



**Minutes from the  
Executive Committee Meeting of the  
Asheville Area Paralegal Association  
Friday, May 30, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m. by newly-elected president, Linda Johnson, at The Mediterranean. Present were Linda Johnson, Beth Stallings, Lawrel Banks, Joan Vogt, and Melanie Miller. A quorum was not present.

Regarding the Annual Banquet and officer installation last evening, responses were good and there was a great turnout. Total expenses for the Banquet were \$2246, including the \$160.00 Spa Theology gift certificate for Melanie in appreciation of her past two years serving as president of AAPA.

**The Treasurer's report** of the checking account shows a beginning balance of \$2,263.94; total disbursements of \$814.15; total deposits of \$171.97; and, an ending balance of \$1,621.76 as of May 29, 2008.

Additionally, the savings account shows a beginning balance of \$5,698.21; no disbursements; interest earned in the amount of \$18.34; and, an ending balance of \$5,716.55, as of May 29, 2008.

Combined funds from the two BB&T accounts total \$7,338.31.

Following a brief discussion about funds budgeted for scholarships, it was moved by Lawrel Banks and seconded by Beth Stallings to keep those funds in the Association savings account. Funds may be transferred periodically as needed from the savings account to replenish the checking account.

**The Programs Committee report** was presented in print and summarized by Lawrel Banks. Scheduled speakers for the monthly membership meetings are as follows:

- June 4 @ 11:30 a.m. – Buncombe County Sheriff Van Duncan – “Processing Criminal Defendants and Tips for Submitting Paperwork to the Sheriff’s Office”;
- July 10 @ 5:30 p.m. – Carolyn Clark of Fidelity National Title - “Title Claims and How to Avoid Mistakes”

Additionally, Lawrel stated that Karen Kornhauser of Asheville Reporting wants AAPA to come to its new offices for her presentation. She has tentatively been scheduled for an evening meeting, but no definite date, as yet. Plans are to have a committee meeting some time in June to finalize the September seminar. This committee's report was concluded with a brief discussion about the fact that AAPA was not able to secure the Charlotte Street Grill for its June meeting. Mary Burnette reported this development to some of the members at the Banquet the previous evening; she was told that the room had already been booked by another group. As a result, the June membership meeting will be held at Wild Wing. President Linda Johnson volunteered to contact Charlotte Street Grill to find out if this is a permanent ousting and if there is any particular reason behind it other than what was told to Mary.

**The Publicity Committee report** was presented in writing and was summarized by Beth Stallings. Along with the written report was:

- a copy of the *Asheville Citizen-Times* article from the May 4, 2008, edition "Business" section announcing the names of the 2008-2009 AAPA officers;
- a copy of Beth's e-mail to *Lawyers' Weekly* offering information for publication in that paper; and,
- a copy of Beth's e-mail to the Buncombe County Bar Association requesting publication of AAPA activities in that organization's newsletter.

**The Fundraising Committee report** was presented by Katie Gates in writing. The committee is pleased to report that following the mailing of letters on May 7, 2008, soliciting sponsorships from various businesses, they are in receipt of \$1,900.00 in sponsorships to date! Their goal is to exceed the 2007 total of \$2,200.00.

The Fundraising Committee will meet next Friday, June 6.

There was no report by the **Scholarship Committee** this month.

**New officer transition** will entail obtaining signature cards to be signed by the newly-elected officers; obtaining check cards from BB&T for Linda and Lawrel; and, getting 2 additional mailbox keys made for Linda and Lawrel.

**Community involvement** - Linda presented a possible idea for community involvement for AAPA: Blue Ridge Forever (<http://www.blueridgeforever.info/>). She will contact them to find out how AAPA members might contribute to its work—not only by a monetary contribution, but also by membership involvement.

**Bele Chere** is the weekend of July 25 thru 27, and members are encouraged to volunteer to work any or all three days, if possible. There will be a mandatory volunteers' meeting at Pack Place at 6:00 p.m. on July 15. In addition to having our usual beverage booth on Coxe Avenue, we will also be operating a satellite station adjacent to it that will serve alcoholic beverages, only. This year, as in years past, beer in cans will be sold, but we will not have to pour it into cups before giving to the customers. Melanie Miller has offered to be the volunteer contact person for AAPA. Anyone interested in volunteering to work the booth should contact Melanie with their choice(s) of day(s) and time(s).

The final topic on the agenda was a discussion of the results of the Member Interest Survey and how AAPA might use the responses to offer meeting topics of interest to the most members; and, to draw more attendance and participation by members. A total of 33

members submitted their responses to the survey. Those responses were tallied by Melanie Miller and some of the highlights are as follows:

- the areas of practice of greatest interest are Estate Planning and Administration, Corporate, Personal Injury, Real Estate, Criminal, MedMal and Employment; also suggested were particular topics such as discussions on ethics and professional responsibility, litigation, discovery, collections, document management, and research, just to name a few; it was suggested by EC members that we should start promoting the September seminar in June;
- most members prefer the lunchtime meetings; the EC discussed the possibility of having more lunch meetings throughout the year, but offer the occasional evening meeting, as well; most members preferred the meeting to be either on Wednesday or Thursday;
- some alternate meeting locations were offered: Cornerstone, Renaissance Hotel restaurant, Café on the Square, Outback, Magnolia's, College Street Pub; Mary Burnette will be checking various places as possible new meeting locations;
- possible future community project ideas offered are Cancer Society Relay for Life, Helpmate, Quality Forward's Litter Pick-up, Spay/Neuter Clinic, ABCCM, Humane Society, Irene Wortham, Toys for Tots, Fairview Elementary School projects of putting food in children's packs for the weekend, and buying backpacks and supplies to place in them for a particular school; a suggestion was offered to perhaps choose a project based upon the season;
- most popular types of social events to be held by AAPA were (a day or night of) bowling, a movie night, a Mix 'n' Mingle, a picnic; there was brief discussion of possibly planning another picnic for late summer, possibly the second weekend of August.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Vogt

Joan Vogt, Secretary