

PLEADINGS

Issue No. 250

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March 2011

TAX TIPS POST-2010

If you think your tax bill is chiseled in stone at the end of the year, think again. Though it's true that most money-saving options to defer income or accelerate deductions become much more limited after December 31, there is still a lot you can do to make the tax-filing season cheaper and easier. Follow these 10 steps to lower your blood pressure while keeping more money in your pocket:

1. Contribute to retirement accounts

If you haven't already funded your retirement account for 2010, do so by April 18, 2011. That's the deadline for contributions to a traditional IRA, deductible or not, and to a Roth IRA.

Making a deductible contribution will help you lower your tax bill this year. Plus, your contributions will compound tax-deferred. It's hard to find a better deal. To qualify for the full annual IRA deduction in 2010, you must either: (1) not be eligible to participate in a company retirement plan, or (2) if you are eligible, you must have adjusted gross income of \$56,000 or less for singles, or \$89,000 or less for married couples filing jointly. If you are not eligible for a company plan but your spouse is, your traditional IRA contribution is fully-deductible as long as your combined gross income does not exceed \$167,000. For 2010, the maximum IRA contribution you can make is \$5,000 (\$6,000 if you are age 50 or older by the end of the year). For self-employed persons, the maximum annual addition to SEPs and Keoghs for 2010 is \$49,000.

The amount you save for making a contribution will vary. If you are in the 25 percent tax bracket and make a deductible

IRA contribution of \$5,000, you will save \$1,250 in taxes the first year. Over time, future contributions will save you thousands, depending on your contribution, income tax bracket, and the number of years you keep the money invested.

2. Make an estimated tax payment

If you didn't pay enough to the IRS during the year, you may have a big tax bill staring you in the face. Plus, you might owe significant interest and penalties, too.

According to IRS rules, you must pay 100 percent of last year's tax liability or 90 percent of this year's tax or you will owe an underpayment penalty. If your adjusted gross income for 2009 was more than \$150,000, you have to pay more than 110 percent of your 2009 tax liability to be protected from a 2010 underpayment penalty.

If you make an estimated payment by January 17, though, you can erase any penalty for the fourth quarter, but you still will owe a penalty for earlier quarters if you did not send in any estimated payments back then. But if your income windfall arrived after August 31, 2010, you can file Form 2210: Underpayment of Estimated Tax to annualize your estimated tax liability, and possibly reduce any extra charges.

3. Organize your records

Good organization may not cut your taxes, but there are other rewards, and some of them are financial. If you really want to make tax season go smoothly, use a personal finance software program like Quicken throughout the year so you have

easy access to all the information you need. How do you get started?

- Print out a tax checklist to help you gather all the tax documents you'll need to complete your tax return.
- Keep all the information that comes in the mail in January, such as W-2s, 1099s and mortgage interest statements. Be careful not to throw out any tax-related documents, even if they don't look very important.
- Collect receipts and information that you have piled up during the year.
- Group similar documents together, putting them in different file folders if there are enough papers.
- Make sure you know the price you paid for any stocks or funds you have sold. If you don't, call your broker before you start to prepare your tax return. Know the details on income from rental properties. Don't assume that your tax-free municipal bonds are completely free of taxes. Having this type of information at your fingertips will save you another trip through your files.

4. Find the right forms

View and download a large catalog of forms and publications at the Internal Revenue Service Web site or have them sent to you by mail. You can search for documents as far back as 1980 by number or by date. The IRS also will refer you to a private Web site that lists state government sites where you can pick up state forms and publications.

5. Itemize

It's easier to take the standard deduction, but you may save a bundle if you itemize, especially if you are self-employed, own a home or live in a high-tax area. It's worth

the bother when your qualified expenses add up to more than the 2010 standard deduction of \$5,700 for singles and \$11,400 for married couples filing jointly. Many deductions are well known, such as those for mortgage interest and charitable donations. However, taxpayers sometimes overlook miscellaneous expenses, which are deductible if the combined amount adds up to more than 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. These deductions include tax-preparation fees, job-hunting expenses, business car expenses and professional dues. You can also deduct the portion of medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income.

