



# THE PARAGRAPH

September 2011

***GAP - Leading Georgia's Paralegals to Excellence Since 1973***

## **President's Message**

By: K. Paezle' Harris, RP, CP

Greetings Georgia Paralegals!



What a great year this is turning out to be! Your 2011 Board of Directors continues working hard to make this year about YOU, the GAP Member!!!

In June of this year, Governor Nathan Deal, for the first time in Georgia's history, proclaimed an entire week as PARALEGAL WEEK, for our benefit and as a demonstration of our value in the legal community. GAP held an event each and every day during Paralegal Week, which included 3 CLEs, a wine tasting, a paralegal roundtable, and a discussion regarding regulation of the profession. We ended our week on Saturday night when GAP had its very first **Ca\$ino de jure** Awards Dinner & Fundraiser, resulting in a donation of \$1,200 to each of the three chosen nonprofit associations, [CASA Metro Collaborative](#); [Georgia Truancy Intervention Project](#); and, [Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation](#).

As a proud PARALEGAL, I know it is important to each of you that your profession is represented at the highest level possible and that it is given the respect that is certainly due and well-deserved. That is exactly why we continue to make sure that you are privy to the latest changes in law and technology, through our CLE seminars and dinners; that you are invited to participate in the pro bono opportunities for learning, as well as service, alongside the GAP members and attorneys who support us; and that you are recognized and rewarded through our publications, award ceremonies, and announcements.

GAP represents paralegals throughout the entire State of Georgia and we will continue to fulfill our goal of the promotion of the paralegal profession! If you are interested in representing GAP as 2012 Georgia Association of Paralegals Board of Director, please fill out the [STATEMENT OF INTEREST](#) form and email it to [president@gaparalegal.org](mailto:president@gaparalegal.org). If being a board member is too much of a commitment at this time, please email [volunteer@gaparalegal.org](mailto:volunteer@gaparalegal.org) to tell us how you would like to participate with GAP! We look forward to hearing from you!

**I cordially request the honor of your presence in the promotion of the paralegal profession. We can't do it without you!**

***It's not just a job; it's a lifestyle – LIVE IT!***

Paezle'

## GAP In Our Communities

### *Preparing Food at the Gateway Center in Downtown Atlanta, July 30, 2011*

The Gateway Center provides the support and framework needed to achieve self-sufficiency in an effort to end homelessness. GAP members prepared and served lunch at the Center in July.



Nancy Rowland, Ja Meria Slaton, Marionte & Leonard pack cookies.



Shakena Sterling (back to camera), Steve Osheroff & Ja Meria Slaton add fruit to lunches.



Gina Farley, Paezle' Harris, & Roosevelt Childs (back to camera)



Gina Farley, Tea Blagojevic & Paezle' Harris making mountains of sandwiches.



More sandwiches! Rhonda Mitschele, James Benson & Roosevelt Childs.



Kids get involved: Sabrina Henry works with Leonard, Marionte, Lara Blagojevic, Daniel Blagojevic, & Nemanja Blagojevic.



Shakena Sterling, James Benson, Ja Meria Slaton, Nemanja & Tea Blagojevic serve lunches.



Mustard or Mayo?  
Ja Meria Slaton & Sabrina Henry.



Shakena Sterling & Ja Meria Slaton of GRSMB.



Lara, Tea & Nemanja Blagojevic  
volunteer as a family.

## People Like To Hear You Use Their Name

By: Beth Magee, RP

This was one of the obvious – yet not so obvious – pieces of information which Meg Garavaglia (Customer Representative with RLSS, Inc., a GAP Sustaining Member) shared during her presentation on “Networking and The Key to the Hidden Job Market” at the May 14, 2011 GAP Job Network meeting. The audience was made up of GAP members currently between opportunities, students from meeting space sponsor Herzing University, and non-members attending to learn the benefits of GAP membership.

Meg got laughs when she informed the group, “if you have a fish handshake you will not get the job you want,” but on a more serious note, she said, “it is important to find out where attorneys or decision-makers spend their downtime to get in front of the people who can help you meet your goals.” Meg also cautioned, “don’t be a stalker and don’t come across as needy.”

Meg is out every day networking and meeting people. She learned the hard way that some associations and networks need to like you first, before they’ll let you into their network and most of these associations or networks, which include law firms and companies, don’t advertise jobs and won’t hire outside of their network. That’s why it is important to make as many contacts as possible, always follow-up, and do not promise things you can’t deliver. Meg noted that sometimes it helps “to hook your caboose to someone else’s train,” a method she occasionally uses to enter or enlarge her networks.