

# Missouri Chapter NAELA



A quarterly newsletter provided by the Missouri Chapter National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.

January 2011

## Officers 2010 - 2011

President

**Timothy Murphy, Esq.**  
Kansas City, Missouri

President-elect

**Dan Reuter, Esq.**  
St. Louis, Missouri

Secretary

**Mike Weeks, Esq.**  
St. Charles, Missouri

Treasurer

**Stephen Stark, Esq.**  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Immediate Past President

**Keith W. Brunstrom, Esq.**  
Ashland, Missouri

## Directors 2010 - 2011

**Christine A. Gilsinan, CELA**  
St. Louis, Missouri

## Directors 2010 - 2012

**Scott King, Esq.**  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Sherry Snyder, Esq.**  
St. Louis, Missouri

**Samantha Shepherd, Esq.**  
Kansas City, Missouri

## Directors 2009 - 2011

**Dianne Hansen, Esq.**  
Springfield, Missouri

**Marcia Mulcahy, Esq.**  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

## Message From The President

Since our immediate past President Keith Brunstrom gave his final message in the last edition of our Newsletter, this is my initial message to our members as President. However, it also comes in the month when “state of the” enterprise messages are common so I want to give our members an update in that spirit.

I do want to first thank Keith and those members who served on the board and as officers during his tenure. They guided us well and our chapter continues to be healthy.

As to a goal for this year when I have the opportunity to serve as your President, I think I would summarize it by saying we want to do better at what we do best. I see our chapter as a member managed group that is only as vital as member participation allows. Our members are active in the chapter, whether through elected positions as officers or board members; or through involvement as chairs or members of committees. We also have a history of members taking on specialized projects on behalf of the chapter. The bottom line is that there are numerous options and we encourage all members – and especially those who are newer members — to seek out one or more of them for their own contributions.

As for the state of the chapter, I can advise that our membership numbers have remained reasonably stable. We all need to continue to encourage new members to join so that we can be growing, and not just maintaining, our numbers. It is my firm belief that a larger and more vibrant chapter will be a direct benefit to the individual members as our colleagues and the public know more about our mission, our abilities and our work.

Our financial health is also stable and solid. Under our current Treasurer Stephen Stark, and with the active involvement of the board members, we have developed a budget for the current year which will be a template for the chapter in the years that follow.

I want to close with some personal observations relating to the Missouri Chapter – NAELA. I was able to participate in a “leaders training” workshop at the Orlando NAELA meeting last spring. I was struck by the fact that our chapter was in so much better shape than a number of the other state chapters, even some from states with many more lawyers and NAELA members. I was proud to be able to report that MoNAELA had officers elected and serving in all positions; that all of our committees had chairs and were active; and that we were solvent. All of our members should be proud as well. This circumstance is of course a credit to all of the dedicated and capable leaders who preceded me and those officers and board members serving with me this year.

In closing, if you are involved in Chapter activities, thank you. If you’re not yet involved, we want and need your involvement. Contact an officer, board member or committee chair and you will be welcomed with open arms.

Tim Murphy

## CHAPTER MEETING

- WHAT?** The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Missouri Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
- WHEN?** Friday, January 28, 2011
- WHERE?** Courtyard by Marriott  
3301 LeMone Industrial Blvd.  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573.442.8000
- WHY?** Election of Officers and Directors (Election Notice previously sent by email)  
Business Meeting  
Education by Members Huff and Shepherd (both having their LLMS) on Estate Tax Reform  
Lunch  
CLE Credits: 2.4 hours
- WHO?** YOU— Contact Ann Bickel to register. Email [ann@homecaremissouri.org](mailto:ann@homecaremissouri.org)
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## SCAM, SCAM, SCAM, SCAM

We all should be aware of those scams making their way through the populace. Scam artists are particularly interested in taking advantage of the elderly. Here are two to be aware of:

### *(1) New scam targets Medicare beneficiaries*

Seniors are again getting phone calls from scammers trying to steal personal and financial information, this time by claiming a Medicare HMO owes them a refund. The callers in the latest scheme claim to work for insurance giant Humana or its CarePlus subsidiary, and say they need the senior's birth date, Social Security, bank account and Medicare numbers to arrange the refund, Humana officials said.

Source: *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (December 10, 2010)

Full story: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/health/fl-hk-medicare-id-theft-20101209,0,998014.story>

### *(2) Scamming the Veteran*

[http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-09-2010/taking\\_aim\\_at\\_old\\_soldiers\\_.html](http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-09-2010/taking_aim_at_old_soldiers_.html)

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## CHAPTER WEB PAGE

Board Member Samantha Shepherd has been shepherding our state chapter's web page and it's almost ready for Prime Time! Your Board of Directors anticipates it will have many tools for the Missouri NAELA member in a "private" section and that a "public" section will help bolster our image and mission.

Board Member Sherry Snyder is establishing a section of the website which will be devoted to sharing ALJ decisions, Court opinions and attorneys' briefs.

If you have something to contribute, whether in Word, WordPerfect or Adobe (.pdf) format, please send it to [elder@solaw.com](mailto:elder@solaw.com). It's not too soon to start our collection.

## UNLEASH THE UnPROGRAM

Back by popular demand, the Missouri Chapter's UNPROGRAM will be held in March—do plan to attend. Some possible Topics (but, as you know, all topics “arise” from the community of elder law attorneys attending):

- *MoHealthnet*
- *Taxes, Taxes, Taxes, including the new Estate Tax Law*
- *Integrating IRAs into the Estate or Medicaid Plan*
- *Plain English Drafting*
- *How to -  
practice elder law, do a web page, advertise,  
find the right “app” for your Smart Phone  
AND MORE. . . .*

**WHEN:** Friday, March 4, 2011 (1pm - 5pm)  
Saturday, March 5, 2011 (8am - 2pm)

**WHERE:** Courtyard by Marriott  
3301 LeMone Industrial Blvd.  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573.442.8000

**COST:** \$100. **OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY**

**DEADLINE:** February 4; complete registration form (previously sent by email to members) and send check and form to:

Ann Bickel  
2420 Hyde Park Road, Suite A  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Phone: 573.634.7772  
Fax: 573.634.4374  
Email: [ann@homecaremissouri.org](mailto:ann@homecaremissouri.org)

## CAPWIZ. . . .

Our Missouri Chapter of NAELA has joined with the national chapter of NAELA and other state chapters to participate in CapWiz, a governmental relations research tool. CapWiz will assist us in communicating with our state and federal officials in an effective way by increasing the advocacy participation from our members. Advocacy messages can be delivered by email, fax, postal/mail, telephone, and/or Advocacy Express. CapWiz employs an in-house research staff to regularly update information of more than 45,000 officials and almost 5,000 media contacts. CapWiz helps educate an organization's stakeholders about legislative issues. Dan Reuter and Reg Turnbull have received training and will be using the service to communicate to chapter members about state and federal initiatives and provide chapter members the opportunity to weigh-in individually and as a chapter to advocate on the issues that concern our practice. Watch your emails for messages that will start appearing soon from Dan and Reg.