6. Take a home office deduction

The eligibility rules for claiming a home office deduction have been loosened to allow more filers to claim this break. People who have no fixed location for their businesses can claim a home office deduction if they use the space for administrative or management activities, even if they don't meet clients there. As always, you must use the space exclusively for business.

You are entitled to write off expenses that are associated with the portion of your home where you exclusively conduct business (such as rent, utilities, insurance and housekeeping). The percentage of these costs that is deductible is based on the ratio of the square footage of the office to the total area of the house. A middle-class taxpayer who uses a home office and pays \$1,000 a month for a two-bedroom apartment and uses one bedroom exclusively as a home office can easily save \$1,000 in taxes a year. People in higher tax brackets with greater expenses can save even more.

One home office trap that used to scare away some taxpayers has been eliminated. In the past, if you used 10 percent of your home for a home office, for example, 10 percent of the profit when you sold did not qualify as tax-free under the rules that let homeowners treat up to \$250,000 of profit as tax-free income (\$500,000 for married couples filing joint returns). Since 10 percent of the house was an office instead of a home, the IRS said, 10 percent of the profit wasn't tax-free. But the government has had a change of heart. No longer does a home office put the kibosh on tax-free profit. You do, however, have to pay tax on any profit that results from depreciation claimed for the office after May 6, 1997. It's taxed at a maximum rate of 25 percent. (Depreciation produces taxable profit because it reduces your tax basis in the home; the lower your basis, the higher your profit.)

7. Provide dependent taxpayer IDs

Be sure to plug in Taxpayer Identification Numbers (usually Social Security Numbers) for your children and other dependents on your return. Otherwise, the IRS will deny the personal exemption of \$3,650 for each dependent and the \$1,000 child tax credit for each child under age 17. Be especially careful if you are divorced. Only one of you can claim your children as dependents, and the IRS has been checking closely lately to make sure spouses aren't both using their children as a deduction. The \$1,000 child tax credit begins to phase out at \$110,000 for married couples filing jointly and at \$75,000 for heads of households.

8. File and pay on time

If you can't finish your return on time, make sure you file Form 4868 by April 18, 2011. Form 4868 gives you a six-month extension of the filing deadline until October 17, 2011. On the form, you need to make a reasonable estimate of your tax liability for 2010 and pay any balance due with your request.

Requesting an extension in a timely manner is especially important if you end up owing tax to the IRS. If you file and pay late, the IRS can slap you with a late-filing penalty of 4.5 percent per month of the tax owed and a late-payment penalty of 0.5 percent a month of the tax due. The maximum late filing penalty is 22.5 percent and the late-payment penalty tops out at 25 percent. By filing Form 4868, you stop the clock running on the costly late-filing penalty.

9. File electronically

Electronic filing works best if you expect a tax refund. Because the IRS processes electronic returns faster than paper ones, you can expect to get your refund three to six weeks earlier. If you have your refund deposited directly into your bank account or IRA, the waiting time is even less.

There are other advantages to e-filing besides a fast refund. The IRS checks your return to make sure that it is complete, which increases your chances of filing an accurate return. Less than one percent of electronic returns have errors, compared with 20 percent of paper returns. The IRS also acknowledges that it received your return, a courtesy you don't get even if you send your paper return by certified mail. That helps you protect yourself from the interest and penalties that accrue if your paper return gets lost.

If you owe money, you can file electronically and then wait until the federal tax filing deadline to send in a check along with Form 1040-V. You may

be able to pay with a credit card or through a direct debit.

- With a credit card, expect to pay a service charge of as much as 2.5 percent.
- With direct debit, you may delay the debiting of your bank account until the actual filing deadline.

10. Decide if you need help

If you feel uncomfortable doing your taxes on your own, don't hesitate to use the services of a professional; the price is well worth giving you added confidence and peace of mind.

From TurboTax.com

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

We are looking for ideas for speakers for our monthly meetings. If you know someone, or would like to volunteer to be responsible for finding a speaker for one of our meetings, please contact any board member.

