



# DIXIE DIGEST

[www.alabama-als.org](http://www.alabama-als.org)

March 2023

## ***A Message from our President***

*Julie Nims*



Hey everyone! I cannot believe that it is already March, and our year is coming to an end! I cannot thank everyone enough for their help, guidance, and support this year.

Thank you again to the members of MALS and DCLSA for hosting a great Winter Board Meeting in Selma. The CLE was great and as always, the food was yummy. Thank you to everyone that had a part in Cheri Loyd's memorial service. It was a wonderful tribute to an amazing lady, member, and most of a great friend.

Congratulations to AALS 2023-2024 Officers; Melissa Cooper, CAP, BW, OM, PM, RM/PLS, President, Sonia Smith, CLP, President Elect, Julie Nims, Vice President, Judy Whigham, PP, PLS, Secretary, and Ed Clark, PP, Treasurer.

MLPA is working hard on the Annual Meeting that will be held April 28-29, 2023, in Satsuma, AL. The registration and hotel information will be coming soon. I can't wait to see everyone! I hope everyone has a wonderful and blessed Easter!

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. And remember, it doesn't matter how slow you go, as long as you don't stop!

**NATIONAL LEGAL  
EDUCATION CONFERENCE**  
**AUG. 21-23, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Follow link for more details: <https://www.nals.org/page/2023conference>

## **PRESIDENT ELECT**

*Melissa Cooper, CAP, OM, PM, RM / PLS*



This year has flown by quickly. I'm sure MLPA has a great meeting in store for the AALS Annual Meeting in April, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there! If you need any marketing materials, please let me know.

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## **VICE PRESIDENT**

*Michele W. Potter, PP, PLS*



Please welcome another new member to AALS! BCALP member, Judy Whigham has recruited Natasha Whigham to join AALS. We now have six new members whose sponsors have submitted for our contest. We have a little time left if you'd like to get join in!

Let's continue to reach out to our former members, guests who regularly attend our monthly meetings, and new people to the field. Invite them to a locally meeting and state meetings.

I am excited to see all of you again at the Annual Meeting! Look for the registration in this Dixie Digest. Don't forget to send it in and book your room!

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## **SECRETARY**

*Deborah Rutherford, PLS*



If anyone needs AALS stationery please email me at [drutherford@cwalawfirm.com](mailto:drutherford@cwalawfirm.com) and I will email you an electronic version.

I can't wait to see everyone at Annual Meeting in Saraland.

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## **TREASURER**

*Ed Clark, PP-SC*



We are getting ready to finish the current term; please submit your expense reimbursement form to be at [ebc@phm-law.com](mailto:ebc@phm-law.com) or USPS mail to my attention at:

Ed Clark. PHMMI, 22 Inverness Center Parkway, Ste. 600. Birmingham, AL 35242

If you have a question about your committee budget, please email me. I look forward to seeing you at the AALS Annual Meeting and Educational Conference next month.

# PARLIAMENTARIAN

Gina Harbison, PP, PLS



I hope everyone is getting ready for Spring and for Annual Meeting as I cannot wait to see all of you!

Below is a Proposed Standing Rule Change to be presented to the membership at General Assembly on April 29, 2023:

## PROPOSED STANDING RULE CHANGE

(Add the text in red.)

### II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

5. **Treasurer:** Under the direction of the Board, the Treasurer shall serve as chairman of the Finance Committee and oversee the financial affairs of AALS. She/he shall sign checks to authorize disbursements and perform such other duties as are assigned by the President or the Board. The Treasurer shall:
- B. Be responsible for handling and distributing all funds of AALS, making deposits, and disbursing checks. All checks shall be countersigned by the President. The Treasurer shall not countersign any checks signed in advance by the President until the check is disbursed. All electronic transactions shall be approved by the president's signature on a debit card transaction form. **The Treasurer shall share with the President all passwords created for access to all accounts owned by AALS.**

If you need a copy of the current Bylaws, Standing Rules or Procedures Manual, please let me know.

