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Paralegal PERSPECTIVES

PAR installs 2016-2017 board and awards 2016 Paralegal of the Year

The Paralegal Association of Rochester, Inc. (PAR) held its annual meeting and election of officers on May 12 at Grinnell's Restaurant on Monroe Avenue in Rochester. The room was very nice and the food was exceptional.



By DEBORAH KING
Daily Record
Columnist

After dinner, PAR presented the 2016 "Paralegal of the Year" award. This

year's award winner is Emelia Sacchetti from Sharon Kelly Sayers' office. Attorney Sayers and Judy Campbell from the office submitted inspiring nominations that acknowledged Emelia's many successes and qualifications that led to her consideration as a worthy candidate for this year's award. Emelia has been employed with Sharon for the past five years and assists both the client and her attorney.

Sharon stated that Emelia is the most outstanding paralegal she has ever had in her employ. Emelia loves her work and takes great pride in it. Recently Emelia accompanied Sharon to an out-of-town case that involved a multimillion dollar estate with many hidden assets. Sharon stated while deposing the opposition she never lost her momentum because Emelia silently and confidently handed her every document she needed to back up her statements.

Sharon also stated that Emelia is well liked by all the court personnel and can get adjournments or extensions easily. Emelia has a highly gifted legal mind



Paralegal of the Year Emelia Sacchetti and Attorney Sharon Kelly Sayers.

and can do research as well as some of the associates, Sharon has had. Emelia graciously accepted her award thanking Sharon and Judy and her big family. Many attended the dinner.

Next on the meeting agenda was the election of the officers to the new 2016-2017 PAR Board of Directors. With all of the proxies counted, 1 ballot and 2 nominations from the floor, PAR is pleased to announce the 2016-2017 board.

Dina Beaudette is returning to the PAR board as President. Dina has worked at Merzbach Law Office, P.C. for over nine years. Her area of concentration is general corporate and business matters as well as securities and real estate. She received her AAS degree from Monroe Community Col-

lege. Dina has two adult children. She enjoys spending time with family and friends including her new four-legged addition, Marley, that she adopted from Scottsville Animal Hospital last November.

Jane Gorski is returning as President Elect and Membership Co-Chair. Jane is currently employed with Empire Paralegal Services in the Estates & Trust department handling estate administration. Jane received her paralegal certificate from Monroe Community College. Outside of work Jane is a wife and mother of a son, Jake 13, who is very involved in sports and scouting. Jane and her husband enjoy brewing their own beer.

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Suzanne Scott is returning to the Board as Secretary. Sue is currently employed at Goldberg Segalla LLP as a Legal Assistant supporting attorneys in the General Liability and Global Insurance Services Groups, which focus on insurance defense, insurance coverage and reinsurance litigation. She has been a paralegal for over 27 years with experience in residential real estate, civil litigation, corporate and trademarks, matrimonial and Family Law, bankruptcy and collection matters.

She also has her own transcription business, Nota Bene Transcription Services. She lives in Marion with her boyfriend of over 13 years, Gregg, and their four-legged 'children'. Sue also serves as the Secretary for the Williamson Driftriders Snowmobile Club, and enjoys golfing, crafting, camping, snowmobiling, fitness, hiking and spending time with friends and family.

Douglas Kaleta was returning as Treasurer. Doug has been on the board for several years. Doug has been a paralegal for over 28 years and has been employed at Harris Beach LLP in Pittsford for the last 18 years. His specialty is both residential and commercial real estate. Doug enjoys working in his yard and taking cruises.

Patricia O. Sexstone is returning to the board as PAR's Professional Development VP. Pat has sat on the board in various positions for roughly eleven plus years. She has been with the law firm of Forsyth & Forsyth for over 31 years. Patty and her husband enjoy traveling and, in particular, visiting son, daughter-in-law and new first grandson in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas and their daughter in Charlotte, NC.

Sandee Ciaccia is returning to the board as VP of Public Relations. Sandee has worked for Boylan Code LLP for the last 15 1/2 years, and is currently a Paralegal in Litigation and Bankruptcy.

Outside of work she does fundraising and serves in several ministries at her church, including Hospitality and Flower City Work Camp. A few of her passions include cooking, baking, health & fitness. Sandee lives in Webster with her husband Dominic and they have three grown sons. Sandee is very busy in her spare time with her grandson, Asher and preparing for her second grandchild due in August.

Jill Warner returns to the board as a Co-VP of Education and Programming. Jill

brings 23 years of experience as a paralegal, and is currently employed by Legal Med, a company that provides expert retention on litigation cases. Jill attended UB where she earned her Master's Degree in Library Science and Marist College where she earned her BA and an ABA approved Paralegal Certificate.

She earned the RP (Registered Paralegal) designation in October, 1999 from the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA). Jill is a member of the Genesee Community College Paralegal Advisory Board. Jill was a member of the WNYPA Board for many years and served on the NFPA Board as the first ever Region V Director. Jill and her husband Tim have two active daughters. She enjoys running, swimming, biking, golfing and traveling with her family.

Amanda Grove is a newbie coming to PAR's board as Co-V.P. of Education and Programming. Amanda has six years of experience as a litigation paralegal and has been with Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP for 1 1/2 years. Amanda attended Elmira College where she graduated cum laude in 2006 and earned her Bachelor degree, majoring in Political Science, Sociology and Public Affairs.

