



DIXIE DIGEST

www.alabama-als.org

March 2022

A Message from our President

Sonia Smith, CLP

Hello AALS Friends! To some of our new-comers, and recently renewed members, Welcome! So glad you have chosen to be part of our Association. Our members are dedicated to AALS and their local Chapters. They spend countless hours behind the scenes to make certain our Association is equipped to offer great leadership training and skills, networking and continuing education, and they do so in such a way that makes our Association run as smoothly. Speaking of smoothly, our inaugural on-line voting for the ensuing year's officers was just that! Smooth! Kudos to Tena Matthews, PP, PLS for researching and making our on-line voting process as painless as possible and super easy.

Congratulations to Julie Nims, who will be the AALS 2022-2023 President; to Melissa Cooper, CAP, BW, OM, PM, RM/PLS for being voted as President-Elect; to Michele Potter, PP, PLS for being voted as Vice President; to Debbie Rutherford for being voted into the office of Secretary; and to Cheri Loyd for being voted in as Treasurer. We look forward this upcoming year and all it holds while under your leadership.

I hope to see each of you at this year's annual meeting at the end of next month in Birmingham. With BLSA leading the way to a brighter future I have no doubt that our CLE speakers, venue, vendors, etc. will be a wonderful time. The information for next month's meeting will be included in the following pages. Please make plans now to attend!

Lastly, it has been an honor to serve as this year's AALS President. This opportunity has allowed me to get to know many of you better and it definitely has taught me about the inner workings of our lovely Association. AALS is indeed where we can all gather (on-line or in person) to obtain a wealth of information to grow ourselves, our careers and for me, our friendships. What a treasure you all are, and I am thankful you entrusted me in 'Leading the way to a Brighter Future!' See you all soon!



AALS 2022-2023
Officers

L-R
Julie Nims
Melissa Cooper
Michelle Potter
Debbie Rutherford
Cheri Loyd

PRESIDENT ELECT

Julie Nims

AALS EC, you did a wonderful job on the Winter Board Meeting in Atmore. The CLE was great, the food delicious and the networking with our fellow AALS members was the highlight of the weekend. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone that helped make this meeting a success. It takes a group effort to put together a great meeting. You know who you are, and there are too many of you to thank.

If anyone needs marketing brochures, please let me know and I will be happy to email it to you.

Thank you to everyone that has donated to our charity, it has been a big help and our military greatly appreciates all the goodies, love and support. I will be doing one last collection at Annual Meeting and will deliver everything to Rene' on my way home. Lets make this our biggest donation yet!

It has been a pleasure serving AALS as President-Elect this past year under the leadership of Sonia Smith, CLP, and I am getting excited and nervous as time grows near when I will be installed as AALS President. I look forward to seeing all of you in Birmingham, Alabama, April 29th – 30th.

VICE PRESIDENT

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

It was great seeing everyone at the AALS Winter Board Meeting in Atmore. I had some difficulty finding speakers and even had one cancel, so I appreciate those in attendance humoring me as I attempted to do the presentation on legal terminology and grammar review.

BLSA is hard at work planning and preparing for Annual Meeting in Birmingham, and we hope to have an update for you soon, including the hotel information. The dates for Annual Meeting are Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30, 2022, and the location is the Homewood Library. The last time BLSA hosted annual meeting, it was held at the Homewood Library, which is a great venue, and we are excited we were able to secure the library again this year.



Tickets will be sold at the Annual Meeting for this lovely quilt!

Bring some extra cash for these tickets!

Drawing will be held at the Annual Meeting in the Spring of 2022

CHAPLAIN

Vicki Lundy, PP, PLS

As I write this, I am preparing for knee replacement surgery in two days... mentally, physically and spiritually. I am just about at a point that I have done everything I can in the natural to prepare....and now I am preparing and reminding myself of God's goodness and to rest in Him. So let's quote his Word together:

The Lord is GOOD and his mercy endures forever. Surely GOODNESS and mercy shall follow me ALL the days of my life.

O taste and SEE the GOODNESS of our God!