Hope to see everyone soon at Annual Meeting in Saraland!

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If you could see your ancestors  
All standing in a row,  
There might be some of them, perhaps,  
You wouldn't care to know.

But there lies another question, which...  
Requires a different view –

If you could meet your ancestors,  
Would they be proud of you?

*Don E. - 3/28/1924*



Webpage: [www.alabama-als.org](http://www.alabama-als.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aalsalabama](https://www.facebook.com/aalsalabama)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aalsinfo>

## CHAPLAIN

*Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS*

I hope everyone is doing well and having lots of success in your professional and personal life. It can definitely be a balancing act trying to do it all. I have six grandchildren playing sports so my calendar stays totally full spreading the love to try and see them all play, one in college. My brides at Oak Hollow Farm are pretty demanding too, so when you add in church and volunteer responsibilities, life is never boring. Keeps us young, right? I pray every day for God's wisdom and for the energy to do everything he has out there for me. More importantly, for his will over my life.

It won't be long and we will be heading to Annual Meeting for wonderful CLE and fellowship. We will celebrate our current achievements for our year, and prepare for a new year with AALS and the new EC. Exciting for sure! I look forward to seeing everyone there! Until then, may God bless you and your family.



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## FUNDING

*Barb Hanley, PLS & Kristi Skipper, PP-SC, Co-Chairmen*

We have enjoyed a wonderful year of FUNdraising with you! Thank you to everyone who has participated in our efforts! Please make plans to bring a Chinese Auction item for the Annual Meeting in April. Get creative and bring your best Spring Fling items!



Celebrate Spring with a plant & grow basket (pots, seeds, tools, gloves, kneeling pad); cute umbrellas or rain ponchos for April showers; Mother's Day items; a Kentucky Derby party basket; a beach basket for enjoying a day in the sun; a Spring Cleaning basket; garden statuary or decorations; wind chimes or wind spinners; good books for summer reading; cute unbreakable cups; use your imagination for a Spring Fling!



# CERTIFICATION

Kristi Skipper, PP-SC

The ALP program at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School had a change of instructors after the school year started. There is only one student planning to take the ALP exam, but we are hopeful that this student will be successful. I met with the new instructor in February, and spoke to the classes on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> about NALS, gave them the background of how the ALP program was started, and explained how the ALP can help them in their career. This is a very bright, talented group of students, and I am excited to see what they accomplish!

Certification is a worthy goal that can enhance your career. I would love to talk to you about certification. Please reach out and let me help you chart your path!



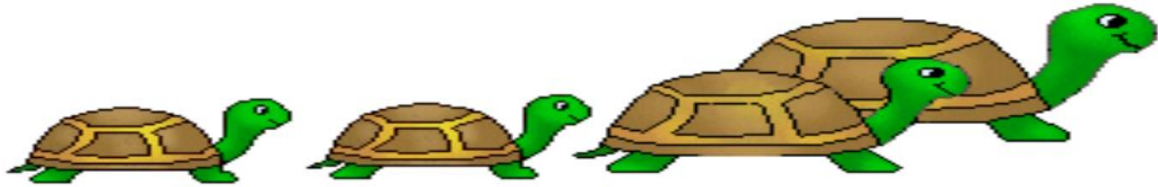
***If you have not already obtained a NALS certification, I would encourage you to seriously consider working toward this goal.*** NALS certification exams provide a standardized assessment of your knowledge and abilities. Obtaining certification builds confidence and improves comprehension. Certification will give you an enhanced opportunity for employment. Recertification helps keep legal support professionals updated on trends in the legal industry. NALS certifications are a great way to advance in the legal field. Earning a nationally recognized credential is a sound investment and a great way for legal support professionals to distinguish themselves within the legal support industry.

Please let me know if you have any questions about certification. **It doesn't matter how slow you go, as long as you don't stop!**



Max Barwick, one of our newest ALPs!

