

LANCASTER AREA PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION (“LAPA”)

September 2021

LAPA



Your Career Partner since 1984!

lapaparalegals@aol.com

MISSION STATEMENT

- To encourage and foster continuing legal education.
- To establish good fellowship and networking.
- To promote the profession of the paralegal.
- To support and carry out the programs, purposes, aims and goals of the NALA.
- To encourage ethical and professional attainment.

BENEFITS

- Professional recognition.
- Membership Directory & Social Networking Events - Contact, networking and direct association with other paralegals who share the same interests and goals.
- Comprehensive bi-annual Salary, Benefits and Job Satisfaction Survey.
- LAPA's Newsletter containing association business, seminar information, articles, national, state and local paralegal profession news, job openings and much more.
- Continuing education through regular meetings and seminars (remote and in-person options) directed to assist paralegals and student paralegals.
- Website: www.LAPAParalegals.com
- Facebook: Lancaster Area Paralegal Association
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/335973636754>
- Job Search Assistance: Job openings are announced, resume writing help.
- Scholarships for NALA's CLA exam.
- Eligibility to apply for joint membership with the Lancaster Bar Association.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Paralegal (voting)

- Open to any person currently employed and qualified through education, training.

Paralegal Membership to the Lancaster Bar Association (“LBA”) (non-voting)

- If applying to LBA, you must be a LAPA Paralegal (voting) member.

Paralegal Student (non-voting)

- Open to an individual (i) currently enrolled in a formal course of study leading to a position as a paralegal, or (ii) a recent graduate of a paralegal training program who is currently seeking employment as a paralegal.

Associate (non-voting)

- Open to law firms, educational facilities and other business entities that are interested in promoting the goals of the paralegal profession.

Sustaining (non-voting)

- Open to any individual who does not meet the requirements of the aforementioned membership categories.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS, INC. (NALA)

- A voice on a national level.
- Support and assistance of NALA in advancing the paralegal profession within their geographic areas.
- Free access to NALA NET – online paralegal community.
- Publications which offer assistance with organization.
- Access to publications like FACTS & FINDINGS, NALA's quarterly publication and the annual Career Chronicle.
- NALA's Bi-annual National Utilization and Compensation Survey Report.
- Special reports and press releases - Urgent or special actions having an immediate effect on the paralegal profession.
- Members of NALA affiliated associations receive a waiver of the initiation fee should they decide to become individual NALA members.
- Offers a certification program and continuing legal education opportunities.

LAPA Committees

- Community Relations – promotes LAPA in the Lancaster community, as well as determines several community projects (past projects include Bench Mark Program, Clare House and Transitional Living Center).
 - Wills For Heroes sub-committee – responsible for organizing, planning, and co-hosting Wills For Heroes events with the LBA.
- Membership Committee – reviews all new and renewal membership applications.

LAPA Committees (continued)

- Newsletter Committee – publishes two to four newsletters per year consisting of articles published from outside sources, LAPA members and students.
- Marketing Committing – promotes LAPA at sponsored conferences/seminars and obtains marketing materials.
- Special Events – plans all social events for LAPA (elections dinner, Paralegal Day, October dinner and holiday lunch).

LAPA Committees (continued)

- Education Committee – secures general topic speakers for LAPA's General Business Meetings.
 - Criminal Conference sub-committee – responsible for organizing, planning and hosting the annual LAPA Criminal Conference.

LAPA Committees (continued)

- Student Liaison – provides paralegal mentoring, education, guidance to the paralegal education community.
 - Student Conference sub-committee – responsible for organizing, planning, and hosting the annual student conference.

Communications with our Members

- Weekly “LAPA Bits” Email blast
- Website – www.LAPAParalegals.com
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Facebook - Lancaster Area Paralegal Association
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/335973636754>

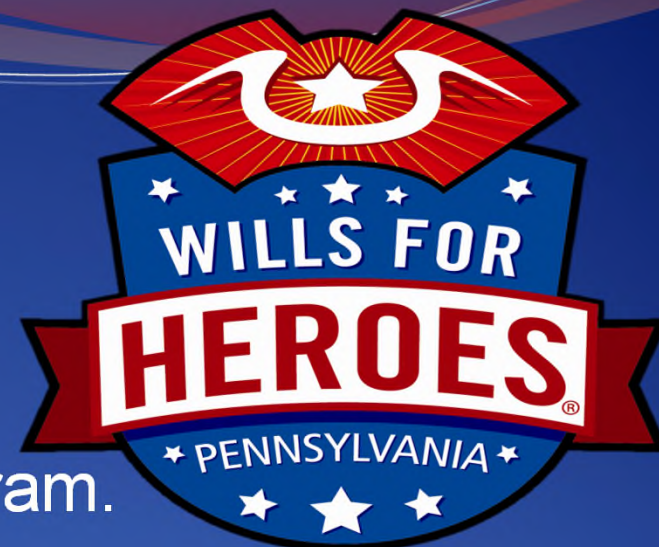
Membership Meetings

- Opportunity to network with fellow members
- Continuing legal education
- Convenient locations with remote options
- Day and evening meetings

Conferences

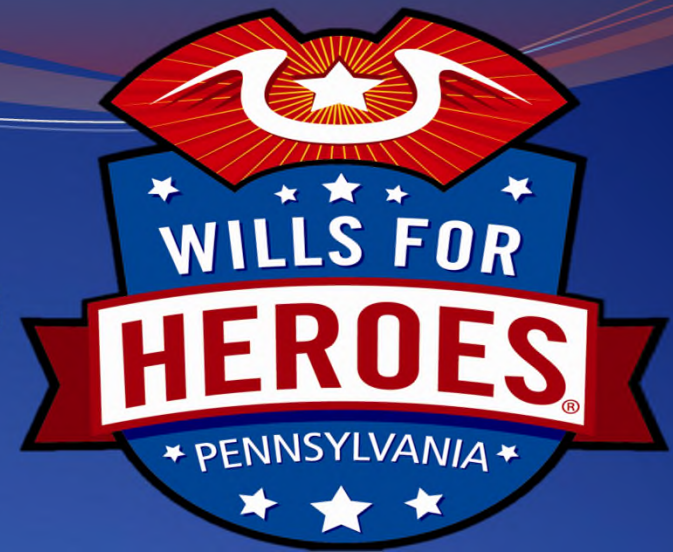
- Paralegal Student Conference
- Civil Conference
- Criminal Law & Forensics Conference

Volunteer Opportunities



- Wills for Heroes is a national program.
- The program offers free estate planning documents for first responders and their spouse or domestic partner.
- Events are staffed by LAPA and Lancaster Bar Association volunteers.
- Wills, Living Wills & POA's are drafted, reviewed, witnessed and notarized at the event.
- Several events are scheduled each year in Lancaster County.

Volunteer Opportunities



- LAPA was presented with an Affiliated Associations Award from the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. (NALA) (July 2010) for its involvement in the implementation of the Wills for Heroes program in Lancaster County.
- For more information about the program visit LAPA's website, www.LAPAParalegals.com; www.willsforheroes.org or contact Jessica Hamilton jhamilton@edclancaster.com