



## **THE INFORMER**

*published by NVLSA...the association for legal professionals*

**Volume 18 – Issue 3**

**July - August - September 2016**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**NALS is dedicated to enhancing the competencies of members in the legal services profession. It accomplishes its mission and supports the public interest through:**

- **Continuing legal education and resource materials**
- **Networking opportunities at the local, state, regional, and national levels**
- **Commitment to a Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility**
- **Professional certification programs and designations**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT Robin Wilson, CLP**

Hope everyone had a great summer full of relaxation and enjoyment. Now it's time to get back to work.

The Executive Committee of NVLSA has been pretty busy this summer coming up with ideas for our upcoming projects and commitments. There will be some changes on the horizon so plan on attending our next meeting to see what they are.

As you know, NVLSA will be hosting the Winter Board in Fredericksburg and cohosting the 2018 Convention with RLSA and we need your participation. The co-chairs will be organizing the particulars and reaching out to the membership soon. Let's make this a great success.

We are looking forward to hosting a wine tasting later this year and hope that you will attend and socialize. We also have some interesting fundraisers coming up and hope that you will participate.

This year we lost one of our founding members, Marje Harmon, PLS. NVLSA has decided that in her honor, we will sponsor a member of VALS to attend the 2017 Convention. The winner will be announced at the Winter Board Meeting.

Looking forward to a productive year!!! Now, let's get to work.



**General Election: Tuesday, Nov 8, 2016**

### **THE SECRETARY'S CORNER Patti Berman, PP**

It's hard to believe summer is nearly over, however, I am happy to report that summer has been productive!

First, you might notice the spiffy new logo that graces the top of the newsletter! The new logo is part of our new 'presence' electronically and is in a format which will allow us to use it in a larger variety of ways. (The Berman family donated the cost of the new logo to NVLSA.)

And first of those 'ways' is the NVLSA website! Yes, members, indeed we again have a website! My very talented IT son helped me get our website up and functional. The website is intended to give visitors some basic information and then, through links included at various places, direct them to both the VALS and NALS websites for more detailed information. A link to our website has also been added to VALS and NALS websites.

The main page is designed to draw your attention to important upcoming events and this will be updated from time to time. As each issue of the Informer is released, it will be uploaded to the website, and you will be able to view past issues as well.

Please be sure to check out the website ([www.nvlsa.org](http://www.nvlsa.org)) and if you have items to add to the site, please let me know. ***In order to keep the website current, I would like to have another chapter member join me in that task so that someone is always available and able to edit the website if needed – if you're interested please let me know!***

I want to thank the membership for allowing me to work on this project. It's been some time since I did website design, so getting back up to speed was challenging, but lots of fun too. I am pleased that it is completed and I believe this will help us grow our chapter going forward.

Yours in friendship,  
Patti Berman, PP  
Secretary

**CHECK PLEASE!**  
**by Lori Stewart, PP, PLS**

It seems as if every election cycle starts earlier doesn't it? Everywhere we turn, we are inundated with links, articles, sound bytes, tweets, and Facebook posts supporting every viewpoint under the sun. Don't believe everything you hear or read.

Unfortunately, if we don't do our own due diligence, we could end up voting for someone for the wrong reasons. Where we look for answers is important, too. If you look for information on a liberal website, the information will be slanted to the liberal point of view. The same goes for conservative websites. They both will tell you what you want to hear, which may or may not be completely true.

The link below outlines several fact checking websites you can use to find out all about your

candidates and issues. Check them out and find the candidate who you think will be the best choice for the job.

Be informed and VOTE!!!