MALS held a pinning ceremony in December to present Max with an ALP pin and congratulate him on a job well done! We are so proud of the students who have blazed a trail for other high school students, and Max is a super star who will reach great heights. Max just completed an internship with a Federal Judge and we look forward to seeing where their new certification will take them next!



*It Doesn't matter how slow you go,  
as long as you don't stop!*

**2022 - 2023**

## **DIXIE DIGEST PATRONS**

<b>Sandra Doerr, ALP</b>	<b>BCALP</b>
<b>Gina Harbison, PP, PLS</b>	<b>BCALP</b>
<b>Deborah Rutherford</b>	<b>BCALP</b>
<b>Judy Whigham, PP, PLS</b>	<b>BCALP</b>
<b>Myra Beckham, PP, PLS</b>	<b>BLSA</b>
<b>Teresa Moore, PP, PLS</b>	<b>BLSA</b>
<b>Kristi Skipper, PP-SC</b>	<b>MALS</b>
<b>Danielle Baker</b>	<b>MLPA</b>
<b>Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS</b>	<b>MLPA</b>
<b>Barbara M. Malone, PP, PLS</b>	<b>MLPA</b>
<b>Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS</b>	<b>MLPA</b>
<b>Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS</b>	<b>NOCA</b>
<b>Nancy Harris, PP, PLS</b>	<b>NOCA</b>
<b>Susan Turner, PLS</b>	<b>NOCA</b>

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## BCALP - Baldwin County

*Deborah Rutherford*



**EVERYONE, PLEASE WELCOME NATASHA WHIGHAM AS OUR NEWEST BCALP MEMBER. NATASHA WORKS FOR HANLEY LAW FIRM IN MOBILE AND IS THE DAUGHTER OF JUDY WHIGHAM.**

We held our After Christmas Party at Windcreek Casino and Hotel in Atmore on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, where we had a delicious buffet dinner and played Dirty Santa. Special thanks to members Gina Harbison and Keesha O'Barr Frye for making this possible through the generosity of the Poarch Creek Tribal Court. We did sneak a brief business meeting into the evening as well.

Seven of our members traveled to Selma to attend the AALS Winter Board Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> hosted by DCLSA and MALS. What a wonderful time we had. The CLE and networking were awesome. If you have never been to a board meeting, you are missing out on a wonderful time.

We thoroughly enjoyed the cocktail party on Friday night at the historic Woolworth Five and Dime building planned by Harriet Piper. Harriet, you sure know how to throw a party. The food was amazing, and the time together was even better. We were especially proud to have a part in the community recovery in the aftermath of the tornado by donating much needed supplies, which Harriet graciously delivered to the Edmunite Missions on behalf of BCALP.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, BCALP members met at the new location of Beef O'Brady's in Spanish Fort for a business only meeting.

We sure are looking forward to the upcoming Annual Meeting to be hosted by MLPA and hope to see everyone there.

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## BLSA – Birmingham

*Myra Beckham, PP, PLS*



In January, several of our members attended the AALS Winter Board Meeting in Selma and enjoyed seeing our AALS family. BLSA continues meeting around the Birmingham area at local restaurants. At our January meeting, we selected a scholarship winner from several candidates; it was a tough decision because we had a number of worthy candidates. We held election of officers in January and elected the following officers: Melissa Cooper, CAP, BW, OM, PM, RM / PLS, President; Ed Clark, PP-SC, Vice President; Teresa Moore, PP, PLS, Secretary; Debby Holmes, PP, PLS, Treasurer; and Myra Beckham, PP, PLS, Governor. Congratulations to BLSA member Ed Clark, PP-SC on his election to the NALS Board of Directors. Last but certainly not least, we are excited about the AALS Annual Meeting and know MLPA will do an outstanding job as usual.

## DCLSA - DALLAS COUNTY

*Harriett Piper*

While Dallas County was still reeling from the January 12<sup>th</sup> tornado, DCLSA was able to host Winter Board in Selma the following week and we are thankful for AALS members who were able to attend. We hope you learned something new, or refreshed your knowledge of something you already knew, and we appreciate the reception you gave to our speakers.