NALS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO BOARD OF DIRECTORS March 1, 2011

The Board approved the minutes of the February 2011 Board meeting, and approved the February 2011 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Discussion was held on the attorney directories, Nominating Committee and Legal Professional of the Year Committee, and topics and agendas for upcoming NALS general membership meetings. The Board approved purchase of an ad in the NALS of Michigan Annual Meeting Program, donation of \$25 toward a gift for President Beverly Bishop, and approval of a chapter finance table for the Annual Meeting. The next general membership meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2011, at a location to be determined. Dan Grow will speak on the latest on the Medical Marijuana Act. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 5 at Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone at noon.



NALS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO: 2011-2012 NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of candidates for officers for 2010-2011:

President:	Diane Y. Berry, PLS
Vice President:	Cynthia A. Comer, PP
Treasurer:	Colleen VanSickle
Recording Secretary:	Tami Carl
Corresponding Secretary:	Joyce Coker
Director:	Nancy Thomas, PLS
Parliamentarian:	Nancy Thomas, PLS
Alternate Director:	Diane Y. Berry, PLS

The election of officers will be held at the March 22, 2011, general membership meeting. All regular members are eligible to vote.

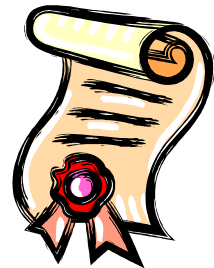
Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thomas, PLS
Kathleen Hutchins, PLS
Nominating Committee



Attorney Dan Perk of Miller Johnson spoke at the February 22, 2011, general membership meeting on residential property tax assessments. The meeting was held at the Beacon Club.

LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Attention Members:

It's time to nominate the legal professionals who are exceptional and deserving of this year's NALS of Greater Kalamazoo "Legal Professional of the Year" Award.

To qualify, a candidate must have five years or more of legal experience, be conscientious, hardworking, community-spirited, and, in general, a "legal professional". If you would like to nominate someone for this outstanding award, please complete the nomination form below and forward it to:

Kim L. Snow, PP, PLS
Law Offices of Frederick J. Taylor
1210 West Milham Avenue, Suite 202
Portage, MI 49024
E-mail: ksnowpls@aol.com

All nominations must be received on or before April 30, 2011. The nominees will be furnished with an application to be completed and submitted no later than May 31, 2011. The LPY Committee will review the applications, and an applicant will be chosen to receive the 2011 Legal Professional of the Year Award.

*Note: Prior winners are not eligible. Prior LPY Award winners are:

Pamela S. Wilcox
Nancy Lane Johnson
Nancy Thomas, PLS
Kim Snow, PP, PLS
Jamie Henby
Rebeccah L. Cornwell, PP

Jo Spaulding
Cecilia O'Dea Rankin
Evelyn Rasmussen, PLS
Margaret L. Bristol, PLS
Patricia Connor, PP, PLS
Colleen VanSickle

Brenda Parker
Chris Voissem, PLS
Elaine Krause
Cynthia Comer, PP
Diane Y. Berry, PLS
Lynn Brookman, PLS
Susan Collins

Nomination for Legal Professional of the Year

NALS of Greater Kalamazoo

I hereby submit the following nominee for the 2011 Legal Professional of the Year:

Name _____

Employer _____

Signature _____

(Optional)

Thursday, April 28, 2011

- 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. **Executive Committee Meeting**
- 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Registration**
- 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Executive Committee Dinner**

Friday, April 29, 2011

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. **"Breakfast at Tiffany's" (First Timer's Breakfast)**
A "golden opportunity" for Annual Meeting First Timer's to meet the NALS of Michigan Executive Committee and learn more about our Association.
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Registration**
- 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. **"Diamonds in the Rough"**
50 years and we are still learning about Marketing and Membership. Join President Elect Sandy Lavender, Executive Secretary Janet Vandenberg and Membership Director Teri Garber as they share just a "carat" of the ideas from NALS Professional Development & Education Conference held in March in Tulsa.
- 10:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. **"Ethilution: Ethics in the Modern Legal Office"**
Joshua Sheffer, Attorney & President, Sheffer Law PLLC
Recertification or not, everyone needs a refresher course.
- 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **"Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" (luncheon)**
To Have a Friend, You MUST Be a Friend"- and who would know better than someone who has been an exhibitor for the past 25 years!
Guest Speaker: Donna Snider, Client Relations Director
Network Reporting

1:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

"Marijuana: It's Not Just For Brownies Anymore"

A unique panel discussion covering all aspects of this very controversial topic.

