

NEALSP- Northeast Arkansas Legal Support Professionals

Member of NALS, the association for legal professions

Member of AALS, The Association for Arkansas Legal Support Professionals

The Legal Issue



Volume 21, No. 3 – Fall, 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Northeast Arkansas Legal Support Professionals

To the wonderful women of NEALSP:

We are in the home stretch of this year, I'm not sure if anyone is happier than I am that this year is coming to an end. I want to thank each one of you for your contribution this year.

I am very excited about the upcoming Roast for retiring Judges Rice VanAusdall and David Burnett. If you have any questions, check with our wonderful Roast Chair, Michelle Grilletta, PLS and I'm sure she can answer them. This is a very big event for our association and I hope to see each of you there. I look forward to seeing each of you at our February meeting also, which I will be attending, because school basketball season will be over with by then. We also have our February Legal Education coming up with Capt. Phillip Faulkner of the Paragould Police Department on February 24 at the Greene County Courthouse at 5:45 p.m. Next month (MARCH, 17, 2009) is election of officers (yippee!!!!!!). Please be thinking about what office you would like to hold. It would really be fun to go back to the days when we had to vote on officers as oppose to pleading with people to take an office. We will also have March Legal Education and Bosses' Night ahead of us to close out our local year.

Coming up on the National and State level is the NALS Professional Development and Educational Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma March 12-14, I am pleased that NEALSP will be represented. The year just gets sweeter and sweeter; with the AALS Annual Meeting in April in Springdale, AR, after that we can relax with other AALS gals at the Leadership Retreat at Ferncliff in June and then back to work with the Region 6 Meeting in July in North Little Rock, AR.

As you can see, we have a lot going on for the next few months, so if you have any questions about any of the above, please contact me.

It's been great serving as President this year, mainly because all of you have been such a big help in stepping up and filling in when and where necessary.

Hugs to all of you,

Wyvetta Smith, PLS
NEALSP President

OTHER OFFICER'S REPORT

NEALSP TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER, 2008 GENERAL FUND - HERITAGE BANK

Balance as of September 16, 2008 \$ 132.32

Deposits/Credits

10/06/08 - AALS Fall Mtg. ½ Proceeds - \$486.72

10/06/08 - AALS Fall Mtg. Silent Auction - \$137.00

10/20/08 - NALS - L. Sessions NM Dues - \$ 10.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS/CREDITS \$ 633.72

Disbursements

9/15/08 - Grecian Steakhouse (Judge Stidham Gift) - \$15.00

10/03/08 - TaMolly's (Steve Grilletta Gift) - \$20.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (\$ 35.00)

Balance as of October 21, 2008 \$ 731.04

NEALSP TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTOBER, 2008
SCHOLARSHIP FUND - HERITAGE BANK

Balance as of September 16, 2008	\$2,070.52
Deposits/Credits	
9/30/08 - Interest	\$ 4.73
10/06/08 - Tommy Fowler Drop Box - \$20.00	
TOTAL DEPOSITS/CREDITS	(\$ 24.73)
Disbursements	
NONE	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	(\$ <u>0.00</u>)
Balance as of October 21, 2008	\$2,095.25

NEALSP TREASURER'S REPORT
NOVEMBER, 2008
GENERAL FUND - HERITAGE BANK

Balance as of October 21, 2008	\$ 731.04
Deposits/Credits	
NONE	
TOTAL DEPOSITS/CREDITS	\$ 00.00
Disbursements	
11/17/08 - Kroger (Gift Certificate/Thanksgiving Charity) - \$50.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	(\$ <u>50.00</u>)
Balance as of November 18, 2008	\$ 681.04

(No December meeting, so no December report.)

NEALSP TREASURER'S REPORT
NOVEMBER, 2008
SCHOLARSHIP FUND - HERITAGE BANK

Balance as of October 21, 2008 \$2,095.25

Deposits/Credits

NONE

TOTAL DEPOSITS/CREDITS (\$ 0.00)

Disbursements

NONE

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (\$ 0.00)

Balance as of November 18, 2008 \$2,095.25

(No December meeting, so no December report.)

Northeast Arkansas Legal Support Professionals

Minutes of the Business Meeting

October 21, 2008

Courthouse Annex 4th Floor Jury Room

President Wyvetta Smith PLS called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Members present in addition to the President were: Shari Straub, Kara Whitehead, Joyce Morgan, Michelle Grilletta PLS and Charlie Patterson. There were two visitors: Scott Straub and Carson.