It was a great social that Friday night at the Loft and we thank AC Reeves, owner of the venue, for letting us tour the 'Five & Dime' and her rental apartments on the second floor. AC's husband, Attorney Allen Reeves, called our office the next week and was telling me how excited and pleased she was with the event and all the members she met. Allen was very impressed with AALS.

We are thankful to AALS for remembering DCLSA member Ivy Harrison in prayer and placing her on our prayer list. Ivy lost her husband in early January and the prayers comfort her.

In closing I want to thank AALS members on behalf of DCLSA and Dallas County and the City of Selma for the donations to our local tornado relief effort. I delivered your contributions the following week to Probate Judge Nunn for the Relief Fund and your donated items to The Edmundite Mission. I was very proud to represent AALS as I delivered and presented your generosity to them and we all thank you.



### Upcoming Holiday Schedule:

March 12	Daylight Saving	Sunday
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	Friday
April 1	April Fool's Day	Saturday
April 7	Good Friday	Friday
April 9	Easter	Sunday

April 22	Earth Day	Saturday
May 5	Cinco de Mayo	Friday
May 14	Mother's Day	Sunday
May 20	Armed Forces Day	Saturday
May 29	Memorial Day	Monday



## MLPA – Mobile

Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS



MLPA has been very busy! December was our month to party –

We had a gift swap at our monthly luncheon meeting at Crockmires – and President Julie Nims was our guest! Whoo Hoo!

Our Christmas Project was the William F. Green Veterans Home in Bay Minette, Alabama and we collected a SUV full of items (list attached) to donate. Babs Dekeyser and I had the privilege of delivering the items to the Home and we had a great time!

MLPA also hosted an After Hours Christmas Party in December at Café Del Rio Tex-Mex Restaurant on the Causeway and our BLSA Sisters-in-Law joined us for an ornament swap, good food and a fun time together!

The New Year and January brought us Babs Dekeyser, PP, PLS and Legal Bingo at our monthly luncheon meeting! Talk about tickling your brain cells and keeping you on your toes!

Winter Board was a mixed blessing of thankfulness that none of our DCLSA members suffered loss of life or property in the Selma Tornado(s) and taking the opportunity to remember, cherish and honor Cheri Loyd. Kudos to MALS and DCLSA – it was a great meeting and a great time together!

Our MLPA February speaker was Jennifer Holifield, Esq. who reminded us about all the ethical pitfalls we legal professionals have to dodge in working for our employers and how to better assist them in their work. Of course, we also had 100,000+ people downtown at any given time during Mardi Gras enjoying the great Mobile hospitality!

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Fairfield Inn in Saraland, Alabama in April for Annual Meeting. Safe travels to you all and come have your Spring Fling with us!

### **LIST OF ITEMS COLLECTED FOR MLPA CHRISTMAS PROJECT AT WILLIAM F. GREEN VETERAN'S HOME**

2 bags birdseed	3 bags candy	42 bags chips
3 pair shoes	3 pair slippers	4 neck wallets
5 chargers	6 tube toothpaste	20 cans soft drinks
12 boxes Kleenex	6 bottles mouthwash	2 belts
48 bottle Gatorade	4 reachers/grabbers	6 bottles lotions
12 shirts	19 men's deodorant	46 fruit snacks
4 hats	4 women's deodorant	4 9V batteries
246 bottles/pouches fruit drinks	16 bottles body wash	34 AA batteries
8 bags hard candy	2 jigsaw puzzles	36 AAA batteries
	6 bags cookies	



## **MALS – Montgomery**

Kristi Skipper, PP-SC, PLS



The members of MALS were honored to assist Dallas County LSA with hosting the AALS Winter Board Meeting in Selma, Alabama in January. Harriet and her crew did a fantastic job of securing the meeting location and catering and organizing a wonderful evening of fellowship, delicious food and drinks at the 5 and Dime. Babs did a great job lining up our speakers, all of whom were excellent. It was sobering to see the tornado damage in Selma, and I am grateful that AALS was able to make a donation to assist the tornado victims. I believe that our presence and our money spent at local hotels and restaurants was a great way to support our Dallas County friends. Thank you to everyone who planned and participated. It was a fantastic weekend!

