



NEFPA NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **BY FRANCIE DEPAOLO**

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Let's Fire up the Engines, and Energize!

Hello, NEFPA members. It's been an interesting and challenging year for me personally. I lost a family member, broke a rather integral body part and took on the responsibility of elderly parents, one with Alzheimer's, all in the span of ten months. Whew. I share this with you not as a ploy for sympathy, but to illustrate that everyone has challenges to deal with – some more than others, many more severe than mine. It is ultimately our choice as to how we do that. Do we give up and take the path of least resistance? Do we assume that someone else will take care of it for us and hope that *someone* actually will? Or do we stretch ourselves just a little bit more and find a way to personally be proactive?

I've decided, after some debate and, admittedly, at least one minor pity party, to approach my personal challenges with the same energy and stubborn enthusiasm I've relied on over the last twenty or so years as a paralegal. I refuse to give up. I refuse to give over. If the wall is too thick to go through (or if you're likely to break something going over it), then it's time to go around it. I'm up for the challenge.

While NEFPA has endured the sands of time quite well, I think it that it currently stands in front of that proverbial wall. It's time for us, as the makers and breakers of the organization, to find a new path so it can once again flourish. I'm particularly grateful for the fabulous networking opportunities and vast professional growth I've experienced with its assistance and support over the years. However, it needs new energy, a little fresh air. We need *you* to help rejuvenate and refresh it. She needs a bit of a makeover, I believe. A little sparkle mixed with some well-placed technological advances would do wonders for her image, don't you think? We would love your help to make it happen.

Our monthly CLE luncheons are working just fine, thanks to each year's First Vice President. We need a technology committee to bring a technology seminar to fruition. I have some ideas I've been kicking around, but I'd love to hear what you would like to have available to you. All Board Members' emails are posted on NEFPA's website, but to keep you from having to stop online shopping for even a minute *[smile]*, mine is nefpa.president@gmail.com.

Our Events Committee could use a helping hand, as could our Newsletter Committee – tell us what you want to read and see or provide that committee with an article for publication. Is there a project or program that you'd like the organization to undertake? Let us know! Drop us a line about anything you believe would be helpful for us to drive NEFPA into 2014 with the enthusiasm and energy it, and we, deserve!

Thank you for your continued support of NEFPA. We appreciate you.

Membership Information

We are delighted to have you as a member! If you haven't joined NEFPA but are interested in joining, here are a few perks to becoming a member:

- Discounted rate for monthly formal and informal CLE luncheons
- Discounted rate for FAPA events
- Access to the NEFPA Job Bank
- Access to the NEFPA membership directory for networking purposes
- Discounted rate for the NEFPA CLA/CP Exam Review Course offered twice per year
- Discounted rate for CLE events that are sponsored by the Jacksonville Bar Association (contact JBA directly for information on the discounted rate)

We offer various types of membership categories to fit every type of need! Here is a listing below of the membership categories that are available:

Active \$60	1) Currently employed as a paralegal under the direct supervision of a lawyer eligible to practice law; 2) Successfully completed NALA CLA/CP Exam; 3) Graduated from an ABA approved legal studies program; 4) Graduated from an institutionally accredited but non ABA approved legal studies program requiring minimum 60 semester hours classroom study; 5) Otherwise qualified by education and experience as indicated on the Application.
Associate \$40	Individual attorneys, legal administrators and educators who support and promote the paralegal concept; any past Active member of NEFPA, or another Association affiliated with NALA, who is a Certified Paralegal and maintains certification but is not currently employed as a paralegal; or any past Active member of NEFPA who has retired from employment as a paralegal but continues to endorse and promote the paralegal profession and the ideals and purposes of NEFPA.
Student \$25	1) Currently enrolled in good standing in a legal studies program, who do not otherwise meet the qualifications for Active membership (May maintain student membership for up to one year following graduation if not otherwise qualified for Active membership). 2) Must provide proof of current enrollment in good standing or proof of graduation date.
Sustaining \$105	Law firms, title companies, banks, business individuals and corporations that endorse the paralegal concept or are involved in the promotions of the paralegal profession.

You can access a copy of the membership application by clicking here: http://www.nefpa.org/assets/documents/NEFPA_Board_of_Directors/2nd_Vice_President/nefpa%20membership%20application%20revised%2010-3-2012.pdf

For questions regarding membership, please contact Allison Smith at nefpa.2ndvicepresident@gmail.com .

