

THE SCRIPTUM



VOL. 54, JUNE ISSUE

MAY 15, 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Calendar</i>	2
<i>Your Final Invitation to Bosses Night</i>	4
<i>Laurie Dugoniths, Esq. re Maritime Law</i>	6
<i>NALS 2006 Scales of Justice Nominee</i>	8
<i>NALS 2006 Scales of Justice Award Winner</i>	9
<i>Presidents Annual Report 2005-2006</i>	10
<i>Treasures Annual Report 2005-2006</i>	13
<i>Secretary's Annual Report 2005-2006</i>	14
<i>Installation of 2006 – 2007 Officers'</i>	19
<i>Sunshine Report</i>	23

Special points of interest:

- **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: "THE SECOND TIME AROUND"**
- **INVITATION TO BOSSES NIGHT**
- **MARITIME LAW AND INSURANCE LAW**
- **NALS SCALES OF JUSTICE AWARD WINNER – WITH THANK YOU LETTER**
- **PRESIDENTS 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT**
- **TREASURES 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT**
- **SECRETARY'S 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT**
- **INSTALLATION OF 2006 – 2007 OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The Second Time Around"

In a couple of weeks the new board of officers will be installed. I would like to thank Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS, NALS, Immediate-Past President, for agreeing to being the installing official and for accepting my offer to serve as Parliamentarian of the chapter. As I have said in prior messages, I am appreciative of your vote of confidence in my leadership abilities and consider it an honor and a privilege to again serve as your president. It's been said that the "second time around is a charm." I enter this second term with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to serving the membership of this association. However, my personal sense of purpose and commitment is not



Sadie Bispham, PP, PLS
President, NALS of Atlanta

enough. I ask that each of you renew your own sense of purpose and commitment as well in serving this association.

The involvement, participation and commitment of the members have been instrumental in this chapter be-

(Continued on page 3)

37TH BOSSES' NIGHT/AWARDS BANQUET

It's not too late to join NALS of Atlanta's members at this wonderful annual event. 37th Bosses' Night/Awards Banquet to be held on Tuesday, May 16 @ Maggiano's-Buckhead is soon approaching.

Note: If you did not RSVP before the deadline and your calendar has changed so that you are able to attend pick-up the phone and call Virginia Kane 404-685-4318. We

want to see everyone at this grand event.

REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS who will be attending Bosses' Night on May 16th: Don't forget to bring your bottle of cheer to contribute to the annual "Basket of Cheers" raffle. It's exciting to see additional gifts that have been contributed to our Ways & Means raffle, along with some fabulous door prizes.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 2006

- **Date:** June 1st – Law Day and @Law Magazine mailed NALS Membership
- **Date:** June 2nd – Deadline to Submit Articles for the Scriptum
- **Date:** June 10th – Leadership Retreat
- **Date:** June 13th – Executive Board Meeting
- **Date:** June 15th – Scriptum Published
- **Date:** June 18th – Fathers Day
- **Date:** June 20th – CLE After Hours
- **Date:** June 24th – Service Juris Day

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Law Day	2 Deadline to submit items for Scriptum	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Leadership Retreat
11	12	13 Executive Board Meeting	14	15 Scriptum Published	16	17 Webinor "Critical Dates"
18 Fathers Day	19	20 CLE After Hours	21	22	23	24 Service Juris Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NALS CODE OF ETHICS

Members of the NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the legal standards of conduct required of the legal profession.

Every member shall:

- Encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice.
- Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information.
- Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy.
- Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence.
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“The Second Time Around”

ing a viable part of the Atlanta legal community for nearly forty-five (45) years. To those members who have given so unselfishly of their time and talents to serve this association, I say thank you so very much.

The need for service is always in demand. Though the new board is eager to assume their respective position responsibilities, your assistance is greatly needed and appreciated. The following are areas that you may wish to consider availing yourself: (1) updating and revising the current By-Laws and Standing Rules to implement the changes necessary to accommodate the changing needs of the membership and accomplish the goals of the association; (2) marketing the chapter to our members and to the legal community; (3) identifying and securing a permanent location for our CLE After

Hours (4) raising funds to financially support the CLE efforts of the individual members and other identified projects; (5) contributing legal specialty and other articles of interest to our monthly newsletter, the Scriptum; (6) recruiting new members and assisting with retaining current members; (8) identifying topics of interest and speakers for the CLE After Hours sessions, (9) sharing information and knowledge with those preparing to take the NALS certification exam and (10) serving the community in which we live and work through participation in charitable efforts and events are just some of the ways in which you can offer your involvement and participation. If you are interested in serving in any of the aforementioned area, I would love to hear from you. Please call me or contact me by email (bispham@dekalb-law.com)

For those of you that will answer the call to serve, I invite you to participate in the upcoming Leadership Retreat on June 10, 2006, which will be held at Mary Jo Denman's home. The purpose of the retreat is for the new board to get better acquainted with each other, learn more about their respective roles, brainstorm, and plan for the year.

I am looking forward to the New Year and the opportunity to give my best to the very best. “Each new day is God's gift to you, make it blossom and grow into a thing of beauty.”

