

April 2015

The Verdict

Denton County Paralegal Association

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- Birthdays

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TAPA UPDATE

Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations ("TAPA") was formed in 1982 by representatives of local paralegal associations throughout the state of Texas who joined together to exchange ideas regarding the development of the paralegal profession. This annual conference is a much anticipated event that continues to inspire and encourage paralegals. This was DCPA's first time to host TAPA which was held at the Courtyard Marriott in Denton. There was a leadership seminar on Friday, April 10th with three very talented and inspiring speakers: Dianne Costa, Allen Mihecoby and Bobbie Mitchell. The evening started with a scavenger hunt around the historic downtown Courthouse Square followed by dinner at LSA Burgers and dessert at Beth Marie's Old Fashioned Ice Cream. Saturday, April 11th was the leadership conference where delegates met to promote professional growth and development. See pictures from the event on pages 9 - 12.

We would like to thank the following for their support.

Friday Break Sponsor – KoonsFuller Family Law

Friday Night Social Sponsor – Zoning-Info, Inc.

Saturday Break Sponsor – Stoffels & Associates, Inc.

Exhibitors

Compex

National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.

Donators

Kim Tindall & Associates, LLC

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Food Donators

Chef Claudette Roberts

The Donut Shop

Kolache Haven/Candy Haven

Kroger

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Party City

Sam's Club

Goodies

It's All About Swag

Compex

Denton County Bar Association

Janel Stoffels & Associates

Kim Tindall & Associates

KoonsFuller Family Law

Hon. Judge Vicki Isaacks, Mediator

Door Prizes

Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP, Joseph F. Zellmer, P.C. & Sam's Club of Lewisville, Texas

Meeting Notice

2015 Officers

Cheryl Cooper, President
mlj@steelelawfirm.com

Melody Brackeen, President-Elect
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Pamela Snavelly, Secretary/Parliamentarian
psnavelly@hbvwlaw.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Kim Guertler, Historian
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **April 23, 2015** 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.

Did you know...

Payments for the CLE Luncheon can now be made online. For more information and online registration see Events/CLE Luncheon at www.dentonparalegals.org.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to **Cheryl Cooper@mlj@steelelawfirm.com**. The deadline to RSVP is **April 17, 2015**.

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 Grove Road/Post Oak Drive
- Turn west onto Post Oak Drive
- Turn right (west) onto Robinson Road at stop sign
- Turn left (south) onto Oakmont Drive – you will see an Oakmont sign in the median
- Turn right into Oakmont Country Club (second right)

2015 Committee Chairs

CLE, Michelle Beecher
mbeecher@dentonlaw.com

Fundraising, Melody Brackeen
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Legal Directory, Brandi Hunter
BHunter410@gmail.com

Membership, Sunnie Palmer
sunnies@zellmerlaw.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Social, Heather Walker
heather.walker@dentoncounty.com

TAPA,

Ad Hoc Scholarship,
Wanda Woodworth
wandawoodworth@dentoncounty.com

AGENDA FOR MEETING

Date: April 23, 2015
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests

2. Old Business

- a. Approve March meeting Minutes
- b. Approve March Treasurer's Report
- c. Announcement on 2015 TAPA Leadership Seminar and Conference

2. New Business

- a. Social Committee Chair - announce upcoming social and events.

3. Introduction of Speakers

CLE Chair, Michelle Beecher, to introduce attorney, Brian T. Cartwright of Alagood, Cartwright & Burke, P.C.

4. Announcements

5. Adjournment

President's Message

By: Cheryl Cooper



It's April, folks. Where, oh where, has the year gone so far? Hopefully, all of you had a wonderful Easter holiday and some of you got to visit the Dallas Arboretum's Texas Blooms festival.

I hope you were able to make our March luncheon. Our CLE Chair, Michelle Beecher, arranged for newly elected Denton County Clerk, Juli Luke, and members of her staff to come speak to us. Ms. Luke brought historical pieces for viewing and presented a wonderful Power Point presentation. She provided some historical background on Denton County records lost years ago due to multiple fires allegedly set by an infamous Dentonite, generally believed as an effort to destroy criminal records and evidence related to himself and his cronies. Ms. Luke agreed to provide us with her impressive Power Point presentation so we could upload it to our website for our members' use. Please take a minute to peruse her Power Point. It is a handy reference guide for the Denton County Clerk's office since Ms. Luke instituted some new and innovative changes, effective January 1st.



