



**Cheryl A. Wenzel, PP, PLS**  
**Member since May 1998**  
**Candidate for Texas ALP Treasurer**

When I joined our tri-level association in 1998, I had no idea what doors would be opened to me. With the support of the members of this association, I have grown as a person, continued my education and have a large circle of friends. I am now a candidate for Treasurer. I believe my bachelor's degree in Accounting will serve me in this position. I will encourage members to share their experiences with people outside the Association so our numbers will grow every day and each member will be the interest to our association's principal.

**Texas Association of Legal Professionals**

Membership Committee Member, **2001-02**  
2004 Winter Board Meeting Committee Member, **2002-04**  
Certification Chair, **2003-05**  
2009 Fall Board Meeting Chair, **2008-10**

**San Antonio Legal Secretaries Association**

**Officer Positions**

Vice President, **2001-02**  
President, **2002-04, 2007-09**  
Director, **2004-05**  
Parliamentarian (appointed position), **2005-06**

**Chair/Committee Positions**

Delegate at Texas Association of Legal Secretaries Annual Meeting, **2000-01**  
Membership Committee, **2001-02**  
Day in Court Chair, **2000-01, 2003-04, 2009-10**  
Day in Court Committee, **2004-05, 2008-09**  
Legal Education Seminars Committee, **2004-05**  
Certification Committee Member, **2004-05, 2008-09**  
Program/Speakers Committee Chair, **2005-07**  
Certification Committee Chair, **2005-08, 2009-10**

**NALS**

Marketing Committee Member, **2004-05**  
NALs Certification Exam Administrator, **2001 - Present**

**Honors**

PLS Certification, **1998**  
San Antonio Legal Secretaries Association Member of the Year, **2000-01**  
San Antonio Legal Secretaries Association Legal Secretary of the Year, **2003-04**  
PLS Recertification, **2003, 2008**  
NALs CLE Award, **2004**  
Texas Association of Legal Professionals, Excellence in Education Award, **2004**  
PP Certification, **2005**

**Education**

Community College of Rhode Island, cum laude, **1988**  
Associate Degree in Accounting

Bryant College (now Bryant University), 1992  
Bachelor Degree in Accounting

## Questions and Answers

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

I believe that the money would best be spent by giving it back to the members. If we were to provide drawings for free registrations to state meetings with that money or as a benefit for a chapter increasing their membership, we may just have a chance at attracting someone that might not otherwise be able to afford to attend. In this economy, any money that an individual does not have to pay out on their own would definitely be a benefit of their membership. We are seeing the tightening of belts on all fronts for individuals and law firms. If a member won a free registration, that would also be a benefit to a firm and it might be more inclined to pay other expenses of their travel if it didn't have to pay for the registration.

### **Why should members renew their membership year after year?**

Our members should renew their membership each year because it is a benefit to them. There are not many opportunities where we put ourselves first in our daily lives and renewing our membership each year, is a renewal of ourselves and our careers. Hopefully firms will continue to support our associations and to pay for their employees to stay as members for many years to come. When a member renews, they are making the decision to improve and believe in continuing their education, to grow as a person, to benefit from the resources available to all of us through the tremendous network we have throughout the country.

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

That one thing would be – Talk (and those that know me well, know I can do that). Talk about the benefits the association gives me, talk about the friendships I have made throughout my years as a member, talk about the support of the membership, talk about the education provided to me through the tri-level association, talk about the networking throughout the country, talk about the leadership and guidance provided to members, talk, talk, talk. If no one hears about how great the association is, then how are we going to be able to expand? Don't keep it a secret, spread the news around, and as the old commercial used to say – and they tell two friends, and they tell two friends, etc. (I know, I'm dating myself)

### **What does Texas ALP do for you?**

Oh my, I think I have covered most of that already. When I joined my local chapter, I had been in Texas less than a year and was still suffering from separation anxiety from my family. I was looking for, no I needed, to find something to channel my energy so that I would not feel the loneliness so much. A friend at work suggested I join our local chapter and I thought it might be a nice place to meet some new friends and I didn't think there would be much more than joining. I had no idea what opportunities would be presented to me through the association. I was then encouraged to join our local study group for the PLS exam. I met some new fellow sufferers through studying (I mean new friends) and together we got through a summer of studying and studying, and did I mention, studying? I became a certified PLS because of the support of that group of friends and the support of my chapter. Those new friends then encouraged me to attend a state meeting and I continued to grow as a person and my friendships grew outside of San Antonio city limits. The support I received, friendships, kindness, education, networking available, training, knowledge, benefits and the energy I receive by being around these wonderful people is unfathomable. They should bottle this stuff; our non-dues income would be huge!