

## **President**

**Alayne Russom**-Alayne received her Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science/Criminal Justice Concentration from the University of Wisconsin – Superior in 1996 then went through the Paralegal Program at the college.

Throughout college, she interned and then worked for the Wisconsin State Public Defender's office. In 1997, Alayne went to work as a legal assistant and later office manager at Magie, Andresen, Haag, Paciotti, Butterworth & McCarthy, P.A. Her husband's job brought them to Minnesota in 1999, where Alayne worked as a Paralegal for a short time at Parker, Satrom, O'Neil & Benjamin.

Alayne's career brought her family to the Fox Valley Area in Wisconsin in 2003 when Alayne began working as a Paralegal for Liberty Mutual Insurance Group through the Law Offices of Stilp & Cotton. Almost two years later, Alayne accepted a Senior Paralegal position with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Alayne currently works in the Corporate Law Department for Thrivent, providing support to Thrivent's Member Dispute Resolution Program (MDRP), which provides Thrivent members with a means to resolve disputes through mediation and arbitration. Alayne also assists her Attorney in the management of litigation brought against Thrivent through the court system as well as administrative agencies such as the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).

Alayne served two terms as the Fox Valley Chapter Director of the Paralegal Association of Wisconsin from 2005 – 2007. She is currently serving as the President of the Association.

Alayne lives in Neenah with her husband (Joe), three children (Sydney, Jared, and Haley), Bearded Dragon (Rossie), and two boxers (Saidee and Hoss).

## **Vice President**

**Wayne Blanke**-My main focus is Civil Litigation in personal injury, doing both insurance defense and plaintiff. I am employed at Herrling Clark Law Firm, LTD. I also have considerable experience in Equal Rights defense and business and employment law.

I received my paralegal certificate from American Institute of Paralegal Studies in 1998 and a BS in Public Administration/business from Upper Iowa University in 2000. Prior to the 9+ years working as a paralegal I was a police officer for 16 years in southern WI.

I am divorced with 3 grown children. My hobbies include: wood working, atv'ing, camping and golf. I am active in the Paralegal Association of Wisconsin-Fox

Valley chapter, Loyal Order of Moose, my church and working with numerous committees with the Kiwanis.

I feel that I would be able to dedicate the needed time necessary to fulfill the position as Vice President. I would like to see PAW again belong to the national organization. I am a believer that continuing education is important and that paralegal licensure will bring this about, which will show the professionalism of our profession which will have many positives for us such as increased salaries, benefits and the added responsibilities that we now show we are capable of performing.

**John C. Goudie**-John C. Goudie has been a member of the PAW since 1987. He has served in various capacities on the Board of Directors as President, Vice President, NFPA Primary and Secondary, and currently serves in the capacity of National Affairs Representative. John has been a practicing paralegal for more than 20 years, primarily in the areas of personal injury and workers compensation and is now employed in the field of corporate regulatory compliance. John has been a frequent speaker on paralegal topics to various seminar providers, the State Bar of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers and national paralegal organizations. John is honored to be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the PAW again, in the capacity of vice president, in order to continue to provide the Board of Directors with his experience and historical background of the PAW.

#### **Mary Beth Wendt – Vice President**

I am an experienced paralegal professional seeking to hold a new term of Vice President for The Paralegal Association of Wisconsin Inc. I have been a member of The Paralegal Association of Wisconsin Inc. for approximately five years. During that time, I have learned a great deal more about our profession through the elected positions of President, Secretary, Co-Milwaukee Chapter Director and CLE Coordinator. The experiences that I have attained thus far by being a Board Member of the Association are priceless. The friendships I have made as a result of being a Board Member are limitless. I would thoroughly enjoy the opportunity of being your Vice President for a new term.

#### **Secretary**

**Mary Johnsrud** -Mary Johnsrud is a Paralegal with Devanie, Belzer & Schroeder, S.C. of La Crosse, Wisconsin. She attended Rancho Santiago College in southern California and completed her paralegal studies in 1997. Previously, she worked in Los Angeles, California at Ford, Walker, Haggerty & Behar where she specialized in personal injury, product liability and construction

defect She relocated to Wisconsin in 1998 and began working for Devanie, Belzer & Schroeder, S.C. specializing in criminal defense, civil rights, personal injury and civil litigation in both state and federal court. She has been a paralegal for 14 years. Mary is an active member in the Paralegal Association of Wisconsin and serves on various committees. She has been on the Board of Directors for the Paralegal Association of Wisconsin since 2004 and currently serves the Board as Secretary. Mary looks forward to another year of working with PAW and the great members of this professional association.