This month, for our April 23rd CLE luncheon, Michelle Beecher has arranged for Attorney Brian Cartwright to come speak to us about ***Ethics for the Attorney and Paralegal***. I'm sure Michelle will have some valuable input to provide, in addition to what Mr. Cartwright presents. It promises to be valuable and interesting information that we can all benefit from. I would swear that some attorneys and judges have never even read the Texas Lawyer's Creed. I'm certain that if they did follow them, it would make all of our jobs easier. If you plan on attending the April 23rd CLE luncheon, please send me an email to: mlj@steelelawfirm.com and let me know if you plan on eating, or not. You can register and pay for the luncheon on our website too. Our website is www.dentonparalegals.org. The deadline to RSVP or register is April 17th so we can give Oakmont an accurate

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headcount. Due to the construction at Oakmont Country Club, we will be in the St. Andrew's Room located to the far left of where we have traditionally met in the past.



Several of you gave me some feedback about the food at last month's luncheon and I relayed your comments to the staff and chef. The chef was trying to do something new so we wouldn't always have the *same ol', same ol'* food. Please email me and let me know the type of food you like or have enjoyed in the past so I can relay that information to Oakmont. They really want to please us and keep our members/attendees happy. They are making some overall changes in their construction which will eventually include 2 entrees, a salad and soup bar, as well as their traditional sides, rolls, and dessert.

Heather Walker and her Social Committee planned a fun event at Brunswick Bowling Alley on March 19th. DCPA provided shoes and lanes for 2 hours. We have some talented members who can bowl, but regardless of how well we did or didn't bowl - it was a lot of fun. The member with the highest score was awarded 2 Cinemark movie passes. Be sure to check out our website for more information on upcoming Socials and events. Their Scavenger Hunt/Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th from 6-8 p. m.



I can report that our TAPA Leadership Seminar and Conference held here in Denton on April 10-11, 2015, at the Courtyard Marriott was a great success. The TAPA Committee did a great job preparing for, planning, and pulling off this event. Be sure to check out the photos on our Facebook page. #2015TAPA should bring up multiple posts and photos. Sunnie Palmer created a new Facebook group entitled, "*Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations*" that has some additional photos and posts. We are in the process of preparing our final report on the TAPA event that will be presented to you at our June business meeting. As a recap, the Leadership Seminar on Friday hosted 3 speakers, Dianne Costa, Bobbie Mitchell, and Allen Mihecoby. Pam Snavelly was chiefly

President's Message Con't

responsible for the seminar which went smoothly and garnered rave reviews. Allen Mihecoby, an outstanding paralegal friend to DCPA, presented a Power Point entitled, *"Getting Plugged In; Powering Up the Paralegal Profession."* It was motivating and inspiring. Allen has agreed to come speak to us sometime later this year and share his Power Point presentation. Sunnie Palmer was chiefly responsible for obtaining sponsors and exhibitors for the event. We were so pleased to have local, statewide, and other sponsorship to help offset costs for our event. We will post the vendor/sponsor page and other information on donors on our webpage. This information will also be outlined in our report. Lisa Pittman received, tracked, and processed all of the registrations for the event and served as Registrar at the actual event. Lisa and I worked together to insure our guests were provided with all the information and materials they needed for the event. Melody Brackeen was chiefly responsible for providing, preparing, and arranging the food for the event. Melody's friend, Claudette, is a chef and prepared an impressive array of food for our attendees. Pam Snavely and Kim Guertler prepared and orchestrated a Scavenger Hunt for attendees representing multiple associations around the state of Texas to *Discover Denton* at the historic downtown Denton Square. The attendees put their full effort into the activity. We had a lot of fun sharing photos and videos of their antics. Afterward, we ate at LSA Burger, Co. The weather, food, and music were great. We finished it off with treats at Beth Marie's Old Fashioned Ice Cream. On Saturday, each association presented their report to the group. My thanks to all of the above named ladies for donating their time and talents to make this event a success. I think DCPA has earned a positive reputation among other associations and state leaders as a result of 2015 TAPA.



Mother's Day will have already taken place before The Verdict is published again. We have many who are mothers and grandmothers. I sincerely hope you have a blessed day with your loved ones and that those who are fortunate enough to still have their mothers make them feel loved and appreciated on the special day set aside to honor them. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10, 2015.

Happy Mother's Day!



Birthdays

Our members with May Birthdays are:

Georgya Rankin (5/4)
Alice Hawes (5/5)
Kathy Klein (5/11)
Allison Martin (5/16)
Linda Lewis (5/20)
Ali Silva (5/20)
Daphina Park (5/25)

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

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

Membership News

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.

Employment Opportunity

Paralegal

Wanted civil litigation paralegal with an absolute minimum of 5 years extensive civil litigation experience. Salary range \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year depending on experience. Send resume to: skuzmich@kuzmichlaw.com. (2/15)

Client Relations Manager/Business Development Director

Position open for personable individual with general legal background, preferably with sales or marketing experience. Must have computer knowledge (Groupwise, basic computer software, calendar system), excellent verbal communication skills, and ability to manage heavy incoming calls. Salary commensurate with experience. Full time position with long term potential for growth. Ideal candidate would be a Denton resident active in the community. Please forward your resume to dwhite@hbvwlaw.com. (4/15)

Support Our Sustaining Members

Please help support our Sustaining Members by calling them when you have a project that needs outside support. Remember it is through their continued support and generosity that DCPA is able to provide social events at a low cost.

