



---

# NALS OF MICHIGAN

---



	Page
Message from President Kathie	1
NALS News	4
Paralegal Bootcamp	7
NALS of Michigan Finance Fundraiser	8
NALS of Michigan Scholarship Fundraiser	9
NALS of Lansing Education Opportunity Murder Mystery Fine Wine and Good Friends	11
NALS of Greater Kalamazoo Summer Social Kalamazoo Walking Beer Tour	12

JULY 15, 2022

# NALS of Michigan

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KATHIE

It has been nearly three months since we were together in Frankenmuth for Annual Meeting. I have been busy getting myself acclimated to my new duties as your President. When I attended the meeting, I had no idea that I would come home as President, and since then I have had no clue what I am doing. It has been 22 years since I did this before and so much has changed. So, I hope you will stay patient with me while I stumble through the process.

I first and most importantly want to congratulate Teri Garber and Cathy Zachery for the outstanding job they did putting together the Annual Meeting in Frankenmuth. The education was outstanding, the venue was unique with a beautiful view with plenty of delicious food, and of course the networking with members we look forward to seeing every year made it a truly wonderful Annual Meeting. Thank you, Teri and Cathy.

Just to keep you all up to speed, the members present elected the following officers for 2022-23:

President: Katheen Amirante, PLS

Vice President of Membership & Marketing: Julieann Elliott

Vice President of Legal Education and Certification: Jennifer Joy Yocum

Secretary: Tonya Mashue, PP, PLS

Treasurer: Kathy Hilgendorf

Then with approval of the Board I appointed:

Parliamentarian: Sherri Bowden, PP, PLS

Executive Advisor: Heidi Hopper, PP, PLS

Hopefully together this Board will serve NALS of Michigan well this coming year.

My first duty as President was to appoint committee chairs. This has not been an easy process. So many of us are so busy, or maybe tired of serving in the same way over and over, or for numerous other reasons I am not finding enough volunteers to fill the positions. Therefore, some of our usual activities will not get done this year.

## Committees:

2023 Annual Meeting	Laleise Curtiss (NALS of Detroit)
Certification	Timothy Kelley (New Member) (NALS of Detroit)
Credentials	Vacant
Finance	Heidi Hopper, PP, PLS (NALS of Lansing) Sue Acklin, PP, PLS (Member at Large)
Financial Review	Marion Stone, PP, PLS (NALS of Jackson)
Legal Education	Vacant
LPY	Janette Carras NALS of Jackson County
Marketing/Public Relations	Vacant
Membership	Michelle Spiker, PLS (NALS of Lansing)
Nominations	Lindi Hunter (NALS of Lansing) Jennifer Robinson (NALS of Greater Kalamazoo) Marion Stone, PP, PLS (NALS of Jackson)
Past President's Council	Carole Schneider, PP, PLS (NALS of Lansing)
Scholarship	Jessica Bertolozzi (NALS of Lansing) Heidi Hopper, PP, PLS (NALS of Lansing)
State Publication	Vacant
Strategic Planning	Vacant
Technology/Website	Heidi Hopper, PP, PLS (NALS of Lansing)

As you can see some members are stepping up and shouldering quite a lot for NALS of Michigan and I can't thank them enough.

I would truly love to have a technology chair to help with things like virtual meetings and social media sites we could advertise or post things on to draw interest to our association. If anyone out there likes to play around with techie stuff please let me know. It is one of my major handicaps as I can barely handle my phone that is smarter than me.

The Board met for a planning meeting and we have some things ready to go, and some in the planning stages.

The Finance Committee plans to kick off their first fundraiser August 1<sup>st</sup>. The details are on page 8.

The Scholarship Committee has a garage sale fundraiser planned for August 13, 2022. If you have been doing your spring housecleaning a little late or fall clean-up a little earlier, please consider donating that stuff you have been meaning to get rid of to the sale. The details for this fundraiser are on page 9.

Jennifer Yocum has been working on a statewide study hall for any and all interested in taking one of the certification exams this year. If you have been thinking about it, putting it off, not sure how to get started this exam cram is for

you. The plan is to start mid-August and be prepared to take the exam next spring. I will have more information out to you soon. We have an outline and study schedule ready to go, and are just working out minor details. So, look for this soon.

I would also love to hear from local chapters. NALS of Lansing and NALS of Greater Kalamazoo have exciting programs coming up and I have provided the information on pages 11 and 12.

My plan this year is to schedule a membership meeting in October and then the annual meeting in April. I will be working on those details and will have that information out to you in the next newsletter. **However, unless I get a chair for Legal Bytes our newsletters will just be news from me. I am not techy enough to put together anything close to the excellence of our past editions.**

Please contact me if you have any interest at all in moving NALS of Michigan forward. Put your thinking caps on and imagine the possible if we work together for the future of our association.

