

Western Association of Legal Assistants

SUMMER 1988

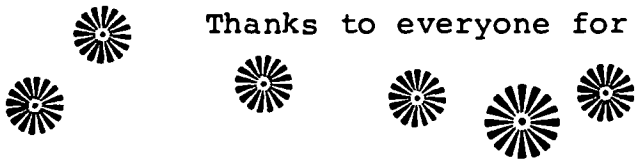
§ NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT §

Another year has passed (all too quickly) and looking back, I can honestly say a lot of progress has been made towards getting the Association recognized by legal and public communities across B.C. I have been contacted personally by people considering our profession, committees and publications asking for information and law firms seeking certified legal assistants for employment. I want to sincerely thank our resigning Directors, Glenis Milne, Elisabeth Dahnert and Theresa Johannsen for their untiring support and commitment to WALA. All contributed countless hours of time, energy and inspiration to the numerous projects we tackled last year.

I am happy to report that we had a good number of attendees at our Annual General Meeting this year and I would like to thank all of you for your interest and support. Although we reached our quorum of voting members, I admit that I was disappointed that more did not attend. As the AGM occurs only once a year, it is crucial that our voting members attend and provide the Board of Directors with their input, even if being an active member is not possible during the rest of the year. I was, however, very pleased and encouraged to see so many student members (non voting) attend and contribute their opinions and ideas. I hope to see all of you next year.

At this time, I am pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors - Terry Wilson and Thora Arnason. Both are experienced legal assistants at Lyall McKercher Hanna, in the area of civil litigation. I know they are looking forward to this year as much as the rest of the Board. We also have some new committee members and have already reaped the benefit of some excellent ideas for the Association's continued growth. I urge all those who are interested to contact the committee(s) of your choice. You will find contributing some of your time challenging and rewarding.

Thanks to everyone for their continued and anticipated support.



Anne C. Erlebach



BYLAWS, BYLAWS, BYLAWS



INTERPRETATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Our By-Laws state that to qualify as a legal assistant member, one of the requirements is that a person "shall have completed a legal assistant course of study . . .". In the past, "completed" was interpreted to include the completion of the practicum, and in effect, our student members on practicum were not permitted to vote.

This interpretation was recently reviewed by the Board of Directors and it was decided that a student member shall become a Legal Assistant upon completion of attendance at the approved educational institution. The member must however, within a year of becoming a legal assistant member, notify and provide the directors with proof, of having completed a practicum.

Therefore Practicum Students, to effect your change in membership status, please ensure that you notify Terry Wilson, Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD MAY 12, 1988

Anne Erlebach, as Chairperson, welcomed all the members of the Society to the A.G.M. of the Western Association of Legal Assistants. Fran Brett was appointed Secretary of the meeting. A quorum was present: approximately 10 Student Members and 10 Legal Assistant Members.

The Minutes of the last A.G.M. of Members held on May 5, 1987 were adopted. The Report of the Directors of the Society were read and approved as were the Financial Statements of the Society for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 1988.

As the Bylaws of the Society provide that Directors must be Legal Assistant Members who have been in good standing for at least 8 months prior to election as Directors, the nominations of Directors to the Board were limited to five nominees willing to stand.

The following were nominated and elected as Directors of the Society:

Frances Brett
Anne Erlebach
Ann Hewlett
Terry Wilson
Thora Arnason

The By-laws of the Society call for 6 Directors. We therefore have one vacancy in our Board.

The three parting Directors, Glenis Milne, Elisabeth Dahnert and Theresa Johannsen were thanked for their participation. A discussion regarding entrance requirements as Legal Assistant Members followed.

COMMITTEES

Various committees have been formed to carry out the purposes of the Society. Each Committee is chaired by a Director; any member of the Society can sit on a Committee. Please contact the Chairperson if you are interested in participating with any of the following:

1. Membership Committee
Chairperson: Terry Wilson
643-5979
Members: Madenka Maretic
Theresa Johannsen
Glenis Milne
Allison Crowell
2. Program Committee
Chairperson: Thora Arnason
643-5964
Members: Elisabeth Dahnert
Gemma McDonald

3. Education Committee
Chairperson: Frances Brett
687-6575
Members: Eva Penner
Margaret Chester
Sharon Ginsberg
4. Newsletter Committee
Chairperson: Anne Erlebach
643-5967
Members: Ann Hewlett
Terry Wilson
Elisabeth Dahnert
Gayle Davies
Sheryl Sacks

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were appointed as officers of the Society to hold their office referred to opposite their respective names for the ensuing year or until their predecessors are appointed:

- President: Anne Erlebach
Lyall McKercher Hanna
643-5967
- Vice
President: Ann Hewlett
Alexander Holburn
688-1351
- Secretary: Terry Wilson
Lyall McKercher Hanna
643-5979
- Assistant
Secretary: Thora Arnason
Lyall McKercher Hanna
643-5964
- Treasurer Frances Brett
Bull Housser
687-6575

The Association welcomes
new members, Sheila Noftall
and Lucille Pellant



"See what happens when you find them not guilty?"

FIRM SPOTLIGHT: CAMPNEY AND MURPHY

Campney and Murphy, which has been in existence for over 50 years, is one of the largest law firms in B.C. Their practice consists of four divisions - Banking, Labour, Litigation and Corporate Commercial. About eight years ago the firm hired their first L.A. Since then they have increasingly used L.A.'s, especially in the Litigation and Securities areas.

Presently there are four Legal Assistants who have graduated from the Capilano College program or provincial equivalent - two in securities and two in Litigation. The firm also has two practicum students from this year's Capilano College graduate class, who are rotating through the various divisions within the firm as part of their practicum training.

As well, there are three "paralegals" working in the foreclosure and real estate sections of the firm's practice. Paralegals are defined as having no formal education, i.e. having worked their way to their current position.

The use of Legal Assistants in Campney and Murphy is growing and the L.A.'s who work for this firm have found that as their knowledge and ability increases they are allowed and encouraged to accept more responsibility. This progressive attitude has enabled Campney and Murphy to benefit from the expertise of their trained Legal Assistants thus decreasing the cost to their clients and increasing the firm's efficiency.

W I N E A N D C H E E S E A F F A I R

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1988

5:30 P.M.

***location to be announced in next edition

SPEAKER: DENISE PALMER
 Legal Assistant, Law Society

TOPIC: Direction of Continuing Legal
 Education for Legal Assistants;
 overview of Legal Assistant status
 in Canada and the U.S.

PRICE: \$6.00

***RSVP below (or contact Program Committee) to
Thora Arnason, c/o Lyall Mckercher Hanna, 1500-
885 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3H7

_____ will attend the Wine and Cheese
Affair on September 27, 1988 at 5:30 p.m. I can be reached at _____.
Enclosed is my \$6.00. _____.