“The need for service is always in demand. Though the new board is eager to assume their respective position responsibilities, your assistance is greatly needed and appreciated.”



how can I grow
without increasing
fixed costs?
we need to improve profits

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**You are invited . . . to attend
NALS of Atlanta's
37th Annual Bosses' Night
Award Ceremony Banquet
- *You Are A Star***

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Location: *Maggiano's* Little Italy-Buckhead

Time: 6:00p arrival; 6:30p cocktails; 7:00p dinner

Cost: \$33 per person; bring your boss and/or guest(s)

Looking forward to see you at this great annual event!

**Remember to Purchase Your Raffle Tickets
for the "Basket of Cheer"**

**In connection with Bosses Night/Award
Banquet on May 16, 2006**

The cost of the raffle tickets are:

Individual Tickets - \$2.00

**Get 3 tickets for only
\$5.00**



**NALS of Atlanta
37th Annual Bosses' Night
and Installation of 2006 Officers**

Tuesday, May 16, 2006
Maggiano's Little Italy-Buckhead
3368 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA 30326
(valet parking available/MARTA Station across the street)
6:30 pm - *Cocktails*; 7:00 pm - *Dinner*

RSVP - NALS OF ATLANTA

Tickets Are Still Available!!!

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ dinner(s)
@ \$33 each for myself and the following guest(s) [*print names*]:

Make check payable to: NALS of Atlanta and present
at the door to : **Virginia Kane, Banquet Chair**

If questions, call Virginia @ 404/815-3000

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Maritime and Insurance Law

Laurie Dugoniths, Senior Associate
Fellows Johnson and La Briola, LLP

“Maritime law is a very distinct body of law. It is a source of some of our common law... It governs navigation, shipping, any sort of commerce on the water, injury to crew members on boats, and even recreational boating accidents on Lake Lanier.”

Ms. Laurie Dugoniths, Senior Associate at Fellows Johnson and La Briola, LLP was our guest speaker at the April 18 CLE After Hours. She spoke on the topic of Maritime and Insurance Law. Her firm handles complex litigation cases in the civil arena, where Ms. Dugoniths’ role is primarily working with insurance. The clients may be in dispute either with their insured or their insurance company. Clients may ask Fellows, Johnson and La Briola to assess potential risks to their businesses and to review their insurance policy to ensure that the policy will cover the potential risks. The firm will also offer the opportunity to private businesses of physically looking at their business locations and pinpointing exposures that are not covered by their current insurance.

Maritime law is a very distinct body of law. It is a source of some of our common law – old English Admiralty Law – certainly the source for insurance law. It governs navigation, shipping, any sort of commerce on the water, injury to crew members on boats, and even recreational boating accidents on Lake Lanier. In that event, it is very likely that maritime law will address what happened. It also covers piers, wharves, docks, and marinas. It is a uniform body of law. The attempt is to make the law a global law, uniform to the laws found here in the United States.

Generally, cases are heard in the federal court system. The states cannot infringe on Admiralty Law, that is, they cannot pass their own legislation. There is somewhat of an overlay with Interstate Commerce law, but states are not per-

mitted to govern in that area. Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 9H, are the supplemental rules for certain Admiralty and Maritime functions. There is a whole section of Rules A through F at the end of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that govern Maritime procedures.

Transitioning from Maritime Insurance to general property, there are personalized and commercial liability matters. The difference between a personalized policy and a commercial liability policy is a personalized policy is for an individual’s home, auto, etc. Commercial Liability is typically seen as property insurance. The firm handles a lot of business interruption coverage. In the property insurance arena, there are mainly two different types of property insurance – all risk policy and named-risk policy. The all risk policy is exactly as it is described -- it will cover any major event as long as it is not excluded by the policy. The other type is the named-peril policy.

There is commercial liability insurance, which in some cases covers officers and directors and protects them from lawsuits filed against their company. It is called Errors and Omissions Insurance and/or Malpractice Insurance. The unique feature of the commercial liability policy is that allegations in a complaint are compared to the insurance policy and there is an attempt to find insurance coverage for the allegations as listed, then an attorney is provided. However, this differs depending on the state. Regardless if the allegations are

(continued on page 7)

Maritime and Insurance Law

Laurie Dugoniths, Senior Associate
Fellows Johnson and La Briola, LLP

(Continued from page 6)

true or not, the insurance company owes a defense. In other states, the insurance company can take into account the true facts in determining whether a defense is owed or not.

In investigating a lawsuit, Laurie identified potential players and documents that are essential. First, the insurance company that issued the policy. Obtain insurance claims file from underwriting. These are two very distinct things and are handled by two very distinct individuals. Insurance companies have an Underwriting Department. The Claims Department does not get involved until the day a loss is reported. When a suit is filed, it is important to contact both these areas. The intermediary between the insured, the agent and the insurance company itself is the wholesale broker. Generally, the insured gets a policy from an agent. The agent either has direct links to an insurance carrier, or they contact a wholesale broker who is often used for complex exposures. Because of unusual risks, a wholesale broker would be needed to place such risks in surplus lines of insurance companies who are not in-state companies. Typically, the line of communication moves from one party to another through the broker and not directly. Another individual who may be involved is the adjuster. More and more insurance carriers are hiring public adjusters. For a percentage fee of the amount of coverage, adjusters will assess the damages, figure on costs of replacement, and determine how long the business will be interrupted.

There followed discussion on how to or-

ganize a complex insurance lawsuit. A Bates system or an outside vendor is an excellent resource for case organization.