During her time at Elmira College she was inducted to the Pi Sigma Alpha and Lambda Alpha National Honor Societies. Amanda and her fiancé, Adam, love to spend their spare time with their friends, family, and two dogs, Penny and Luna. They make frequent trips to the Adirondacks and Honeoye Lake for hiking, boating, jet skiing and fun.

Bonnie Brooks is coming to PAR's Board as V.P. of Website/Employment. Bonnie has years of experience as a litigation paralegal and has been with Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP for over 15 years. She received her Associate's Degree with Distinction and ABA Paralegal Certificate with Distinction from MCC, where she is also co-teaching Personal Injury Law as Adjunct Faculty in the Paralegal Studies program.

Bonnie was recently selected as a Coordinator for the National Federal of Paralegal Associations' (NFPA) Technology Committee, is an Affiliate member of the Monroe County Bar Association and is a Certified Electronic Discovery Specialist. She was a team leader for the Association of Certified E-Discovery Special-

ist's University Task Force and assisted in finalizing the results of the CEDS beta exam. Bonnie has a son, two daughters and two grandchildren and enjoys spending her time with family and friends, volunteering and traveling.

Deb Wilcox Mabry is returning to the board as the NFPA/ESAPA Primary Delegate. Deb is also the V.P. of ESAPA through 2017. She has been an Estates, Trusts and Tax paralegal at Nixon Peabody LLP for 24 years. Deb has one son, Dan who lives in Seattle, WA. When she isn't working or handling NFPA, ESAPA or PAR matters, she spends time working on the Perinton Historical Society's annual house tour committee and in her spare time loves to cook, travel and take photographs.

Debbi King is returning to the PAR board as Secondary Representative to NFPA/ESAPA and Membership Co-Chair. Debbi is also the ESAPA Treasurer for 2016-2018. Debbi earned her AAS from Corning Community College and BS from Elmira College. She received her paralegal certificate from Monroe Community College. She has been a paralegal for over 13 years and a PAR board member for over 10 years. Debbi enjoys spending time with her husband and two four-legged, 6 1/2 year old furry children, Alley and Bogey, who are sisters and weigh 85 lbs. each. Along with making jewelry in her spare time, she enjoys going to races with her husband and wine tasting.

Shirley Calhoun is returning to the board as Director at Large. Shirley is employed at Harris Beach PLLC in Pittsford and has been there for 17 years specializing in Residential Real Estate. She earned her paralegal certificate at St. John Fisher College and enjoys reading and spending time with family.

Bobbi L. Ahearn is returning to the board as a Director at Large and Committee Chair for Pro Bono. She is a paralegal with Weinstein & Randisi. Bobbi earned an ABA accredited Paralegal Degree from Finger Lakes Community College and a B.S. in Business Administration from Medaille College. Her current area of focus is Trust and Estate Administration and Estate Litigation. She enjoys her work, while supporting clients through the best and most difficult times in their lives, spending time with her daughter Marlena (a senior at Syracuse University) and cooking

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for family and friends.

Emelia Sacchetti is a new Director at large for PAR. She has been a Paralegal to Sharon Kelly Sayers, Esq. since 2011. She obtained her Criminal Justice Associate's Degree from Bryant & Stratton College in 2008 and is currently a full-time student at SUNY Empire State College working on her Bachelor's Degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in Community & Human Services with an anticipated completion in June, 2017. Emelia and her husband Salvatore Gingello enjoy cooking, day trips/ vacationing, and playing at the park with their two sons, Luciano (5) and Mossimo (3).

On Saturday, June 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. PAR members will join forces with local attorneys and participate in Valor Day 2016. This event, which will be held at the Monroe Community College's

Brighton Campus, is hosted by One Team One Fight, an organization formed by several local veteran focused service providers.

Valor Day is an annual one-day event featuring Pro Bono legal services provided by Monroe County Bar Association (MCBA) members and will offer the following veteran related services: one-on-one legal consultations, workshops, employment counseling, and credit/financial counseling among others. The event is a 'one stop shop' where veterans can receive information and legal services on site.

If you are a member of PAR and interested in volunteering, please contact PAR's Pro Bono Coordinator, Bobbi L. Ahearn, at bahearn@ransisilaw.com and add your name to the volunteer list! If you are not a member and would like to find out how you can volunteer, please contact Erin Kuhn, AmeriCorps VISTA Paralegal at LawNY at 585-295-5656 or [\[lawny.org\]\(http://lawny.org\).](mailto:ekuhn@</p>
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In the coming months PAR has many things planned:

- Wednesday, May 18: PAR will host "How to Proofread" presented by Tobie Hewitt, Wordsmith, BS, MA, FMA at Nixon Peabody LLP, 1300 Clinton Square, 14th Floor at Noon.

- Wednesday, Sept. 21: PAR's Kick-Off Dinner and Twelfth Annual Auction is being held at the Tavern at Clover, 2851 Clover Street, Pittsford, from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

- Friday, Sept. 30: Par for PAR Nine and Dine Inaugural Golf Fundraiser at Shadow Lake, 1850 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield, from 4 p.m., Shotgun Start, 7 p.m. Dinner.

And lastly, a big "Thank You" to all of those who attended. The Annual Meeting was a huge success and an enjoyable time was had by all. Hope to see you soon at PAR's events.