God so loved the world that He sent his only son and that whoever believes in Him...shall be saved.

Psalms 103 says, Bless the Lord, O my soul and ALL that is within me shall bless his name. And forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all my sins, who heals all my diseases, who redeems my life from destruction, who crowns me with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Who satisfies my LIFE with GOOD things so that my youth is renewed like the soaring eagle.

What can separate us from the love of God? Will tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, danger?in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved usFor I am convinced that nothing can separate us from the unlimited love of God.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me and that the joy of the Lord is my strength.

May these scriptures encourage you as they have me.

Blessings!

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Babs DeKeyser

The revised and updated copies of the AALS By-Laws, Standing Rules and Procedures Manual have been placed on the AALS website.





2021-2022

**PATRON
ADVERTISERS**

**Sandra L. Doerr, ALP – BCALP
Gina Harbison, PP, PLS – BCALP
Judy Whigham, PP, PLS – BCALP
BLSA**

Ed Clark, PP – BLSA

Deborah Holmes, PP, PLS – BLSA

Harriet Piper – DCLSA

Barbara Hanley – MALS

Kristi Skipper, PP-SC, PLS

Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS – MLPA

Barbara Malone, PP, PLS – MLPA

Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS – MLPA

Sonia Smith, CLP – MLPA

Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS – NOCA

Melissa Cooper, CAP, OM, PM, RM/PLS – BLSA

Susan J. Mano, ALP – NALS of PA (Philadelphia)



Join us on Facebook

Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16822664274/>

Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/aalsalabama/>

CERTIFICATION

Kristi Skipper, PP-SC

I am absolutely DELIGHTED to report that we have MULTIPLE PEOPLE studying for certification exams!!! (Alison Schemmer, this is the result of all your hard work and prayers!) It is inspiring to hear that so many have committed to changing their lives by investing in themselves!

MLPA is hosting a study group that meets once a week to study for the PLS and PP. They have three MLPA members participating and one member from Pennsylvania who is participating via Zoom. This is a great example of a local chapter stepping up to fill a need for their members. Awesome job, MLPA!!!

The newest member of MALS, Carol Mott, is studying for the PP. I have known Carol for several years. I'm so excited that she has embarked on this journey, and the members of MALS are proud of her for taking this step. Way to go, Carol!!!

Six students at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School will be sitting for the ALP exam in April. This is the first class of examinees through the high school career and technical education program. It is thrilling to (finally!) see them get to this step! One or two students plan to pursue a legal support career after graduation. I am honored to have been a part of this process, and I hope that it is the first of many groups to take the exam.

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. I would love to help light your way on this path!

LEGAL EDUCATION

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

The CLE Award form is included in the Dixie Digest. If you currently have a CLE award, be sure to check your expiration date. The CLE award is good for two years, and members who have a CLE award are entitled to \$5 off the registration fee for Fall Board meetings and Winter Board meetings during those two years.

A tentative schedule for annual meeting is set out below. We are in the process of contacting possible speakers for the meeting. The final agenda, registration form, and hotel information will be sent soon. I look forward to seeing everyone at Annual Meeting!

ANNUAL MEETING 2022 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 29, 2022

9:00 – 9:30 am	Registration
9:15 – 10:45 am	Topic Speaker (1.5)
10:45 – 11:15 am	Break/Exhibitors
11:15 – 12:15 pm	Topic Speaker (1.0)
12:15 – 1:15 pm	Lunch with the Exhibitors
1:15 – 3:00 pm	Topic Speaker (1.75)
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Break/Exhibitors
3:30 – 5:00 pm	Topic Speaker (1.5)
6:00 – until	Awards Dinner / Movie (hotel)

Saturday, April 30, 2022

9:00 – 9:15 am	Registration
9:15 – 9:30 am	Delegate Orientation
9:30 – 10:45 am	Crazy Client Stories Speaker: Amy Hampton, Esq. (1.25)
10:45 – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 – 12:30 pm	General Assembly
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Installation of Officers
2:00 pm	First Board of Governors Meeting

CLE – **7.00** hours



CHAPTER REPORTS

BCALP - Baldwin County

Judy Whigham, PP, PLS



The following events occurred within the chapter since BCALP's last Governor's report in the December 2021 issue of the *Dixie Digest*.