Finally, a Declaratory Judgment or a Breach of Contract action can be filed to seek guidance from the court as to the interpretation of a policy. In Georgia, statute O.C.G.A. 33-4-6 covers bad faith actions. Georgia is a middle of the road state regarding regulation of insurance carriers. Venue is very important and an action filed in state court should be removed to federal court if at all possible. Also, look for a declaration of rights that may have been given to the insured. This will explain the coverage and why or why not the insurance company will or will not pay such a claim.

Summarized by:

Lynne Gehrke

“Declaratory Judgment or a Breach of Contract action can be filed to seek guidance from the court as to the interpretation of a policy.”

NALS 2006 SCALES OF JUSTICE AWARD

Each year, NALS®, the association for legal professionals, presents the Scales of Justice Award to deserving individuals who improve access to justice, improve the quality of legal services, promote the legal profession, and support the community where they live and work.

NALS of Atlanta has selected someone the chapter feels is deserving of this award. Our nominee's name was submitted to The NALS Foundation in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and we are pleased that the award was presented to Melburne D. McLendon, retired attorney, at the CLE After Hours on April 18, 2006, at the offices of Burr & Forman LLP.

Mr. McLendon saw an article in last April's issue of the *Georgia Bar Journal* about local attorneys who initiated a program following the September 11, 2001 attacks, in an effort to assist firefighters, emergency medical technicians and police with writing their wills, free of charge. This aroused McLendon's interest and caused him to seek a way to improve access to justice for another group of America's heroes, the veterans who were in the V.A. Hospital in Decatur, Georgia. Mr. McLendon volunteered at the hospital, and was given a small office

from which to serve the veterans with legal advice and aid on a *pro bono* basis. Mr. McLendon is 84 years of age, and stated that he has "never found a more rewarding endeavor" than he did by providing this service to our heroes.

He helps handle wills, powers of attorney, lease problems, divorces, child support matters and similar issues that confront veterans. His influence has prompted other attorneys to decide to help veterans with legal matters.

Mr. McLendon is a graduate of the University of Georgia, was admitted to the bar on March 1, 1949, and practiced law in Atlanta for 36 years. He retired in 1986 and continues to reside in Atlanta.

Lovette Bennett
Immediate Past President
NALS of Atlanta

"Mr. McLendon is 84 years of age, and stated that he has "never found a more rewarding endeavor" than he did by providing this service to our heroes."

NALS 2006 SCALES OF JUSTICE AWARD

HERO AND WINNER –

MELBURNE D. MCLENDON

ATTORNEY AT LAW
(RETIRED)

785 STARLIGHT LANE, N. E.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30342

404/255-1186

April 19, 2006

Dear Sadie:

Your Organization has honored me in a most special way. I am grateful and overwhelmed!

You are entitled to some praise for your effort in getting my wife and me to your meeting without a hitch. After crossing the 17th Street Bridge, I was indeed in another City and place I had never been what an experience!

It would please me very much if the next person who is to receive your award has distinguished himself (or herself) in finding a way to equalize legal representation to any person charged with a crime. Justice should not depend solely on the best attorney money can buy. In my work at the V.A. Hospital I learned of at least two persons who languished in jail for six months awaiting arraignment.

Thank you and NALS for recognizing me for my service to our veterans.

Very truly yours,

President's Report (2005-2006)

NALS of Atlanta the Year in Review

“Executive Committee (EC) meetings were held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Law Office of William G. Quinn. The meeting was well attended by the Executive Committee Members. I provided an agenda in advance of each meeting.”

My year as President officially began upon installation on May 2005. I choose the Rainbow Ceremony for the installation and asked Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS, 35th NALS President to be the installing official. The Executive Committee members were:

Sadie M. Bispham, PP, PLS
President;
Law Office of William G. Quinn
Kimiko Noble, PP, PLS
Vice President;
Morris Manning & Martin, LLP
Kathy Saint, PP, PLS
Treasurer;
Burr & Forman, LLP
Lynne Gehrke,
Recording Secretary;
BellSouth [installed in June, 2005]
Lovette Bennett
Immediate Past President;
Sutherland Asbil & Brennan
Ronald Rymut
Publication Chair and Co-Chair, Advertisement;
Tillman & York
Anita Wages, PLS – Parliamentarian;
Morris Manning & Martin

I conducted a leadership retreat at my home on May 20, 2005. All officers and committee chairs were invited to attend. Only a few committee chairs attended; however all officers were in attendance. The retreat was beneficial in that it provided the opportunity to get acquainted with one another and plan for the year.

After my nomination in March 2005, I began appointing Chairpersons for the various committees. Two new committees were added, Technology and Scholarship.

I was able to get a chairperson for all committees with the exception of the Scholarship Committee. The EC ratified all my committee appointments. I appointed Nancy Mikacevich, PLS, as chapter representative to the Georgia Council. Later in the year, the Bar Liaison and Advertising Chair, resigned as did the Parliamentarian. I did not appoint another chair for the Bar Liaison or another Parliamentarian.

I presided over all the Executive Committee (EC) meetings which were held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Law Office of William G. Quinn. The meeting was well attended by the Executive Committee Members. I provided an agenda in advance of each meeting. Many times all items on the agenda could not be completed due to time constraints. I learned it best not to try and cover too many items, but rather select only a few items. The Recording Secretary prepared the minutes for each of the EC Meetings. There was no meeting of the Executive Committee in August or December 2005.