NEALSP BUSINESS

The minutes of the September Business Meeting were reviewed, and one correction was made concerning the mention of the Region 6 members in Galveston TX the minutes said Chapter 6 should have been Region 6. Otherwise the minutes were approved as submitted.

The Treasurer's report was distributed indicating a balance in the General Fund as of this date in the amount of \$731.04. The Scholarship Fund has a present balance of \$2,095.25. The Treasurer's Report was submitted for financial review.

There were no receipts submitted for reimbursement.

Legal Training Course

President, Wyvetta Smith PLS discussed the need for a legal training course. She suggested that we wait until the Spring due to the holidays and the roast. She wants all members to be thinking about it and to keep an ear out for possible attendees.

Thanksgiving

President, Wyvetta Smith PLS asked if we voted on whom we wanted to give the basket to or is it given to the Women's Crisis Center every year. Joyce Morgan and Michelle Grilletta PLS said that it would need to be voted on each year. Charlie Patterson made a motion for the NEALSP to give a \$50 gift card for the meat and members to donate the non perishable items to the Women's Crisis Center. There was a second after no discussion the motion was carried. A list will circulate for the donated items so that we don't have a lot of duplicates. If there is something special or if you know what you want to donate let Wyvetta Smith PLS know.

Christmas

President, Wyvetta Smith PLS discussed that we all need to be thinking of what charitable thing we want to do for Christmas. It will be on the agenda for next month's business meeting. It was asked if the bar association was going to help again this year, Wyvetta Smith PLS said she would contact Kim Cooksey PLS, NEALSP Bar Liason, and have her contact them to see.

Judges' Roast

Michelle Grilletta PLS handed out information from Holiday Inn. She reported that the roast will be held February 21, 2009 starting at 6:00 pm lasting until 9:00 pm. The schedule was discussed and it was decided that from 6:00 – 6:30 pm will be a meet and greet social time, 6:30 – 7:30 pm will be dinner and the roast festivities will begin at 7:30 pm.

Bobby McDaniel will be emcee for the roast and there will be 3 roasters per Judge then the Judges will do their replies. Michelle Grilletta PLS said that she has contacted most of the roasters and as of tonight they have accepted. Between Wyvetta Smith PLS and Michelle Grilletta PLS the opening, introductions, giving of the clocks and closing will be done. Michelle Grilletta PLS explained that NEALSP traditionally has given the Judges engraved clocks as a gift and that tradition will continue this year with agreement from the member present. It was discussed about having caricatures of the Judges done and displayed.

The rooms at the Holidome will cost \$500, the bar set-up with bartenders will only cost \$660.00 due to the Straub Law Firm, PLLC donating the alcohol for the evening. Scott Straub was present and offered to do so. The tickets we sell for alcohol and other drinks will therefore be profit for the NEALSP. It was discussed and decided that the tickets for drinks will be \$4.00 each. Scott Straub gave some insight on the attorney side of things as to what we should have available to drink, etc.... The members present discussed in length the cost per person it was decided to do the Prime Rib Buffet with that going on the invitations. So crunching the preliminary numbers it was discussed to charge \$50.00 per guest. A list of sitting judges, the roasters, the judges that are being roasted and NEALSP members being no charge was discussed.

The menu was discussed and members present decided on Prime Rib, Chicken Marsalis, twiced baked potatoes, fresh vegetable medley, corn casserole, turtle cheesecake and chocolate layer cake.

Joyce Morgan asked if we had a theme. It was discussed to do the same sort of decoration as the anniversary gala. Joyce Morgan and Wyvetta Smith PLS volunteered to head the decoration committee. Members present formed and volunteered for various committees to help make this event a success. Please contact Michelle Grilletta PLS to volunteer for a committee. We will need greeters, ticket sellers, decorators, etc... and it was discussed that everyone should plan to be present for set up and clean up.

It was discussed to send out the invitations during the first week of January and giving a deadline for RSVP in time to give the numbers to Holiday Inn. Scott Straub offered to talk to a videographer about taping the event and selling DVDs. Michelle Grilletta PLS suggested that we give the two judges their DVD at no cost to them. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

Other Business

Wyvetta Smith PLS discussed that there may be a new member coming from the Paragould office of Joe Hughes.

Joyce Morgan said that Andrea Hicks PLS is still working on the Court tour for Court Observance. The class that she had contacted at JHS cannot attend. She will let us know as soon as she can set something up. Wyvetta Smith PLS said that Belinda Penn PLS has a Court Observance Day set up in Paragould. This Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 11:30 am Kara Whitehead is going to the Mayor's office for him to sign the Proclamation.

