

Western Association of Legal Assistants

Newsletter Issue #:

October 31, 1986

a.g.m.

Hi, to all you new and not so new members of the Western Association of Legal Assistants. Whew! What a mouthful. Of course, we do have an acronym, "WALA", that is much easier to say. What we do not have though, is a logo. We need something impressive, yet catchy; something professional, but flashy; something we can have made up into a stamp or a pin; something we will all be proud of and identify with.

And who better to think up a new logo than all you members. So we are holding a contest, open to all members of the Western Association of Legal Assistants, for a new logo. As an added incentive, we are offering a prize for the best submitted entry, as chosen by the Newsletter Committee. The prize is a \$25.00 restaurant certificate for lunch or dinner.

Please submit all entries in writing to the Newsletter Committee, Western Association of Legal Assistants, c/o Bull, Houser & Tupper, Barristers & Solicitors, 3000 - 1055 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6E 3R3, by November 28, 1986 at 5:00 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held August 25, 1986 and was conducted with impressive efficiency. Taking care of business was soon-to-be Past President, Joanne McKee, who easily dispatched those not so interesting but necessary items on the agenda, i.e. Members approving the Directors' Report, financial statements and committee reports.

Nominations for the new Directors were then accepted and Directors were elected by acclamation. The new Directors for the next year are:

Anne Erlebach
Arleigh Alexander
Glenis Milne
Fran Brett
Theresa Johannsen
Elizabeth Dahnert

The most important business was saved for last, that is serious champagne consumption by all. Our beloved Past President, Joanne, provided numerous bottles of Henkell, with which we toasted her passing from our ranks into the higher level of legal consciousness, that of a law student.

At this time, before things became too fuzzy, a brief meeting of the Directors convened to appoint new Officers. The new Officers are:

Anne Erlebach
President
Arleigh Alexander
Vice-President
Glenis Milne
Treasurer
Fran Brett
Secretary

We confirmed the formation of the Committees and formed an additional one, the Program

Committee. The Program Committee is to organize social functions, arrange for dinner meetings, guest speakers, etc.

The meeting ended around 8:30 and, while some floated home, others staggered off to have dinner at Piccolo Mondo.

WALA would like to give special mention to Fran Brett, who deserved an Academy Award for her brilliant work as the Director/Screenplay-Writer of "McKee: The War Years".



THE ART OF DRAFTING A DEMAND LETTER

Dear Sirs:

We are now in receipt of your letter with respect to the entire matter. Your client has failed to negotiate, or respond to any part of my Claim for Damages, and has totally ignored any response for a settlement with respect to a serious attitude, in a true Digit figure dollar Factor. After an oral discussion with _____ "Solicitor in Langley, B.C., and after consultation with him, i am now further convinced to persue the Issue with respects to Damages, against your Client without further "Notice" to yourselves.

I am prepared now to spend any further funding required and retain a Specialist Solicitor in concerns to all Damages now claimed by ourselves. and further hold your Client Totally negligently responsible for Damages. We now intend to have the matter raised to "SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA" Further to make application to the Courts to proceed for "TRIAL" It is now my legal stand position in this matter to Expedite all matters and to give instructions to my newly appointed Solicitor in respect to the matters of negligent Damages.

However before proceeding, and giving instructions to my Solicitor i will give your Client a final opportunity to a discussion of Settlement, if it is not acceptable by your Client for an out of Court Settlement, kindly respond within the next 7 days as to your Clients intention, failing this will place this matter before the Courts without further notice to yourselves.

Please Govern Yourselves Accordingly,

(This is for real!)



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

F A R E W E L L

Around Mid-Summer, WALA members were informed that their President, Joanne McKee, was going to resign. We soon learned that it was for one of the best possible reasons. Joanne was accepted by the University of Victoria Law School. Because she will no longer be working as a legal assistant, her membership in the Association will expire; however, because of her outstanding leadership, contributions, and mostly her unwavering determination to get WALA "on the map", the Directors have appointed Joanne an Honourary Member of the Association. We are sorry to see her go, and are sure to be looking to her for guidance in the future. We would like to whole-heartedly congratulate Joanne and wish her the best possible successes in all her future endeavours.



input ... input ... input

WE NEED YOU to keep us informed. The Newsletter Committee is just getting started in providing a forum in which WALA members can express ideas, share info, theorize, criticize, or even patronize almost anything they want, via our newsletter. We do welcome all input.

We intend to feature a "Letters to the Editor" column and we want this newsletter to be interesting to read, not like those law snoozers we all receive every week and promptly deep-six.

The Newsletter Committee presently consists of Anne Erlebach, Terry Wilson and Elisabeth Dahnert.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

I am looking forward to a dynamic year for all members of WALA. I think I have met most of you and I can say without reservation that the prevailing attitude towards our Association and the future of Legal Assistants in Western Canada is positive and energetic.