(continued on page 11)

President's Report (2005-2006)

NALS of Atlanta the Year in Review

(Continued from page 10)

The General Membership Meeting was held on the third Tuesday of each month. The average attendance per meeting was 23. However, the July meeting, which commemorated the Chapter's 44th Anniversary, had 35 members in attendance. The CLE After Hours were held at various locations. The June meeting was held at Piccadilly Cafeteria on North Druid Hills and from July – December 2005, was held at Mary Mac's Tearoom. In January 2006, the location changed to Morris Manning & Martin, LLP; in February 2006, we met at Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP; March 2006, we met at Hachiguchi Jr., Japanese Restaurant; and in April 2006, we met at Burr & Forman law firm. A pool party was held in August 2005, at the home of Mary Jo Denman and a holiday social was held in December 2005.

I offered a contest to get another name for our monthly "General Membership Meeting" and received many entries. As a result of the contest, the monthly meetings became known as "CLE After Hours." Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS won the contest, but declined to accept the winning prize of a gift certificate to Mary Mac's Tearoom Restaurant.

With the change in name also came a change in format. The primary focus of the monthly CLE Af-

ter Hours switched to continuing legal education and there was no conducting of business with an exception for conducting elections of new officers. In addition to a name change for the monthly General Membership Meeting, a Spotlight Vendor segment was added. Select vendors were provided the opportunity to make a short presentation about their respective product and/or service at the beginning of the CLE After Hours. Also, door prizes were given out at many of the CLE After Hours.

The Chapter sponsored a fall education seminar entitled, CLE After Hours - Bonus Session – "Focus on the Future." This session was conducted on Saturday, November 19, 2005 at the law firm of Sutherland Asbil & Brennan, LLP. The seminar focused on prior personal and business preparation to handle disasters (i.e. natural or otherwise). Though the attendance was not particularly good, only 20 attended, the chapter did make a slight profit from the event. Sponsorship by the following vendors kept the overhead cost down and thus assisted the chapter to make a profit: The Norcross Group, Onsite, Georgia Breakroom Services, Inc., and Capitol Services, Inc.

Through the scheduled

"The primary focus of the monthly CLE After Hours switched to continuing legal education and there was no conducting of business with an exception for conducting elections of new officers."

President's Report (2005-2006)

NALS of Atlanta the Year in Review

(Continued from page 11)

CLE After Hours and CLE After Hours – Bonus Session, the chapter offered the opportunity for members to receive a total of 11.75 CLE Credit Hours.

In March 2006, four members sat for the PLS Certification exam. Our newly certified PLS are: Belinda Ellerby, Terry Cohea and Anita Aaron.

I was not able to attend neither the Region 4 Conference, nor the NALS Annual Education Conference in Buffalo, New York but was able to represent the Chapter at the NALS Professional Development and Education Conference in March 2006. At the Professional Development Conference I applied for a NALS Foundation Grant and the chapter was awarded a grant in the amount of \$150 for the purpose of conducting a leadership retreat for the new board of officers (2006-2007).

The chapter nominated Mr. Melbourne McClendon, a retired attorney for his pro bono service to veterans, for the NALS Foundation Scales of Justice Award and he was approved for the award. Mr. McClendon was presented with the award at the CLE After Hours on April 18, 2006.

The monthly publication, The Scriptum, debuted online at our website (www.nalsfatlanta.org) in August 2005. The online version of

the Scriptum saved the chapter hundred of dollars in postage expense.

Our membership steadily grew during the year. We began the year in May 2005 with 68 members and in April 2006 had a total of 75 members.

I feel very happy about the accomplishments during the year and appreciate the tremendous support that I received from the EC and the individual members. The use of email in addition to the monthly publication and website worked well to keep members informed about upcoming activities. I was disappointed that we did not have any candidates for president (2006-2007) and as a result, I agreed to serve a second term as president on the condition that we revise our governance to include a president-elect position to ensure the future leadership of the chapter.

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as president. I will cherish the experience always.

Respectfully submitted,
Sadie M. Bispham, PP, PLS
President, NALS of Atlanta
(2005-2006)

“The chapter nominated Mr. Melbourne McClendon, a retired attorney for his pro bono service to veterans, for the NALS Foundation Scales of Justice Award and he was approved for the award.”

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 2005-2006

The year began with my review of the records passed from Pat Gilbert, PLS, last year's Treasurer. Pat's impeccable records made my job so much easier.

My first project was working with President Sadie Bispham, PP, PLS in preparing a 2005-06 budget, which was then presented to the EC at the Officers Retreat in May 2005. After much discussion and some adjustments, the budget was approved. Throughout the year the budget was amended, as needed, to add line items.

As in the past, NALS of Atlanta has two bank accounts—a checking account for normal chapter income and expenses and a savings account for the Skills Builder income and expenses. Neither account incurs a monthly fee.

Monthly reports on the checking account and quarterly reports on the savings account were prepared during the year. These reports were presented monthly to the EC and were available at each CLE After Hours session.

During the year, we have sold a number of the Skills Builder books through the web site, word of mouth, and at NALS conferences in Buffalo, NY and Tulsa,

OK. Sadie Bispham was also responsible for the sale of several books at the Paralegal SuperConference held in October 2005. As of the preparation of this report, we have less than a dozen Skills Builder books remaining.

Although the year ended with both income and expenses exceeding our proposed budget, the year ended in a positive position. Individually, some line items were over or under their budgeted amounts; however, this did not have a negative impact on our checking account. The year-end reports are in progress and will be finalized shortly. Once the final bank statement is received and reconciled, the books will be turned over to the auditor for review. Once the auditor completes her review, the records will be returned to me for use in the 2006-07 year.

