

Briefly...New York

On the Horizon

**NALS of New York
Nominations open until May 1st,
2020. Please nominate someone
for each office listed!**

September 23-26, 2020:
NALS 69th Annual Education
Conference & National Forum,
Driving the Soul of Legal
Professionals
Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport
8000 Merriman Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174
Stay tuned...!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I'm sure you are all aware by now, the NALS of NY City and NALS of New York Education and Networking Conference has been cancelled at this time due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). I am hopeful that we will be able to reschedule it sooner rather than later. We have much work to do!

Our first order of business was to be electing and installing our State Officers for the upcoming year! As you may recall, the Nominating Committee did not receive any nominations this year, and all current officers are up for election! Also, there are two offices which are currently **vacant** and **MUST** be filled: President Elect and Executive Secretary! Both offices are vital to the operations of NALS of New York!

Therefore, I am re-opening the Nominations Process for the NALS of New York Executive Committee Officers. I implore you to nominate someone, even if you nominate yourself, for an office. A Nominations form is on page 5 and a description of the officers' duties is listed on page 6. Please know you will not be alone! Every current officer is available for questions and assistance should you decide you wish to nominate yourself or someone else.

The Nominations process will remain open until **May 1, 2020!** During that time, I will be working with the current Executive Committee officers to determine how elections can be held, and I will notify you once we have determined how best to conduct the elections and when they will be held. Please be on the lookout for this information!

I am also looking into various platforms and/or applications that will allow us to meet virtually to conduct Association business. If anyone has any suggestions on which platform or application is better for having an online meeting, please contact me by email at: ambievpls2004@gmail.com.

While we are "social distancing" and "self-quarantining", let us use this time constructively to move NALS of New York forward!

In the meantime, you and your families continue to be in my thoughts and prayers!

Be well and be safe,
Sincerely,
Toni VanSchaick
President, *NALS of New York, Inc.*

2019/2020 NALS OF NEW YORK, INC.
Executive Committee

PRESIDENT	ANTOINETTE B. VANSCHAICK, PP ("Toni") 10 Edwin St. Bay Shore, NY 11706 (631) 948-3092 cell ambievpls2004@gmail.com
PRESIDENT-ELECT	***VACANT***
VICE-PRESIDENT	LORA ROSENTHAL Touchdown Abstract Services, Inc. 350 Moffitt Blvd., 2 nd Fl. Islip, NY 11751 (631) 224-7196 office lora@touchdownabstract.com
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	***VACANT***
TREASURER	BERTRAM JACKSON 734 Franklin Ave., #422 Garden City, NY 11530 (516) 967-3809 bertram@evolutionlbb.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN	ANITA COTTRELL, PP, PLS 7308 NY Route 173 Manlius, NY 13104 (315) 682-8378 home (315) 478-6551 work (315) 380-4516 cell (315) 478-0103 fax acottrellpls@gmail.com
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	MARION SARCUNI, PLS 45 Chestnut St. Coram, NY 11727 (516) 317-1445 cell marionsarcuni@gmail.com

NALS Mission

NALS Mission
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- *Engage legal professionals on their terms;*
- *Inspire legal professionals to want more;*
- *Enhance the careers of legal professionals;*
- *Promote legal professionals and the legal support industry.*

NALS Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility

Members of NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the standards of conduct required of the legal profession. Every member shall:

- *Encourage respect for the law and administration of justice;*
- *Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information;*
- *Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy;*
- *Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence; and*
- *Pursue a high order of professional attainment.*

Integrity and high standards of conduct are fundamental to the success of our professional association. This Code is promulgated by NALS and accepted by its members to accomplish these ends.

Canon 1: Members of this association shall maintain a high degree of competency and integrity through continuing education to better assist the legal profession in fulfilling its duty to provide quality legal services to the public.

Canon 2: Members of this association shall maintain a high standard of ethical conduct and shall contribute to the integrity of the association and the legal profession.

Canon 3: Members of this association shall avoid a conflict of interest pertaining to a client matter.

Canon 4: Members of this association shall preserve and protect the confidences and privileged communications of a client.