Stuart Dunnings III, Ingham Co. Prosecutor, (Aaron Katz case)

Russell A. Soyering, Traverse City Planning Director (Regulating the growth & distribution of MJ and use/zoning impacts)

Celeste Clarkson, Manager, Compliance Section of the Michigan Department of Community Health/Medical MJ Registry

Daniel Grow, Attorney at Law, (Defense in Joe Casius/WalMart case)

Lt. Kip Belcher, Michigan State Police Post 71
Head of Traverse City Narcotics Team

David Allen Croker, M.D.
Michigan Holistic Health

The above seminar topics are subject to change without notice. Every effort will be made to notify registrants of a change in topic, but that notification cannot be guaranteed

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

"A Night of Networking" (Exhibitors Dinner)

"Stroll" among the exhibitors, dine among the history books and pictures, and "reminisce with friends - old and new.

Saturday, April 30, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Delegate/Alternate Delegate Check In

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

"Pay It Forward" Part I (General Assembly)

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

"Diamonds are Forever" (Certification Luncheon)

We recognize the successes of those newly certified, and be inspired by a member who will forever hold a special place in NALS.
Guest Speaker: Sharon Smith, PLS, NALS President, 1992-1993

1:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

"Pay It Forward" Part II (General Assembly)

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Chapter photographs

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

"All That Glitters" (Awards Banquet & Oath of Office)

Dust off those dresses and "bling" the night away as we install the 2011-2012 Executive Committee and recognize the 2011 NALS of Michigan Legal Professional of the Year.
Cocktails will begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

9:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

"I Just Want to Celebrate"

Take time to congratulate the Executive Committee and recipients of the evening, and continue visiting with friends.

**NALS OF MICHIGAN 50TH Annual Meeting and Education Conference
April 29 – 30, 2011 – Crystal Mountain, Michigan**



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

There will be a late fee of \$20 for any registration postmarked after April 1, 2011 – including partials
Full Registration includes all educational seminars and events

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Local Chapter _____</p> <p>Certification(s) _____</p> <p>Badge Name/Nickname _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City _____ State/Zip _____</p> <p>Work # _____ Home # _____</p> <p>E-mail _____</p> <p>*Guests _____</p> <p>Would you like Men's Auxiliary Information? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Please describe any special needs you have (disability, dietary restrictions, etc.) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p align="center">(Please check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Past State President <input type="checkbox"/> State Officer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> State Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I will be attending the First Timer's Breakfast on Friday (First Timers and Officers)</p> <p>CHECK PAYABLE TO: NALS of Michigan 2011 Annual Meeting Fund</p> <p>Amount of check enclosed \$ _____</p> <p>MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO:</p> <p>Lucinda Broecker CAP lucinda.broecker@pfizer.com 7000 Portage Road Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001 (269) 833-1709</p> <hr/> <p><i>IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE CONTACT:</i></p> <p>Primary Contact Name: _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p> <p>Daytime Phone: _____</p> <p>Evening Phone: _____</p> <p>Secondary Contact Name: _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p> <p>Daytime Phone: _____</p> <p>Evening Phone: _____</p>
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Check all events that you plan to attend)

Please check all that apply:

Full Registrant Partial Registrant

Full Registration Fee Schedule:

- Postmarked on OR BEFORE April 1, 2011
 Member \$115 Non-member \$175
 Student \$100
- Postmarked AFTER April 1, 2011
 Member \$135 Non-member \$195
 Student \$120 Partial \$20

PAY IT FORWARD – If a member’s full registration is sent in along with a former member’s full registration on or before April 1, 2011, the total charge for BOTH is **\$150**. If one of the registrants cancels, the remaining registrant will be charged at full price.

GUEST

- Friday Lunch (\$25)
 Friday Evening (\$25)
 Saturday Certification Lunch (\$25)
 Saturday Banquet (\$55)

NOTE: If more than one guest will be accompanying you, please attach a separate sheet with information. If your guest is attending meal functions, please refer to the partial registration fee schedule.