Thank you for re-electing me Treasurer and I look forward to working with the new EC and our members in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathy J. Saint, PP, PLS
Treasurer

“the year ended with both income and expenses exceeding our proposed budget, the year ended in a positive position.”

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

“I found that using a tape recorder which is owned by the Chapter very helpful in clarifying any small details in the reporting of minutes”

I am reporting on my experiences as Secretary of the NALS Atlanta Chapter for the Year of 2005-2006. Because this Office requires recording the minutes of meetings, as well as preparing any official letters, it is very important that the person filling this position make every effort to attend each and every meeting as required.

I found that using a tape recorder which is owned by the Chapter very helpful in clarifying any small details in the reporting of minutes and as a backup of what actually occurred at the meeting. It was very helpful to take at least some notes as well, in case the recorder malfunctioned, or lost power. Also, preparing the minutes as quickly as possible after each meeting made for better reporting of what was said.

The faster I could receive information regarding the attendees for the CLE After Hours, the more complete and professional I could make the sign-in sheets, name tags, and for one meeting (tent cards with menu selections).

I also found that getting a

copy of any handouts or a copy of any slides used helped to organize and clarify the summation of the speaker's remarks. Also, getting a business card from the speaker (s) was helpful in getting names correctly spelled and any special designations included.

I have enjoyed working with the Executive Committee this year, and will miss attending the EC Meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne L. Gehrke
Secretary 2005-2006
NALS of Atlanta Chapter



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 1180 West Peachtree Street,
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 Toll Free: 800.787.5302
 Located in Midtown

PUBLICATION CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2005 – 2006

“As the Publication Chair I set the following goals for the Scriptum. 1) To put the Scriptum online 2) Assist Sadie Increase membership 3) Attract Volunteers' for community projects and 4) To promote monthly legal or educational articles”

Sadie Bispham asked if I would act as the editor of the Scriptum. I welcomed the opportunity to contribute to NALS of Atlanta. As the Publication Chair I set the following goals for the Scriptum. 1) To put the Scriptum online 2) Assist Sadie Increase membership 3) Attract Volunteers' for community projects and 4) To promote monthly legal or educational articles in the Scriptum.

I felt that if the Scriptum were online all the other goals would fall into place. Having the Scriptum available online 24/7 would benefit from a larger readership, which in turn would increase membership and attract additional vendors and volunteers for community events, act as a reliable source

for legal information and encourage members to submit articles for publication in the Scriptum. The money saved in printing and mailing expense in a month alone is equivalent to our hosting expense for 3 months.

The first couple of months was a learning experience for Sadie, Sam and Myself. We had different ideas and disagreements but the important thing was we were all on the same page with the same goal. Sadie, had a subtle but strong and important influence during this time, she acted presidential. After those first couple of months I realized that NALS of Atlanta had made an excellent choice in Ms. Bispham as president.

(Continued on page 16)

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, TUESDAY MAY 16, 2006
Maggiano's Little Italy-Buckhead
3368 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA 30326

The following were elected officers for NALS of Atlanta for 2006-2007:

PRESIDENT	SADIE BISPHAM, PP, PLS
VICE PRESIDENT	MARYKATHRYN LARGENT
SECRETARY	BELINDA K. ELLERBY
TREASURER	KATHY SAINT, PP, PLS

Please show your support for the new board and your association by participating in upcoming events, beginning with Bosses Night and the Installation of the NALS of Atlanta Officers for 2006 – 2007. Tuesday there are many wonderful speakers and other activities planned.

Looking forward to seeing you!

PUBLICATION CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT
2005 – 2006

(Continued from page 15)

“...please remember our web-master Sam Boles with out his help we would not have an online newsletter...”

“I enjoyed working with the Executive Committee and I' d like to thank the EC for all of their suggestions, help and support.”

Having gone from a hard copy to an online newsletter, I waited for the feedback and suggestions pro and con. Other than feed back from Officers and some members who held chair positions, I was disappointed by the lack of feed back by the members. I could count on one hand how many different people submitted articles for publication in a year's time. This is truly sad. NALS of Atlanta cannot exist as an organization run by one or five members. The SAME five people cannot continue to act as an organization of seventy

Finally, if you enjoyed the Scrip-

tum please remember our web-master Sam Boles with out his help we would not have an online newsletter. I encourage you to send him an email and thank him for his time, assistance and all of his help. I enjoyed working with the Executive Committee and I' d like to thank the EC for all of their suggestions, help and support.