I am honored that you have entrusted me with the leadership of NALS of Michigan this year. I will do my best but can't do it alone. I appreciate all of you who have stepped up and all who are working in their local chapters to insure NALS continues to thrive in Michigan.

Kathleen Amirante, PLS  
President

## NALS NEWS:



### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**

Charlotte, NC 🏢 Sept. 15-17, 2022

### **NALS 2022 National Legal Education Conference September 15-17, 2022 Sonesta Charlotte Executive Park**

It is time to think about attending the NALS Education Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Pursuant to the Standing Rules, NALS of Michigan will pay the registration fee for two members to attend the conference. All Michigan members registering by early bird registration deadline of August 15, 2022, will have their names put in a hat for the drawing and will be reimbursed for the registration fee of \$349 plus the \$50 fee for the Foundation Gala Event. A reduced registration for retired members and student members is \$249.

Please send a copy of your registration confirmation to me by September 11, 2022, for your name to be included in the drawing. If you miss the August 15 early bird deadline you can still add your name to the drawing but we will only pay the early bird rate. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY.

Book your reservations at Sonesta Charlotte Executive Park by August 24, 2022. Room Rate is \$159 a night.

All information can be found on the NALS website under Events.

## **Awards & Recognition Committee**

NALS has a new and improved awards program and formed the new Awards & Recognition Committee! This committee will help review the nominations for the various awards, help determine the winners, and aid in the selection of the judges for the prestigious Award of Excellence. This committee will primarily meet from May through October while award nominations are being collected and evaluated. Help NALS recognize its rockstars by joining the committee today!

If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact NALS Board Member Reba Peden at [elmorepeterson.com](mailto:elmorepeterson.com).

The Awards include:

### **Distinguished Educator Award**

The Distinguished Educator Award is to recognize a distinguished educator who has made major contributions to the legal field. There are two awards available: one for a NALS member and one for a Non-Member.

### ***Emerging Leader Award***

The Emerging Leader Award is to recognize someone who demonstrates visionary, cutting-edge work to transform practices and/or policies for the betterment of our tri-level association.

Practice - improving the way NALS supports and services its members.

Policy - making NALS services more inclusive, equitable, accessible, better financed, or higher quality by influencing policy and creating systems level change

### ***Legal Innovation Award***

The Legal Innovation Award is to recognize legal vendors (a representative or a company) whose product and/or support of NALS has improved legal support professionals' abilities to be efficient, effective, and successful.

### ***Lifetime Achievement Award***

The Lifetime Achievement Award is to recognize an individual who has set examples that influence others to strive for the highest goals and leadership of other NALS members and the legal community at large. Someone who blazes along the trails of accomplishments which leave behind the pathways of traditions for others to follow.

## *Mentoring Award*

The Mentoring Award recognizes someone who “shows the character of the association”; Connects with members on all levels; Does NALS outreach to community - school, firms, etc.; Study partners for people for certification; Engages with people in and out of NALS to encourage people to join NALS.

## *Outstanding Court Observance Activity Award*

The Outstanding Court Observance Activity Award is to recognize an individual or chapter for outstanding work with the court observance week theme (group activity or event surrounding the theme, possibly volunteer work surrounding the theme).

## *Clara Lagow Certification Awards*

Clara Lagow was one of the initial creators of NALS' certification program. The Clara Lagow awards recognize Chapters and States for their efforts in promoting and retaining NALS certification holders. The awards are broken out into the following:

- Chapter Increase Award
- Chapter Greatest Percentage Award
- State Increase Award
- State Greatest Percentage Award
- Champion Mentor Award – After a chapter or state has won one of the above awards at least three times, they receive the Champion Mentor Award.

These awards will be determined by certification statistics at the end of the NALS fiscal year. The Awards Task Force will review all data and the winners will be announced at the National Conference.

## *Volunteer of the Year Award*

The Volunteer of the Year Award is to recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond following our mission of engage, inspire, enhance and promote for their Chapters or National Committees and made a significant impact on their NALS group. <https://www.nals.org/page/volunteeroftheyearaward>

## *Award of Excellence*

The NALS Award of Excellence is presented annually to recognize outstanding achievement in association leadership and professional development. This award began in 1957 as the Legal Secretary of the Year. The name was changed in 1994 to better reflect the membership of NALS and to be more inclusive of those being honored.

The deadline for the Award of Excellence was May 31, 2022

I believe NALS of Michigan has many outstanding members deserving of these awards, so check out the NALS website for further information and nominate someone you believe is deserving.



