

THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Schmidt, CLA



Dear members:

I hope you are not as burned out as I am with this hot summer. I truly believe the "dog days of summer" began for me in June. I know that phrase is supposed to refer to the last days of summer, but this summer is too hot too much of the time. My garden is fried, my pool is growing an amazing variety of algae, the mosquitoes are ravenous, and my clients are cranky. Oh wait – maybe I just have compassion fatigue.

For those of you who missed last month's meeting – you really missed an outstanding speech by Sunnie Palmer. She gave a well thought out, well researched discussion of a situation that we have all experienced at one time or another. I want to thank Sunnie for all the many ways she works for DCPA. She is our Membership Chairman and our representative to the Paralegal Division; she participated in the pro bono Wills for Heroes event and in countless other activities our group supports.

Some of our other members have earned special recognition for their efforts on behalf of the paralegal profession and for the Denton County Paralegal Association – come to our August meeting and join in thanking one of our other deserving members who has recently earned special recognition.

Keep cool and I will see you at our meeting on August 25th.



2011 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Vicki Schmidt
President Elect – Michelle Beecher
Secretary/Parliamentarian – Gloria Porter
Treasurer – Lisa Pittman
Historian – Ava Watson

2011 DCPA COMMITTEES

CLE Committee -
Michelle Beecher, Chairman
Lisa Bowles
Michelle James
Christine Piott
Debbie Mitchell

Fund Raising Committee -
Jenna Earhart, Chairman
Lisa Pittman
Adriana Sanchez

Legal Directory Committee -
Ava Watson, Chairman
Lisa Pittman
Gloria Porter
Carol Pelzel
Denise League
Debbie Maldonado

Membership Committee -

Sunnie Palmer, Chairman
Jennifer Harris
Denise League
Christine Piott
Gina Elliott
Michelle Merrit
Miranda Miller
Pamela Snavelly

Newsletter Committee -

Lisa Pittman, Chairman
Jennifer Earhart
Jackie Cox

Social Committee -

Lisa Bowles – Chairman
Barbara Denton
Pam Snavelly
Landra Turner
Amy Riggs
Jennifer Flores

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 Sunnie Palmer at sunnie@zellmerlaw.com or (940) 383-2674.

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 September birthdays are:

- Jennifer Earhart (9-3);
- Doris Lucas (9-6);
- Angela Juarez (9-16);
- Cheryl Perlich (9-21);

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

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association July Luncheon will be on Thursday, **August 25, 2011** at noon at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Drive, Corinth, Texas.

The all-inclusive cost of lunch is \$13.00 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 Vicki@cmloveless.com. The Deadline for making your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, August 22, 2011.

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 AUGUST MEETING

- Date: Thursday, August 25, 2011
- Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
- Time: Noon
1. Welcome members and guests
 2. Old Business
Approve the July Minutes and Treasurer's report
School Supplies Wish List follow up report
 3. Speaker: Michelle Houston "Denton County Alternative Dispute Resolution"
 4. Door prizes and adjournment

AUGUST SPEAKER INFORMATION



Our Speaker this month is Michelle Houston who will be speaking about both DCAP and the Denton County Bar Association.

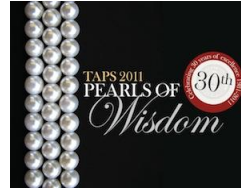
EVENTS/NEWS



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@hbwvlaw.com. Thank you!



Congratulations to member Erin Pack on the birth of her daughter, Harley. What a cutie!



**TAPS 2011 - FORT WORTH, TEXAS
October 5-7, 2011**

TAPS 2011 will be held October 5-7, 2011 at the Marriott Hotel (DFW) & Golf Resort. *See flyer attached.*

For additional information regarding TAPS visit the PD website: www.txpd.org

SAFTEY AWARENESS

By: Wanda Woodworth

Sunnie Palmer's excellent presentation on Compassion Fatigue included a section on taking care of ourselves. My Grandfather's phrase was "don't get too thick." One "healing" activity is taking a Basic Physical Defense class specifically designed for women. The City of Denton Police Department offers such a class. Known as the R.A.D. systems of Self Defense it gives women confidence and a mindset of survival and avoidance of danger. Rape Aggression Defense is a 16 hour program, taught in four 4-hour classes. A small part of the class is lecture but the rest is hands-on demonstration and practice. I found the classes a terrific way to physically role play various attack scenarios and learning the successful defense method. I am more aware of my surroundings and have a much greater confidence in dealing with the criminal element. The knowledge, skills and confidence I gained from taking the class has rolled over to other parts of my life and has had a positive effect. The best thing about R.A.D. is that you don't have to be in shape to benefit from this class!

For more information on the R.A.D. Program, contact Investigator Rachel Fleming at 940-3497968.



DCPA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Deadline to submit your application for the DCPA Scholarship Award is September 15, 2011. Attached are the instructions and the application. This is a scholarship for paralegals sitting for the certification test such as TBLS, NALA, NFPA.

DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS



A big “thank you” to those members that contributed monetary or school supply donations toward the Children’s Advocacy Center of Denton County your generosity is greatly appreciated.

SILENT AUCTION UPDATE!!



THANK YOU to those who have signed up to donate an item to the Silent Auction! All proceeds will benefit our Thanksgiving and Christmas families we assist with each year so if everyone can participate, this event will be a success.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The DCPA Silent Auction is on Thursday, October 13, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., and will take place at Joseph Zellmer’s office located at 620 W. Hickory, Denton, Texas 76201. Ice Cream yummy goodness will be provided, so please feel free to bring your child(ren)!!

If you have not yet committed to donating an item and would like to, please send me an email with your commitment form so I can be sure to follow up with you.

Our deadline of **September 16, 2011** is fast approaching, so if you have your item(s) completed, we are accepting those donations now. You may bring those items to our monthly luncheons, drop it off at Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP at 512 W. Hickory, Suite 100, Denton, Texas or contact Jenna Earhart at (940) 387-3518 and/or jeahart@hbwvlaw.com, so we can arrange to pick it up.

Thank you to those who have already dropped off their donations and to those who have committed to participate in this event!



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 specialty!

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.

JULY MINUTES

1. President, Vicki Schmidt, called the meeting of July 28, 2011, to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 24 in attendance, which included 22 members and 2 guests, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Schmidt advised that the minutes from the May meeting had not been approved because a lack of a quorum attending the June meeting, and that the minutes from the June meeting needed approval, and asked for a vote of approval of both. A motion for approval was presented by Michelle Beecher and seconded by Carolyn Ganzer, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Schmidt advised that the June Treasurer’s Report had not been approved because a lack of a quorum attending the June meeting, and that the current Treasurer’s Report needed approval, and asked for a vote of approval of both. A motion for approval was presented by Sunnie Palmer and seconded by Jennifer Earhart, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. President Schmidt announced that there was still time to donate to the School Supply Drive, and that anyone wanting to donate supplies or cash should contact Lisa Pittman or Jennifer Earhart before August 5, 2011.
5. CLE Membership Chair, Michelle Beecher, introduced the speaker, Sunnie Palmer, fellow paralegal, DCPA Membership Chair and Paralegal Division District 12 Director, who presented “*Compassion Fatigue.*”

6. Dana Miller won the monthly drawing for the gift presented by the Association.
 7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.
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