Respectfully Submitted
 Ron Rymut
 Publication Chair

NALS OF ATLANTA 2005 - 2006 OFFICERS / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
President	Sadie Bispham, PP, PLS bispham@dekalb-law.com	404-377-9254
Vice President	Kim Noble, PP, PLS kyn@mmmlaw.com	404-233-7000
Secretary	Lynn Gehrke Lynne.Gehrke@bellsouth.com	770 986-1725
Treasurer	Kathy J. Saint, PP, PLS ksaint@burr.com	404-685-4289
Immediate Past President	Lovette Bennett lovette.bennett@sablaw.com	404-853-8609
Publication Chair	Ronald Rymut ronaldrymut@earthlink.net	
Parliamentarian	(Vacant)	
Advertising	Ronald Rymut ronaldrymut@earthlink.net	
Auditor	Susan Weaver, PLS Sweaver@wcsr.com	404-888-7385
Award of Excellence	Melita J. Ellington Mellington@mmmlaw.com	404-504-5436
Bar Liaison/PR	Vacant	
Certification/Education	Charley Denham, PP, PLS cdenham@mmmlaw.com	404-504-3642
Day In Court	MaryKathryn Largent (co-chair) Marykathryn.Largent@sablaw.com	404-853-8652
	Lovette Bennett (co-chair) lovette.bennett@sablaw.com	404-853-8609
Historian	Melita Ellington mellington@mmmlaw.com	404-504-5436
Holiday Party	Virginia Kane vkane@burr.com	404-685-4318
Member of the Year	Kathy J. Saint, PLS ksaint@burr.com	404-685-4289
Membership	Kim Noble, PP, PLS kyn@mmmlaw.com	404-233-7000
NALS of Georgia Representative #1 (Through 6/06)	Patricia A. Gilbert, PLS Gpatdjoe@aol.com	
NALS of Georgia Representative #2 (Through 6/07)	Nancy Mikacevich, PLS nmikacevich@kilpatrickstockton.com	404-815-6558
Programs	Executive Committee Call any officer with a suggestion.	
Scholarship Planning	Vacant	
Sunshine Committee	Anita Aaron (co-chair) aaaron@wcsr.com	404-962-7518
Sunshine Committee	Susan L. Weaver (co-chair) sweaver@wcsr.com	404-888-7385
Technology	Kathy J. Saint, PP, PLS ksaint@burr.com	404-685-4289
Ways & Means	Patricia A. Gilbert, PLS Gpatdjoe@aol.com	
Webmaster	Sam & Miche Boles, PP, PLS mboles@mmmlaw.com	404-504-5432

NALS OF ATLANTA MINUTES OF “CLE AFTER HOURS” APRIL 18, 2006

Welcome

The April “CLE After Hours” was held at Burr & Forman, LLC, 171 17th Street NW, Suite 1100, Atlanta, Georgia, 30363 and was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by President, Sadie Bispham. Present at this meeting were: Sadie Bispham, PP, PLS, President; Lovette Bennett, Immediate Past President; Kim Noble, PP, PLS, Vice President; Lynne Gehrke, Secretary; Kathy Saint, PP, PLS, Treasurer; Anita Aaron, PLS (Co-Chairman – Sunshine Committee); Mary Alice Bancroft; Terry Cohea, PLS; Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS, Immediate-Past President of NALS; Belinda Ellerby, PLS; Pat Gilbert, PLS; Marge Jones; MaryKathryn Largent; Nancy Mikacevich, PLS (Chairperson – Elections Committee); Monica H. Murack; Debra Staples, PP, PLS; Sally Stenger, PP, PLS; Karen Wallace, PLS; Susan Weaver, PLS (Co-Chairman – Sunshine Committee) and Brad Wilson, Associate Member. President Bispham was pleased to welcome our speaker for the evening, Laurie E. Dugoniths, Esq. as well as new members Cheryl Copeland and Patricia Hicks and our guests, Paulette Hamilton and Karon McWinnie. In addition, President Bispham acknowledged and thanked Kathy Saint, Virginia Kane, and Renee Smith and the firm of Burr & Forman, LLC for coordinating this meeting in the boardroom, as well as the delicious sandwiches. President Bispham recognized Brian Childress, of Ajilon Legal our Spotlight Vendor and Melburne D. McClendon, Esquire (Retired) and his wife. Mr.

McClendon is the recipient of the NALS Foundation Scales of Justice Award.

Inspiration

Marge Jones of Epstein Becker & Green gave the inspiration, a poem given to her by a very dear friend entitled: *The Tongue Can Be Your Worst Enemy*. A line from the poem sums up the meaning of the title as “thoughts become words, words become actions, actions become habits, habits become character and character becomes destiny.”

Award Presentation

Mary Jo Denman, Immediate Past President of NALS, had this to say about our recipient of the Scales of Justice Award. Melburne D. McLendon is a graduate of the University of Georgia and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia on March 1, 1949. He resides in Atlanta. Mr. McLendon retired in 1986 after practicing law in Georgia for 36 years. About seven years ago, an article in the Georgia Bar Journal having to do with *pro bono* work by local attorneys assisting veterans with their wills aroused his interest. He was motivated to begin working with local veterans who came to the V.A. Hospital in Decatur for medical attention. He sought ways to assist them with their legal needs, and he was permitted to set up a small office at the hospital to offer *pro bono* services to veterans who could not afford to hire an attorney, but who had special legal needs

continued on page 19)

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NALS OF ATLANTA MINUTES OF “CLE AFTER HOURS” APRIL 18, 2006

(Continued from page 18)

relating to divorces, wills, etc. He also encouraged other attorneys to get involved.

Because of Mr. McLendon, now several attorneys are assisting America's heroes. NALS of Atlanta would like to present Mr. McLendon with this NALS foundation Scales of Justice Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution in providing access to justice for America's veterans in Georgia. On behalf of NALS of Atlanta, Mary Jo Denman presented Mr. McLendon with the NALS Foundation Scales of Justice Award and a certificate in recognition of his outstanding contribution in providing access to justice for America's veterans in Georgia. Thank you, Mr. McLendon, for serving your profession in this very generous way.