### **Treasurer**

**Bernie Schilling**-Since becoming a Paralegal in 1991, I have been a member of the Association and currently serve as your Treasurer, Bylaws Coordinator, Resume Bank Coordinator and Mentor/Mentee Coordinator. Liberty Mutual Insurance Company – Wausau Campus has employed me for 35 years with my current position held as the Senior Paralegal Specialist in the Corporate Legal Department. I previously served for two years as the Vice President and one year as Secretary. I look forward to holding the Board position of Treasurer and serving the Members of the Association for the coming year.

### **Director of Membership**

**Deb Romenesko**-Deb received her Associate Degree in Applied Science in Paralegal from Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) in December 2005. While attending LTC, Deb worked as an administrative assistant to Attorney Jerry Van Hoof at Pacon Corporation in Appleton, Wisconsin from 1994 - 2003. In addition to primary duties as administrative assistant, Deb prepared various employment and corporate agreements, real estate transactions, and assisted in board of director meetings.

In 2003, Deb accepted a position at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Appleton, Wisconsin, where she is currently employed. Deb has held various positions and has progressed from an administrative assistant to her current position as a paralegal (2006) in Corporate Law. Her current responsibilities include responding to third party subpoenas and handling fiduciary matters such as power of attorney, guardianships/conservatorships, trusts, UTMA/UGMA, and third party authorizations. In her first position as a paralegal, Deb has enjoyed the learning opportunities and the challenges of being a paralegal.

Deb lives in Little Chute with her husband (Bob) and has three children (Drew, Tony, and Ryan). In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.

## **National Affairs Representative**

**Marie Koster** - Marie E. Koster is a Trust and Estates and Tax paralegal with Quarles & Brady LLP of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She has been a paralegal since 1987 working in the areas of probate, trust administration, fiduciary accounting and taxes. Marie has been a board member since the early 90s serving as Racine/Kenosha Chapter Director, Past President, NFPA Secondary, NFPA Primary Representative and currently as Board Advisor. She has also served as committee chair for Pro Bono, Resume Bank, Director of Calls and Mentor Coordinator. Besides being an active member of the Paralegal Association of Wisconsin, Marie is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Paralegal Practice Task Force, National Federation of Paralegals, American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. and regularly is appointed by the American Bar Association to make site visits for paralegal schools that are up for re-approval of their ABA status.

## **Fox Valley Chapter**

**Sharon Mattson**-Sharon K. Mattson is a Senior Paralegal with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Sharon received her paralegal certificate in 1996 and has been working as a paralegal ever since. She began her career working in general practice with a sole practitioner. She has also worked in several general practice law firms and has recently progressed to the corporate world.

Sharon has worked in a variety of areas, the strongest emphasis including Civil Litigation, Personal Injury, Family Law, Small Claim, Indian, Criminal, and Bankruptcy. She accepted her current position in 2006 as a securities paralegal, dealing with life insurance, annuity and mutual fund operations.

Sharon has been a member of Paralegal Association of Wisconsin since 2006 and served one term as Fox Valley Chapter Director from 2007 – 2008.

Sharon lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin with her teenage daughter, Natasha. In her personal time, Sharon enjoys camping, fishing, spending time with family, and traveling.

## **Madison Chapter**

[no submission]

## **Milwaukee Chapter**

[no submissions]

## **La Crosse Chapter**

**Deon Imhoff**-Deon earned her B.A. in Sociology from Viterbo University in 1999 and her Paralegal Certificate from the University of San Diego in 2000.

Deon has been employed as a Paralegal in the La Crosse area for more than 4 years and currently works for a General Practitioner who focuses on Criminal Law, Family Law, Estate Planning, and Real Estate matters.

Deon's first year on the PAW Board was '07-'08 as the La Crosse Chapter Director.