Wyvetta Smith PLS said that the Legal Issue should be emailed soon. Lisa Rookey is working hard to get it sent out. She mentioned that there is a report of the Fall Business Meeting by Belinda Penn PLS among other items.

Announcements

2009 AALS Winter Business Meeting January 9-10, 2009
Velda Rose Hotel
Hot Springs, AR

2009 AALS Annual Meeting April 24-26, 2009
Fayetteville, AR

There being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 5:15pm in the jury room.

Respectfully submitted

Shari Straub
Shari Straub
NEALSP Secretary

Northeast Arkansas Legal Support Professionals

Minutes of the Business Meeting

November 18, 2008

Courthouse Annex 4th Floor Jury Room

Due to the unavoidable absences of the President and Vice-President, Secretary Shari Straub called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m.

Members present in addition to the Secretary were: Joyce Morgan, Michelle Grilletta PLS, Charlie Patterson, Kim Chrisco, Brenda Welsh PLS, Belinda Penn PLS, Sharon Davis PLS, Lisa Rookey and our newest member, Loretta Huckabay.

NEALSP BUSINESS

The minutes of the October Business Meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

The Treasurer's report was distributed indicating a balance in the General Fund as of this date in the amount of \$681.04. The amount is minus the \$50 Kroger gift card for our Thanksgiving charity. The Scholarship Fund has a present balance of \$2,095.25. The Treasurer's Report was submitted for financial review.

There were no receipts submitted for reimbursement.

Roast

Michelle Grilletta PLS informed the group of a menu change for the judge's roast. The menu will consist of Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala, twice baked potatoes, green bean casserole and Broccoli & Rice casserole. There will be a salad bar with Ranch, Raspberry Vinaigrette and Honey mustard dressings.

One small problem exist, the group cannot sell alcoholic beverages. If we have a bar it is going to have to be an open bar. A discussion was had and suggestions of a donation jar along side the bartenders tip jar or giving 2 tickets for drinks with the price of the dinner. I said that I would have Scott do his attorney thing with the ABC board to see if anything can be done and/or what would be the right thing to do. Having a cash bar had been no problem in the past but now Holiday Inn says that we can't do it.

Thanksgiving

NEALSP bought a \$50 Kroger gift card and brought many non perishable food items to donate to the Women's Crisis Center. It was decided to take the donation to the Women's Crisis Center on Tuesday, November 25 2008 at noon. It was decided to ask Andrea Hicks PLS to call and let them know that the donation will be delivered at that time.

Christmas

Joyce Morgan presented that JHS is selling holiday hams for a fundraiser for a trip to New York City. Suggesting that our donation to the Women's Crisis Center could be the ham. It was discussed that we needed to call the Women's Crisis Center and get a "wish list" in case the Craighead County Bar Association decided to help us spread some Christmas joy. Also mentioned was collecting can goods for the food bank from the NEALSP. Putting donation boxes in the Courthouse hallway was mentioned so that more people would be able to donate if they wanted to without having to go very far. So Belinda Penn PLS made a motion to buy a holiday ham for our donation to WCC, to obtain a "wish list" from the WCC in case the Craighead Co. Bar Assoc. helped with gifts and to collect canned goods for the food bank. The motion was seconded and with a unanimous vote the motion was carried.

NEALSP Christmas Party Location

NEALSP Christmas Party location is still tentative; the membership thought Kara Whitehead had volunteered to have the party at her home. If not, Wyvetta Smith PLS said that she would host the party. Need to check with Kara.

Other Business

An email from NALS President Elect Julie Abernathy PP, PLS was presented requesting that anyone wanting to volunteer for a NALS committee to email her. So if anyone wants to be on a NALS committee contact Julie Abernathy PP, PLS at Julie.Abernathy@haynesboone.com.

Belinda Penn PLS shared with the group that she is going to have gall bladder surgery on Tuesday, November 25, so our thoughts and prayers go with her.

Announcements

2009 AALS Winter Business Meeting January 9-10, 2009
Velda Rose Hotel
Hot Springs, AR

2009 AALS Annual Meeting April 24-26, 2009
Fayetteville, AR

There being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at the Christmas Party location starting at 5:15 pm, if there is a need to meet.

