

The National Association of Former United States Attorneys



June 2003

Another Year, Another Great Success!

The dust has settled and to my knowledge no one left Las Vegas wounded or unhappy. As a matter of fact I have never heard such praise for a NAFUSA conference before. We, of course, have had headliner names grace our affairs before but never has the content been so well received. We tried a number of new things this year including a golf tournament with serious prizes, like dinner shows, magicians and circus acts (all donated). Those attending the various entertainment events all reported a great time.

The first annual NAFUSA golf tournament championship was won by Ed Dowd (E.D. of Missouri, 1993-99). The contestants kept their scores to themselves telling me only that Dowd won and who came in second and third. The golf tournament was Thursday morning complete with chauffeured limos to the links. That night we were hosted by the marvelous ESPN Zone lounge at the New York, New York Hotel across the street from our home base the MGM Grand Hotel (we'll get to it later). Great food, great location and an extremely entertaining environment. The MGM owns this hotel but the staff did all it could to better the MGM – it was a draw. This kind of setting proves excellent for our initial get together. An informal and easy way to renew old acquaintances and meet the new folks. This particular location is right in the middle of almost everything Las Vegas has to offer. Easy access helps one's attitude.

Next morning bright and early we head into our first series of CLE courses. We are welcomed by fresh fruit and pastries, coffee, tea and juices but also the Mayor of Las Vegas, The Honorable Oscar Goodman. Many of us in our old U.S. Attorney jobs ran into Oscar once or twice along the road. He was most gracious and kind to his former adversaries. He is the best mayor this city has ever had having just been reelected by 86% of the vote. I called him different things than mayor in the "olden days". Please check out the website once again for a copy of our program schedule. All presenters were exceptional. The Executive Office of the U.S. Attorneys did their usual best. Executive Director Guy Lewis (S.D. of Florida, 2000-2002) has brought so much to this office and NAFUSA's relations continue to improve. Guy brings our friend Lou DeFalaise (E.D. of Kentucky, 1981-1991), legal council to the EOUSA, who contributes tremendously. This year, joining the team for the first time was the new Chairman of the Attorney Generals Advisory Committee, Mary Beth Buchanan (W.D. of Pennsylvania, 2001-present). What a joy. She is a

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and dedicated U.S. Attorney. She knows her stuff and we hope to see more of her at our upcoming meetings. Their state of the EOUSA was well received and well documented.

Their presentation was followed by local friends of mine with national reputations. Rick Wright, former Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for Nevada (recognized around the country as a leading and most capable criminal defense attorney) and Franny Forsman, Federal Public Defender for Nevada and a previous NAFUSA speaker at the conference in Lake Tahoe years ago. Franny is the best and most qualified Public Defender in the land and no one challenges that credential. These two politely took the previous speakers to task over their statistics and goals but it all made for healthy and open debate. Assistant Attorney General Deborah Daniels commented that we should promote more of this kind of discussion.

“Bring them back!”

Next was Professor Jeff Stempel of the William S. Boyd School of Law. He wowed us with his knowledge and understanding of the “Sarbanes–Oxley Act” and its impact on all of us and the country. His theme dominated the discussion by most speakers throughout the conference. Anybody who had doubts about the competency and skills present at the Southern Nevada Law School put those concerns quickly to bed.

I have known Deborah Daniels for about 10 years since she left the U.S. Attorneys office in Indiana. I never realized how really good she was until this conference and for that I apologize. Assistant Attorney General of the United States Daniels made us pay attention with her insight and awareness of where this country is going vis a vis the U.S. Justice Department. She is an outstanding and knowledgeable speaker and we were lucky to have her. It is great when one of your own (NAFUSA President, 1997-1998) rings the bell.

As always, NAFUSA finds a way to entertain its members on Friday afternoon. This conference was no exception and the buses were waiting for us after CLE. Off we went to a paddle wheel boat trip adventure with lunch and beverage around the largest man made lake in the world backed up behind Boulder Dam (Hoover). Lake Mead is absolutely beautiful and gives a wetness to your images of the Grand Canyon. Everyone loved the trip, the music and the food. Why wouldn't they?

Friday night was open and contrary to some other venues we've enjoyed, there is no problem finding something to do in Las Vegas on that night—any night! Everyone returned Saturday morning with a good story about food and entertainment.

Our CLE program began at 8:00 am Saturday morning with a marvelous presentation by the Chief Judge for the Federal District Courts of Nevada, The Honorable Philip Pro. He was one of my assistants in the good ole days. Now I salute. Judge Pro discussed among other things the court's relationship with the U.S. Justice Department especially concerning the sentencing guidelines and attempted amendments thereto. Again, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act was important. Our friend Peter Vaira (E.D. of Pennsylvania, 1978-83) commented that in all his years of federal practice never had he heard a more articulate federal judge.