Canon 5: Members of this association shall exercise care in using independent professional judgment and in determining the extent to which a client may be assisted without the presence of a lawyer and shall not act in matters involving professional legal judgment.

Canon 6: Members of this association shall not solicit legal business on behalf of a lawyer.

Canon 7: Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform paralegal functions except under the direct supervision of a lawyer and shall not advertise or contract with members of the general public for the performance of paralegal functions.

Canon 8: Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform any of the duties restricted to lawyers or do things which lawyers themselves may not do and shall assist in preventing the unauthorized practice of law.

Canon 9: Members of this association not licensed to practice law shall not engage in the practice of law as defined by statutes or court decisions.

Canon 10: Members of this association shall do all other things incidental, necessary or expedient to enhance professional responsibility and participation in the administration of justice and public service in cooperation with the legal profession.



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NALS of New York, Inc...the association for legal professionals

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for 2020-2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

The Call for Nominations for the slate of officers to be elected to the 2020/21 Executive Committee of NALS of New York, Inc. was published pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of the Standing Rules of *NALS of New York, Inc.* However, the Nominations & Election Committee did not receive any nominations for said offices.

Therefore, nominations for each officer position (except Parliamentarian and Immediate Past President)¹ will now be accepted until **May 1, 2020**. The Election and Installation of Officers will be held shortly thereafter.

Only NALS of New York members in good standing are eligible and entitled to vote! They include: NALS of NY City, NALS of Suffolk County, and Members at Large. If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact any Executive Committee member listed on page 2. The following members currently serve on the 2019/2020 *NALS of New York, Inc.* Executive Committee:

President:	Antoinette B. VanSchaick, PP (“Toni”)
President-Elect	***Vacant***
Vice-President	Lora Rosenthal
Executive Secretary	***Vacant***
Treasurer	Bertram Jackson
Parliamentarian	Anita Cottrell, PP, PLS
Immediate Past President	Marion Sarcuni, PLS

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Cottrell, PP, PLS

Chair, 2019/20 Nominations & Election Committee, *NALS of New York ...the association for legal professionals*

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¹ Parliamentarian and Immediate Past President are not elected officers.



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Anita Cottrell, PP, PLS
Nominations & Elections Chair
7308 State Route 173
Manlius, NY 13104
acottrellpls@gmail.com

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of the Standing Rules of **NALS of New York, Inc.**, the association for legal professionals, the Call for Nominations for the slate of officers to be elected to the 2020/21 Executive Committee of NALS of New York, Inc... the association for legal professionals is again open. The deadline to submit your nominations is May 1, 2020.

I nominate the following to serve as officers for the 2020-21 term:

_____ for President
_____ for President-elect;
_____ for Vice-president;
_____ for Secretary;
_____ for Treasurer.

_____ Signature
_____ Print Name
_____ Date

Nominations for the above offices can be submitted to Anita Cottrell, PP, PLS by mail or e-mail at the mailing or e-mail address located above.

Executive Committee/Officers' Duties as set forth in Article VII, Section 5 of the By-Laws of NALS of New York, Inc...the association for legal professionals

President. The president shall preside at all meetings of this Association and at regular and special meetings of the executive committee and board; shall recommend appointments and committee chairs and members, subject to the approval of the board; and shall generally manage the day-to-day business of this Association. The president serves as an ex-officio member of all committees, except for nominations, and is a signer on all bank accounts.

President-elect. The president-elect shall assume the duties of president in the absence of the president, is a signer on all bank accounts, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the president or the board.

Vice-President. The Vice-President shall be chairperson of the State Membership Committee and work with the local membership chairs and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the President or the Board of Directors.

Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings; give all notices in accordance with the provisions of this Association's bylaws and standing rules; be custodian of this Association's records; coordinate with the president or other officers in timely furnishing reports and other required information to the National Association; and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the president or the board.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall oversee the financial affairs of this Association under the direction of the board; sign checks for authorized disbursements; and perform such other duties as are assigned by the President or the Board.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

LOCAL NEWS:

NALS of Suffolk County:

Their membership count is now 12!² Keep up the good work!

NALS of New York City:

Their membership count is now 11! Way to go! Keep on recruiting!

