

THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ria Sherman

Hello DCPA Members and Friends

This is only the first 'The Verdict' of 2013 and I feel as though we have already accomplished so much! Things really started rolling after the November meeting. Jennifer Stout, her committee members and chairs did a great job setting us up for success! Our new committees have formed, met, planned, discussed, crunched numbers and have come up with some great ideas for the coming year.

I appreciate you all so much! I am truly overwhelmed by the number of amazing ideas I've heard from everyone. This got us thinking about ways to share these ideas with more folks than just me! So the first new idea we'll try this year is to hold informal gatherings after work at different local restaurants. Once per month, come if you can, and we'll chat about whatever! Our first planned gathering is February 11th, around 5:30 pm. I'm not sure where yet! We'll announce the venue at the luncheon and send out an email reminder. This is for everyone! No charge to attend, buy your own refreshments. I'll make sure there's an appetizer on the table! I hope to see you there!

I would like to discuss with you the creation of promotional materials for our organization. Not only will it give us added polish but it will also serve a very real need to connect to our community - legal and otherwise as a leading legal organization in Denton County. If this topic is interesting to you, please find a way to come on the 11th. I hope to see our sustaining members there too!

Other new things to look forward to this year: In April we will be participating in the Denton Arts and Jazz Festival and the DCBA's Bench Bar Conference. We have widened our fundraising efforts to include Denton County Friends of the Family as well as the Children's Advocacy Center of Denton County. We are also working to obtain local business sponsorships of our events and programs. If

you are a sustaining member, I want to hear from you! You can look forward to bigger and better socials and prizes too! TAPA is coming! A committee was formed to help us to prepare to HOST the Texas wide conference of paralegal associations in 2015. Yep, honey we're not in Kansas anymore! If event planning is your thing, this is for you! Give Jennifer Stout a call if you are interested. In fact, feel free to contact any of our committee chairs, their info is listed below, to see how you can participate in the Association. I'm sure they'd love to have you and will promise not to work anyone too hard!

I've come to the end of my first message and did not get around to discussing themes, or even goals. But, as I look it over, it becomes clear. DCPA is about our members. You. Me. Us.

See you soon! If that's not soon enough, drop me an email: ria@cokerlegal.com.

Jennifer Stout, 2012 President and Superhero!



DCPA 2013 OFFICERS

Ria Sherman, President
 Kim Guertler, President-Elect
 Michelle James, Secretary/Parliamentarian
 Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
 Jennifer Stout, Historian

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **January 24, 2013** at noon at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Drive, Corinth, Texas.

The all-inclusive cost of lunch is \$14.00 payable when you sign in. We cannot accept debit or credit cards, or make change, so please bring exact amount of cash or a check made payable to DCPA.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to ria@cokerlegal.com. The Deadline for making your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 21, 2013.

Notice: We must notify Oakmont of the number attending prior to the meeting for preparation of adequate food and seating arrangements. Those that have RSVP'd will get served and seated first. We cannot guarantee that you will have seating or food if you do not RSVP. Please note we are also required to bill those individuals who make reservations and do not attend.

Directions to Oakmont: Oakmont Country Club is located in Corinth off I-35 East between Lewisville and Denton.

- Exit 461 – Shady Shores Rd/Post Oak Drive
- Turn west onto Post Oak Drive
- Turn right (west) onto Robinson Rd at stop sign
- Turn left (south) onto Oakmont Dr – you will see an Oakmont sign in the median
- Turn right into Oakmont Country Club (second right)

**AGENDA FOR JANUARY MEETING**

Date: January 24, 2013
 Place: Oakmont Country Club
 1901 Oakmont Drive
 Corinth, Texas 76210

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
 - a. Approve November minutes and Treasurer's Report
 - b. Membership Dues
3. New Business
 - a. 2013 Budget
 - b. Fundraisers
4. Speaker – Darcy Loveless, Denton County Alternative Dispute Resolution Program's new policies and procedures
5. Door Prizes
6. Adjournment

DCPA WEBSITE

Check out what's new on our website at www.dentonparalegals.org. Let us know what you think, and what you would like to see on our website in the future. If you have any changes that need to be made to your contact information, please let us know.

