

**Special Interest Articles:**

- Back to School Supply Drive Update
- Upcoming DCPA 2017 Officer Election
- DCPA Scholarship
- 2016 TAPS

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**Denton County Paralegal Association**

## Update on Back To School Supply Drive

By: Daphina Park

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies that were given to Friends of the Family for those families who have found themselves in difficult situations. We were able to deliver 3 boxes full of supplies. It is always a great feeling to help out those less fortunate, and you never know when you may find yourself on the receiving end! I have included the email from Alicia Froidl with Friends of the Family.

*Hello Daphina,*

*Thank you so much for collecting these supplies! It is so generous of the Denton County Paralegal Association and we really do appreciate it.*

*These items can be dropped off at our Corinth location (4845 S I35E, Corinth, TX 76210) anytime between 9am and 5pm Monday through Friday. If you need to bring it past hours, our office is typically open till about 7pm Monday through Thursday.*

*Thank you again for your support!*

**Alicia Froidl, LMSW**  
 Community Relations Coordinator  
 Denton County Friends of the Family  
 P.O. Box 640, Denton, TX 76202  
 940.387.5131 ext.103



## **NOTICE: Upcoming 2017 Officer Election**

By Vicki Schmidt, Membership Chair

The Membership Committee is accepting nominations for officers for the 2017 year. The open positions that we will be receiving nominations for are Secretary and Treasurer.

As you will remember, Melody Brackeen resigned as President of DCPA because she took a job outside the legal field. At the June meeting Pam Snavelly stepped in to fill the role of President for the remainder of 2016 and she will also continue as President in 2017 since she was already president-elect for 2017. At the June meeting we also elected Daphina Park to fill the position of President Elect.

If you want to run for Treasurer or Secretary, or if you want to nominate a DCPA member for one of those positions, please make your nomination to Vicki Schmidt, Chairman of the Membership Committee, no later than September 15, 2016. Vicki's email address is [vickidcpa@gmail.com](mailto:vickidcpa@gmail.com).

## **Special Thank You**

By Pamela Snavelly, DCPA President



We would like to extend a special “Thank You” to Travis Biggs who was kind enough to speak at our last luncheon when our scheduled speaker had a family emergency. Mr. Biggs’ presentation was very informative and well presented!



### Scholarship Information

**DCPA:** The Scholarship Committee offers \$500.00 in scholarship funds to be awarded to one member for the purposes of certification; or, if not applied for, the funds are alternatively available in (2) \$250.00 scholarships for professional continuing legal education and we urge members to apply. The scholarship application is on our DPCA website for your convenience at <http://www.dentonparalegals.org/Resources/Documents/ScholarshipApplication.pdf>.



Testing Window	Deadline	Late Filing Deadline*
January	December 1	December 10
May	April 1	April 10
September	August 1	August 10

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### TAPS



Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar  
**TAPS on Track**  
**Journey to Excellence**  
(Three-Day Multi-Track CLE)  
**September 28-30, 2016**  
Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk  
**San Antonio, TX**

Reserve your hotel room by calling [1-866-764-8536](tel:1-866-764-8536), and ask for the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas or use the following web link: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/PDSBOT>



**2016 Officers**

Pamela Snavely, President  
psnavely@hbvwlaw.com

Daphina Park, President-Elect  
Daphina.Park@dentoncounty.com

Heather Walker, Secretary/Parliamentarian  
heather.walker@dentoncounty.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer  
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Cheryl Cooper, Historian  
ccooper@dentonlaw.com

**Meeting Notice**

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **August 25, 2016** 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...**

Oakmont developed a menu specifically for our association so each individual can order his or her own personal lunch selection. A copy of the menu can be found on the DCPA website. Payments for the CLE Luncheon can now be made online. For more information and online registration see Events/CLE Luncheon at [www.dentonparalegals.org](http://www.dentonparalegals.org).

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to Lisa Pittman at [lpittman@hbvwlaw.com](mailto:lpittman@hbvwlaw.com). The deadline to RSVP is August 24 , 2016 by 3:00 p.m. Please clearly mark you menu choices and forward to Lisa Pittman.** That will help Oakmont ensure each individual lunch is freshly prepared and ready shortly after you arrive for the meeting.

**Notice: We must notify Oakmont of the number attending prior to the meeting and menu choices for preparation of food and adequate seating arrangements. Please note we are also required to bill those individuals who make reservations to eat 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)

**2016 Committee Chairs**

**CLE**, Debbie Nyarangi  
Deborah@bowen-law.com

**Fundraising**, Daphina Park  
daphina.park@dentoncounty.com

**Legal Directory**, Cheryl Cooper  
ccooper@dentonlaw.com

**Membership**, Vicki Schmidt  
vicki.dcpa@gmail.com

**Newsletter**, Lisa Pittman  
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

**Social**, Lakesha Bell  
lakesha.bell@dentoncounty.com

**Scholarship**, Jenna Earhart  
jearhart@hbvwlaw.com

**AGENDA FOR MEETING**

Date: August 25, 2016  
Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210  
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Speaker – Don R. White, Jr.  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Commercial and Residential Real Estate Law

Mr. White will give us a presentation on “Tips and Traps of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act” concerning real estate sales

