics, community service projects or afterhours functions. I would love to hear from you.

*Kim Tillman,
Region 3 Director*


REGION 4

The Director position in Region 4 is currently vacant. If you are interested in serving, please contact AAPI President, Adrienne Berry, CP at president@alabamaparalegals.net.

HAPPENINGS

Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc. presents:

FREE CAREER FAIR



What to expect:

- employer booths
- resume review
- mock interviews
- professional attire tips
- professional makeup tips
- presentation of tips and tricks in the field
- free headshots
- goodies

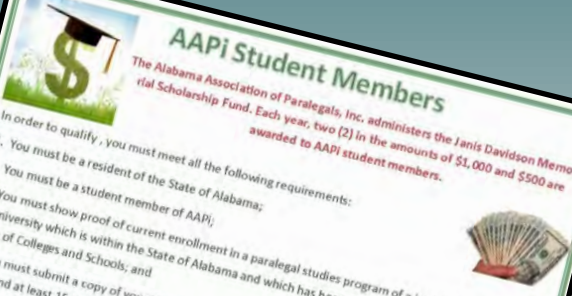
Saturday, April 23, 2022
09.00 AM
Until 11:30AM

Faulkner Dinner Theater
5346 Atlanta Hwy
Montgomery, AL 36109

Questions: pr@alabamaparalegals.net

AAPi Student Members

The Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc. administers the Janis Davidson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year, two (2) in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$500 are awarded to AAPi student members.



In order to qualify, you must meet all the following requirements:

1. You must be a resident of the State of Alabama;
2. You must be a student member of AAPi;
3. You must show proof of current enrollment in a paralegal studies program of a junior college, college, or university which is within the State of Alabama and which has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and
4. You must submit a copy of your transcript which shows that you have a 3.0 or better average on a 4.0 scale and at least 15 semester hours of paralegal course work (or its equivalent in quarter hours).

To apply for these scholarships you must submit an essay (minimum 300 words) on one of the following topics:

- What qualities should a good paralegal possess?
- If you had the power to change a law, which would it be and why?
- Describe a defining moment in your life that made you want to pursue a paralegal career.

RULES:

- The essay must be original and the work of the student and the student must be willing to attest to its originality;
- The student(s) receiving the scholarship(s) must agree to allow AAPi to publish the essay in the NOVUS; and all essays and qualifying paperwork must be mailed to: Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc., Attn: Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 1834, Birmingham, AL 35201;
- Essays must be postmarked by no later than May 15, 2022. Essays cannot be emailed or handed to a Board Member;
- All scholarship proceeds will be made payable to your school and will be placed in your account to be used for tuition expenses; and
- The scholarships will be awarded during the awards ceremony at AAPi's 2022 Paralegal Convention, which will convene August 18-21, 2022, in Orange Beach, Alabama.

The AAPi Board hopes you will take advantage of this opportunity to apply for one of these scholarships. To apply for membership or find out more about AAPi, check out the website @ www.alabamaparalegals.net

Conference Registration

Registration

- Admittance to all classes
- Handouts from all classes
- Continental breakfast provided for attendees for Saturday and Sunday mornings
- Two tickets to Friday's 80's dance party
- One Ticket to Saturday's Annual Meeting & Luncheon (members only)
- Two tickets to Saturday's 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
- Access to the Sponsor/Exhibitor Hall
- Snacks
- Special 40th Anniversary goodie bag

COME HELP US CELEBRATE AAPi's 40th Anniversary

CALLING ALL COOKS RECIPES



INGREDIENTS:
YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES FOR AAPi's 40th ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK!

PROCEDURE:

- SEND YOUR RECIPE IN A WORD DOCUMENT TO WATS@ALABAMAPARALEGALS.NET BY APRIL 30, 2022



\$40.00 FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

For more information, see the website!

AAPI STATE OF AFFAIRS

Financial News as of April 15, 2022

Bank Accounts

Checking	47,294.18
Savings (Scholarship)	6,007.74
TOTAL	\$53,301.92

ROUND THE WATER COOLER . . .

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
OUR MEMBERS BORN
IN THE MONTH OF
APRIL!



MEMBERSHIP

(as of 4/15/2022)

Active	119
Associate	11
Student	4
Sustaining	3
Lifetime	4
Region 1	81
Region 2	24
Region 3	30
Region 4	7
TOTAL	142

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Half Day Seminar
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Easter	18 Tax Day	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 Career Fair Montgomery
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEARS . . .

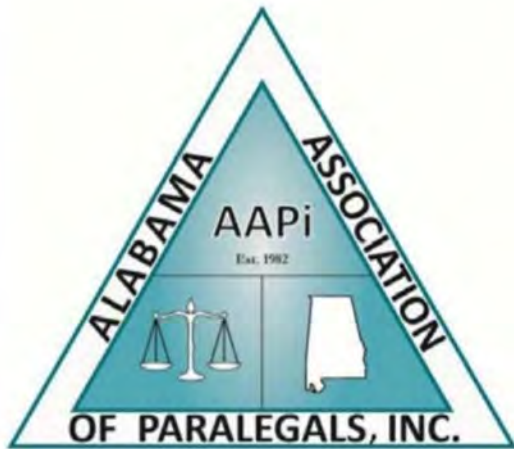


DO YOU SEE ANYONE YOU KNOW?



To submit materials for publication or to advertise, please contact our Editorial Staff at communications@alabamaparalegals.net.

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MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the paralegal profession through awareness and education.

VISION STATEMENT

Advancing Alabama paralegals through education and career development.

UPCOMING EVENTS. . .

April 23, 2022 9:00 am—11:30

CAREER FAIR

Faulkner Dinner Theater
5346 Atlanta Hwy
Montgomery, AL 36109

PARALEGAL DAY LUNCHEON **(MEMBERS ONLY)**

REGION 1

May 4, 2022 11:30 am—1:00 pm

Cost: FREE TO MEMBERS

To Register:

Please register in advance on website

REGION 2

May 4, 2022 11:30 am—1:00 pm

Cost: FREE TO MEMBERS

To Register:

Please register in advance on website

REGION 3

May 4, 2022 12:30 pm—2:00 pm

Cost: FREE TO MEMBERS

To Register:

Please register in advance on website

REGION 4

May 4, 2022 11:00 am—2:00 pm

Cost: FREE TO MEMBERS

To Register:

Please register in advance on website