Spotlight Vendor

Brian Childress, Esq. of Ajilon is our Spotlight Vendor for this month. Ajilon is a global leader in specialty staffing and consulting services with more than 500 offices operating in 18 countries in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific. Worldwide, Ajilon has specialty divisions in several disciplines including finance and accounting, legal, high-end office support, information technology, communications, sales and marketing, engineering and more. In North America, Ajilon Finance specializes in the temporary and permanent placement of premier accountants, finance and bookkeeping professionals. Ajilon offers clients specialized administrative professionals on a temporary and permanent basis. Ajilon Legal places highly-qualified candidates in a wide

range of specialized positions, including attorneys, Paralegals and legal support professionals.

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Sadie Bispham, PP, PLS, President had the honor of introducing Laurie Dugoniths, Esq., Senior Associate of Fellows Johnson and La Briola, LLP. Ms. Dugoniths received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Business from the University of Dayton in 1991 and her Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law in 1999.

While attending the University of Miami, Ms. Dugoniths was a member of and served as the Executive Vice President of the Moot Court Board and participated in numerous trial advocacy competitions. During her third year, she served as the president of the University's Maritime Law Society.

Ms. Dugoniths also served as a legal intern in the narcotics division of the United States Attorney's office, Miami Division. She gained valuable experience assisting U.S. Attorneys with trial preparation and litigation in federal court. In addition to this experience, as a legal intern Ms. Dugoniths has had exposure to a variety of legal issues including employment law, commercial law and insurance issues in a maritime context.

Speaker Presentation

For a summary of Ms. Dugoniths remarks, please see the separate ar-

***“Brian
Childress, Esq.
of Ajilon is our
Spotlight
Vendor for this
month. Ajilon
is a global
leader in
specialty
staffing and
consulting
services with
more than 500
offices
operating in 18
countries in
North
America”***

continued on page 20)

NALS OF ATLANTA MINUTES OF “CLE AFTER HOURS” APRIL 18, 2006

(Continued from page 19)

article in the May edition of the *Scriptum* on Maritime Law and Insurance Law.

Voting for Member of the Year
Kathy Saint, who is the 2005 Member of the Year, expressed her thanks to each member who either mailed, e-mailed, or electronically submitted a nomination for Member of the Year. Kathy also thanked Miche and Sam Boles, though they were not present, for their work on the NALS of Atlanta Bosses' Night web pages. Without their assistance, the Bosses' Night nomination pages and reservation page would not have been available to us.

The 2006 Member of the Year will be someone within our chapter who has contributed to the chapter's success, and thus deserves to be honored with this special award. Kathy received many wonderful comments regarding both of the nominees. This year's winner will join the rank of previous winners – Sally Stenger, Mary Jo Denman, Nancy Mikacevich, Debra Staples, Pat Gilbert, Miche Boles, Becky Ragusa, Lovette Bennett and Sadie Bispham.

The total number of eligible voting members per the NALS Roster of the Chapter's membership is 66. A copy of the current roster was available for inspection. Everyone in attendance was asked to sign the attendance roster, particularly voting members (a voting member is a member in good standing). The total

number of eligible voting members in attendance was 21. This is the quorum. A majority for election purposes will be one-half plus one of those eligible voting members in attendance – that number being 11. The nominee receiving a majority of the votes will be the winner. The nominees are Sadie M. Bispham, PP, PLS and Kim Y. Noble, PP, PLS. The ballots were cast, collected and tallied. A winner was confirmed and will be announced at Bosses' Night on May 16. A motion was made and seconded that the nominations and ballots from this election be destroyed after they are tallied. It was further moved and seconded that the sign-in attendance roster of eligible voting members not be destroyed, but rather maintained for the records. These motions passed.

Certification Presentation

Mary Jo Denman, PP, PLS and Immediate Past President of NALS and Sadie Bispham, PP, PLS President of the Atlanta Chapter, were pleased to announce that three members have passed their PLS Certification: Anita Aarons, Terry Cohea and Belinda Ellerby. President Bispham said these newly certified members join an elite group – nationally, there are 339 members with PP certification; 5,355 members with PLS certification and 2,393 with ALS certification. The entire Atlanta Chapter offers their congratulations to these three new Professional Legal Secretaries!

New Member Initiation

continued on page 21)

“pleased to announce that three members have passed their PLS Certification: Anita Aarons, Terry Cohea and Belinda Ellerby. President Bispham said these newly certified members join an elite group – “

NALS OF ATLANTA MINUTES OF “CLE AFTER HOURS” APRIL 18, 2006

(Continued from page 20)

Kim Noble, Vice President and Membership Chairperson initiated new members, Cheryl Copeland and Pat Hicks, who swore to abide by the NALS Code of Ethics. Kim presented each new member with a NALS membership pin and new member Certificate of Membership suitable for framing.

Bosses Night Update

Virginia Kane Chairperson for Bosses' Night said that all arrangements are going well. The theme of this year's event is "You are a Star". There is a need for door prizes and contributions to the "Basket of Cheers" which is a raffle prize. Melita Ellington, who was last year's Award of Excellence winner will be sending correspondence to each member asking for their bosses' e-mail address in order to get nominations for the Award of Excellence this year. In addition, nominations are needed for Boss of the Year. All information and nomination forms can be found on the NALS of Atlanta website. The price per person is \$33. The food choices will be chicken, fish and vegetarian dishes and will be served family style.

