

October Spotlight Member Rod Cardinale, Jr.

Our October Spotlight Member is our very own Executive Advisor, Rod Cardinale, Jr. You may ask, who is this lone person brave enough to join an organization where he is overwhelmingly outnumbered by women?

While attending Evergreen College for his paralegal certificate, Rod was encouraged by Past President Chavez to join SCCoLPA so that he could meet new people and network in a field where he knew no one. He attended his first SCCoLPA meeting in 2008 and then again, a few months later. He quickly took on the role of Ways & Means Chairman and by 2010, he was SCCoLPA's first male President and he has not looked back.

After he became President of SCCoLPA, he created the Marketing Committee, the Continuing Education Council Committee, and created numerous fund raising events such as Garage Sales (held at De Anza College), the Marilyn Ott Memorial BBQ (held at Rod's house annually), the Crab Feed (now in its 7th year), and SCCoLPA's 2013 Annual Conference Chairman (held at the San Jose Marriott). All of which have been a lot of fun and profitable.

As for his participation with LSI, he has attended each LSI conference since 2010! Rod was the Legal Procedure Chairman in 2011 and the Assistant Annual Conference Registrar. In 2012, he was the Annual Conference Official Registrar where he created an automated program to make the registration less tedious and time consuming. He has held the position of Social Media Chairman and was awarded LSI's Presidents Award in 2012, which was bestowed upon him by Past President, Brooke Mansfield.

When I asked Rod why he continues to be a part of our two organizations, he says he loves the people he has made friendship with, the challenges he has faced and has overcome, but mostly the fact that he has been instrumental in keeping SCCoLPA and LSI on the map and moving forward. He has come up with some amazing ideas and we always look to him for reassurance and guidance. He is always there for a helping hand, an ear, or a shoulder. But, the best part is that he is a joy to be around, he makes everyone laugh, has amazing ideas and just plain makes you feel good to be called one of his friends. It must be hard sometimes to put up with an organization primarily attended by women, but hey... isn't he really just one of the girls in the end?

Last but not least, I hope you get a chance to congratulate him on his next chapter with LSI as the first male Treasurer, ever, in the history of LSI! The executive board of LSI is very lucky to have him join and I am sure he will continue to do some amazing things with and for both organizations. Congratulations to you, Rod, for being chosen as our September Spotlight Member!