



In This Issue:

RECAP: LAPSWV's 2011 Fall Meeting
By Melanie Hicks, CP.....1

From Your President.....2

2011-2012 Executive Committee.....3

2011-2012 Standing & Special Committees.....3

Current Membership Statistics.....3

Upcoming Meetings/Events...4

LAPSWV Community Service
by Melanie Hicks, CP.....4

I'm Not a Doctor, I Just Play One at Work (Puzzle)
By Vanessa Beam, CLAS.....5

LAPSWV's 2011 Holiday Party.....6

RADA Cutlery Fund-Raiser to Support LAPSWV Scholarship Fund.....7

NALA Campus LIVE!
Fall 2011 Programs - Upcoming Courses.....7

About LAPSWV.....8

RECAP: LAPSWV'S 2011 FALL MEETING
By Melanie Hicks, CP

So what is all the fuss about the Marcellus Shale? Mr. Ken Tawney of Jackson Kelly, PLLC answered many questions at the 2011 Fall Meeting of LAPSWV relating to drilling for natural gas. The Marcellus Shale is a rock formation underlying northern regions of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and parts of New York. Historically, natural gas is found and mined from sandstone formations. The development of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has facilitated the ability to produce natural gas from shale formations. Energy companies have converged on areas where the Marcellus Shale underlies the surface land to be in the forefront of the natural gas boom.

Mr. Tawney's presentation illustrated the construction of well sights. A natural gas pad will generally consist of four to eight wells. The wells are drilled vertically for over 6,000 feet which is in excess of a mile. A steel casing is inserted into the drilled well; then, cement is pumped into the well between the casing and the wellbore. Once the target depth is reached, the drill is inserted into the casing to begin the horizontal drilling. A mixture of water, sand, and chemicals are then injected into the horizontal wells to cause the fracturing of the shale to allow natural gas to flow into the vertical well and up to the surface.

One of the main concerns of the public and landowners is the potential contamination of water supplies. Mr. Tawney explained that the wells are drilled to a depth in excess of water tables. Additionally, the steel casing and cement prevents natural gas from seeping into the water supply. Ninety-five percent of the fracturing fluid is sand and water. According to Mr. Tawney, the chemicals such as lubricants and anti-rust substances contained in the fracturing fluids are safe and may be found in common household cleaners. The fracturing fluid is stored in steel tanks and lined pits and disposal of the fluid is regulated by the government.

Mr. Tawney also explained some common elements of oil and gas leases. There were many questions concerning surface owners' rights as they related to the mining rights. Gas wells cannot be drilled within two hundred (200) yards of a residence. The Pugh Clause allows a lease to expire after the primary term with respect to the unused portion of the land. Many oil and gas leases have been in existences for over one hundred years.



From Your President

Webster's defines a volunteer as "a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service as: *a*: one who enters into military service voluntarily; *b*: one who renders a service or takes part in a transaction while having no legal concern or interest."

I would like to thank all of the LAPSWV volunteers that have willingly stepped up over the years. Without volunteers, LAPSWV would not exist. Your executive committee is a small group of volunteers selected by you to lead and oversee the association. They don't get paid for their services and give a considerable amount of time to keep the association moving forward. The executive committee meets once a month to plan educational, community service, and fund raising events. They can get the ball rolling, but can't do it alone.

As you know, LAPSWV has committees in place that several of you indicated that you are willing to serve on. The committee listing can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. A big "Thank You" for all of you that have volunteered! Please bear in mind that this is not an exclusive list. If there is a committee that you would like to get involved with, please contact either me or the committee chair and your name will be added to the list.

Historically, the executive committee has been a little lax in getting the committee members involved with planning activities and the day-to-day functions of the association. Sometimes it's easier to take the "do it yourself" road instead of asking for help. I don't have to tell you, that is a recipe for "sure-fire burnout." We are all in the same boat, so to speak. We work very hard all week at the office and then play catch up on the weekend with chores and family obligations.

With that being said, I want to challenge each of you to take a moment and think about what you can do to keep this association strong and moving forward. We value your participation and suggestions. After the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season, plans are in the works to have a LAPSWV Committee Workshop and you will all be invited to attend. We value your comments and opinions and this would be a great opportunity for all of us to get together and share our hopes and dreams for the future of LAPSWV.

