

March 2015

# The Verdict

*Denton County Paralegal Association*

**Special Interest  
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- Birthdays

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

### **2015 Corinth Police Department Foot Pursuit 5K**

will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 and will start at 8:30 a.m. at North Central Texas College in Corinth. For more information please see their website at: [http://www.corinthcpaaa.org/5k\\_run.php](http://www.corinthcpaaa.org/5k_run.php).

### **The Denton Community Market opens back up on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.**

The market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April – November. The market is located at the corner of Carroll Blvd and Mulberry Street. For more information please see their website at: <http://dentonmarket.org>.

### **The Denton Arts and Jazz Festival will be held April 24, 25, & 26, 2015.**

The Arts & Jazz Festival has a lot to offer – the sights, sounds and flavors that make up the Festival are perfect for all ages. For more information please see their website at: <http://www.dentonjazzfest.com>.

## Meeting Notice

### 2015 Officers

Cheryl Cooper, President  
mlj@steelelawfirm.com

Melody Brackeen, President-Elect  
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Pamela Snavelly, Secretary/Parliamentarian  
psnavelly@hbwlaw.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer  
lpittman@hbwlaw.com

Kim Guertler, Historian  
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **March 26, 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](http://www.dentonparalegals.org).

***RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to Cheryl Cooper@mlj@steelelawfirm.com. The deadline to RSVP is March 20, 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)

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### 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  
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

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

**Social**, Heather Walker  
heather.walker@dentoncounty.com

**TAPA**, Jennifer Stout  
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

**Ad Hoc Scholarship**,  
Wanda Woodworth  
wandawoodworth@dentoncounty.com

## **AGENDA FOR MARCH MEETING**

Date: March 26, 2015  
Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210  
Time: Noon

**1. Welcome members and guests**

**2. Old Business**

- a. Approve February meeting Minutes
- b. Approve February Treasurer's Report

**2. New Business**

- a. Social Committee Chair, Heather Walker, to provide report on Bowling Social and announce upcoming events.
- b. Membership Chair, Sunnie Palmer, to provide report on membership renewals and contest.
- c. Legal Directory, Brandi Hunter, to provide report on the publication of our legal directory.
- d. Reminder to everyone to check out our website and our Facebook page.

**3. Introduction of Speakers**

CLE Chair, Michelle Beecher, to introduce Juli Luke, our newly elected Denton County Clerk.

**4. Announcements**

**5. Adjournment**



## President's Message

By: Cheryl Cooper



*Spring has sprung...*

It's March, which means we have "sprung forward" and celebrate the official arrival of Spring on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Days are longer, warmer, and all around more pleasant. This time of year certainly improves my general disposition, as I am sure it does yours. I love to plant flowers and work outside since I, like most of you, am stuck in an office all day. Easter is quickly approaching (April 5<sup>th</sup>) which typically means new outfits, Easter baskets, egg hunts, and hopefully quality time with family and friends.

If you haven't visited the Dallas Arboretum before, I recommend visiting during their annual Dallas Blooms festival. This year, their theme is "Deep in the Heart of Texans" available from February 28 – April 12, 2015. This is a great place to walk around and view more than 500,000 Spring blooming bulbs, as well as other gorgeous flowers and topiaries. It provides a great backdrop for family photos. The festival this year incorporates Texas themed topiaries which should be interesting and provide great photo opportunities. It is something you shouldn't miss. Pack a picnic, or enjoy food at one of their sidewalk cafes. It gets busy on the weekends during this time of year, so earlier is better for parking.

Our February luncheon had the biggest turnout I've ever witnessed at a DCPA CLE luncheon (70+). It seemed everyone wanted to hear what our newest judges and their staff had to say. Great job, Michelle Beecher. This month, our speaker is the newly elected Denton County Clerk, Juli Luke. Don't forget to RSVP by sending me an email to: [mlj@steelelawfirm.com](mailto:mlj@steelelawfirm.com). Or, you can register on our website for next week's luncheon. The deadline to RSVP or register is March 20<sup>th</sup> so we can give Oakmont an accurate 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 normally meet.

Heather Walker and her Social Committee have planned some great activities for us this year. The Fuzzy's social in February was a great time. I am looking forward to Bowling at Brunswick Bowling Alley on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Check out our website for more information on this and upcoming events.



## President's Message Con't

Our TAPA Committee is busy finalizing plans for the Leadership Seminar and Conference planned for April 10-11, 2015, here in Denton. It is a lot of work, but we are excited and hopeful that everything will go smoothly. Thanks to everyone involved in helping to make this event a reality.

I am pleased to report that we have some new members. Many of you have renewed your membership. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so. We don't want you to miss out on the benefits of being a member of DCPA since the new membership year began, effective February 1, 2015.

We have been working on our branding for DCPA and have published a brochure. Look for it at our meeting next week at the registration table and pick up a few to hand out or take to your workplace.



## Birthdays

Our members with April Birthdays are:

- Jennifer Stout (4/8)
- Miranda Miller (4/12)
- Christine Piott (4/16)
- Priscilla Brooks (4/24)
- Sunnie Palmer (4/24)

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](mailto: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](mailto:skuzmich@kuzmichlaw.com). (2/15)

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### 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



## **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)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:reportingpros@sbcglobal.net)

### **County Process Service**

#### **Fred Bowles**

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



## **Minutes**

1. President Cheryl Cooper called the business meeting of February 26, 2015 to order at 12:14 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club. There were 73 attendees, 30 members and 43 guests, all of whom were welcomed by President Cooper.

### OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Cooper asked for a vote on the January 2015 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Jenna Earhart and seconded by Michelle Beecher. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Cooper asked for a vote of approval for the January 2015 Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Estina Childs and seconded by Beth Honeycutt. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### NEW BUSINESS:

4. President Cooper announced that the association would proceed with a participation prize based on attendance throughout the year, and that we were seeking donation of the door prize.
5. Melody Brackeen, Fundraising Chair, announced that the Valentine's Day Fundraiser was a success and would provide additional information about how much was raised when all of that information was calculated by Treasurer, Lisa Pittman.
6. Heather Walker, Social Committee Chair, announced that the social at Fuzzy's Taco Shop on February 19, 2015 was a fun meet & greet for all who attended. The next outing will be bowling at Brunswick Zone on Thursday, March 19, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
7. Michelle Beecher, CLE Chair, introduced our guest speakers: Judge Brody Shanklin and Judge Tiffany Haertling. Each Judge gave a presentation with their Court Coordinators and Court Reporters about the policies and standard operating procedures of their respective courts.
8. Members' names were place in a drawing for the attendance door prize. Lisa Pittman was the winner of a \$25.00 Macy's gift certificate.
9. There being no further business, President Cooper adjourned the meeting at 1:00 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)