Stewart Process Service, Inc.

Bruce G. Stewart

110 Sheraton Place
Denton, Texas 76209
Phone: 940-367-4643
Fax: 940-484-0999
Email – stewartprocess@verizon.net

Stoffels & Associates, Inc.

Janel M. Stoffels

207 W. Hickory St., Ste. 304
Denton, Texas 76201
Phone: 940-565-9797
Fax: 940-565-9197
Email – jmstoffels@aol.com

The Reporting Professionals

Cheryl K. Perlich

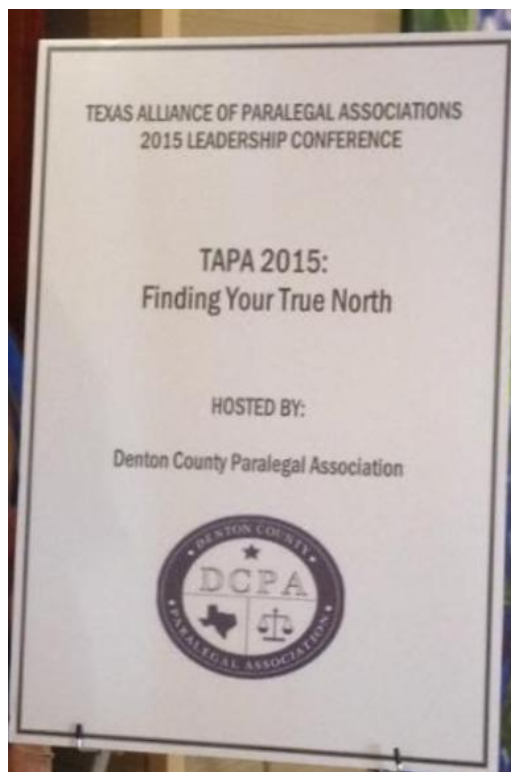
2925 Country Club Road, Suite 104
Denton, Texas 76210
Phone: 940-484-6053
Fax: 940-484-6054
Email – reportingpros@sbcglobal.net

County Process Service

Fred Bowles

159 Sunny Side Lane
Valley View, Texas 76272
Phone: 940.-390-0914
Email - fbowles@ntin.net

TAPA UPDATE CON'T



TAPA UPDATE CON'T



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TAPA UPDATE CON'T



Minutes

1. President Cheryl Cooper called the business meeting of March 26, 2015 to order at 12:15 at Oakmont Country Club. President Cooper welcomed 25 attendees, consisting of 21 members and 4 guests.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Cooper asked for a vote on the February 2015 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Beth Honeycutt and seconded by Sunnie Palmer. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Cooper asked for a vote of approval for the February 2015 Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Christy Powell and seconded by Priscilla Brooks. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. President Cooper announced that committee chairs turned in quarterly reports and the next reports were due in June. She also mentioned that the association is still seeking donation of the attendance participation prize.
5. Sunnie Palmer, Membership Chair, announced that the association has a total of 81 members, with 25 who either need to renew or pay for membership renewal. She also announced a membership referral contest. Members may participate by providing the name of any prospective paralegal for Sunnie to contact about membership. The member supplying the prospective paralegal name will receive one entry per prospect into a drawing at the May meeting.
6. Brandi Hunter, Legal Directory Chair, announced that the directory will be ready after April 15, 2015. She provided Order Forms and indicated that both hard drives and printed copies of the directory would be available at the May meeting.
7. Heather Walker, Social Committee Chair, announced that the bowling social was a fun and entertaining outing for the members. The next planned outing will be an ice cream social, with more details to come.
8. President Cooper reminded members to check the DCPA website for events and activities, and that members had the ability to update their own contact information through the website.
9. President Cooper announced that DCPA was hosting the TAPA Conference on 4/10 and 4/11. President Cooper clarified that CLE was not available for the leadership conference, but that CLE would be offered at a substantive law seminar slated for September.

Minutes Con't

10. President Cooper, introduced our guest speaker: Denton County Clerk, Juli Luke. Ms. Luke gave a presentation with her court staff regarding the duties of the county clerk, navigation of the clerk's website, and the historical significance of records preservation.
11. Members' names were place in a drawing for the attendance door prize. Beth Honeycutt was the winner of a \$25.00 Applebee's gift certificate.
12. There being no further business, President Cooper adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641
Denton, TX 76206

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[https://www.facebook.com/pages/
Denton-County-Paralegal-
Association](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Denton-County-Paralegal-Association)