WE ARE AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS! As one of my attorneys tells me at the end of each assignment, "GO YE THEREFORE AND SLAY DRAGONS."

On a personal note, I want to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen S. Nichols, ACP
LAPSWV President

2011-2012 LAPSWV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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2011-2012 LAPSWV STANDING and SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

To be appointed by the President prior to the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

CLA Study Program

Nodgie Kennedy, CLA - Chair
Lauren Aldridge
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Renee Clay, ACP
Melanie Hicks, CP
Sherri Rasmussen
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith

Education

Patricia Schoolcraft, CLA - Chair
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Jill Francisco, ACP
Cynthia Lowther, ACP
Anna Skaggs, CP
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith

Finance

Nodgie Kennedy, CLA - Chair

Fund-Raising

Nodgie Kennedy, CLA - Chair
Rebecca Hopkins
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith
Terri Swindler

Legislative/Regulatory

Tammy Welch, CP - Chair
Cynthia Lowther, ACP

Membership

Renee Clay, ACP - Chair
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Melanie Hicks, CP
Donna Hughes
Katie Kendall
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith
Cindy Spreacker
Shannon Todd, ACP

Newsletter

Shannon Todd, ACP - Chair
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Melanie Hicks, CP
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith
Susan Tephly

Nominations/Elections

To be appointed by the President prior to the annual meeting.

Public Relations/Community Service

Melanie Hicks, CP - Chair
Lauren Aldridge
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Jill Francisco, ACP
Rebecca Hopkins
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith
Terri Swindler
Susan Tephly
Grace West

Seminar Planning Committee

Cynthia Lowther, ACP - Chair
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Renee Clay, ACP
Melanie Hicks, CP
Nodgie Kennedy, CLA
Karen Nichols, ACP
Anna Skaggs, CP
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith
Patricia Schoolcraft, CLA

Standing Rules Committee

Tammy Welch, CP - Chair
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Renee Clay, ACP
Melanie Hicks, CP
Nodgie Kennedy, CLA
Cynthia Lowther, ACP
Karen Nichols, ACP
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith
Patricia Schoolcraft, CLA
Shannon Todd, ACP

Website

Cynthia Lowther, ACP - Chair
Vanessa Beam, CLAS
Tonya Skeens
Paula Smith
Susan Tephly
Tammy Welch, CP

*LAPSWV is always seeking volunteers for the Standing and Special Committees.
Want to volunteer? Just contact any member of the Executive Committee!*

**Have you talked to your co-workers about joining LAPSWV?
Tell them about the benefits of being a LAPSWV member, including:**

- **Networking**
- **Notice of job openings**
- **Continuing legal education**
- **Volunteer opportunities**
- **Opportunities for the development of leadership skills**

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Active Members:	67
Sustaining Members:	2
Student Members:	9
Provisional Members:	0
TOTAL:	78
ACP's:	6
CLAS's:	1
CLA's and CP's:	23

(Continued from page 1)

A memorable event during the presentation was a slide of a deceased horse which was involved in a lawsuit involving a gas well. It was determined during the course of the lawsuit that the horse did not die as a result of the drilling of the gas well on the property. It was a slide that attendees will not forget in the near future. Mr. Tawney also brought core samples of shale and vials of the fracking fluid as visual aids for the presentation. There were seventeen members of LAPSWV and four non-members present for the 2011 Fall Meeting.



UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS **mark your calendar!**

November 15, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
at the offices of Jackson Kelly PLLC
500 Lee Street, Suite 1600, Charleston

December 13, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
ITT Technical Institute, 5183 U.S. Route 60, Huntington

December 13, 2011 @ 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. LAPSWV 2011 Holiday Social
ITT Technical Institute, 5183 U.S. Route 60, Huntington

LAPSWV COMMUNITY SERVICE **By Melanie Hicks, CP**

As you all may know, LAPSWV participates in community service projects every year. Our first project is the Union Mission's Food Fight Program that provides food to needy families throughout the year. Members are being asked to bring non-perishable food items to the Christmas Social to be donated to the Union Mission in Charleston and Huntington. Additional projects are being researched for the holiday season.

