



LINDA NEUMAN has worked in the legal field, primarily in personal injury for 39 years. She joined Santa Clara County LPA in 1987, where over the years she has participated in a wide variety of activities, chairmanships and also served on its Executive Board. The last four years she has served on the Executive Board as Governor. Recently retired, Linda enjoys spending her time with her newly inherited 97 lb. Weimaraner, Hans.

# A Day in the Life of a Governor

BY LINDA NEUMAN – SUBMITTED BY SANTA CLARA COUNTY LPA

I have been the proud Governor for Santa Clara County LPA (SCCoLPA) for the past four years. Did you ever wonder what “A Day in the Life of a Governor” is like? Well, here’s what “A Month in the Life of a Governor” is like.

If you are interested in a Board position, traveling throughout the State of California, networking with people who are involved in many different aspects of law and want the feeling of making a difference, then being a Governor is for you.

During a month, and in particular a month which includes a Quarterly Conference, as Governor you have many important (and fun) duties to fulfill. Let’s go through the activities and duties you have starting at the beginning of the month.

Remember that the Governor is the liaison between your association and LSI. Whenever you receive any correspondence, conference documents or educational notifications from LSI, it is your responsibility to email this news to your membership. When sending these emails, I have in the past, tried to put my own “fun and to the point” type of spin on things as sometimes reading bylaw amendments can be confusing and time consuming. So the ability to summarize is definitely an asset in the Governor’s world.

Not only are you circulating reports, as Governor you will need to prepare a report for the monthly board meetings; you will need to present a report at the general meetings; and after attending conferences prepare another report that is posted to the website. Reporting on conference and telling the membership about the inner-workings of LSI is the heart of being a Governor. Don’t get me wrong, reporting IS important but so is having a little fun. Something I like to do at General Membership Meetings around conference time is to wear some sort of themed conference accessory or outfit while reporting on conference. This is where the fun comes in.

A Governor’s attendance at conference, which usually is paid for by your association, begins on a Friday night and continues through brunch on a Sunday morning. Prior to conference you will need to read all the LSI reports, which



I find REALLY interesting, as you get an idea of what is happening all over the State of California. Make sure you read any bylaw amendments and talk with your Board about opinions on voting on these at conference. Of course attendance at the Governor’s Lunch on Saturday is ALWAYS a treat, but it is truly a working lunch. No there isn’t a secret ceremony or secret handshake at the lunch but what we do is go over items on an agenda, prepared by the luncheon moderator (LSI’s Executive Secretary), and we also review the Executive Committee (EC) Resume. The EC Resume is comprised of items the EC discussed during their all-day meeting on Friday before the business portion of the meeting on Saturday. In order to attend this lunch, Governors and/or Governors Pro Tem must submit, prior to conference, a Notification of Attendance at Board of Governors Meeting, which is now accessible via the LSI website before any submission deadline and helps in preparing the agenda for the lunch.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GOVERNOR

The big reason for attending conference is the LSI business portion of the meeting. This is where you find out how LSI is run, and this is where Governors can express their opinions on subjects that come up. I find this type of activity uplifting, informative, and lets me feel like I am a part of the bigger picture.

Another activity that a Governor does on a monthly basis is collect Chapter Achievement points from the membership. This is a kick in the pants. Members either email or tell me what they have done during the month, I record it on a spreadsheet, and after the first of the year, around March or so, transfer that data onto the LSI Official Contest Form and submit it. I have to admit, I do get a little competitive with Chapter Achievement. But as you know, SCCoLPA is a hard working group and I want to let our sister Associations know we are a VERY active Association.

So, there you have "A Day in the Life of a Governor" in a nutshell. I hope this gives you a better view of what goes on during the month and also strikes up some interest in taking on the position of Governor of your association. If you are at all interested in the position of Governor, you can attend the Governor's lunch at the February conference as a "Governor in Training."

On a personal note, I would like to share with you something that has made my term as Governor one of the most fulfilling times of my life. At our 2016-2017 Installation Ceremony, our Installing Officer Patty Russell read off the usual duties of the office of Governor but added a little something which played into President Elise's theme for the year. Patty read, "Your 'Don't Be Too Shy To Try' assignment will be to meet three new people at every LSI Conference you attend." Well this was quite the assignment. Believe it or not I am a little shy when it comes to going up to someone and striking up a conversation. I am much better at joining in on a conversation already in progress. So I took my Governor assignment to heart, and went up to at least three people every conference this last year. I have met some absolutely wonderful people because of this, and I am much better at starting a conversation. So in summary, being a Governor is the best and I encourage everyone to give it a try.

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