Following this presentation came a delightful experience for all. As most of you know NAFUSA attempts from time to time to honor a practicing Assistant U.S. Attorney somewhere in the country by recognizing that person for his outstanding performance and contributions to federal prosecution. Last year we honored Robert Posey, Assistant U.S. Attorney from the Northern District of Alabama, for his involvement with the case against the KKK members for bombing the 16th Street Baptist Church. This year the award went to Michael Patrick Sullivan, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, who has served there for 33 years. Pat, as he likes to be called, has done it all. From prosecuting Panamanian dictator, General Manuel Noriega to the Willy Falcon/Salvador Magluta drug organization. His accomplishments are intimidating as well as spectacular. NAFUSA could not have picked a more worthy recipient. He addressed the group with an enlightening breakdown of these various prosecutions.

The 10:00 am show was something quite different for NAFUSA. Upon the recommendation of

Judge Michael Hawkins (District of Arizona, 1977-1980) we obtained the participation of Dr. Erminia Guarneri, Medical Director and Founder of the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine. She may have saved some of our lives. Talk about people paying attention. Ears and eyes were glued to her presentation. A world expert on stress, diet and survival she literally had everyone focused. Even the bus boys. Most of us believe our program from now on should include someone like the good doctor from a field unrelated to law enforcement that can provide the kind of information and education that is a benefit to all of us. She was terrific!

The CLE program closed it's Saturday morning session with what has become a tradition with NAFUSA. The handicapping of the U.S. Supreme Court by honorary NAFUSA member Leon Friedman, Professor of Law at Hoffstra University Law school. I do not know what we would do without Leon. Besides his unequaled knowledge of the material; his demeanor and sense of humor make so much of our conference worth while. He is always there when we need him. He will return next year.

Saturday night was the show stopper. NAFUSA has enjoyed the company of number of high profile speakers over the years, but my childhood buddy, former U.S. Senator Richard Bryan made them all take notice. Not only is the Senator a good speaker who knows when to insert the proper joke or the sharp poke he knows the subject matter. His timing was perfect and it earned him a standing ovation. With a world caught up in violence and concerns for personal safety and security Senator Bryan gave us an historical outline of decision making under fire and the consequences that attach. Today we concern ourselves with the constitutional implications of the Patriot Act and other laws and regulations resulting from September 11 and the mid-east wars. In the name of National Security, much has happened, much has changed. The Senator points out that the American history, the American Presidency and our constitutional form of government have faced many similar situations throughout the lifetime of this great country of ours. From McCarthyism to the Mexican War, the League of Nations and many of the restrictions imposed by President Lincoln. Tough times and tough decisions, but as the emergency progresses someone or something says "stop". A line is drawn, the fear subsides, the system is restored and life goes positively on. The crowd loved the speech. The consensus of those that commented on his remarks was that the U.S. Senate would be a lot better off if people like Senator Bryan were still there.

A few promised comments on the MGM Grand Hotel. It continues to amaze me how the largest hotel in the world (over 5,000 rooms) can personalize it's service and it's product. Here is a place that hosts many of the greatest restaurants in the world (you know, the guy from New Orleans), major sporting and entertainment events, shopping galore etc., etc. and still makes you feel like one of their preferred customers. Unfortunately as NAFUSA moves around the country there will be no other MGM Hotels to accommodate us. Something about gaming. Even though gaming is spreading, the likes of this hotel are not. It is one of a kind.

Speaking of Professor Friedman returning to next years conference. This time slot will be filled with a solicitation to all NAFUSA members to get your calendars in order and prepare for a wonderful time in Asheville, North Carolina. The dates are August 26, 2004 through the August 29, 2004. The hotel is the magnificent Grove Park Inn. It may not be as big as the MGM in Las Vegas, nothing is, but it will be just as comfortable and enjoyable. Pictures, brochures and more information will be forth coming as the conference dates draw closer. Get on line now at "groveparkinn.com" and get a sneak preview. Be sure to check out not only the hotel but the Biltmore Estate and the Chimney Rock Park. Lot's to do. A glorious setting.



We are online at www.nafusa.org

NAFUSA's New Officers and Board Members

Our new officers and directors are in place.

Margaret Person Currin (Eastern District of North Carolina, 1989-1993) is President

George Lowe (Northern District of New York, 1978-1982) is President Elect.

Jack Selden (Northern District of Alabama, 1992-1993) is Vice President.

