

Western Association of Legal Assistants

March 20, 1988

MEMBER'S BULL SESSION

Comments by the President

Firstly, the Directors would like to thank those Members who took the time to attend our Members Meeting on February 17, 1988 at Swinton & Company. Your interest in the Association is greatly appreciated.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Directors to find out what the members want and expect from the Association. Many constructive suggestions were heard and changes are being, and will continue to be, implemented as a result. We will be calling upon the Membership to contribute to the realization of some of the goals we believe to be fundamental to the Association's existence.

The main topic of discussion was our qualifications for membership. The change in our By-laws to admit only members who have a Diploma or Certificate of course of study has caused some dissention amongst our members and has (not surprisingly) alienated those who do not now qualify for membership).

Since our meeting last May, we have gained a few members and lost a few. It is my opinion that we should address the issue of Membership qualification at this year's Annual General Meeting.

There were some non-members at the Bull Session, who were most vocal about this issue and I feel it is necessary to again canvass our members to ensure that our existing policy represents your views.

Considerations to be discussed at the A.G.M. will include the Occupational Titles Protection Act, certification, education and professionalism.

We cannot represent the Membership unless we hear from you! Please attend the A.G.M. meeting on May 12th (per the attached notice) and R.S.V.P. to Elizabeth Dahnert at 687-0411, local 217.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

The Western Association of Legal Assistants extends a warm welcome to the following new Members, admitted in 1988:

Donna L. Ferguson
Carow Brownie
Viviane Dufrane
Aida M. Holmes
Mary C. Downey
Jennifer L. Leong
Rebecca Darnell

and to Valerie Cochrane and Leslie Baker, admitted as Honorary Members. The membership of the Western Association of Legal Assistants is currently 64:

30 Legal Assistant Members;
31 Student Members; and
3 Honorary Members

We hope the relationship between the Association and its members, both old and new continues to be one of mutual benefit.

REMINDERS:

Dues for the 1988 year are due April 1st (and there are still 1987 dues outstanding -- and we know who you are).

If you change firms would you please advise Theresa Johansen at Bull Houser & Tupper so that you can keep receiving Newsletters and Notices of Meetings.

We would like to take this opportunity to advise the Members that three of the current Directors are willing to remain on the Board. Nominations for the remaining three Directorships are needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee received numerous responses to the Special Edition of the Newsletter -- renewals of Membership and applications for new Membership and also many comments with respect to the qualifications for membership.



This Committee will be organizing a membership drive in the near future.

2. Education Committee:

The Education Committee is continuing its efforts to determine whether the Vancouver Community College/Vancouver Vocational Institute program to train Legal Assistants should be approved as meeting the educational qualification for membership in WALA. The VVC/VVI course is still too new (with Levels II & III only in draft outline) that there is just not enough information available to ascertain substantive content or quality of the course in general.



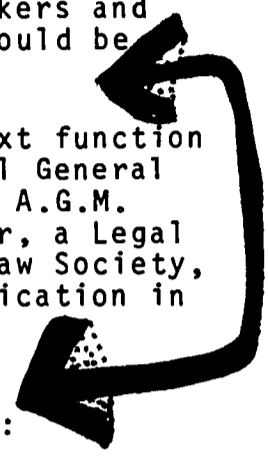
This Committee is also reviewing the course content of the Red River Community College in Winnipeg.



3. Program Committee:

As a result of the February 17, 1988 Members Meeting the Program Committee will attempt to put on more frequent functions, possibly every 2 or 3 months. Again your suggestions for speakers and types of functions would be greatly appreciated.

The Association's next function will be at the Annual General Meeting. Before the A.G.M. begins, Denise Palmer, a Legal Assistant with the Law Society, will speak on Certification in the United States.



4. Newsletter Committee:

The Newsletter Committee welcomes Gail Davies to assist in keeping the Membership informed, via the Newsletter, of the Association's continuing efforts to achieve its goals. The Committee hopes to circulate a Newsletter every two months. We need your submissions and suggestions and can always use your help in this time consuming project!



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Litigation Legal Assistant



Downtown, 3 lawyer insurance defence firm, with emphasis on aviation, construction, product liability and personal injury practice, requires experienced litigation legal assistant. Excellent opportunity for person with superior skills to play a significant role in a growing specialized practice. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Scott W. Fleming at 689-7331, before Tuesday, March 29th.

Almost all of us work because we need the money and some of us are lucky enough to like what we do. However, despite the feeling of accomplishment, the opportunity to communicate intelligibly with persons over 3 years old and other such personal reasons, none of us would do what we do for free. (If you would the Association knows a number of law firms that would make you feel very wanted.) Despite its importance, money is a hard thing to talk about with employers, co-workers and colleagues. Consequently, we have drafted a very brief survey regarding the salary of Legal Assistants due to the overwhelming curiosity of students and Legal Assistants working their way through the ranks as to what they can expect (or should ask for). Would you please take a couple of minutes to complete the Salary Form attached and mail it ANONYMOUSLY to Anne Erlebach at Lyall McKercher, 1500 - 885 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, V6C 3H7, before the A.G.M. The results will be announced at that time.

SALARY FORM

Area of Specialty: _____

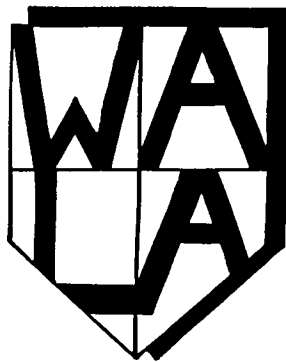
Other Benefits: _____

Length of Employment as a Legal Assistant inclusive of Practicum: _____

Practicum Salary: _____

Salary Increments: _____

Current Salary: _____



Western
Association of
Legal
Assistants

TO THE MEMBERS, WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS
NOTICE OF 1988 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Western Association of Legal Assistants hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, 1988 at the offices of Bull Houser & Tupper, 1055 West Georgia Street, 29th Floor, Vancouver for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Report of the Directors to the Members.
2. To receive and approve the financial statement of the Association for the period dated March 31st, 1988.
3. To elect Directors of the Association to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Association.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

Dated the 20th day of
March, 1988, Vancouver,
British Columbia