<http://www.technorms.com/454/get-your-facts-right-6-fact-checking-websites-that-help-you-know-the-truth>

## **VIRGINIA VOTING REQUIREMENT & INFORMATION**

<https://www.usvotefoundation.org/vote/sviddomestic.htm?submission=true&stateId=51>

### **Virginia General Election held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

*Notice to voters using US mail service: the USPS delivery standards changed early last year so that First Class delivery went from 1-3 days to 2-5 days and Standard delivery is now 2-9 days. Please take this into consideration as you start thinking towards absentee voting for the Presidential election.*

#### *Deadlines*

New Voter Registration: October 17, 2016  
Absentee Ballot Request: November 1, 2016  
In-Person Request: November 5, 2016 5 pm EDT  
Absentee Ballot Return: November 8, 2016

#### *Domestic Voter*

You are eligible to vote in Virginia if you:

- Are at least 18 years old by Election Day
- Are a resident of Virginia
- Are a U.S citizen

You are NOT eligible to vote in Virginia if:

- You are registered to vote in another state
- You have been legally declared "mentally incompetent" by a court

#### *Restorative Requirements*

- If you have been previously convicted of a felony crime, you may vote in Virginia if your voting rights have been restored

#### *Military Voter*

Service members and their eligible family members living outside their voting jurisdiction (within or outside the U.S.) are able to vote as absentee voters.

- If you are a service member, or an eligible family member, there is a single form to file for both voter registration and ballot request. It is often called the "Federal Post Card Application" or the FPCA form. This form must be re-filed with your election office each time you change location.

To vote as a service member or eligible family member:

- Complete and send a voter registration/ballot request form "FPCA" to your election office in the U.S. It is the same form in all states.

#### *Overseas Voter*

U.S. citizens living abroad have the right to vote as absentee voters, provided they are eligible to vote in their state.

If you are living outside of the U.S. permanently, indefinitely, or temporarily, your voting rights stay with you, even if you never voted when you lived in the U.S.

#### *To vote from overseas:*

- Complete and send an overseas voter registration/ballot request form to your election office in the U.S. This is one specific form that will register you as an overseas voter and request your absentee ballot – simultaneously. Many states allow children who were born overseas, but never lived in the U.S., to use their U.S. parents' last residence address to register.

#### *Identification Requirements*

To register to vote in Virginia you should provide:

- Your Social Security Number  
- Your Virginia Driver's License or State ID Number (online applicants only)

#### *Voting In-Person*

In Virginia, you need to show a valid ID to vote. You can use any ID from this list:

- Veteran's ID  
- Valid Student ID  
- Valid Virginia Driver's License  
- Bank Statement  
- Valid Virginia Issued ID

- Paycheck that shows your Current Name and Address  
- Valid Tribal ID  
- Government Check  
- Valid US Passport  
- Valid Employee ID  
- Utility Bill  
- Other Government ID  
All accepted forms of ID may be used up to one year after expiration.

#### *Voting Military*

Service members and their dependents may register and request a ballot using the federal voter registration/ballot request form ("FPCA"). You will have the following identification options when completing the form:

- Complete Social Security Number

#### *Voting Overseas*

U.S. citizens living overseas may register and request a ballot using the overseas voter registration/ballot request form. You will have the following identification options when completing the form:

- Complete Social Security Number

## DAY IN COURT by Juanita E. Singleton



### **Court Observance Week**

**October 10-14, 2016**

**Theme: MIRANDA: MORE THAN WORDS**

### **Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436 (1966)**

In 1963, Ernesto Miranda, a Phoenix resident was arrested at his home on the charges of rape, kidnapping, and robbery. Miranda was transported to the police department and interrogated by detectives for hours. The police failed to inform him of his rights both during the arrest and during interrogation. After hours of questioning, Miranda eventually confessed to the crimes orally and signed a typewritten confession. Miranda who was 22 years old, had an eighth grade education and battled with mental illness, did not have an attorney present. At trial, the prosecution's case consisted solely of his confession. Miranda was found guilty by jury of rape and kidnapping and received a 20-30 year sentence for each count. The jury based their findings largely on the oral and written confession. He later appealed but the Supreme Court of Arizona held that Miranda's constitutional rights were not violated in obtaining the confession. The Supreme Court of the United States found that Miranda's Fifth Amendment rights had been

violated which resulted in Miranda getting a new trial where the judge would not allow his confession to be introduced as evidence. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the majority opinion (5/4) of the Supreme Court and stated "to permit a full opportunity to exercise the privilege against self-incrimination, the accused must be adequately and effectively apprised of his rights and the exercise of those rights must be fully honored." In this opinion, it also states the familiar statement "You have the right to remain silent." Also known now as the "Miranda Rights."