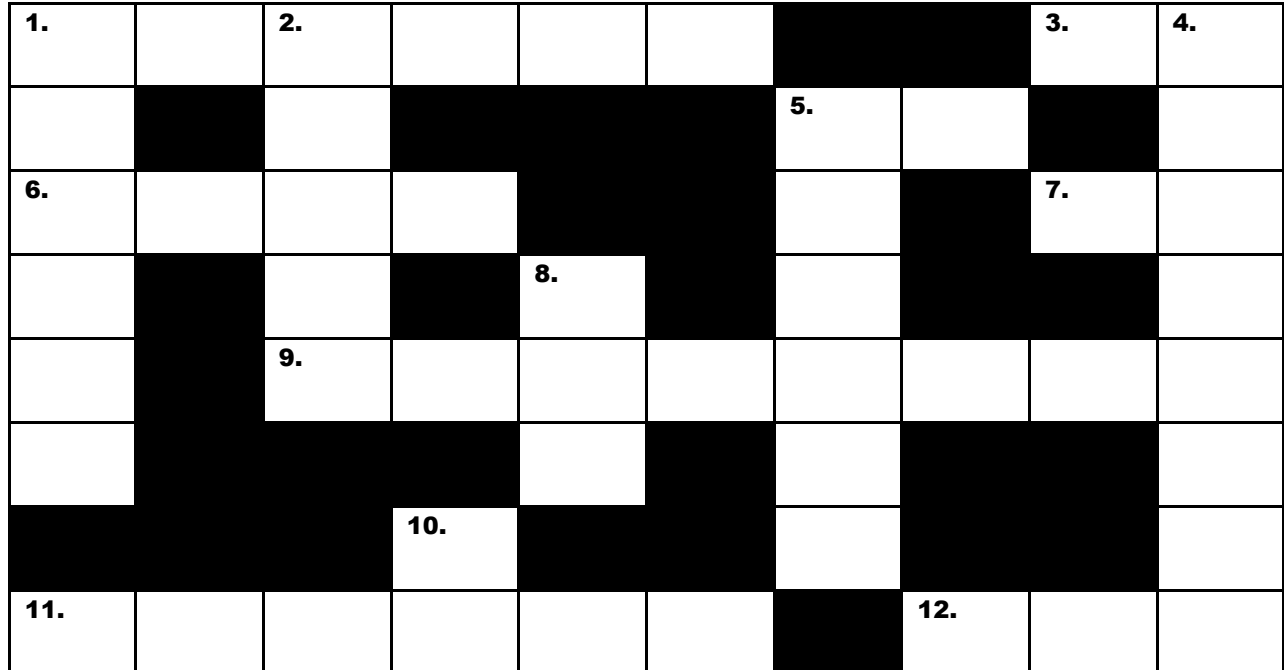
The next project is the Dress for Success River Cities organization which is based in Huntington and provides professional attire, support and development tools to help disadvantaged women succeed in the workplace. Women are provided a top-to-bottom interview outfit for scheduled interviews. Donations of gently used clothing appropriate for the workplace is accepted by this organization. Also, they are planning a spring clothing sale. LAPSWV members can donate clothes and volunteer to staff the spring sale. Goodwill in Charleston also has a Dress for Success program which LAPSWV can support with donations. So save all of your dry-cleaned, gently used professional attire to donate to this great cause. LAPSWV will collect donations at the Spring Meeting.

There is an E-Mentoring program through the Education Alliance relating to career counseling. The program facilitates career mentoring by connecting working adults with high school students to assist in college and career planning. This project is in line with the educational goals of LAPSWV. Each member can participate in this project at their own discretion. For more information please go to <http://www.educationalalliance.org/Projects/WVeMentoringBecomeMentor.asp>.

Please help LAPSWV support these organizations! If anyone has questions, suggestions or comments please contact secretary@lapswv.org.