MEMBERSHIP

Please encourage those paralegals and others in the legal field, whom are not currently members, to join. If you know of anyone who would like to join, please contact Gina Gotti at gottigina@yahoo.com, (972) 436-7584.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION INCLUDE:

- ❖ Receipt of the monthly issue of *The Verdict*
- ❖ Free Accredited CLE at monthly meetings
- ❖ Continuing Legal Education seminars on various topics
- ❖ Job Bank
- ❖ Motivation
- ❖ Networking with other paralegals in Denton County
- ❖ Professional growth through participation
- ❖ Communication and promotion of professional conduct and responsibility
- ❖ Continued individual and professional growth as paralegals

- ❖ Fulfillment that is received from being involved in the direction of the paralegal profession

BIRTHDAYS



Our members with January & February birthdays are:

- Monica Smith (Jan 2)
- Lacey Young (Jan 5)
- Joni Barr (Jan 9)
- Vicki Schmidt (Jan 11)

- Jeff Philbrick (Jan 12); Nina Winfrey (Jan 21)
- Carol Pelzel (Jan 24); Amy Riggs (Jan 24)
- Toya Brown-Phillips (Feb 5); Debbie Mitchell (Feb 10)
- Julia Christman (Feb 13); Adriana Sanchez (Feb 14)
- Glenda Hill (Feb 18); Kim Guertler (Feb 19)

Hope each of you will have a **Happy Birthday!**

EVENTS/NEWS



Do you have a recipe, informative tip/idea, or joke, etc. that you would like to share with your fellow DCPA Members? If so, please submit your idea to Jenna Earhart at jeahart@hbvwlaw.com. Thank you!

DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

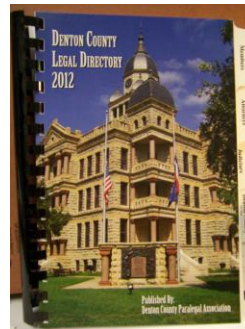
We will begin our school supply drive at our first meeting in January which will be donated to the Children's Advocacy Center. There will be a box by the sign in table where you can drop your donations each month. This month we are requesting paper products: spirals, composition notebooks, ruled paper, etc. As always, cash is appreciated!! If you are not attending the January meeting and still would like to donate, please bring your donation the following month.

FUND-RAISER EVENT – VALENTINE'S DAY GRAM!



It's that time of year where we love to bring a smile to the faces to those we love and care about - why not show them this year by gifting them a Valentine's Day Gram - The Valentine Gram is cupcakes decorated in a mason jar with a spoon and a personalized message tag. You will have a choice of white cake with pink butter cream frosting or red velvet cake with white butter cream frosting. Orders are due no later than **February 8, 2013.**

The order form is attached to this month's The Verdict. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it with your payment. Please complete an order form for EACH Valentine's Day Gram you wish to be sent. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Beecher at (940) 891-0004 or by email at mbeecher@dentonlaw.com.



Members, please get your 2012 Legal Directory if you haven't already picked it up! This latest directory has been updated to include some of the newest attorneys in Denton County. The cost of the directory is \$25.00 each. If you have an old directory, turn it in for a \$2.00 rebate on the purchase price. See attached Order Form. This is a great resource! Get yours today! For more information contact Michele George or Lisa Pittman at (940) 387-3518 or at mgeorge@hbvwlaw.com or lpittman@hbvwlaw.com.



SUPPORT OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Our Sustaining Members give so much to our Association, please be sure to think of them when you are in need of services that require their

- Jay Freeman @ Accurate Concept Insurance
- Dana Miller @ Zenith Investigations
- Cheryl Perlich @ The Reporting Professionals
- Bruce Stewart @ Stewart Process Service Inc
- Janel Stoffels @ Stoffels & Associates Inc.
- Blake Owens @ US Legal Support

SPEAKER INFORMATION



Our Speaker this month is Darcy Loveless, Board of Directors for DCAP, who will discuss the new policies and procedures for scheduling mediations through DCAP.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an open position in your office or know of another office that has an opening and would like to e-mail it to the members and have it posted in the next newsletter, please contact Lisa Pittman at (940) 387-3518 or lpittman@hbwvlaw.com.

NOVEMBER MINUTES

1. President Stout called the meeting of November 29, 2012, to order at 12:12 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 18 in attendance, which included 17 members, and 1 guest, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Stout asked for a vote of approval of the October minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Jenna Earhart and seconded Vicki Schmidt, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. Under new business, President Stout welcomed the new executive committee: Ria Sherman - President, Kim Guertler – President-Elect, Lisa Pittman – Treasurer and Michelle James – Secretary.

4. Under old business, Committee reports were given by the following Committee Chairs/members: Michelle James – CLE; Jennifer Earhart – Fundraising and Newsletter; Priscilla Brooks – Membership; Michele George – Scholarship; Christy Powell – Social Committee and Jennifer Stout reported on Legal Directory sales and proposals for next year. Vicki Schmidt reported on the District 12 Paralegal Division. Jennifer Stout reported on the year-end Treasurer’s report.
5. President Stout introduced the new President for 2013, Ria Sherman. President-Elect Sherman recognized President Stout on her hard work and accomplishments for the year 2012, and she also gave an overview of goals for the coming year.
6. Michelle James won the door prize which was a Barnes & Noble gift card donated by Lewis & Passons, P.C.
7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.