BCALP does not have a December meeting, and our January meeting is normally held in conjunction with our annual "After Christmas Party," which was scheduled for January 8th, however, we had several members out with Covid, so, the party and the meeting had to be canceled.

We were able to meet on Tuesday, February 22nd, at California Dreaming in Spanish Fort, our first time to meet at that location. We are continuing to meet for business only, without a speaker, since our attendance is still low. We did not have a speaker, however, we were honored to have with us our esteemed AALS President and Parliamentarian, Sonia Smith, CLP, and Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS. Adding BCALP member and AALS President Elect Julie Nims to the list, we had half of the AALS EC in attendance! We were equally pleased to have new MLPA member Shelly Perrone joining the meeting.

We had a good bit of business to cover, including amending our bylaws to include electronic voting, among other revisions, similar to the amendments made to the AALS Bylaws. We discussed applying for the Spring NALS Foundation Grant in order to possibly hold a CLE seminar or other program targeted at bringing in potential new members, however, we decided we did not have enough time to adequately prepare for a program with the AALS Annual Meeting coming up in less than 60 days, especially given the fact that Julie will be installed as AALS President at Annual Meeting. Accordingly, we have decided to revisit the grant idea at a later date, in time to apply for the fall grant.

We also nominated a slate of officers to be voted on at the March meeting to serve in the 2022-2023 term. We will also vote on the BCALP Member of the Year at the March meeting. There were a few other items of business to discuss, which were tabled to a later date. The next BCALP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24th, at a location to be determined. That's it for BCALP – Winter edition! Looking forward to seeing everyone in Birmingham in April!

BLSA – Birmingham

Myra Beckham, PP, PLS



BLSA is looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham in April. We hope you are all planning to attend.

BLSA wishes to express a big thank you to AALS President Sonia Smith and her Board for a wonderful year. We would like to congratulate the newly elected 2022-23 AALS officers. We know incoming President Julie Nims and her board will lead us through another great year.

BLSA congratulates our own BLSA President Melissa Cooper, CAP, BW, OM, PM, RM/PLS on her election to President-elect of AALS. Also, we congratulate her on the continuing commitment to further her education. This commitment is demonstrated by her current achievement in the attainment of the Business Writing designation in the Certified Administrative Professional Certification.

DCLSA - DALLAS COUNTY

Cheri Loyd

At AALS Winter Board meeting DCLSA members Cheri Loyd, Teresa Kelly and I took advantage of the excellent CLE offered and on Friday night we joined a group of friends for dinner at The Gather restaurant. It was a great weekend and I encourage everyone to take advantage of AALS meetings.

For the business meeting Cheri sat at the head table as AALS Treasurer and I represented DCLSA as Governor Pro Tempore. I prepared a written report of the meeting for our members and interestingly there were two 'firsts' to tell them about. Veritext presented a virtual seminar on deposition technology with speakers 'beamed in' from Atlanta. At the business meeting Chairman Tina Matthews announced the results of AALS first electronic election. We are very proud of Cheri who was elected Treasurer and will serve for the 2022-2023 term.

Thanks to everyone who worked to make Winter Board such an enjoyable meeting and we're looking forward to great things at the Annual Meeting this April. We'll be there to cheer Cheri as she is installed on the board of officers.

Good membership news for Dallas! Cheri and I have been working with a young lady who reached out to us and we hope you can welcome her at the Annual Meeting!

MLPA – Mobile

Michelle Potter, PP, PLS



In December, MLPA celebrated with a Christmas Party on the Causeway. We were so happy to welcome our friends from BLSA!

MLPA welcomed Celia Collins to our January meeting where she discussed Marijuana in the Workplace. We were also very excited to see everyone at the Winter Board Meeting in Atmore!

Our February meeting was very informative! Janet Hayes, a top-notch investment counselor spoke to us about 401Ks and investing, before and after retirement.