Note: All submissions for the Newsletter will be reviewed prior to publication and are subject to editing . The editor reserves the right to refuse publication for any submission that is deemed inappropriate or in bad taste.

MEMBER CORNER

My name is Teresa Puopolo. I graduated from Orange Park High School in 1993. I worked as a pharmacy technician at Walgreens for four years before I was offered a job at a law firm as a receptionist. I began working with Fallgatter Farmand & Catlin, P.A., in 1997, and I have worked as a criminal defense paralegal since 1998. I became a Florida Registered Paralegal in 2008.

I am a divorced mother of three children, ages 20, 10 and 8. Last year I bought a house in St. Augustine. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending as much with my children as possible, whether it's doing homework, cooking, projects, or playing games at home. I also enjoy playing trivia, going to football games (mostly college), seeing comedy acts, and spending time with friends. It has been such a great experience being in the legal community. It is a great "family" to be a part of outside of your own family.

First Vice President – Jeanne Rikken

My name is Jeanne Rikken and I am a paralegal with CED Technologies, Inc. I have recently been elected as the First Vice President of NEFPA. I am excited about the position and will endeavor to perform the job to the best of my abilities. Since taking over from Margaret Costa, it has been my pleasure to arrange the upcoming luncheons for 2013-2014. I understand how important the ethics CLE hours are to you and have arranged two speakers on ethics early in the new year. The December speaker is Mike E Jorgensen, Esquire, Managing partner of Senior Counsel, Attorneys at Law, PA. Mr. Jorgensen will be speaking on the basics of bankruptcy. I have also lined up our speakers for February and March and am currently working on January's speaker. If you have any ideas and/or speakers you would like to have at any of our luncheons, please contact me at nefpa.1stvicepresident@gmail.com. Again, I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Showing our Less Photogenic Side: Red Light Cameras in Florida

Jacksonville has been a 'Southern City' for a long time not only geographically but culturally. Yet, we have been influenced over many years by the transit of military members and influx of new residents from elsewhere because of our robust port and hardy business climate. These changes have created a unique and dynamic population. As a result, one element of our nature that has become even more dynamic is our driving. When roads are open, we vigorously engage to get to where we are going speeding past Palm trees and moss covered oaks. At times, our vigorous nature is expressed at intersections and result in accidents. To reign in that more modern nature in all Floridians, the legislature enacted a new statute called the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act (FLA. STAT. 316.0076 (2012)). It is named after Mark Wandall who was killed as a result of another driver running a red light. ¹ The statute provides the State of Florida with the overarching regulatory power to use red light cameras for traffic enforcement. ² Some Florida cities and counties had previously implemented camera enforcement through local ordinances. ³ However, Florida officially began allowing statewide use of cameras in February of this year. ⁴ By the end of May this year, there were a total of 9900 violations recorded by 18 cameras in Jacksonville alone amounting to fines of \$477,000. ⁵ The red-light camera recording the most violations is at the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Monument Road. ⁶ The goal of the statute is to make intersections safer. However at present, research provides conflicting results. Some studies have shown a decrease in side impact crashes. ⁷ Other studies have shown increases in rear end collisions from cars braking hard to avoid a ticket. ⁸ The hope is for fewer accidents and fatalities. Future studies will hold the answers. When a violation is captured on camera, a *violation notice* is sent by regular mail to the owner of the car. ⁹ The fine starts at \$158 if paid within the 30 day grace period. ¹⁰ If not paid in that time, the citation becomes a *traffic citation* for \$274 and can be contested in court. ¹¹ If the owner of the car can establish one of four scenarios, he may be released from liability under the law. ¹² First, the owner of the vehicle can establish that he was passing through the red light to allow an emergency vehicle to pass or was part of a funeral procession. ¹³ Second, he could establish that he went through the light at the direction of law enforcement. Third, the owner can establish that the car was in the custody and control of another person at the time of the infraction. ¹⁴ This exemption seems like the easiest one to declare. However, proof must be provided. Lastly, he could establish that a citation was already issued to the driver for this incident by law enforcement.¹⁵ One way to avoid having to come up with one of the four reasons is to hearken back to those less stressful Southern days and just enjoy the ride.

