



# THE INFORMER

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## 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

First I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season to you and yours.

NVLSA is preparing for the Winter Board in January and requesting volunteers to assist. Please contact Lori Stewart to see how you can participate.

NVLSA had their holiday social at Potomac Point Winery on December 4, 2016. We would like to thank all of the VALS gals who joined us on this occasion. We really appreciate you.

NVLSA's calendar fundraiser was a huge success and if you purchased one, you should be receiving yours in the next week or so. Thank you so much for your patronage.

Remember that NVLSA will sponsor a script ticket for a VALS member to this year's convention in honor of Marje Harmon, PLS. The winner will be announced at the Winter Board Meeting.

In closing, I found this article and wish to share with all of you.

The secret to happiness and well-being is no mystery. All it takes is the ability to do the following: Forget, Apologize, Admit errors, Avoid mistakes, Listen to advice, Keep your temper, Shoulder the blame, Make the best of things, Maintain high standards, Think first and act accordingly, Put the needs of others before your own and Forgive. Seem like a tall order? Then try slipping as many of these "secrets to happiness" into your day as possible. You'll soon be rewarded with a more positive outlook on life.

I wish you all Much Happiness!!!!

## THREE THINGS! by Lori Stewart, PP, PLS Governor

I attended the VALS Fall Board of Governors Meeting as your chapter Governor. I previously sent to all our members a lengthy summary of what was discussed at the meeting, but here are the top three things from that meeting:

*Ways to attract more members to attend VALS meetings was discussed. Suggestions were:*

If feasible, chapters could sponsor a member to attend a VALS Meeting or hold fundraisers to send members to meetings (each chapter would need to check their bylaws to make sure that using funds to benefit one member over all the others is not prohibited, as in the VALS bylaws).

We could try to cater more to "how-to" sessions on specific areas of law as opposed to general overviews.

It was generally discussed that all chapters are struggling – people are just not coming out; we need to talk to our new members, invite them to dinner, talk to them.

Consider allowing some members to attend conferences via Face Time or Google Plus, if presenters agree. Perhaps members who could not attend an entire day due to other commitments, could pay a fee to attend one session via Face Time/Google Plus. A side question was raised – what kind of attendance do NALS Webinars get?

Cost of Fall Institute – could the Standing Rules be set aside for a year or two to lower the price of the Fall Institute to see if attendance increases?

### ***Fall and Winter Board of Governors Meetings***

Beginning in 2019, the Winter Seminars and Board of Governors Meeting will held in Richmond and the Fall Institute and Board of Governors Meeting be held in Fredericksburg, and the LEC Chair will negotiate the hotel contracts for both locations. The reasoning for this is that it might be easier for our members in the southern and western portions of the state to attend winter meetings in Richmond. The reason we are waiting until 2019 is that we currently have contracts with the Richmond Doubletree for Fall Institutes through 2018.

### ***VALS Scholarship Raffle***

Carol Pyle donated an iPad Mini 2 to raffle off for the VALS Scholarship. Raffle tickets are \$5 each. I have 45 tickets for our chapter to sell. ***Please let me know how many tickets YOU***

***would like to purchase and/or /sell.*** You do not need to be present to win. The drawing will be held at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Dec. 3, 2016        | ALP Certificate Exam                             |
| <b>Dec. 4, 2016</b> | <b>Holiday Social - Potomac Point Winery</b>     |
| <b>Jan. 3, 2017</b> | <b>Membership Meeting</b>                        |
| <b>Apr. 4, 2017</b> | <b>Membership Meeting - Election of Officers</b> |
| Apr. 28-30, 2017    | VALS Annual Convention, Roanoke, Va.             |

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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 ***February 28, 2017*** for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.

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