MLPA is looking forward to the AALS 2022 Annual Meeting & Education Conference in Homewood! We hope to see you all there.

MALS – Montgomery

Kristi Skipper, PP-SC, PLS



Spring is here, and the members of MALS are gearing up for an exhilarating end to a great year! Before I tell you about all the excitement, check out what we've been doing since my last report.

On December 20th, the members of MALS gathered at Mellow Mushroom downtown for our annual Christmas Party & Ornament Swap. It was a great time of fellowship and fun! We all left with a unique ornament and a small gift from President Barb Hanley, PLS that reminds us of our special friendship.

In January, MALS President Barb Hanley, PLS attended the AALS Winter Board Meeting in Atmore and served as Governor *pro tem* in my absence. I was so disappointed that I couldn't attend the meeting, but my niece was married that weekend and I had lots of fun wedding festivities to attend.

MALS was happy to provide a donation for postage in support of the AALS charity. President Hanley enjoyed the meeting, and we are all looking forward to participating in the Annual Meeting!

Now for the exciting part... MALS has one new member, Carol Mott! Carol works at the Alabama State Bar and will be a tremendous asset to MALS, AALS & NALS. Carol will also be taking the Professional Paralegal exam. We are so delighted that Carol has joined our association, and we will do everything in our power to help her meet her goals. Welcome, Carol!

In other thrilling news, MALS will host its 2022 Membership Drive at Sweet Creek Farm Market in Pike Road, Alabama on Saturday, May 14. Sweet Creek is a lovely market in a rural setting with chickens, roosters, peacocks, and turkeys freely roaming and goats climbing the treehouse in their habitat. It has a laidback atmosphere where patrons can peruse the local farm fresh produce and dairy products, baked goods, jams, homemade candles and soaps, and other crafts from local artisans that are available for purchase while children enjoy the playground and outdoor games. They also have a lovely café and a coffee shop, so it is the perfect place for meeting friends. We are happy to host students from BTW and area legal support staff at this wonderful venue. Attendees will be treated to a delicious meal at the pavilion on the grounds, catered by the café at Sweet Creek. We will play an escape game (how fun!) and prospective members will learn the benefits of membership in our association and will have the opportunity to meet members of MALS who will share their experiences in the legal field and in our association. We are praying the weather will cooperate and we will have a fabulous afternoon!

To add to our excitement, a legal studies senior from BTW is working on a senior thesis project exploring why criminals commit certain crimes, and exploring whether, in light of the causes of crime, solutions can be implemented that would effectively reduce crime in the Montgomery area. She will present her project to the members of MALS at one of our meetings this spring. We are so excited to be her audience! MALS members have also been invited to a program at BTW during which all the legal studies students will give a summary of their projects. MALS members are honored to support our local high school students in this manner.

I will be speaking to the legal studies students at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School (BTW) this month about preparing for employment in the legal field. We will discuss how a resume can help land a job, how to search for a job, how to interview, and the importance of references. I will also answer their questions, which I am sure will be plentiful. This is really a great group of students, and I am looking forward to speaking to them again.

The icing on our cake this year is that SIX high school students at BTW will be taking the ALP in April! We are thankful for Dr. Bowles and her tireless efforts to make this possible for the students. We are so proud of these students for their hard work in preparing for this exam, and we wish them the best of luck!

I hope you all have as much enthusiasm in your chapters this spring. I look forward to hearing all about it at the Annual Meeting!



Webpage www.nals.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/NALSpace

Twitter twitter.com/NALStweet

NALS OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS

Wow! The Winter Board meeting was great! It was so nice to see everyone that was able to attend. The EC hosted the meeting and did a wonderful job. Fellowship food, fun and CLE! We had quite the good time.

Mark your calendars as time is flying by. Annual meeting will be held in Birmingham April 29-30, 2022. For those who were unable to attend Winter Board—we missed you and we hope to see you at annual meeting.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2022 -2023! We are looking forward to to another good year! Take note y'all, this was our first election via electronic vote. It was fast and easy. A big THANK YOU goes to the board and the nominations and elections committee and all those who assisted for a job well done.