Jim Brady (Western District of Michigan, 1977-1981) is Secretary.

Atlee Wampler (Southern District of Florida, 1980-1982) is Treasurer. (It's about time, no one works harder for NAFUSA)

Class of 2004

Richard D Bennett (District of Maryland, 1991-1993)

William L Lutz (District of New Mexico, 1982-1991)

William S Price (Western District of Oklahoma, 1982-1989)

Frederick Hess (Southern District of Illinois, 1975-1993)

Sharon Zealey (Southern District of Ohio)

Class of 2005

Donald K. Stern (District of Massachusetts, 1993-2001)

B. Todd Jones (District of Minnesota, 1998-2001)

Peter F. Vaira (Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1978-1983)

Fred Foreman (Northern District of Illinois, 1990-1993)

William A. Kolibash (Northern District of West Virginia, 1981-1993)

The following are the new Board of Directors for the Class of 2006.

Edward L. Dowd (Eastern District of Missouri, 1993-1999)

Joseph P. Russionello (Northern District of California, 1982-1990)

CLE Accreditation

This years CLE program was an excellent, educating and enlightened program. That brings us to the question of how many CLE credits will you be receiving? As you all know, NAFUSA does not give credit, but certifies attendance. It is up to you to submit the information to your state bar. The material you collected at the meeting and the certificate of attendance should accompany.

This year the Nevada State Bar awarded 9 CLE credits including therein 2 ethics credit for this years program. Everyone who attended should have received a copy of the letter with their certificate. Some states may not give the same amount of credits as others but they usual defer to the state of origin.

NAFUSA's Other Announcements

The Honorable James P. Buchele (District of Kansas, 1977-1981) passed away at the end of May. He was currently a District Court Judge in Kansas.

Robert W. Merkle, Jr. (M.D. of Florida, 1982-1988) passed away Sunday May 5, 2003. His nickname was "Mad Dog" as he successfully prosecuted a Colombia drug baron and battled corrupt public servants.

The Honorable Richard Stacy (District of Wyoming, 1981-1994) has a new email address : rastacy@attbi.com.

Jim Brady (W.D. of Michigan, 1977-1981) has worked hard and done a wonderful job of putting together the minutes for this years conference. They will be included in the next newsletter.

From the Desk of Madam President



Greetings, Fellow NAFUSA'ers—

How nice it was to see so many of you last month at our annual meeting in Las Vegas. Mahlon, Becky, Pat, and so many others did a wonderful job putting together a great weekend of CLE and fun! Many thanks for all that hard work! Seeing as how there's no rest for the wicked, we're already busy working on the 2004 conference. It will be in Asheville, NC, August 26-29, 2004. (Golfers, plan to come a day earlier.) In addition to a meaningful program, we hope to have activities that spouses and families will enjoy. So please share with your spouses the materials that will be coming your way as that event gets closer. They may want to come even if you can't.

I think you all will agree that over the past several years, the quality of our programs, activities, publications, and other resources has improved markedly. We have been able to do some of these "extras" thanks to the generosity of the law firms of some of our members. These members and their firms have made contributions to our association well above and beyond the modest professional dues that we all pay, and we are tremendously grateful for their generous support. If we are to be able to continue to offer these services and programs, we all will need to become more involved as members. This involvement may entail our helping to recruit new members to maintain the strength and energy of NAFUSA, and our willingness to help sponsor financially some of the special events which make our conferences so enjoyable. I hope you will consider these possibilities and take the initiative to become more involved as you feel led.

I hope that you will share with your officers and directors your ideas for ways that NAFUSA can better serve you. Meanwhile, best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Margaret Currin

A Special Thanks to Outgoing President William Robertson, D. of New Jersey, 1980-81.

Dues Reminder and New Dues Billing

Once again I want to remind you that dues for the 2003 year are due. Only half of the registered members from 2002 have paid dues for 2003. So please, mail in your 2003 dues.

Dues are:

Yearly \$150.00
Lifetime \$1500.00
Senior \$ 50.00

We have realized that each and every year another member gets behind or lost in the dues process. For the 2004 year the way we will be billing for dues will be changed. We will be mailing individual invoices to each member. The conference registrations will still be noticed through the newsletter. The most current dues structure will be posted on the invoice.

The following are on the list of lifetime members:

James C. Cissell
Robert J. Cleary
Frederick J. Hess
William W. Robertson

If you have paid the lifetime dues and are not on this list please contact Rebecca at the Executive Directors Office.

**If you don't pay your dues,
you'll have a visit from
this guy!**



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Asheville, North Carolina

August 26-29, 2004