I'm Not a Doctor, I Just Play One at Work

created by Vanessa Beam, CLAS



Across

Down

- 1. Injury to a joint caused by a ligament stretching beyond its capacity
- 3. Afebrile
- 5. Acromioclavicular
- 6. Tear
- 7. Cancer
- 9. Fibrous tissue that connects bones to other bones
- 11. Type of chest pain
- 12. Skin self-examination; soap suds enema

- 1. Injury in which muscle fibers tear
- 2. Kidney system
- 4. Broken
- 5. Lack of red blood cells
- 8. Hemoglobin
- 10. Stomach system

See Page 8 for the Answers



BIRTHDAY WISHES

NOVEMBER

- Vanessa Beam, CLAS
- Sonia L. Foster
- Susan Gebhardt
- Rebecca S. Hopkins
- Lisa D. Miley
- Donna G. Myers
- Sherri L. Rasmussen
- Jennifer L. Short
- Grace M. West
- Teresa L. Williams

DECEMBER

- Deborah M. Brogan
- Donna S. Hughes
- Heather Jordan
- April D. Lilly
- Tonya R. Taylor
- Susan Tephly

JANUARY

- Renee Clay, ACP
- Stacy L. Cremeans
- Kim Lannan
- Karen S. Nichols, ACP
- Amanda Parsons
- Mary Smith

We do our best to make sure we acknowledge every member's birthday. If we miss your birthday, please forgive us AND let us know so we make sure our records are updated.

You Don't Want to Miss...



...More Details Coming Soon!

RADA Cutlery Fund-Raiser to Support LAPSWV Scholarship Fund

Due to the success of the RADA Fund-Raiser held in the Fall of 2009, LAPSWV decided to make this an on-going fund-raising event. By logging on to LAPSWV's online account with RADA Cutlery, anyone can place an order for kitchen knives, utensils, gift sets, and other merchandise at a great low price AND support LAPSWV's scholarship fund at the same time!

Simply go to **www.HelpOurFundraiser.com**, enter **Internet Ordering #: 502395**, enter **Password: education**, and complete your order. There is a \$10 minimum per order (a shipping fee is added to your order) and a credit card is required. Your order will be delivered to your address directly from RADA Mfg. Co. within fifteen days.

If you have any questions about placing an order, please contact Nodgie Kennedy, CLA at treasurer@lapswv.org.



NALA Campus LIVE! Fall 2011 Programs (*upcoming courses*)

November 2011

Real Estate Closings I
Glenn A. Leier, Attorney
November 16, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Employment Eligibility Verification:
The Importance of Form I-9
Bobby T. Rimas
November 29, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Real Estate Closings II
Glenn A. Leier, Attorney
November 30, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

December 2011

E-Discovery: Catching Up With the
Slowing Down Train
Michael Yager
December 1, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Legal Research
Virginia Koerselman Newman, Attorney
December 2, Noon - 2:00 p.m.

PowerPoint 2010 - what's new and
improved?
Kathy H. Miller, CAS, ACP
December 5, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Freedom of Information Act
Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD
December 6, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Energy Update
Scott H. DeBroff, Attorney
December 8, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Judgment and Legal Analysis
Virginia Koerselman Newman, Attorney
December 9, Noon - 2:00 p.m.

View the full NALA Campus LIVE! Fall 2011 Schedule at <http://www.nala.org/fall2011schedule.aspx>

Answers to Puzzle on Page 5:

1. S	P	2. R	A	I	N		3. A	4. F
T		E				5. A	C	R
6. R	I	N	T			N		7. C
A		A		8. H		E		C
I		9. L	I	G	A	M	E	N
N				B		I		U
			10. G			A		R
11. A	N	G	I	N	A		12. S	S
								E

LEGAL ASSISTANTS/PARALEGALS OF SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

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Direct Comments/Questions to:
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LAPSWV Newsletter Committee
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Legal Assistants/Paralegals
of Southern West Virginia
(LAPSWV)

LEGAL ASSISTANTS/PARALEGALS OF SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia (“LAPSWV”) is a non-profit organization established in 2004 in Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia.

LAPSWV promotes high standards in the legal assistant profession, establishes networking resources for legal assistants/paralegals, and provides integrity in the legal community. LAPSWV also contributes to the community by participating in a number of charitable programs.

LAPSWV’s members are employed by law firms, governmental agencies, and corporations in Southern West Virginia.

LAPSWV strives to raise professional standards in the legal assistant/paralegal profession. LAPSWV promotes continuing legal education by offering “Lunch and Learn” meetings along with special dinner meetings with speakers covering various legal topics.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.LAPSWV.ORG**

Ab Initio is a quarterly publication of Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia (LAPSWV). None of the information contained herein is intended to be nor should it be construed as legal advice.