Belinda Penn PLS conducted the November Legal Education immediately following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Shari Straub

Shari Straub
NEALSP Secretary

(No December Meeting)

STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

WINTER BUSINESS MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS JANUARY 9-10, 2009

The Winter Business Meeting and Educational Conference of AALS was held at Velda Rose in Hot Springs, Arkansas on January 9-10, 2009, and hosted by Garland County Legal Support Professionals. NEALSP members in attendance were: Michelle Grilletta, PLS; Shari Straub; and Belinda Penn, PLS.

Friday night's activities began with registration and wonderful finger foods. The CLE session was entitled "Legal Jeopardy" with Margaret Wilson being our final winner.

Our first CLE session was given by Janetta Ritter, MBA from National Park Community College. Ms. Ritter left words of encouragement on empowering ourselves and she was surprised at how well we knew each other. The second CLE session of the morning was given by Josh Drake and pertained to domestic relations law.

The door prizes were great and ask Sue Holder, Dot Griffin, Janet Gordon, and Cheryl Summerhill about the "Sassy Cats".

The Winter Business Meeting commenced with President Linda Adair, PLS presiding. There were 6 chapters represented at the meeting, 11 board members, no members at large, no visitors or guests, and 3 first time attendees. The first time attendees were Stacy Givens, Larri Bickerstaff and Christina Hilman. The Consent Agenda was utilized.

The Treasurer's Reports were distributed and submitted for financial review.

The following Executive Committee recommendations were made and approved:

1. That AALS approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget.
2. That AALS reserve and pay for an information booth at the Arkansas Bar Association meeting at the Arlington in Hot Springs, Arkansas, June 10-12, 2009, in the amount of \$200.00.
3. That the registration of the Parliamentarian be included in the distribution of the officers' registration to the annual meeting.

In new business, motions were made and seconded waiving the necessary rules to allow all members to vote during the election of officers at that meeting. At the completion of elections, AALS members congratulated the following officers for 2009-2010:

President:	Janice Miller, CPS, PLS, PP
President-Elect:	Judy Davis
Secretary:	Ann Simmons
Treasurer:	Janet Gordon, PLS
Immediate Past President:	Linda Adair, PLS

Martha Cox gave an update on the Region 6 meeting scheduled for July 17-19, 2009, at the Riverfront Wyndham in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The cost of registration will be \$125.00 and will include a tour of the Clinton Presidential Library. Ms. Cox also announced that we received confirmation that NALS President, Julie Abernathy, and NALS President-Elect, Patty Infanti, will be attending the Region 6 meeting.

Janice Miller gave an update on the first Nuts & Bolts seminar. The first seminar was held on January 9, 2009, in Hot Springs and was sponsored by Garland County LSP and AALS. There were 17 registrations with 15 present.

Mimi Mangrum informed the members that the location of the AALS Retreat had been changed. The cost of the retreat will be \$50.00 for the weekend or \$12.00 for Saturday only.

President Adair announced the AALS' contribution to the NALS conference had been sent, the necessity of a fiduciary bond was being researched, and the distribution of annual meeting registrations has been approved.

A motion was made and seconded that AALS waive the \$95.00 registration fee for Doris Compton, Region 6 Director, to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting.

President Adair announced that Martha Cox and Donna Holloway will perform the AALS financial review.

Marie Schoenfeldt was the winner of the full registration to the Annual Spring Board Meeting.

The following puzzle pieces were awarded by President Adair: White County LSP – 3; Jefferson County LSP – 2; Garland County LSP – 13; Saline County LSP – 3; Greater Little Rock LSP – 16 (total); and Northeast Arkansas LSP – 3. The winner of the free registration to the annual meeting was Greater Little Rock LSP.

Janice Miller announced that she had positions available for people willing to serve next year and if anyone is interested to contact her.

Garland County LSP announced that there were 28 full registrations and 5 partial registrations for the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.



Belinda Penn, PLS
State Director 2008-2009

COMMITTEE REPORT

NEALSP's CLE

Schedule for 2008-2009

Each member designated shall be in charge of obtaining a speaker for that month. If you are unable to participate during the month you are designated, please switch with someone and advise Joyce. Dates, times and locations are flexible, as long as we have over a week's notice (preferably two). You are further asked to send a thank you letter to your speaker after the CLE. Joyce will send out all notices and distribute certificates to members in attendance. Thanks! Joyce