Announcements

Managing Critical dates (A Best Practices Webinar) date to be Announced. After discussion, it was decided that June 7 at 12:30 p.m. would be a good time for this information session. Sadie will contact Gary Walker at WordTech to see about making this available to the members of the Chapter.

Atlanta Area Event Lunch and Learn – April 25, 2006:

Arnall Golden & Gregory, LLP (AGG 11:30 -1:30 p.m. 171 17th Street, Suite 2100, Atlanta, GA 30363)

May 8, 2006 – RSVP due Bosses Night event

Bosses Night (2005 – 2006) May 16, 2006

Maggiano's Italian Restaurant
Installation of Officers (2006- 2007 – May 16, 2006)

Door Prizes

Lovette Bennett won the Ways and Means prize which was an organizational basket. A door prize of an Estee Lauder products gift basket was donated by Ajilon Staffing. Several other gift baskets were door prizes and were won by Pat Gilbert, MaryKathryn Largent, Susan Weaver, and Anita Aaron.

Adjournment

There being no additional items left on the Agenda, the CLE After Hours was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by President Bispham.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne L. Gehrke

Secretary

“Virginia Kane Chairperson for Bosses’ Night said that all arrangements are going well. The theme of this year’s event is “You are a Star”. There is a need for door prizes and contributions to the “Basket of Cheers” which is a raffle prize.”

**NALS OF ATLANTA
JUNE 2006 – JULY 2006
ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE
(AS OF MAY 14, 2006)**

JUNE 2006

- JUNE 2 – DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN SCRIPTUM
- JUNE 9 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS/PLANNING MEETING
- JUNE 10 – LEADERSHIP RETREAT
- JUNE 13 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS/PLANNING MEETING
- JUNE 15 – SCRIPTUM PUBLISHED
- JUNE 15 – WEBINOR – “CRITICAL DATES”
- JUNE 20 – CLE AFTER HOURS
 - TOPIC: EMPLOYMENT LAW
 - SPEAKER: JERRY McCUMBER, ESQ.
 - LOCATION: BROWN REPORTING, INC. -
1740 PEACHTREE STREET, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- LAW DAY - JUNE 1
- SERVICE JURIS DAY - JUNE 24

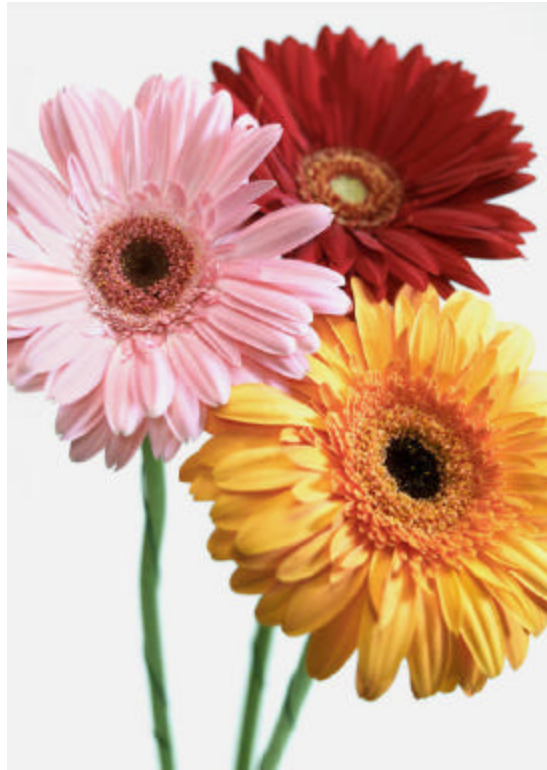
JULY 2006

- JULY 7 – DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN SCRIPTUM
 - JULY 9 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS/PLANNING MEETING
 - JULY 15 – SCRIPTUM PUBLISHED
 - JULY 18 – CLE AFTER HOURS
 - TOPIC: LEADERSHIP
 - SPEAKER: DR. RYBACK
- SPECIAL EVENTS:**
GUEST SPEAKER: LAURIE DUGONITHS, ESQ.
(FELLOWS JOHNSON & LA BRIOLA, LLP)
TOPIC: MARITIME LAW AND THE ROLE OF
THE LEGAL SUPPORT STAFF
LOCATION: BURR & FORMAN



MAY SUNSHINE REPORT

MAY FLOWERS AND HONORING MOTHERS



*Strength and honor are her clothing;
She shall rejoice in time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom;
And her tongue, is the law of kindness.
Proverbs 31: 25-26*

RAYS OF SUNSHINE SHOWERED UPON:

LYNNE GEHRKE – THINKING OF YOU

KIM NOBLE – SYMPATHY

KASEY BINDER – GET WELL

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

DONNA FULLER

MAY 2

THELMA G PRUITT

MAY 3

MITZI GAITHER

MAY 4

TERESA (TERI) LOVVORN

MAY 18

LUCILLE GOLDEN-BLAKEY

MAY 27

**NALS OF ATLANTA
THE ASSOCIATION
FOR LEGAL
PROFESSIONALS**

VIA INTERNET
EMAIL ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

JUNE 20, 2006
CLE AFTER HOURS
WILL BE HELD AT
BROWN REPORTING, INC.
www.brownreporting.com
1740 PEACHTREE STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309
404-876-8979

NEXT MONTHS GUEST SPEAKER
SPEAKER: JERRY MCCUMBER, ESQ.
TOPIC: EMPLOYMENT LAW