Scholarship deadlines are coming up shortly. If you are interested in applying you will need to do so and submit your applications. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2022.

New Member of the Year and Member of the year nomination deadlines are also coming up. New Meber of the Year is March 21, 2022 and Member of the Year is March 18, 2022.

NALS Events Calendar*

January 4, 2022 – December 31, 2022

2021 Online Exams for: CLP/PLS, ALP and PP

April 2, 2022

NALS of Washington - Annual Installation and Spring Educational Conference
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time

April 8, 2022 – April 9, 2022

NALS of Michigan – Legal Educational Conference and Annual Meeting
Location: Frankenmuth, Michigan

September 15 – 17, 2022

2022 NALS National Convention
Sonesta Charlotte Executive Park
Charlotte, NC

*Please check the NALS website (nals.org) for details and registration information.

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

The members of NALS of Central Alabama are looking forward to and hoping to see everyone at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, as we continue to support our association and it's members. We hope that everyone had a safe and Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Valentines Day, Mardi Gras and best wishes for a very "in the green" St. Patrick's Day, and a very Blessed and Happy Easter. Travel safely and stay well!

AALS 2021-2022 CHARITY

Military Parents Operation Support, **SOW IT-Serving Our Warriors**

HOW WE WORK:

Military Parents Operation Support, SOW IT-Serving Our Warriors came into being on April 11, 2019 with one military mom's vision of a group whose mission would be to send care packages to deployed troops not receiving mail. Our members are from all over the States and its territories, and we send to deployed troops all over the globe.

Our group currently consists of almost 500 parents, family members and active duty. Our primary goal is to get much needed toiletries and food items to as many deployed troops as possible. We have sent over 15,000 care packages to date and we are still going strong!

Our addresses come from military parents, sometimes the deployed troops themselves, and Commanders or Chaplains who have found our page. We do not see the color of the uniform, and we send to all branches. As a Christian founded group we pray, we ask for prayer, and we send cards to anyone needing a little encouragement.

HOW OUR PROCESS WORKS:

A parent, immediate family member or someone in the Chain of Command (Commander, 1st Sergeant, Chaplain, etc.) contacts one of our page Admins with a name and address, perhaps a specific need. The Admin posts on our page "Moms on Deck" and those who can send a package will respond with "PM me", "Hit me up", or similar response. The Admin then sends the name and address directly to the member, who takes on the responsibility of sending a package periodically to that troop until he/she re-deploys or returns home.

Each address usually has 10 or more members who send, depending on the size of the requestee's unit. All packages are shared so the number of troops who are blessed with each package is actually unknown. No member knows which other members are involved with a specific address except the requestee, so each care package holds a wide variety of toiletries, snacks, games, books, etc.



HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Only parents, immediate family of active military, including Guard and Reserve, or active military may join our Facebook group. Each member is required to send at least one care package every 3 months, but may send cards anytime and of course, pray. We do not give out these addresses to anyone, ever. To do so is cause to be removed from the group as this is a flagrant and unacceptable security violation, and we guard our troops' security as if each one was our own child. We practice security at all levels: Personal (PerSec), Operational (OpSec), Communications (CommSec), and Information (InfoSec).

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We invite you to support our efforts with contributions of toiletries, snacks and food, books/games/magazines, and postage donations. Please contact me for a more detailed list of what we send. The postage for each large Flat Rate Priority Mail is \$20.40, and postage is always needed. We do not accept or send pork products or aerosols, Items or cards with glitter is never sent because of the security risk it poses for our troops who conduct night missions.

You can find our page on Facebook and we welcome you to check out our public posts. Sometimes, but mostly not, we receive a note, a card, a picture, or an email from someone who has been blessed by one of the packages. Our goal, however, is to send each package with prayer and the absolute Faith that God will get that package to the person who needs it most.

Thank you for your support, and please remember to pray for all our Troops: protection for wherever they may be, courage for the tasks they may be asked to perform, comfort for whatever situation they may find themselves in and for them all to return home safely, whole in mind, body and spirit.



