



Jane Harrison, PLS

Candidate for Texas ALP Secretary

I have been nominated for the office of Secretary. I am a member of San Antonio Legal Secretaries Association where I have held the offices of Secretary, Vice President and I am presently Director. I served as Chair of the Membership Committee for SALSA, was a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Reception and Attendance Committee, 2009 TALP Fall Board Meeting, Speakers Committee and have served as a mentor to all new members.

I joined San Antonio LSA in 1980. In approximately 1982, another legal secretaries association was formed - Bexar County LSA and I joined Bexar County LSA. While a member of Bexar County LSA, I held the offices of Director, Secretary, Vice President and President. When Bexar County LSA lost its charter, I re-joined SALSA in 2000. I obtained the PLS certification in October, 1986, and was selected as SALSA's legal professional of the year in 2006. I served TALP as Marketing Chair for the year 2002-2003, Credentials Chair for the years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. I am currently serving as Chair of the Membership Committee.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my service to both the state association and the local association.

Questions and Answers

In generating non-income dues for Texas ALP, how would you suggest this income be spent to benefit the members?

I think TALP has such excellent speakers at our meetings, that, depending on how much non-income dues TALP generates, it would benefit the members by recording the speakers and keeping a DVD "library" of sorts. If a chapter has a particular topic they need a speaker on, they could contact the "librarian" and check out the DVD.

Why should members renew their membership year after year?

Staying active in NALS, TALP and the local association keep the members in the know. They benefit from the speakers at their local meetings and the state meetings, if they attend. I have not been to a NALS meeting, so I cannot comment on the speakers there, but I would think they would be excellent also. I am a secondary member of Austin LSA and as such, I receive the great information the members receive regarding changes in the court systems in Travis County.

Under the NALS "Think Big" concept, if you could do one thing for Texas ALP, what would it be?

Increase membership. Being an active member of TALP, I find it hard to believe that not all legal professionals are active members - or members, at least. But I am also finding out that some legal professionals feel that being a "legal professional" is just a job - not a career. Their hours are 9:00 - 5:00, with no allowance for education.

What does Texas ALP do for you?

As President John F. Kennedy said "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Now, replace "your country" with TALP - and you have the right attitude. I have made so many friends through TALP. The networking is phenomenal. If I have a problem/question from El Paso to Houston, I simply call one of my TALP sisters from El Paso to Houston. And I have also been called on for help.