Partial Registration Fee Schedule – Please check all that apply

Member	Non-Member	Student
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #1 (N/C) “Diamonds in the Rough” - Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #1 (N/C) “Diamonds in the Rough” - Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #1 (N/C) “Diamonds in the Rough” - Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #2 (\$25) “Polished” - Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #2 (\$35) “Polished” - Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #2 (\$15) “Polished” - Ethics
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Lunch (\$25) “Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend”	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Lunch (\$25) “Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend”	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Lunch (\$15) “Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend”
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #3 (\$40) “Marijuana: It’s Not Just for Brownies Anymore”	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #3 (\$50) “Marijuana: It’s Not Just for Brownies Anymore”	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Seminar #3 (\$30) “Marijuana: It’s Not Just for Brownies Anymore”
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening (\$25) “A Night of Networking”	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening (\$25) “A Night of Networking”	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening (\$15) “A Night of Networking”
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Cert. Lunch (\$25) - “Diamonds are Forever”	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Cert. Lunch (\$25) - “Diamonds are Forever”	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Cert. Lunch (\$15) - “Diamonds are Forever”
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Banquet (\$55) “All that Glitters”	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Banquet (\$55) “All that Glitters”	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Banquet (\$45) “All that Glitters”

HOTEL INFORMATION: Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa (800) 968-7686 ext 5100. Registration form will be distributed as a separate form.

REFUND POLICY: Full refund of registration will be given if notification is received on or before April 2, 2011. Fifty percent (50%) REFUND IF RECEIVED BETWEEN April 3 – 15, 2011. **No refund after April 16, 2011.**

NO SMOKING POLICY: In consideration of attendees, smoking is not allowed.



engage. inspire. enhance. promote.

NALS of Michigan President-elect
Sandy J, Lavender, CHRS
Challenges **YOU** to join a 2011-2012 Committee!

Be part of a 2011-2012 NALS of Michigan Committee and take an active role in YOUR association. No prior experience is necessary! Participation on a NALS of Michigan committee will enhance your personal goals and professional growth, plus give you a clearer understanding of the inner workings of our association.

Yes! I want to join a committee! I have indicated my preference above.

Name _____

Chapter _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

A brief synopsis of each committee is below. For more detailed information, please see the NALS of Michigan Standing Rules.

Certification – The committee shall promote the certification programs sponsored by NALS and answer all inquiries about certification, including informing members of requirements for eligibility to take the various exams.

Credentials – The work for this committee begins approximately 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. This committee shall receive certifications of delegates and alternate delegates. The Credentials Chair and assistant shall check in and out the delegates to the annual meeting during the assembly.

Finance – The Finance Committee shall devise ways of raising funds for the association with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Financial Review – The chair shall review the records of the Treasurer of the association prior to each meeting and shall also review the financial records of all seminars, annual meeting, and other fund raising projects.

Legal Education – The committee shall plan and coordinate legal education seminars for the fiscal year.

Marketing – This committee is responsible for marketing the association to its fullest potential including but not limited to advertising, pamphlets, and other marketing materials.

Membership – This committee shall promote membership recruitment and retention.

Past Presidents' Council – This committee will keep a current mailing and email list of all of the past Presidents for NALS of Michigan as well as make arrangements for the Past Presidents' Dinner at Annual Meeting.

Permanent History – Permanent files shall consist of minutes, contracts, records and retained by this association for at least seven (7) years.

Scholarship – This committee is bound by the NALS of Michigan Scholarship Fund Bylaws and Standing Rules.

State Bar Liaison – The State Bar Liaison will assist at the State Bar Annual Meeting – requesting volunteers one month prior to the State Bar Annual Meeting.

State Publication – This committee shall prepare and publish this Association's quarterly publication.

Website – This committee shall maintain and enhance the NALS of Michigan website.