ITEMS YOU CAN DONATE FOR CARE PACKAGES

Suggested care package items
No Aerosol cans or glass items

Snacks: Healthy snack bars: fruit and nut bars, protein bars, fiber bars and power bars. Tuna-pouches, crackers, peanut butter and jellies, beef sticks and beef jerky. Cookies, candies, gum, mints and cough drops. Fruit cups, pudding cups, applesauce cups, and jello cups. Dried fruit, seeds, trail mixes and raisins. Hearty soups, stews, chili, instant soups and mac and cheese. Any Drink mixes; energy mixes, gatorade drink mixes, hot chocolate mixes and drink juice pouches. Instant coffee, creamer, honey, sugar packets and teas.

Toiletries: Baby wipes, all in one shampoo with body wash, soaps, and hair products. Oral hygiene products. Foot and body powders, underarm deodorant, shaving gels, razors and boot inserts. Ointments, female hygiene products, Midol and Tylenol. Black or dark green socks and hand-warmers. Moisturizers and sunblock lotions.

Playing cards, reading material, puzzle books, adult coloring books, color pencils and markers.

SOW IT

Our Mission is to support deployed servicemen and women not receiving mail. Proudly honoring and appreciating our warriors by sending care packages and letters to all Branch service members.

SOW IT
Saturday
Serving Our Warriors
Military Parents Operation Support

Registered Trademark

On Facebook:
**"Military Parents Operation Support,
Sow It - Serving Our Warriors"**

Roxanne W. Martino
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**God Bless and
Thank you for
your service.**



AALS Leading The Way To
A Brighter Future...

Melissa Cooper, CAP, OM, PM, RM / PLS
AALS Membership Chair
scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com
(205) 218-8410 (cell)

Another adventure has begun, and we are looking forward to a brighter future under the leadership of President Sonia Smith, CLP.

Membership Goals:

1. Retain current members

Reach out to inactive members
Remind members of the benefits – networking, education, certification, etc.
Check your rosters, and contact members whose dues are about to expire or who have expired to remind them they matter to the chapter

2. Increase membership

Reach out to past members to find out why they are no longer members;
invite them to rejoin
Invite a friend from work to a meeting, and invite them to join
Talk to friends/coworkers who are members of another organization and find out what their organization does to recruit and retain members, and send this information to Melissa Cooper
Membership is not just the responsibility of the AALS or chapter vice presidents – it is EVERYONE'S job
GOAL – 100 members by April 2022

Chapter Incentives:

Fall Board Meeting	Drawing for \$30 among Chapters with 5% increase
Winter Board Meeting	Drawing for \$40 among Chapters with 10% increase
Annual Meeting	Drawing for \$50 among Chapters with 15% increase

Member Incentives:

First Timers:	Drawing for \$10 off regular board meeting (expiration date on certificate) at each meeting.
New Member Sponsor:	For every member that you sponsor, your name will go into a drawing for one full scrip ticket (not to exceed \$135.00) to 2022 Annual Meeting. The new member's membership application must be emailed to Melissa Cooper at scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com in order to have your name put into the drawing. The cutoff for entries into the drawing will be March 1, 2022. The winner will be notified via email and their scrip ticket to Annual Meeting (not to exceed \$130.00) will be paid.

Member Recognition:

Milestone Award	5-year Membership Increment Award/Certificates – recognize members reaching 5-year membership milestones.
First Timers Award	Drawing to be held at Annual Meeting among members who attended their first Board Meeting at Fall Board, Winter Board, and Annual Meeting for a \$25 check
Perfect Attendance	Drawing to be held at Annual Meeting among members who attended ALL THREE Board Meeting (Fall Board, Winter Board, and Annual Meeting) for a \$25 check

Things EVERYONE Can Do:

Call, text and/or email a member that has not attended a few chapter meetings

Send a card to a member that has not attended several chapter meetings and let them know they are being thought of and missed

Contact members whose dues are about to expire or who have expired to remind them they matter to the chapter