**Ann Pearson, Founder**  
**[Paralegal Boot Camp](#)**  
**[apearson@paralegal-bootcamp.com](mailto:apearson@paralegal-bootcamp.com)**

This week we're talking about social media ethics in our latest podcast episode **Don't Let Social Media Cost You a Job**. It happens all too often and we don't want it to happen to you. Social media is a valuable tool in networking, connecting, and learning from so many others in the industry, but if you're not careful it can affect your career for many years.

I'll be sharing stories on what not to do and offering tips on how you can avoid costly mistakes when posting on social media. Let's make sure you're being compliant with your company's social media policies and always presenting yourself as a rockstar paralegal on the internet.

You can [listen to it here](#) now!

**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOR MORE GREAT TIPS FOR PARALEGALS**



I thought this organization's podcasts might be of interest to members so included it here for your information.



## NALS OF MICHIGAN FINANCE FUNDRAISER:



NALS of Michigan Finance Committee

Heidi Hopper, PP, Chair

Email: [hhopper@fosterswift.com](mailto:hhopper@fosterswift.com)

Starting August 1, 2022, the NALS of Michigan Finance Little Caesars online fundraiser will kick off. This is an easy peasy fundraiser that delivers via Fed Ex right to buyers across the country! Kits range from \$18.99+ and shipping is approximately \$8.99 for two kits. Every kit we sell earns \$6 and makes an impact on our fundraising goals.

Sale Ends August 31, 2022



ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

# YARD SALE

To benefit the NALS of Michigan  
Scholarship Fund

**ONE DAY ONLY! SAT. AUG. 13, 2022**

**9 AM - 6 PM | 706 E. STATE STREET, ST. JOHNS, MI**

NALS of Michigan provides an annual scholarship to a student seeking to further their education in the legal services industry.

## SAVE YOUR STUFF!

NALS OF MICHIGAN NEEDS YOUR ITEMS



NALS of Michigan is collecting items for its yard sale fundraiser on August 13 and your donations would be greatly appreciated. Any usable items are welcome but may include clothing, small appliances, jewelry, trinkets, toys, or electronics.

Any unsold items will be donated to local charities.

To donate contact

Heidi Hopper, at [hhopper@fosterswift.com](mailto:hhopper@fosterswift.com)

or Jessica Bertolozzi at [jbertolozzi@fosterswift.com](mailto:jbertolozzi@fosterswift.com)

NALS OF LANSING PRESENTS:

Education Opportunity  
Murder Mystery Fine Wine and Good Friends

NALS of Lansing is hosting an educational Murder Mystery at Chateau Aeronautique Winery & Blue Skies Brewery (Tasting Room, Tours of the Airplane Hangar & Wine Cellar) on August 7, 2022 (starting at 12:30 pm). The murder mystery educational event will cover evidence collecting and discussions on admissible evidence, and, possibly if time permits, voir dire and appeals (*FREE* Criminal CLE). Light snacks will be provided. Please see website for beverage choices and prices ([www.chateauaeronautiquewinery.com](http://www.chateauaeronautiquewinery.com)). Speaker information to be provided at a later date.

It is *important* to RSVP directly to Heidi Hopper, PP ([hhopper@fosterswift.com](mailto:hhopper@fosterswift.com)) by July 20.

Location: Airpark, 1849 Rives Eaton Road, Jackson, MI 49201

This project was made possible through a grant from the NALS Foundation ([www.nals.org/page/foundation](http://www.nals.org/page/foundation)).



# **NALS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO INVITES YOU TO OUR SUMMER SOCIAL!**

**WHAT: KALAMAZOO WALKING BEER TOUR<sup>1</sup>**

**WHERE: MEET AT OLD BURDICK'S INSIDE THE RADISSON HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO, FROM THERE WE WILL VISIT A FEW OF KALAMAZOO'S FINEST BREWERIES. ALONG WITH A SAMPLING AT EACH OF OUR STOPS, THERE WILL BE A FUN**

**SCAVENGER HUNT. YOU WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST OF ITEMS ALONG OUR WALKING TOUR AND CLUES TO HELP YOU**

**FIND THE ITEMS! PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!!**

**RAIN DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 26**

**COST: NO COST TO PARTICIPATE. ALL BEER SAMPLINGS AND FOOD PURCHASES ARE AT YOUR OWN COST.**

**TO RSVP: CONTACT TAMI CARL CLP AT CARLT7779@HOTMAIL.COM NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, AUGUST 17.**

## **THERE ARE SELF-PROCLAIMED "BEER TOWNS," AND THEN THERE IS KALAMAZOO!**

<sup>1</sup> Not a beer drinker? Don't let that stop you from joining us. All of the breweries have hard cider or soda/pop available. This event will be more of a social gathering.