We all realize how much work is ahead of us and that we will encounter barriers; some new and some not so new. I suspect all of us, when asked what we do for a living, have experienced the blank look, or the hard of hearing ("a legal what"), or the ever popular "oh, you're a secretary" type of response.

One of WALA's primary functions is to promote legal assistants as the valuable, respected, professional professionals that they are. Our Association's growth until last summer has been slow and somewhat erratic, but since then we have seen a dramatic rally as each new member has brought an energetic outlook and commitment that will empower WALA to securely establish itself as a voice to be listened to in and out of the legal community.

I am proud to be the President of an organization whose existence I believe to be essential to our profession, and I am most thrilled to be involved at a time when we can move significantly towards our goals in communications, employment opportunities and professional recognition.

I am always available to talk to members and would be pleased to hear from you.

ANNE C. ERLEBACH
President



COMMITTEES



Four committees have been established for the purposes of our own internal organization and greater public awareness of our profession. Each committee is headed by a director and should have at least three members. Currently, all committees could use a few more volunteers. The tasks involved are far from onerous, requiring only a few hours of your time a month. The committees are as follows:

1. Public Relations Committee

Head: Fran Brett
Members: Anne Erlebach
Margaret Chester

Purpose: This committee is presently handling both public relations and education; however, a separate committee may be made for each in the near future. The education aspect deals with keeping in touch with the various colleges, Law Society and other institutions in an effort to maintain educational standards. The public relations aspect was born to help educate the public (including lawyers) on our role in the law firm. This committee will also be responsible for responding to newspaper and journal articles.

2. Program Committee

Head: Elisabeth Dahnert
Members: (still waiting)

Purpose: This committee has been started so that our member meetings are interesting and even educational. The program content will be arranged by these members, including arranging guest speakers, other entertainment, food, wine, etc.

3. Newsletter Committee

Head: Anne Erlebach
Members: Elisabeth Dahnert
Terry Wilson

Purpose: This committee will attempt to compile interesting, funny and informative pieces in the form of a newsletter. The newsletter's purpose is to keep its members up-to-date on the latest happenings in our profession in B.C., Canada and even the States. This committee welcomes all suggestions, articles, letters, comments, etc., from its members, the legal profession and the public, so don't feel you have to keep our newsletter hidden away - pass it along!

4. Membership Committee

Head: Theresa Johannsen
Members: Glenis Milne
Cindy Brandes

Purpose: This committee reviews all WALA applications for membership and determines who may be admitted to the Association. Keeping track of the names and addresses is also a responsibility of this committee.



We are happy to say that our ranks are growing at an awesome rate - there are now 38 members. In our first members' meeting, we discussed the new Part 9.1 of the SOCIETY ACT and how we can make it work for WALA. The Act entitles any society to apply for Occupational Title Protection. However, the Act stipulates that a Society must have 50 members before it is eligible to apply. We are only 12 members away from 50, and we are sure that with a little recruiting effort on everyone's part, we can reach, and even exceed this number.

Presently, we have 15 student members, 8 junior members and 15 senior members, who are as follows:

ALEXANDER, Arleigh	ANDERSON, Heather G.	ARNASON, Thora B.
BRANDES, Cindy L.	BRETT, Frances D.	CHESTER, Margaret
DAHNER, Elisabeth T.	DAVIES, Gail	DAVIES, Suzanne
DUROCHER, Carol-Ann	ERLEBACH, Anne C.	GORRIE, Betty
GRANT, Colleen	HEPPLEWHITE, Patricia	HEWLITT, Ann
HINDMARCH, Jane	ISAACSON, Lorraine	JAMAL, Farida
JOHANNSEN, Theresa	KINNEAR, Debbie	KNIGHTS, Lynne
LEITH, Judy	MCCLOY-WILKES, Barbara	MCCOLL, Maureen
MCDONALD, Gemma	MCKEE, Joanne S.	MILNE, Glenis A.
NANJI, Nasim	NURSE, Linda C.	ORNSTEIN, Donna L.
PALMER, Denise	PENNER, Eva L.	SACKS, Sheryl
SLATTEN, Margaret	TENG, Margaret T.	WILSON, Terry L.
WOOD, Barbara	SMITH, Margaret A.M.	

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Our next meeting will be held at the ON ON Tea Garden, 214 Keefer Street (Main & Keefer) on November 27th at 6:00 p.m. We have arranged for a pre-set menu at a mere \$10.00 per person (plus tax). You may either order your liquor from the restaurant or you may bring your own bottle; but if you do so, please keep it in a bag and be discrete. There are no promises, but arrangements for a guest speaker are in the works. Please RSVP to Elisabeth Dahnert at 687-0411, Local 206, as to whether or not you will be attending.

See you there!

