

# *Vancouver-The Internet- What Does It All Mean?*



*Paul K. Tamaroff, President*

As I write this, the last of my "President's Messages," I am tempted to reminisce over the accomplishments of the past two years. But I shall resist that temptation, not because there are no accomplishments worthy enough to speak of, but because it is more important to look to the future, and to the goals which remain.

We have been bridge builders, building bridges so that others may take the torch and continue to build on our accomplishments, and those of our predecessors. The next President and Board of Directors shall continue in this tradition, ensuring that the members of the legal industry look to us as the leaders of the process serving industry.

It is fair to ask where this Board has taken us. Why Vancouver? Why now? After all, our name is the "National," not "International," Association of Professional Process Servers. Indeed, my last President's Message dealt with the importance of our name. The fact is, however, that in our Spring 1996 Directory there are over 50 listings of members located outside the United States. Most of these members are in Canada, making them one of the largest contingents of our membership. As members, they are entitled to run for office, and it is quite feasible that a future NAPPS president will be from outside the United States (It is interesting to note that Article V, Section 6 of our bylaws prohibit having more than two officers or board directors from the same state; there seems to be no such prohibition regarding provinces).

We have certainly been on an international bent. For

some time now, we have realized that we must have a broader role in international process. Our meetings with representatives of the International Association of Sheriff Officers and Judicial Officers have expanded our presence to the European countries, creating a bond with our European counterparts, ultimately allowing us to have input regarding modifications to the Hague Convention, which, in turn, will assist in our becoming an even stronger force in the United States.

Just as the United States plays an international role, so too, must we. And, the stronger we become, both in membership and influence, the more responsibility we must accept in the international arena. Vancouver represents our willingness to take on a more important international role and the responsibilities which come with that role.

This same logic follows with respect to the Internet. We now have our own home page. Those who are interested can look up NAPPS on the World Wide Web and get information regarding who and what we are. Process servers who wish to apply for membership may do so electronically. Members of the legal profession can see that we are not just another referral group, but instead a professional organization dedicated to providing the legal profession with the best possible service. They can see our bylaws and code of ethics. Ultimately, our home page may have links with other home pages, including those of state chartered associations, and bar associations.

I doubt if many of us have been "surfing" the Internet.

However, all of us will be using the Internet. In just a few minutes of searching, I found a number of attorney services, process servers and investigators who already have their own home pages. As the leaders in our industry, we cannot allow ourselves to become the proverbial dog being wagged by the tail. We must be at the forefront of this technology. There are uncountable ideas yet to be conceived regarding the use of the Internet.

NAPPS has been blessed with members who have given of their time and energy to make NAPPS the true leader of the industry. It would have been easy for those past and present members of the Board to have simply devoted their energies to their own businesses. Yet each of them had a vision of what NAPPS could become. And each of them knew that the future prosperity of each individual member lay in making NAPPS as strong as possible.

Looking back over my past two years as president, I can only thank those members who came before me, and made my job so much easier. Additionally, I have only praise for those who have served with me. It is easy to offer criticism regarding the efforts of association officers and board members. Their ideas on how best to promote the association are not necessarily those which would be adopted by others. Yet, I can truly say that the present board members: Thomas MacDonald, Lee Russell, Susan Collins, Marshall West, Frederic Blum, Ron Ezell, John Julien and Connie Melvin, have devoted themselves to thinking only of what was best for NAPPS. Similarly, Al Crowe, who as administrator must effectuate all the unpopular policies of the board, and therefore be the target of much criticism, has done a remarkable job. One need only to look at the big picture to understand his value. The soaring membership, and our monetary solvency, are just two examples of how Al has played a key role in providing us with the tools which allow us to take on even loftier endeavors.

There is in any organization a glue which helps to maintain cohesiveness. In our case, it is *The Docket Sheet*. *The Docket Sheet* is what keeps our members informed, as well as how NAPPS is making its presence known in the industry. It is the only effective means for the president to present his/her views to the membership and it presents an opportunity for members to voice their opinions and ideas about NAPPS and the industry. *The Docket Sheet* also allows our members and others to advertise, which in turn brings in revenue. Its importance cannot be underestimated.

It has long been our ambition to develop *The Docket Sheet* into a truly professional magazine format which will reflect most favorably on NAPPS. I must admit that we have not given *The Docket Sheet* the attention it deserved. It has become clear that bringing *The Docket Sheet* to the highest level of professionalism requires the assistance of a professional editor who can cull and edit informative articles and meet deadlines, which we have been unable to meet in the past.

I am truly pleased to announce that we have obtained the services of Grace Castle, CLI, as our new editor. Grace is not a newcomer to our industry, and therefore understands our needs. Many of you have met her at either the Orlando or Las Vegas annual meetings when she was assisting Alan Crowe with publication of *The Docket Sheet*.

A former newspaper writer/photographer, she has produced *The Legal Investigator* magazine for the past three years, and this year initiated *the NALINews* newsletter, both for the National Association of Legal Investigators, Inc. (NALI) Before leaving Oregon earlier this year to manage investigations at Paul J. Ciolino & Associates in Chicago, Grace owned Castle Investigations in Newport, OR where she worked on many of Oregon's major criminal defense and personal injury cases, as well as providing process service for Oregon attorneys.

The coming years should be exciting for our industry. Not only must we continue to be cognizant of any adverse impact proposed legislation may have, but we must also lead in the development of legislation, including international treaties, having a positive impact on the industry. While new technological advances offer us opportunities, they also bring challenges. I look forward to working with our next president and board members in meeting these challenges.

