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The Paralegal Association of Rochester, Inc. Association Spotlight

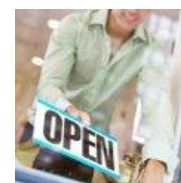
written by Deborah J. Wilcox Mabry, Primary Representative

The Paralegal Association of Rochester, Inc. (PAR) is a not-for-profit organization serving paralegals and the legal community in the Greater Rochester Area since 1975. We became the 30th member association of the NFPA in 1981 and we are a founding member association of the Empire State Alliance of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (ESAPA), founded in 1988.

PAR is thrilled to be the host association for NFPA's 2019 Convention to be held at the Hyatt Regency Rochester, October 10 – 13, 2019. Our theme is *Continued Focus on Legal Rights*. So if you want to know what PAR's working on – 2019 is it! We have a terrific committee helping with the various tasks to pull together a successful convention.



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Currently PAR wants to highlight a couple events that we've been involved with in 2017:



As a member of ESAPA, we worked with the other members to hold a 2017 New York State Paralegal Education and Leadership Conference (September 15-16, 2017). We had some outstanding speakers; terrific vendors and sponsors, and a good turnout. It is certainly a lot of work to pull something like that together, but well worth it. *(Pictured on the left: Deb Mabry with Lesley Diaz, speaker.)*

In September we held our 2nd Golf Tournament at Shadow Lake Golf Club with 34 attendees. We played nine holes of golf and had a delicious chicken BBQ dinner which was lots of fun for our members and sponsors. We were pleased to make a donation of our net proceeds in the amount of \$1,000 to benefit the Ed Orlando Fund of Legal Aid Society of Rochester. *(Pictured on the right: Jane Gorski, PAR President, presenting check to Carla Palumbo, Director of the Legal Aid Society.)*



Every fall, for the past 13 years, PAR has held a Kick-off Dinner to start the year (usually the summer months are quiet) and we include an Auction for our members and sponsors. It continues to be one of the highlights each year with wonderful donations from the Rochester Area Community, our members and sponsors. There are many happy winners because we usually gather 65 to 75



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items. We normally hold this event in September, but so much was going on that this year we held it in October. The money we raise goes towards PAR's commitment to ongoing CLE's, community events and our scholarship. *(Pictured: Jane Gorski, PAR President, with Christopher Kiley, Banking Officer and Community Relationship Manager from Genesee Regional Bank, a sponsor.)*

For the past three years, PAR has offered a \$500 scholarship opportunity for a person attending an accredited paralegal studies program in the Rochester Metropolitan area. The person who enters needs to maintain a B average; submit a letter of recommendation from the Director of the program or instructor, provide a resume and complete an answer to an essay question. This year we were pleased to award the scholarship to Charles Gifford *(pictured on the left at Kickoff)* who is finishing his final classes at Monroe Community College. He is pursuing becoming a paralegal with the Legal Aid Society after graduation in January, 2018. Mr. Gifford received his scholarship check at our Kick-off dinner with a round of applause by members of PAR and our sponsors.



PAR sent Deborah Mabry as Primary Representative and Bobbi Ahearn as Acting Secondary Representative to the 2017 Convention in New Orleans. We were glad to be a part of the annual gathering, attend meetings, networking and representing PAR. The pictures are from the Annual Policy meeting and also the



Friday Night "Mardi Gras" festival showing we can also work and have some time for fun. *(Pictured on the left: Deb and Bobbi at NFPA meeting. Pictured on the right: Deb and Bobbi at Friday Night Event.)*

The Board of PAR consists of 13 very dedicated individuals. We focus much of our attention to the events I mentioned above, but we also work to hold monthly lunchtime CLE programs; a welcome event for our new members and to gathering donations at the holidays for our adopted families from Willow Domestic Violence Center and the YWCA Adopt-A-Family.



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