NALS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO TREASURER'S REPORT

February 1, 2011 through February 28, 2011

Fifth Third Bank General Checking Account

Beginning Balance **\$1,669.57**

Disbursements

Nancy Thomas (NAL of MI BOD mtg)	20.00
Miller Canfield (Dec., Jan Pleading postage)	26.84
The Beacon Club (Feb Gen mtg)	160.00
Nancy Thomas (NALs president gift)	25.00

Total Disbursements **\$(231.84)**

Deposits

February General Membership Mtg	120.00
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Total Deposits **\$120.00**

Ending Balance **\$1,557.73**

Fifth Third Bank Savings Account - Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance **\$11,605.52**

interest February	+ .43
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Ending Balance **\$11,605.95**

Fifth Third Bank Savings Account - General

Beginning Balance **\$3,732.53**

Interest February	+ .14
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Ending Balance **\$3,732.67**

RAFFLE TICKETS !

I have tickets for NALS of Michigan's annual fundraiser raffle this year. The drawing will be held on April 30. Prizes are:

- 1st prize: One night's accommodations at Crystal Mountain
Choice of packages: spa, ski, or golf
- 2nd prize: \$100 cash
- 3rd prize: \$50 cash



Ticket prices are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. You need not be present to win; in fact, I will be happy to bring your prize back to you from the Annual Meeting! Send me an e-mail at thomasn@millercanfield.com or call me at 383-5826 for tickets.

Nancy Thomas, PLS, Director

NALS of Greater Kalamazoo
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Held February 22, 2011

The NALS of Greater Kalamazoo Chapter met on February 22, 2011, at The Beacon Club. The February 2011 edition of the *Pleadings* provided all members prior notice of the meeting. Seven members were present.

Our guest speaker, Dan Perk from Miller Johnson, joined us for dinner. After dinner, Dan gave his talk on residential property tax assessments and appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. After the presentation by Dan Perk, the general membership meeting was called to order.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chris English called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. President Staudacher and Vice President Collins were both unable to attend the meeting. President Staudacher had emailed Chris English with the agenda prior to the meeting.
- II. **Minutes:** Nancy Thomas made a motion to approve the January 2011 General Membership meeting minutes as published in the *Pleadings*. Kim Snow seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Thomas made a motion to approve the January 2011 Treasurer's Report as published in the *Pleadings*, subject to audit. Joyce Coker seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved, subject to audit.
- IV. **Pending Business:**
 - A. Attorney Directories. Chris English gave a brief update on the Attorney Directories. She reported that she had almost all of the packets back from those individuals who volunteered to assist with the project. Chris showed a sample of a directory in 8x10 format, and plans to use that format for the new directories. Chris reported that she had not yet talked to the printing company, but will do so in the near future.
 - B. Nominating Committee. Nancy Thomas gave a brief report for the Nominating Committee. She reported that the Committee had talked with all current officers with the exception of Susan Collins and Jan Staudacher, and those they talked to have agreed to continue in their current positions next year. Nancy will be contacting Susan Collins and Jan Staudacher in the near future.
- V. **New Business:**
 - A. NALS News. Nancy Thomas reported that she has NALS of Michigan raffle tickets for the 50th annual meeting and conference raffle available for anyone who wishes to purchase or sell them for the Chapter. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The money needs to be returned to Nancy before the annual meeting which is the last weekend in April. Nancy also reported that she had received a communication seeking donations for a gift for Kathy Amirante when Kathy is to be sworn in as

the new NALS President in March. Nancy made a motion to donate \$25 toward a gift, Diane Berry seconded it, and the motion unanimously passed.

- B. Scholarship Committee. Chris English reported that the Chapter had received a request to advertise the NALS scholarships to all Kalamazoo law firms. A short discussion was held. Unfortunately, the deadline for the Annotations had already passed. It was discussed that the Chapter could put something on its website. Further discussion was had about also adding information on the website as to why the Chapter's scholarship is named after Jo Spaulding.
- C. Speakers for Upcoming Meetings. A brief discussion was held on possible future speakers/topics for upcoming general membership meetings. Denise Nelson, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo County Bar Association, was mentioned as a possible speaker. It was also discussed that the Chapter would be asking Kathy Amirante to speak at our Chapter's installation of officers meeting.
- D. NALS Website. Diane Berry reported that the NALS website is now complete, and she encouraged members to visit the site. (Thank you Diane for your hard work!)