STATE NEWS:

NALS of New York:

Membership: As of March 27, 2020, our total membership is 33 members! The breakdown is as follows:

Members at Large ³ :	10
NALS of New York City:	11
NALS of Suffolk County ⁴ :	12

Diamond Anniversary: NALS of New York turned 60 years old on June 21, 1959!

That is the date that the charter was issued to NALS of New York by the national association! Let us come together to improve NALS of New York and help it see another 60 years!

Summary of NALS Virtual Board Meeting held on March 14, 2020:

I attended the NALS Virtual Board Meeting held online on March 14, 2020. The meeting lasted approximately 40 minutes.

At the time, the NALS Board consisted of four members: President, Nakia Bradley-Lawson; Secretary, Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP; Treasurer, Darlene Howard-Holt; and Director, Laleise Curtis. At the time of the meeting, the NALS Leadership Identification Committee was in the process of selecting the fifth member of the NALS Board of Directors.

² The membership total for NALS of Suffolk County includes Concetta G. Spirio, Esq. and Shari Sugarman, Esq., who are honorary members.

³ Members at Large are members of NALS of New York, but they do not have a designated local chapter. Any member at large who wishes to designate a local chapter may contact any Executive Committee member listed on page 2 and we will assist you in doing so.

⁴ See footnote #2.

The NALS Board then introduced the members of Raybourn Group International (“RGI”) who would be serving as NALS staff; they are:

Amanda Bureau, CAE, CVA, Executive Director;
Rachel Daeger, CAE, IOM;
Natalie Shryock, Certification Specialist; and
Leslie Murphy, FASAE, CAE.

Also, the following RGI staff are also assisting during the transition:
Mark Lewis and Emilie Perkins, CAE, CMP, CMM, PMP

Maria Easterly, who was part of NALS staff prior to RGI, is staying with NALS.

In the first 60 days, the NALS Board worked with RGI to resolve and reconcile NALS financials, and membership rebates are being sent out to all chapters that are owed same. They have also worked with RGI to resolve any issues pertaining to membership records.

NALS Board Minutes and Financials will now be posted on the NALS website for members only. You will need to sign in to the NALS website using your user ID and password; go to the member portal and click on NALS Board Minutes. This will take you directly to the Minutes and Financials.

Plans for NALS 69th Annual Conference in Michigan are under way and registration should be opening soon. There will be something for everyone, and members will now be able to pay the conference registration in installments.

The Conference will be held from September 23-26, 2020 and this year’s theme is “Driving the Soul of Legal Professionals”. More information on the Conference can be found at www.nals.org, or in “@Law”, which is the quarterly NALS publication. As members of NALS, you should be receiving “@Law”.

(If you are not receiving “@Law”, please let me know and I will assist you in subscribing.

Should you need to access “@Law” immediately, you can go to www.nals.org; sign in with your user ID and password; click on Publications from the drop down menu; click on @Law Digital Magazine; scroll down to Past Issues and Articles; click on “Click here to access past @Law content; and click on the issue of @Law you wish to access.)

I will do my best to continue to keep you apprised of any further NALS developments.

NALS (NATIONAL)⁵:

News:

NALS Foundation Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Check out the NALS website at www.nals.org for details how to participate in the NALS Foundation Yankee Candle Fundraiser!

Congratulations to New NALS Board:

NALS...the association for legal professionals announces the 2020-2021 Board of Directors took office in March. Serving for the next year are:

President Nakia Bradley-Lawson:

Nakia Bradley-Lawson is the Director of Operations and Facilities at Gevurtz, Menashe, P.C., the Northwest's premier family law and estate planning firm. Nakia has been with the firm for over 13 years as the legal assistant to the managing partner. She joined the firm's management team this year. Prior to working at Gevurtz Menashe, she was a Judicial Assistant for three years before being promoted to serve as one of the Oregon Judicial Department's first Family Court Facilitators, a position she held for five years.

