

Paralegal PERSPECTIVES

PAR presents Paralegal of the Year Award, installs new officers and directors

At the time of writing this article, my tenure as the president of the Paralegal Association of Rochester, Inc. (PAR) has come to a close. This last year entailed many PAR events and projects and the time went very quickly. I have now “passed the gavel” to Bobbi Ahearn, who is acting PAR president.

PAR held the Annual Meeting/Dinner on May 23 at Joey's Party House in Penfield. At the dinner, William G. Bauer Esq. of Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP presented Bonnie Brooks as the recipient of the 2018 Paralegal of the Year Award. This honor is bestowed each year by PAR to a paralegal who is nominated for going above and beyond in



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their duties as a paralegal, work with PAR and involvement outside of their employment and PAR in the area of community involvement and outreach. Mr. Bauer's accolades of Bonnie accomplishments as a litigation paralegal at Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP, combined with her charitable efforts, work as an adjunct professor at Monroe Community College's paralegal program and her dedication to the PAR board and organization, were so demonstrative of how well-deserved this award was for Bonnie.

Mr. Bauer spoke of their long working relationship and how Bonnie has always been supportive of him and willing to go beyond expectations; she is



Bonnie Brooks received the 2018 Paralegal of the Year Award, presented by William Bauer.

someone who is well-respected and appreciated in their department. He went on to mention that along with becoming the Paralegal of the Year, Bonnie could also be “Employee of the Year” or “Teacher of the Year” and many other of-the-year titles. Bonnie is such an integral part of everything she is involved in, and PAR is so proud that she received the award of the Paralegal

of the Year because it was well earned. Congratulations Bonnie!

The PAR annual business meeting was conducted at the annual dinner. The following officers and directors were installed for the 2018-2019 PAR board: president – Bobbi Ahearn (trusts and estates paralegal – Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP), secretary – Debra Drennan (trusts and estates paralegal –

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Klafehn, Heise & Johnson PLLC, treasurer – Deborah Wilcox Mabry (trusts and estates paralegal – Nixon Peabody LLP), NFPA/ESAPA primary representative – JP Fountain (trusts and estates paralegal – Bond, Schoeneck and King PLLC), NFPA/ESAPA secondary representative and co-chair of membership – Reagan Weinhart (bankruptcy supervisor – Fein Such & Crane LLP), chair of website/employment – Bonnie Brooks (litigation paralegal – Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP), director at large – Dar-

cia Mancini (paralegal, Monroe County Department of Law – Social Services), director at large – Nicole Place (trusts and estates paralegal – Nixon Peabody LLP), director at large – Karen Klindt (paralegal – University of Rochester) and advisor to the board and co-chair of membership – Jane M. Gorski (trusts and estates paralegal – Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP). Please visit the PAR website at www.rochesterparalegal.org for more information about upcoming events or how to become a PAR member.

At the annual dinner, PAR collected items for care packages for a program

sponsored by the National Association of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) called Operation Gratitude. PAR is honored to partner with NFPA in a corporate partnership with Operation Gratitude to send care packages to our U.S. troops, first responders, veterans, military families and wounded heroes and their care givers. For more information on Operation Gratitude, please visit www.operationgratitude.com.

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