JUNE	Shari Straub
JULY	Andrea Hicks, PLS
AUGUST	Charlie Patterson
SEPTEMBER	Kim Chrisco
OCTOBER	Erma Brady, PLS
NOVEMBER	Brenda Welch, PLS
JANUARY	Joyce Morgan
FEBRUARY	Belinda Penn, PLS
MARCH	Christy Davis
APRIL	Sharon Davis, PLS
MAY	Kim Cooksey, PLS

Joyce Morgan

*Trial Court Assistant For Circuit Judge Lee Fergus
P. O. Box 1472
Jonesboro, AR 72403
(870) 933-4548 (Office) (870) 933-7711 (Fax)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

FEBRUARY LEGAL EDUCATION

**CAPT. PHILLIP FAULKNER OF THE
PARAGOULD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009 AT
5:45**

GREENE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Everyone also needs to know that Capt. Faulkner will be talking about how to handle hostage situations in the work place and what would happen if you are in the courthouse during a live shooter/hostage situation.

AALS NEWS

The AALS 2009 Region 6 Host Committee has selected the Wyndham Riverfront in NLR as the location and chosen the dates of July 15-19, 2009. Further information will be shared as determined.

AALS GRANT

Do you have a child or grandchild who is a senior in high school or in college? Or are they, you or your spouse going to some form of higher learning institution, i.e. vocational or graduate school? If so, then they are eligible to apply for the AALS grant in the amount of \$500.00!!!

However, the deadline is fast approaching **February 15th**, and it is a somewhat lengthy application process.

If you are interested, contact President Wyvetta for the application form. My son, Matt, won last year--and he was the only qualified applicant.

Joyce

P.S. Stricker Law Firm called me yesterday and no longer want their Courthouse Drop Box, as they check it once every two months or so and were getting court trial notices, etc., so it's not working for them....FYI.

TULSA 09

Experience something new

Register Today!

Make your plans today to travel to Tulsa and attend the Professional Development & Education Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Each year NALS leaders and members gather in the home of NALS to learn and have a great time while making life long memories. Don't miss this opportunity to make the most out of your membership!

March 12-14, 2009 • Tulsa, OK • Double Tree Warren Place

Get Your Name on the Wall!

Your Second Chance to be a part of the NALS Resource Center is now available. There is still room on the wall and there are also more rooms and some new things to sponsor!

The Official NALS Blog is Now Online!

Enjoy information from the President and President-Elect as well as from the Resource Center Staff...use insideNALS to keep up to date on what is going on with NALS!

Reminders & Deadlines

March 1 - Foundation Grant Deadline

March 12-14 - Professional Development & Education Conference • Tulsa, OK

NALS BASEBALL CAP ORDER FORM

Ladies' 100% cotton twill lightweight cap, 6 panel, medium profile, structured crown and pre-curved visor. Self-fabric strap with tuck-in closure and metal sliding buckle and large opening in back for pony tail.

Color Selection:	Cash/Check:	\$10 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Lime Green	Quantity:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pink	Credit Card Fee:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Powder Blue	TOTAL:	_____

Credit Card Orders ONLY: Please add a \$2 credit card processing fee per cap to the total amount due, and provide the following information with your signature:

Please Charge my credit card:
 American Express Master Card Visa Expires: _____
Account No.: _____

Signature: _____

*

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY---THIS WILL BE YOUR MAILING LABEL!!!

*

FROM:
Doris T. Compton, PP, PLS
NALs Region 6 Director
34 Legends Drive
Little Rock, AR 72210

To: _____

ALS/PLS INFO, MOCK EXAM

ANNOTATIONS PART 3. ETHICS AND JUDGMENT Section A. Ethics

Direction: Select the statement in each group that is true and shade in the bubble representing your answer on the answer sheet.

1.
 - a. A lawyer may be subject to disqualification from further representation of a client, be held liable for damages to the client, and be subject to disciplinary proceedings if the lawyer is found to be involved in a conflict of interest.
 - b. If a law firm finds itself simultaneously representing two clients in two different lawsuits whose interests are adverse, it may continue to represent both.
 - c. If conflicts of interest arise during litigation, a lawyer may not move to disqualify opposing counsel.
 - d. There is no conflict of interest for a lawyer who serves on the board of an entity for which his law firm does a substantial amount of work.

2.
 - a. A law firm may not raise or lower a base hourly rate based on the success of negotiations.
 - b. A lawyer cannot represent a new client in a matter adverse to a former client if it results in a breach of loyalty to the former client.
 - c. A lawyer may not accept compensation for his services from anyone other than his client.
 - d. Client confidences and secrets remain in effect until completion of the matter or termination of the lawyer by the client.