3. Old Business
  - a. Approve July Minutes
  - b. Approve July Treasurer’s Report
4. New Business
5. Announcements
  - Nice turnout for our Back to School Bash
  - Thanks to all members for donations and support; we were able to donate 3 boxes of school supplies to Friends of the Family
6. Door Prize
7. Adjournment

## **President's Message**

By: Pamela Snavely, ACP

I hope each of you had a great summer and that the students in your life are ready to hit the books again! The school year will begin August 22nd for both the Denton and Lewisville Independent School Districts. The first day of classes for students at NCTC is August 22nd, and UNT students will begin on August 29th. Some of you may be enrolled in one of our local colleges or universities to obtain an academic degree. In addition to traditional higher education, paralegals have the opportunity to earn professional credentials recognized and respected within the legal community.

The National Association of Legal Assistants ("NALA") offers a "Certified Paralegal" credential which is obtained through a voluntary testing process to determine an individual has met predetermined, standardized criteria. The CP exam is offered three times a year and is organized into five different sections: Communications, Legal Ethics, Judgment & Analytical Ability, Legal Research, and Substantive Law (American Legal System, Civil Litigation, Business Organizations, and Contracts). The Certified Paralegal must fulfill ongoing educational requirements to keep certification current. December 1st is the deadline to apply for the NALA CP exam held in January. The "Advanced Certified Paralegal" credential is available to those who have already obtained their CP and focuses on specific subject matter. Go to the NALA website at <https://www.nala.org/> for more details.

Experienced legal assistants and paralegals may prefer to earn Board Certification through the Texas Board of Legal Specialization ("TBLS") by testing and proving special competence within a select field of law. There are seven legal specialty areas offered: Bankruptcy, Civil Trial, Criminal, Estate Planning & Probate, Family, Personal Injury Trial, and Real Estate. Each area contains both General Requirements and Specific Area Requirements. The process is said to be rigorous and challenging for this highly respected credential. The Paralegal Certification Application must be submitted by June 30th in order to take the annual TBLS Paralegal Exam offered in November. Go to <http://www.tbbs-bcp.org/> for more information.



## **President's Message Con't**

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations ("NFPA") offers a Paralegal Core Competency Exam, that was developed for early-career and entry-level paralegals. The Core Registered Paralegal ("CRP") test is administered at various computer centers and must be taken within 90 days after your application is accepted. NFPA also offers the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam to obtain the Registered Paralegal ("RP") certification. The test is based on application of general knowledge, paralegal experience, and critical analysis ability and covers routinely performed tasks regardless of the specific practice area. You can obtain more information at <http://www.paralegals.org>.

Certification can enhance your career and elevate your professional standing. Check the website of the program that interests you to determine eligibility requirements, costs of testing and maintaining membership, details regarding the process, and the ongoing educational requirements that must be met to maintain credentials. DCPA is committed to continued professional growth and awards an annual scholarship to a qualified member that is seeking certification. We also offer continuing legal education at most of our monthly membership meetings to help you obtain the required CLE hours to maintain certification credentials. Many of our members have obtained certification and can assist with general questions, study tips, and recommended study materials. We want to help you achieve your goals when you decide it's time to hit the books!



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## Membership News

### 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

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 Vicki Schmidt at [vickidcpa@gmail.com](mailto:vickidcpa@gmail.com)

## Birthdays

Our members with September Birthdays are:

Chris Brozstek (9/3)  
Jennifer Earhart (9/3)  
Angela Juarez (9/16)  
Kimberly Spivey (9/23)

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

## CLE GUEST SPEAKER



Our speaker this month is Don R. White, Jr. with Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP. Mr. White is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both Commercial and Residential Real Estate Law. Mr. White presentation will be on “Tips and Traps of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act” concerning real estate sales.





## **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](mailto:stewartprocess@verizon.net)

### **County Process Service**

**Fred Bowles**

159 Sunny Side Lane

Valley View, Texas 76272

Phone: 940-390-0914

Fax: 940-484-6054

Email – [fbowles@ntin.net](mailto:fbowles@ntin.net)

**Minutes**

1. President Pamela Snavelly called the meeting held on July 28, 2016 to order at 12:10 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club in Denton. President Snavelly welcomed 10 attendees, 9 members and the speaker.
2. The speaker for July's meeting was Travis Biggs, a Private Law Practice Attorney, discussing Personal Injury cases.

**OLD BUSINESS**

3. President Snavelly asked for a vote on the June 2016 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Jennifer Earhart and seconded by Daphina Park. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. President Snavelly asked for a vote of approval for the June 2016 Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Adriana Sanchez and seconded by Heather Collard. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

5. President Snavelly advised that the fundraiser Bingo Night held on June 14<sup>th</sup> raised a total of \$322.50. A check for \$161.25 will be presented to Friends of the Family from the proceeds of Bingo Night.

Also don't forget about the Back to School bash social scheduled for tomorrow night, Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Civic Center pool.

6. Daphina Park was the winner of the door prize.
7. There being no further business, President Snavelly adjourned the meeting at 12:39pm.



**Denton County  
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641  
Denton, TX 76206

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Denton-County-Paralegal-Association>