VI. **Announcements:**

- A. The NALS of Michigan Annual meeting will be held on April 29 and 30 at Crystal Mountain. It was discussed that at the March meeting, the Chapter will need to vote on delegates and alternates for this meeting.
- B. The next general membership meeting will be held on **March 22, 2011**, probably at Friday's. Chris English will confirm the location and it will be advertised in the *Pleadings*. Attorney Dan Grow will be speaking and he will be giving an update on the Medical Marijuana law.
- C. The next Board Meeting will be held on **March 1, 2011** at noon, at Miller Canfield.

- VII. **Adjournment:** No further business to come before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Tami Carl



NALS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO

“The Association for Legal Professionals”

www.nalsofgreaterkalamazoo.org

www.nalsofmichigan.org

www.nals.org

March 22, 2011

**TGI Friday's
5650 West Main Street**

**5:30 p.m. networking
6:00 p.m. dinner**

**Program: Medical Marijuana Act: Update on
Criminal Defenses and Civil Claims presented
by: Daniel W. Grow of Targowski & Grow, P.L.L.C.**
*(Note: Mr. Grow is Plaintiff's counsel in the case of
Casias v Wal-Mart)*

Menu Selections

Chicken Fingers Served with seasoned fries & honey mustard	\$16.00	Flat Iron Steak Tender and flavorful 8 oz. steak chargrilled served with 2 sides	\$18.75
Cheeseburger Black Angus beef grilled on a brioche bun with lettuce, pickles, onion and tomatoes served with seasoned fries	\$13.50	Pecan Crusted Chicken Salad Pecan crusted chicken breast served chilled and sliced on salad greens tossed with mandarin oranges, sweet glazed pecans, dried cranberries, crumbled bleu cheese and balsamic vinaigrette dressing	\$15.75
Turkey Burger Ground turkey patty on a brioche bun with lettuce, pickles, onion and tomatoes served with seasoned fries	\$13.50	Friday's Shrimp Hand battered shrimp served with seasoned fries and cocktail sauce	\$18.50
Jack Daniel's Chicken 2 juicy chicken breasts with Jack Daniel's glaze served with 2 sides	\$20.00	Baby Back Ribs Half rack of pork ribs, marinated and seasoned, chargrilled and basted with barbeque sauce served with seasoned fries and ginger-lime slaw	\$15.00

Prices include soft beverage, coffee, tea, tax, and gratuity.

PLEASE NOTE OUR RESERVATION PROCEDURE: Please reply to the email address below with “NALS reservation” in your subject line. Please give your selection in the body of the email, as well as the names and selections of any guests. Please give your payment to Colleen VanSickle at the meeting. Phone reservations will also be accepted—email is preferred. Thank you!

Please email your selection to Chris English at: englishc@millerjohnson.com by **Thursday, March 17, 2011.**

ONCE RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN CALLED IN (on March 18, 2011), YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT FOR YOUR ORDER IF YOU CANCEL AND DO NOT FIND A REPLACEMENT. Please call Chris at 226.2975 with any questions.

2010-2011 Officers

Janice Staudacher, PLS, President
Phone: 207-5263

Susan Collins, Vice President
Phone: 343-1500

Tami L. Carl, Recording Secretary
Phone: 226-2966

Jennifer N. Bayer, Corresponding Secretary
Phone: 226-2970

Colleen VanSickle, Treasurer
Phone: 385-4602

Nancy Thomas, PLS, Director
Phone: 381-7030

Christine English, PLS, Parliamentarian
Phone: 226-2975

Nancy Thomas, PLS, Pleadings Editor
thomasn@millercanfield.com
Phone: 381-7030

CALENDAR

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

12 noon

Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone

Next General Membership Meeting:

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

5:30 p.m.

TGI Friday's

Michigan Medical Marijuana Act Update

Daniel W. Grow, Esq.

April 29-30, 2011

NALS of Michigan

50th Annual Meeting

Crystal Mountain Resort



**NALS of Greater Kalamazoo
P.O. Box 50221
Kalamazoo MI 49005**