3.
 - a. A lawyer may discuss the case with a lawyer or partner in his firm without consent of the client.
 - b. All legal matters require fee agreements which must state in writing the manner in which the fee is determined.
 - c. If a judge is threatened by his neighbor who says he will shoot the judge and his family, then the judge is within the law to enter the neighbor's house while the neighbor is away and take the neighbor's gun.
 - d. If a pro bono client has an unpopular cause and others in the community may oppose his involvement, then the lawyer may refuse to represent this client.

Exam applications online: <http://www.nals.org/certification/applications/index.html>

SPECIALTY FEATURE

REAL ESTATE

By Ethan C. Nobles

A little bit about mortgages

The folks at the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) felt it necessary to send out a bulletin about mortgages at the first of the year.

NAR officials said there has been a lot of confusion about down payments lately so the organization wants to clear up a thing or two. Here at the Arkansas Realtors® Association (ARA), we pay attention to such information from the NAR because it often applies to the Natural State.

As anyone who has shopped for a home in the last year knows, the “no money down” loans that were common just a couple of years ago are now difficult to find. The reasons for that are obvious – risky loans got a lot of lender and borrowers in trouble.

Of course, those zero down loans are still available through the States Department of Agriculture and the Veteran’s Administration for people who meet the criteria for those programs. However, lenders in Arkansas have confirmed that down payments are common with mortgages these days.

But now much of a down payment is typical? One widely available loan is through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) which has historically been a great option in Arkansas. Borrowers going through the FHA program will be required to come up with a down payment equal to 3.5 percent of the home’s value.

Of course, conventional mortgages are still widely available. Here in Arkansas, lenders have said that most borrowers will be asked to come up with a down payment of at least 5 percent.

That makes a lot of sense, actually. Those zero down loans that were common a couple of years ago were very atypical. For years, people wanting to buy home were required to come up with down payments and we’re simply getting back to those times. People thinking about purchasing homes are wise to check with a lender and find out what options are available to them.

According to the NAR, people who can afford to put 20 percent down on a home will enjoy the advantage of not having to take out mortgage insurance. That insurance isn’t cheap and is commonly required of people who put down less than 20 percent on the home.

The good news about mortgages these days is that they are still widely available, but people wanting them will usually have to come up with a down

payment. Some more good news is that interest rates on mortgages are at historical lows.

When you combine those low interest rates with downward pressure on home prices, you wind up with a great situation for buyers. Here at the ARA, we've heard that some buyers are waiting to purchase home in hopes that prices will drop even more.

The data we've collected at the ARA since the first of March, however, shows that both prices and inventories have been dropping slightly in Arkansas. It's anyone's guess how long those list prices will continue to decline, particularly since the drops haven't been slight from week to week and we've seen weekly increases here and there.

Potential buyers keeping an eye on housing markets, then, need to be aware that mortgage rates are very low and any declines in list prices have been minor. We may well be looking at the best time to purchase a home that we've seen in years.

Source: Northeast Arkansas Business Today, Volume 5, Number 5, January 5-January 18, 2009, page 22.

2008 COMMITTEES

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIR/ MEMBERS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Bar Liaison	Kim Cooksey, PLS	All Year
Blood Drive	Sharon Davis, PLS	All Year
Bosses' Night	Wyvetta Smith, PLS Belinda Penn, PLS Kim Chrisco	April 2009
Bylaws and Standing Rules	Belinda Penn, PLS	All Year
Chapter Achievement	Belinda Penn, PLS	April 2009
CLE	Joyce Morgan	All Year
Court Observance Week	Andrea Hicks, PLS	October 2008
Courthouse Drop Box	Joyce Morgan	All Year
Financial Review	Kara Whitehead Kim Chrisco	May 2009
Historian	Lisa Rookey	All Year
Legal Issue	Lisa Rookey Christy Davis	All Year
Marketing	Brenda Welch, PLS	All Year
Membership	Andrea Hicks, PLS	All Year
Nominations/Elections	Erma Brady, PLS	March 2009
PLS/ALS/PP Certification	Kim Cooksey, PLS	All Year
Scholarship	Dianne Gibson, PLS	Jan. 2009
Ways & Means	All members	All year
Web page	Christy Davis	All Year

Elected Officers for the 2008

President -Wyvetta Smith, PLS

Vice President-Andrea Hicks, PLS

Secretary-Shari Straub

Treasurer-Joyce Morgan

State Director-Belinda Penn, PLS

Parliamentarian-Erma Brady, PLS