Display the AALS pamphlet at your office and share it with non-members you meet

Wear your Certification Pins

Display your certificates and logo Items

Reach out to past members to find out why they are no longer members; invite them to rejoin

Invite a friend from work to a meeting, and invite them to join

Talk to friends/coworkers who are members of another organization and find out what their organization does to recruit and retain members, and send this information to Melissa Cooper

Share your ideas for chapter growth with other chapter presidents/vice-presidents

Pray for our members and for our association



COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2021-2022

COMMITTEE	CHAIR/CO-CHAIR	EMAIL
Annual Meeting & Educational Conf. 2021 (BLSA Hosting)	Ed Clark, PP-SC Melissa Cooper, CAP-OM, PLS	ebc@phm-law.com scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com
Audit Committee (2021-2022 Books)	Sandra Doerr, ALP (Chair) Debbie Rutherford Teresa Kelly, PP, PLS	tinysmud@aol.com drutherford@cwalawfirm.com tkel@bellsouth.net
Audit Committee (2021 Annual Meeting)	Debby Holmes, PP, PLS (Chair) Vicki Lundy, PP, PLS Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS	debby@assetlaw.com vicki.lundy@phelps.com dtalleyb@gmail.com
Bar Liaison	Deborah Harper, PP	deborah.harper@alabar.org
Bylaws, Standing Rules & Procedures Manual	Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS	babs.dekeyser@att.net
Certification	Kristi Skipper, PP-PC, PLS	kristiskipperpp@gmail.com
Corporate Sponsors	Ed Clark, PP-SC	ebc@phm-law.com
Dixie Digest Patron Ads	Brittany Nims	brittbrakk@gmail.com
Dixie Digest	Margaret Dawson, PLS	thistldome@gmail.com
Finance	TBA	
Funding	Cheri Loyd Danielle Baker	cheriloy31@gmail.com danielle@longandlong.com
Installation	Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS	mdlittle@bellsouth.net
Legal Education	Melissa Cooper, CAP-OM, PLS	scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com
Marketing	Julie Nims	jnims@rainslawfirm.com
Member of the Year	TBA	
Membership	Melissa Cooper, CAP-OM, PLS	scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com
NALS Connection Committee	Ed Clark, PP-SC	ebc@phm-law.com
New Member of the Year	TBA	
Nominations & Elections, Credentials	Tena Matthews, PP, PLS	capreesmom@aol.com
Resolutions	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	jwhigham@joneswalker.com
Scholarship	Myra Beckham, PLS	myrabeckham@bellsouth.net
Scrapbook	Melissa Cooper, CAP-OM, PLS	scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com
Strategic Planning	Julie Nims	jnims@rainslawfirm.com
Technology	Margaret Dawson, PLS	thistldome@gmail.com



May 1, 2021
First Board of Governors Meeting
Fairhope, AL

AALS

LEADING THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

JULIE NIMS

2021-2022 PRESIDENT-ELECT

P.O. Box 453

Fairhope, AL 36533

251-752-4770

jnims@raineslawfirm.com

I take great honor in serving as your President-Elect and am looking forward to helping in Leading the Way to a Brighter Future this year!

Several goals that I would like to accomplish over the next year include:

- Promote the association, its strengths and its resources to legal community throughout the State of Alabama.
- Continue to implement a social media plan which includes some of the following:
 - ✦ Post messages/news and events to the AALS Facebook page;
 - ✦ Encourage members to post about AALS to their own Facebook page;
 - ✦ Post video interviews of members;
 - ✦ Post member spotlights;
 - ✦ Post about benefits of membership;
 - ✦ Continue to post news & events;
 - ✦ Continue to explore Instagram & Twitter accounts;
 - ✦ **Chapters** who do post ANY of the above - let me know!!
As an **incentive** to each **Chapter** the Chapter with the most posts between our meetings will **receive \$50.00!!**
- Continue to build on the relationships with colleges/schools that offer legal studies programs;
- Cultivate relationships with local Bar Associations;
- Continue to expand our connections with the Local Bar Associations and Solo/Small Firm Sections;
- Focus on areas of the state where interest in NALS & AALS have been expressed.
- Implement and continue to revise and develop the AALS Strategic Plan to meet the goals of AALS;
- Partner with the Membership Chair to promote AALS to potential new members;
- Promote unity and professionalism throughout AALS and the legal community; and,
- Be motivated and inspired – **WE CAN ALL HELP ALLS LEAD THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE!!**