Nakia was inspired to join NALS after meeting the dynamic, intelligent, and ambitious women in her local chapter. She lives by the philosophy of Richard Tirendi – "If you're the smartest person in the room, you're in the wrong room." She believes it is important to surround herself with inspiring people, and she finds she is in the right room every time one is filled with NALS members. Nakia is also on the Board of Directors for Youth, Rights & Justice – a non-profit law firm that specializes in legislation and litigation for the benefit of Oregon's foster children. She is the Chair of the Development Committee, whose main charge is to plan and execute the annual fundraising gala, which raises over \$200,000 in one night!

Nakia has also volunteered as a personal shopper for Dress for Success – a global non-profit organization that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women. When she is not at Gevurtz Menashe, working with non-profits, or at NALS events, Nakia enjoys spending time with her daughter, who she feels is her greatest contribution to the world. She believes the challenges that come with being a single mother have benefited her both professionally and personally. Nakia looks forward to the opportunity to apply the skills she has acquired throughout her career to engage, inspire, enhance and promote legal professionals through NALS.

Secretary Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP:

Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP, has worked in the legal field for over 10 years. During this period, he has worked as a legal secretary, paralegal, and his current position as a Deputy Clerk in the Harrison County Circuit Clerk's Office in Mississippi. He has an Associate's degree in Paralegal Studies, a Bachelor's degree in Justice Studies with a concentration in Law and Legal Process with a

⁵ NALS information is taken from the NALS website.

minor in Psychology, and is currently working on a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with focus on Forensic Counseling. He has been a member of NALS for the past nine years and has been very actively involved. He has served as a Chair and task force member of various NALS Task Forces. He serves the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association (MSLPA), his state chapter, as the current Executive Advisor, CLE/Seminar Chair, Certification Chair and is a Past-President. He serves his local chapter as the current Treasurer and is a past President. He is an Award of Excellence recipient for MSLPA, a three-time recipient of the Member of the Year Award for his local chapter, a past recipient of the Award of Excellence for his local chapter. He has also served as Treasurer, President, and as chair of various committees for his local chapter. Barry is excited to be joining the NALS Board of Directors and looks forward to continuing to serve NALS.

Treasurer Darlene Howard Holt, PP-SC:

Darlene Howard Holt, PP-SC, a Paralegal at the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) in Alexandria, Virginia, has served the legal support profession for over 12 years. Darlene is continuing her second term on the NALS Board of Directors. During her first term, Darlene spent two years as the national President and one year as Secretary. As a dynamic and bold leader, Darlene is unafraid to take the risk, even if she might fail. She strongly believes in the Japanese proverb, "fall seven times, stand up eight." Darlene's advice, in her own words, "Always believe in yourself, the only thing that can stop you from reaching your goal is you." Darlene believes in herself, she believes in NALS, and we are lucky to have her.

Director Laleise Curtiss:

Laleise Curtiss has worked in the legal field for 35 years. Previously working in the public and private sector for attorneys, judges, and senators, she is currently employed as a paralegal with a law firm. She received her paralegal certificate from Old Dominion University and is currently pursuing a degree in Organizational Leadership and Digital Media from Arizona State University. Laleise joined NALS in 2016 and attended her first annual meeting and state conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She immediately hit the ground running by serving on several local, state, and national committees and leadership positions within the organization. She is committed to professionalism, innovation, growth, and excellence. She considers her most significant accomplishment to be that she donated one of her kidneys to a family member and saved their life. She considers NALS to be a family and is excited to be a member of NALS and doing what's best to advance NALS and the members. She will take on the role of Secretary on this year's NALS Board of Directors.

Director Julie A. Abernathy, Emeritus PP, PLS:

Julie A. Abernathy, Emeritus PP, PLS has been a member of NALS since 1975. She has served in numerous chairmanships and offices at all levels of the association, including President of Austin LPA, Waco LPA, and Texas ALP. In addition, Julie has served the national association as Region 6 Director, Membership Director, Secretary/Treasurer, President-elect, and as the 39th President in 2009-2010. She served as a Trustee on the NALS Foundation 2010-2014 and served as the Foundation Chair from 2011-2014. She continues to be active on all levels. Julie is currently president and webmaster of Waco LPA and the webmaster for Texas ALP. She received her PLS in 1995, recertifications in 1999, 2004, 2009, 2013, 2018, and currently has an emeritus status. Julie received her PP in 2002, with recertifications in 2007, 2013 and emeritus status in 2019.