In Selma, I was very excited to be presented with the NALS Volunteer of the Year award for my involvement in making the ALP exam available to Alabama high school students. Receiving the award has given me renewed energy as I work with a new instructor to keep the momentum going at Booker T. Washington. This award is a tangible reminder of the good things that are happening in our state, and the amazing things that can be accomplished if we just think outside the box!

The members of MALS are looking forward to seeing everyone in April at the Annual Meeting in Saraland!



**Webpage**    [www.nals.org](http://www.nals.org)

**Facebook**    [www.facebook.com/NALSpace](http://www.facebook.com/NALSpace)

**Twitter**    [twitter.com/NALStweet](http://twitter.com/NALStweet)

## **NALS OF CENTRAL ALABAMA**

*Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS*

No way else to say it other than Winter Board was a BLAST! Literally preceded by a whirlwind that swept through Selma, just days prior to our meeting. It was amazing to see the way the community pulled together to help one another overcome the hardships that come with such disasters and still be able to host such a wonderful meeting for our association. Not only did they host the meeting, they showed us the love and good times along as well; even with all that has to be done to rebuild in the aftermath. Thank you so very much for letting us share in being a part of it all! What a blessing to be join in with your community for just a little while!

So much interesting CLE from the speakers, who were all awesome! The food was delicious. Friday night at the Five & Dime was fun, fun, fun, and the art was beautiful and the food was delish there too! Everything was just wonderful. The entire meeting in Selma was just special. Thank you to everyone!



## **NALS Events Calendar**

Friday, March 17, 2023

Webinar: Setting Boundaries – Dealing with Difficult People; 1:00 – 12:00 Eastern

Tuesday, March 28, 2023September, 15, 2021

Chapter Leader: Development – Treasurers 1:00 – 2:00 Eastern

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Webinar: The ABC's of Remote Depositions; 1:00 – 2:00 Eastern

Saturday, April 21, 2023

Online CLP/PLS Exam

Online ALP Exam

Online PP Exam

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Online Leader Development – Secretaries; 1:00 -2:00 Eastern

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Online Leader Development – All Officers; 1:00 -2:00 Eastern

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Online Leader Development – Education/Certification; 1:00 -2:00 Eastern

NALS of Central Alabama encourages everyone to stay connected and enjoy the many benefits offered by our association.

As always, the members of NALS of Central Alabama are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting being hosted by MLPA in April as we continue to support our association and its members. We hope that everyone travels safely and stays well! Wishing you all a **Happy St. Patrick's Day** and a very **Blessed Easter!!**

### **NALS Mission**

engage | inspire | enhance | promote

**Engage** legal professionals on their terms.

**Inspire** legal professionals to want more.

**Enhance** the careers of legal professionals.

**Promote** legal professionals and the legal support industry.



AALS IS GROOVIN' INTO ITS



AALS ANNUAL MEETING 2023

APRIL 28-29, 2023

SARALAND, ALABAMA

Plan on Joining Us Friday Night for our

60s Dance Party

Wear your favorite 60s attire

Peace Out !



