

**RESOLUTIONS FOR 2003**

*by L. Tracee Lorens*

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I am writing this article while visiting my family back home in Grand Lake, Colorado (elevation 8600 feet and cold). Home is a small but growing community. Year round residents in this summer resort have doubled in the last 5 years to a booming 453 people!

It is half-way between Christmas and the New Year. As I am sitting by the fire, looking across a frozen lake at the distant mountains, it seems the perfect time to reflect upon life, give thanks and consider some resolutions for 2003.

*..... some reflections .....*

I worked as a waitress to get through law school. I had decided that I wanted to be a lawyer in high school because I wanted the opportunity to make a difference. I became a plaintiffs' lawyer so I could represent individuals against goliaths. I joined this organization because I recognize the importance of networking with others.

CASD became a family of friends. I especially appreciate the way Deborah Wolfe and Denny Schoville, not to mention my partner-in-life and in law, Wayne Hughes, helped mentor a less experienced me. This organization became an equalizer as Wayne and I did battle with large

defense firms. Over the years, we built a successful practice from scratch. We did not accomplish our goals in a vacuum. When we made the commitment to our first class action, we called upon members of CASD for advice, help, guidance and most importantly moral support.

As your new president, I want to make sure that CASD continues to be a professional family for all members so that it can benefit others as it has benefitted me. I want to continue to build upon the work of so many who have contributed so much over the years.

..... *things to be grateful for this past year* .....

As an organization we owe our thanks to many for their efforts in 2002. I will only mention a few:

- Ben Bunn, as president last year, made many sacrifices so that he could be the GREAT president he was for this organization. Being president is a serious commitment of time and resources. In particular, Ben this past year served as liaison with ATLA's "Trial Lawyers Care" program. Ben organized volunteers from CASD and personally traveled, at his own expense, between here and the east coast to represent families making 9/11 claims on a *pro bono* basis. Such dedication and service brings honor to our profession.
- Kerry Hoxie, Andy Albert and Jon Williams did the work which brought us both a new logo and the meaningful motto: "*NEVER STAND ALONE.*" As I experienced many times, our members have the moral support of a 800-member law firm. As lawyers representing individuals against big government, corporations and massive defense firms, our members need never stand alone just as our clients need "*NEVER STAND ALONE.*" Kerry is also the Editor of Trial Bar News and the woman who makes sure that everyone (including me) gets their articles in on time. Her work is constant, year after year, and the results are a major

achievement. I have come to love and admire her.

- Brad Hallen worked long and hard to give us in 2002 a series of exceptional educational programs which also raised much needed resources for our budget. Cathy Richardson did an exceptional job with the brown bag program without much help from her co-chair Wayne (who asked for this public acknowledgment of her contribution).
- Thank you once again Steve Boudreau. Steve brought us an idea many thought would not work. Steve did the work and our first Golf Tournament brought us both good fellowship and a highly successful event. I am looking forward to having this as an annual event.
- **List Serve** and the people who contribute to it brought us two very successful informal, no cost parties, an open and free exchange of ideas, forms and sample motions, legal advice, humor, and some great diatribes. Without a doubt, **List Serve** has made us a much stronger community.
- CASD is not a political organization but we are very much committed to the legislative and executive process. Many of our members are the very same people who, outside our organization, undertake the often unappreciated work of raising money for candidates, lobbying efforts, etc. No one likes to go out and ask for money. Fund raising is not fun work. We are grateful to the long hours spent by people like Ben Bunn, Chris Hulburt, Dave Casey, Harvey Levine (one of this year's Trial Lawyers of the Year), and the firm of Thorsnes, Bartolotta, and McGuire, to name a few. Because of the work of such people, we have preserved the resemblance of fairness in our state government.

..... *resolutions for 2003* .....

My primary resolution as president this year for CASD is to make stronger the bond

among all of our members. I want this organization to be a place where people feel comfortable going to one another for assistance and advice. I want to create a democracy of members who recognize that we are bound by many common desires and goals.

I want my theme of “*The Year of the Member*” to be genuine. I want to expand member benefits with such tools as an easy to access and use Knowledge Bank – a reservoir of useful forms, motions, and pleadings.

We need to explore more effective ways to communicate our message to the community and more productive ways to get our message to the media. Perhaps we can take a page from the minutemen of the past. Through **List Serve**, we can more effectively raise the call to our members to communicate our message with clients and the media. Perhaps if 20 members send letters to the editors of our local papers, one might actually get printed?

**List Serve** is still a tool in evolution. Let’s continue to make it a strong voice and place to express opinions.

I want to be accessible to the membership. Please feel free to come directly to me if the need should arise. My telephone number is (619) 239-1233. Fax: (619) 239-1178. My CASD e-mail address is **CASDPres@aol.com**. Try me. I think you will see that I will get back to you with open ears and an open mind. When my year as president is over, I want people to be able to say that I was accessible to all and that in 2003 we focused on our membership. It is your organization and we need your help to make it your year.