Julie currently resides in Waco, Texas. She has 3 granddaughters, one grandson (whose adoption will be final in April) and a step-granddaughter and step-grandson. Julie retired after 45 ½ years in the legal field and is currently working part time at CASA of McLennan County (Court Appointed Special Advocates) who serves the foster children in the Waco area.

CHANGE OF MEMBER INFORMATION

To update your member information, please fill out the form below and return it to your Editor, Toni VanSchaick, PP.

Mail to: **10 Edwin St., Bay Shore, NY 11706** or Email to: ambievpls2004@gmail.com

Name: _____

Chapter Name
Or Member at Large: _____

Address: _____

Preferred E-mail: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Preferred Fax: _____

EDITORIAL POLICY: *“Briefly New York”* is the official publication of NALS of New York, Inc. All articles included have been written by NALS members, unless otherwise noted. Permission to reproduce articles must be obtained from the Publication Editor. NALS of New York, Inc. assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed by contributors of articles. NALS of New York, Inc. is affiliated with the national association, NALS...the association for legal professionals.

NALS OF NEW YORK, INC.

PAST PRESIDENTS

1960-1961	Ethel Gage	Orange County
1961-1962	Marie Cognata	New York City
1962-1963	Betty Clemons	Oneida County
1963-1966	Evelyn Hodgson*	Onondaga County
1966-1969	Mary Ann (Crotty) Willets	Rensselaer County
1969-1971	Ruth Grosse, PLS, CLA	Queens County
1971-1973	Vivian Robilotto	Broome County
1973-1974	Anna Belle Webb	New York City
1974-1977	Tanya L. Reister	Broome County
1977-1979	Rose Mary Withun	Nassau County
1979-1981	Kathryn A. Long	Rensselaer County
1981-1983	Joan I. Belsen, PLS	Suffolk County
1983-1985	Anita Cottrell, PP, PLS	Onondaga County
1985-1987	Kay Winpen	Ulster County
1987-1989	Beverly Comstock, PLS	Broome County
1989-1991	Wanita Parker*	Saratoga County
1991-1993	Clara G. Smith	Westchester County
1993-1995	Blanche D. Scharfenberg	Suffolk County
1995-1997	Dawn Santos	Orange County
1997-1999	Barbara J. Knoles, PP, PLS*	Suffolk County
1999-2000	Mary Ann Schroeder, PP, PLS	Nassau County
2000-2002	Terry Thomas*	Ulster County
2002-2004	Mary Ann Schroeder, PP, PLS	Nassau County
2004-2006	Cheryl A. Zeranti, PP, PLS	Suffolk County
2006-2007	Diane Lynch, PLS	Suffolk County
2007-2010	Denise Altruda, PLS	Suffolk County
2010-2013	Marion Sarcuni, PLS	New York City
2013-2015	Antoinette VanSchaick, PP	Suffolk County
2015-2017	Angela Hennessy	Steuben County
2017-	Antoinette VanSchaick, PP	Suffolk County

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE HONOREES

1995	Beverly Royce Aulman, PLS	Nassau County
1996	Anita Cottrell, PP, PLS	Onondaga County
1997	Rita Buckley	Suffolk County
1998	Florence A. Smith	Westchester County
1999	Barbara J. Knoles, PP, PLS*	Suffolk County
2000	Terry Thomas*	Ulster County
2001	MaryAnn Schroeder, PP, PLS	Nassau County
2002	Cheryl A. Zeranti, PP, PLS	Suffolk County
2003	Denise T. Altruda, PLS	Suffolk County
2004	Diane Lynch, PP, PLS	Suffolk County
2005	Antoinette VanSchaick, PP	Suffolk County
2006	Josephine Ramon, PLS	Nassau County
2007	Christine A. Mersand, PLS	Lower Hudson Valley
2008	Marion Sarcuni, PLS	New York City
2009	Gina Negrin, ALS	New York City
2010	Christine O'Connor, PLS	New York City
2011	Joyce Margraf (posthumously)*	Suffolk County

*Deceased