# AALS Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

April 28-29, 2023

Saraland, Alabama

**CLE AWARDED 7.0 hours**

## FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Exhibitors Open

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. TBD  
Speaker:

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. TBD  
*Speaker: Alexa Stabler Adams, Esq.*

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. BREAK

11:15 am – 12:15 p.m. Service Dogs of Alabama  
*Speaker: Caroline Sease*

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH with Exhibitors

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Domestic Relations (no specifics yet)  
*Speaker: Kristine McCullough, Esq.*

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Employment Policies and Procedure  
*Speaker: Elizabeth Rehm, Esq.*

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. BREAK/DOOR PRIZES

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. TBD  
Speaker:

5:00 – 5:15 p.m. Mandatory Delegate Orientation

6:15 p.m. Dinner/Entertainment

## SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

8:45 a.m. – noon Exhibitors Open

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Elder Abuse and Identity Theft  
*Speaker: Katrina Kennedy, Lifeline Counseling*

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. General Assembly

Immediately following Gen Assembly INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Immediately following Installation Awards Luncheon and Auction

Immediately after lunch AALS First Board Meeting

**Please Note:**

**AGENDA SUBJECT  
TO CHANGE**

**251-406-8572**

A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H      I

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2022-2023

COMMITTEE	CHAIR/CO-CHAIR	EMAIL
Annual Meeting & Educational Conf. 2021 (MLPA Hosting)	Sonia Smith, CLP	<a href="mailto:ssmith@mcdowellknight.com">ssmith@mcdowellknight.com</a>
Audit Committee (2022-2023 Books)	Karen Watts Susan Turner, PP, PLS Barbara Malone, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:kbw@ajlaw.com">kbw@ajlaw.com</a> <a href="mailto:sturner2748@gmail.com">sturner2748@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:barbaramalone@gmail.com">barbaramalone@gmail.com</a>
Audit Committee (2022 Annual Meeting)	Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS Sonia Smith, CLP Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:dtalleyb@gmail.com">dtalleyb@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ssmith@mcdowellknight.com">ssmith@mcdowellknight.com</a> <a href="mailto:aks6451@aol.com">aks6451@aol.com</a>
Bar Liaison	Deborah Harper, PP	<a href="mailto:deborah.harper@alabar.org">deborah.harper@alabar.org</a>
Bylaws, Standing Rules & Procedures Manual	Gina Harbison, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:gharbison@pci-nsn.gov">gharbison@pci-nsn.gov</a>
Certification	Kristi Skipper, PP-PC, PLS	<a href="mailto:kristiskipperpp@gmail.com">kristiskipperpp@gmail.com</a>
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Dixie Digest	Margaret Dawson, PLS	<a href="mailto:thistldome@gmail.com">thistldome@gmail.com</a>
Finance	Ed Clark, PP-SC	<a href="mailto:ebc@phm-law.com">ebc@phm-law.com</a>
Funding	Barb Hanley, PP, PLS Kristi Skipper, PP-SC	<a href="mailto:hthgm@gmail.com">hthgm@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:kristiskipperpp@gmail.com">kristiskipperpp@gmail.com</a>
Installation	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com">jwhigham@joneswalker.com</a>
Legal Education	Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:Babs.dekeyser@att.net">Babs.dekeyser@att.net</a>
Marketing	Melissa Cooper, CAP-OM, PLS	<a href="mailto:scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com">scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com</a>
Member of the Year	Teresa Moore, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:tmoore@burr.com">tmoore@burr.com</a>
Membership	Michele Potter, PP	<a href="mailto:mpotter@brewsterlaw.net">mpotter@brewsterlaw.net</a>
NALS Connection Committee	Ed Clark, PP-SC	<a href="mailto:ebc@phm-law.com">ebc@phm-law.com</a>
New Member of the Year	TBA	
Nominations & Elections, Credentials	Tena Matthews, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:capreesmom@aol.com">capreesmom@aol.com</a>
Resolutions	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com">jwhigham@joneswalker.com</a>
Scholarship	Kayla Bassett, PLS	<a href="mailto:kibassett55@outlook.com">kibassett55@outlook.com</a>
Scrapbook	Melissa Cooper, CAP-OM, PLS	<a href="mailto:scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com">scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com</a>
Strategic Planning	Melissa Cooper, CAP-OM, PLS	<a href="mailto:scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com">scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com</a>
Web Page and Technology	Margaret Dawson, PLS	<a href="mailto:thistldome@gmail.com">thistldome@gmail.com</a>