*This year marks the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court case, Miranda v. Arizona. The 2016 Law Day theme and 2016 Court Observance Week theme, **Miranda: More than Words**, will explore the procedural protections afforded to all of us by the U.S. Constitution, how these rights are safeguarded by the courts, and why the preservation of these principles is essential to our liberty. [NALS.org]*

This is where the membership of this great association comes in, this year NALS would like chapters to organize, publicize and participate in an event during the week of **October 10-14** in celebration of the constitutional freedoms our courts protect. Some ideas are to present a resolution or a certificate to your local courthouse in honor of court observance week from your chapter on behalf of NALS; present a mock trial; courthouse tour; or gather the names of each courthouse personnel and send handwritten thank you cards in honor of court observance week. This can be done as a chapter group activity where each person would handwrite a card. If this

proves to be too voluminous, you can just write the thank you card to the judges and include a special thank you to their staff.

You may send to me your chapter day in court activity as it is completed. I will be sure to include in my day in court report. Please send to [singleton\\_juanita@yahoo.com](mailto:singleton_juanita@yahoo.com) and in the subject line please enter Day in Court along with the name of your chapter.

Submitted by:

Juanita E. Singleton  
Day-in-Court Chair  
2016-2017



\*\*\*\*\*

**Lin-Manuel Miranda, 2016 Tony Award acceptance sonnet, for his show "Hamilton" written in response to the massacre at Pulse in Orlando:**

Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the hit musical "Hamilton" about Alexander Hamilton. It was his acceptance "speech" for his Tony award last month. He wrote it about his wife Vanessa, and in response to the massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando the night before the Tony Awards.

"My wife's the reason anything gets done. She nudges me towards promise by degrees. She is a perfect symphony of one. Our son is her most beautiful reprise. We chase the melodies that seem to find us. Until they're finished songs and start to play. When senseless acts of tragedy remind us. That nothing here is promised, not one day. This show is proof that history remembers. We lived through times when hate and fear seemed stronger; We rise and fall and light from dying embers, remembrances that hope and love last longer. And love is love is love is love is love is love is love is love cannot be killed or swept aside. I sing Vanessa's symphony, Eliza tells her story. Now fill the world with music, love and pride."

Submitted by Lori Stewart

**65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NALS  
EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE AND  
NATIONAL FORUM**

October 6-8, 2016

Embassy Suites Nashville SE -  
Murfreesboro  
1200 Conference Center Blvd  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

For more information visit the  
NALS website at  
<http://www.nals.org/event/NALS16>.

**VALS 2017 WINTER  
BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS  
MEETING**

NVLSA will host the Winter  
Board of Governors meeting for  
2017. More information will be  
disseminated as it becomes  
available.



BE THE REASON  
SOMEONE BELIEVES  
IN THE GOODNESS  
OF PEOPLE.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Sept. 24, 2016 CLP, PP, ALP Certificate Exam
- Oct. 6-8, 2016 NALS Conference and National Forum
- Oct. 10-15, 2016 Court Observance Week
- Oct. 15, 2016 Application Deadline for December ALP
- Nov. 1, 2016 Membership Meeting**
- Nov. 28, 2016 Deadline for submission to The Informer
- Dec. 3, 2016 ALP Certificate Exam
- Jan. 3, 2017 Membership Meeting**
- Apr. 4, 2017 Membership Meeting - Election of Officers**
- Apr. 28-30, 2017 VALS Annual Convention, Roanoke, Va.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is your chapter newsletter. We welcome articles, news stories, reports, and opinions. If you have anything you would like to announce or contribute, please submit your information to Robin Wilson, PLS, at [robin.wilson@alexandria.gov](mailto:robin.wilson@alexandria.gov) by **November 28, 2016** for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.

Advertisement Cost:

- \$10.00 for ¼ page
- \$15.00 for ½ page
- \$25.00 for full page



Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part is encouraged provided full credit is given (article name, author's name, The Informer, NVLSA, Volume 18, Issue No. 3, and July - August- September 2016.) Information and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of NALS, VALS, or NVLSA. The information contained in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the membership or the editor, nor is any endorsement of advertisements, seminars, articles, or commentaries intended. The newsletter is offered as a source of information only.