AALS

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION AWARD

Number of Required Credits

A minimum of 30 hours in continuing education program courses is required to qualify for the Continuing Legal Education Award. Of those 30 hours, 2 hours must be in ethics. A credit hour is 60 minutes. The award shall consist of a certificate issued by the association which attests to the educational accomplishment of the member.

Initial (Original) Applications

Any member may apply for the initial award when the requirements have been completed. Application shall be made on the form approved by the association. Only continuing education courses completed during the two-year period immediately preceding the date of the application will be considered in determining whether the requirements have been met.

The award or any renewal thereof shall be issued at any Board meeting during the year of this Association. Deadline to apply is 30 days prior to the Board meeting. When the original award certificate is issued to a member, it is valid for a two-year period beginning on the date of issuance. Incentive given, if applicable, is also valid for a two-year period beginning on the date of issuance.

Renewal Applications

During the period of validity of the award, it is anticipated that the member will continue to earn the credits needed for renewal of the award. Credit hours for renewal may be earned from date of last application. A member may apply within six (6) months prior to expiration for issuance of an updated certificate for a two-year renewal. The thirty (30) day application deadline also applies for renewals.

Filing Procedures

All applications for the award shall be forwarded to the AALS Legal Education Committee Chair and approved by the AALS Legal Education Counsel, whose decision shall be final.

To apply for the initial (original) award, forward to AALS Legal Education Committee Chair, the application form, \$15.00 processing fee, and supporting documentation.

To apply for the renewal award, forward to AALS Legal Education Committee Chair, the application form, a \$10.00 processing fee, and supporting documentation.

Any member filing a false report of education activities may be subject to disciplinary proceedings for engaging in unethical conduct under the NALS Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Time Prerequisites

Credit shall be given for programs at least 30 minutes in length. Programs of less than 30 minutes' duration will not be considered for this award. In all categories, photocopies of certificates, transcripts or other verification of attendance must be attached to the application.

Verification/documentation

Copies of certificates, manuscripts, registration forms with canceled checks, articles, letters signed by chapter officers, etc., may be used for verification of attendance and must be included with the application. Send (via U. S. mail or e-mail) photocopies of documentation – **not the originals** – because the materials are not returned.

**APPLICATION FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
AWARD OR RENEWAL**

(Read Rules and Regulations Carefully Before Completing this Application)

TYPE OR PRINT:

Name of Applicant: _____

Address of Applicant: _____

Name of Chapter: _____ Member-at-Large: _____

Application is for:

_____ Original

_____ Renewal (date on last certificate: _____ 20__)

Period Covered _____ through _____ 20__.

(Period covered must be within two years of application date)

I have completed the minimum credit hours of educational activities required for CLE Award or Renewal as verified by the attached documentation.

I certify that the information furnished is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and accurate.

Dated this: ____ day of _____, 20__.

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: _____

(Signature of Applicant)

RETURN FORM, ATTACHMENTS, AND FEE TO:

Melissa Cooper, CAP, BW, OM, PM, RM / PLS
AALS LEGAL EDUCATION CHAIR
471 Fieldstone Drive
Helena, AL 35080
(205) 218-8410
scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com

Come have the time of your life at AALS
Annual Meeting and Continuing
Education Conference



April, 2022
Birmingham, AL



We will have an auction so bring money!

Chapter Items Theme: **Movie Night**

We ask that each chapter bring an item for the auction that somehow relates to the theme of **MOVIE NIGHT!**

\$1 per chance or 25 for \$20



Big Ticket Item: **Mystery Item**

\$5 per chance or 5 for \$20

