



The range Appeal

Orange County Association of Legal Administrators

July/August 1996

The Orange County Chapter

In the Beginning

by Bonita Danser, Chapter Historian

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The Orange County Chapter is entering its 17th year of existence. It began with 12 charter members and now has a membership of 130 to 150 administrators.

In 1978, Margaret Lovig's Managing Partner, Greg Harris, was asked by the Orange County Bar Association to chair the Law Office Management Section. Margaret and her Managing Partner were active in this section to establish a forum where management issues directly related to the law firm could be addressed. In a short while, Margaret and other administrators found themselves attending the meetings themselves without the Managing Partners or other attorneys.

Some of the members of this group were Ingrid Stracky, Lavon DeGraw, Rich Boden, Janet Taylor, Marilyn Hodges, Linda Chapman and Kay Packard to name a few. Margaret remembers a meeting in which John Gupta was the speaker on "What A.L.A. can do for you." She innocently asked "How many people do you need to start a chapter?" The answer was 10 and the idea of an Orange County Chapter had its birth. This first group continued to meet and organize at Marilyn Hodge's office and received their Charter in 1979. It was difficult, at first, to try to keep both the Bar meetings going and this new chapter of A.L.A. Eventually, A.L.A. won as the recipient of everyone's focused energies. These original charter members took their roll in A.L.A. seriously, as well as their jobs with their firms.

The officers that first year were President, Ingrid Stracky; Vice-President, Rich Boden; Secretary, Marilyn Hodges; and Treasurer, Margaret Lovig. Margaret remembers that that first year concentrated on a Membership Drive, which meant that they perused Martindale-Hubbell and wrote a lot of letters. The second year, Rich Boden was President, Margaret Lovig was Vice-President and the focus was becoming visible in Orange County and A.L.A. was quite active with the Bar that year.

In 1981, when Bonita Danser joined, there were maybe 35 members and the lunch meetings were at the Saddleback Inn in a small room with a U-shaped table. The meetings were very informal and it appeared that everyone knew each other very well. The secretary and hostess of the chapter in 1981 was Marilyn Hodges. She would greet everyone as they arrived and made us all feel so welcome.

In 1982, Margaret was President of the Orange County Chapter of A.L.A. The focus once again became membership. These were

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Newsletter Corner

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 Orange County Chapter

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Mission Statement & Goals

The Association of Legal Administrators' mission is to:

Promote and enhance the competence and professionalism of legal administrators and other members of the legal management team by providing high quality, competency-based educational programs in legal management;

Represent professional legal management and managers to the legal community and to the community at large; and

Improve the quality of management in legal services organizations.

Goals

Develop and deliver programs and products that will provide high quality, competency-based education to members of the legal management team.

Increase the visibility and credibility of the association and its members in the legal community through effective marketing and communications and through liaison with the bar and other law related associations at local, state and national levels.

Enhance the services and benefits available to members.

Retain and recruit members from all components of the legal management team.

Strengthen the association's economic base.

Increase sensitivity to cultural diversity within the association and in the legal management community.

Implement an organizational structure which separates the policy and operational roles and responsibilities of volunteers and staff to assure that organizational resources are used appropriately to achieve the association's goals.