1.Josh Orr, Traffic Death Inspires Activism, heraldtribune.com (Nov. 12, 2013 12:26 PM), <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20061020/COMMUNITY/610200709>

2.FLA. STAT. 316.0076 (2012)

3.Crist Signs Florida Bill Legalizing Red Light Cameras, thepalmbeachcoast.com (Nov. 13, 2013, 11:39 AM), <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/state-regional/crist-signs-florida-bill-legalizing-red-light-came/nL63j/>

4.Andrew Pantazi, Jacksonville Collects Half a Million Dollars from Red-Light Camera Violations, Jacksonville.com (Nov. 11, 2013, 4:30 PM), <http://members.jacksonville.com/news/metro/2013-06-11/story/fdot-give-motorists-more-time-stop-red-lights>.

5.Id.

6.Id.

7.Camera Enforcement in 14 Large Cities Reduces Rate of Fatal Red Light Running Crashes By 24 Percent, INS. INST. FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY, 1 (Feb. 1, 2011), http://www.iihs.org/news/2011/iihs_news_020111.pdf.

8.Richard A. Retting, Two Decades of Photo Enforcement in the United States: A Brief Summary of Experience and Lessons Learned, ITE J., Nov. 2010, at 20, 22

9.Andrew Pantazi, Jacksonville Collects Half a Million Dollars from Red-Light Camera Violations, Jacksonville.com (Nov. 11, 2013, 4:30 PM), <http://members.jacksonville.com/news/metro/2013-06-11/story/fdot-give-motorists-more-time-stop-red-lights>.

10.Id.

11.Id.

12.FLA. STAT. 316.0076 (2012)

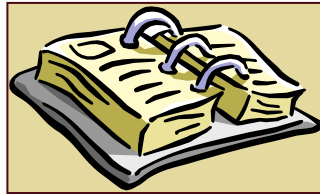
13.Id.

14.Id.

15.Id.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!



SEMINARS

NEFPA is planning a seminar in Jacksonville and FAPA is planning a seminar in Ft. Myers in November - be sure to check your e-mail!

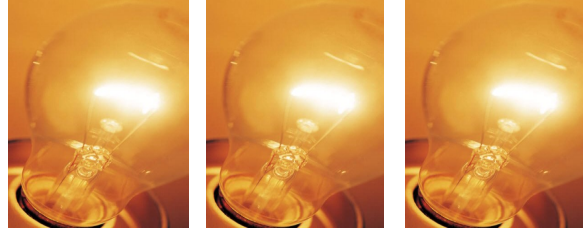


We need volunteers to help plan the NEFPA's Annual Mixer. On March 20, 2014. Please contact Michelle at nefpa.vp.committeeliaison@gmail.com

Check out NALA's new Apps!
On your iPad or iPhone you can search for Facts and Findings articles and issues! AND

With NALA's new Android app "Paralegal CLE" you can register for or access previously purchased NALA Campus Self-Study programs and Advanced Paralegal Certification course!

Upcoming Events



March 6, 2014 CLE Lunch and Lecture Skyline Dining and Conference Center BOA Building, 50 N. Laura St.

Speaker Cindy A. Laquidara of The City of Jacksonville on the topic of Ethics/Professionalism.

RSVP to Jeanne Rikken at nefpa.1stvicepresident@gmail.com

We hope you can make it! Networking is a great NEFPA benefit.

Don't miss the NEFPA Membership Mixer March 20, 2014!

ADVERTISE IN THE NEFPA NEWSLETTER!

ADVERTISING RATES:

\$30.00 for 1/8 page

\$50.00 for 1/4 page

\$80.00 for 1/2 page

\$100.00 for 3/4 page

\$110.00 for full page

Send your inquiries to NEFPA.newslettereditor@gmail.com

A PARALEGAL'S CREED

1. I promise to do my job to the best of my ability, and if I do not know how to do what I am asked to do, I will apply what I know and ask questions when needed.
2. I acknowledge that some assignments will be tedious and others will be interesting.
3. I will be a chameleon, adapting to all personalities and work styles.
4. I will triple-check my work, because my boss and our client are busy and relying on me to deliver accurate work.
5. I will master the details and increasingly strive to understand how they fit into the big picture.
6. I will look for the most efficient ways to perform my work and be a cooperative agent of change.
7. I will be the person who has everything under control, in terms of organized documents, anticipated deadlines, planned processes, and a calm demeanor.
8. I will fearlessly embrace new technology, in fact, introduce it and be the super-user.
9. I will raise questions, share ideas, and expose errors in a diplomatic way, and will accept constructive criticism with grace.
10. I am curious and will seize opportunities to learn and grow.

Written by Macy Stoneback
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