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Denton County Paralegal Association

Membership Renewal

Membership Renewal Period Ending Soon! Thank you to our members who have renewed online or by mail!

If you have not renewed, please bring your completed application and dues to the April meeting. Or visit www.dentonparalegals.org/apply. If you have not logged into the website previously, simply enter your email address and click "forgot password". You will be prompted to choose a password. Then you can renew your application and update your contact information.

Payment can be made securely through our website or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 2641, Denton, Texas 76202.

The membership committee will begin suspending log-ins and removing email addresses from our e-mailing list after the April meeting, so please renew today.

Congratulations



Congratulations to member, Pamela Snavely on the birth of her first grandchild. Her granddaughter, Myra Isabelle, was born December 13, 2013 in Mexico City to Suzanne and Ben Snavely. Myra weighed 5 pounds 3.5 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. She is a delight to her entire family!



Congratulations to member, Priscilla Brooks on the birth of her first grandchild. Her granddaughter, Alana Marie Fudge arrived March 15, 2014 at 1:07 a.m. Alana weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and 19 ½ inches long. What a beautiful girl!

Meeting Notice

2014 Officers

Kim Guertler, President
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

Cheryl Cooper, President-Elect
mlj@steelelawfirm.com

Melody Brackeen, Secretary/Parliamentarian
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbwwlaw.com

Sunnie Palmer, Historian
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **April 24, 2014** 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 kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com. The April 21, 2014.

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)

2014 Committee Chairs

CLE, Michelle Beecher
mbeecher@dentonlaw.com

Fundraising, Jennifer Stout
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Legal Directory, open

Membership, Gina Elliot
gottigina@yahoo.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman
lpittman@hbwwlaw.com

Social, Priscilla Brooks
priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com

TAPA, Jennifer Stout
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Ad Hoc Scholarship,
Wanda Woodworth
wandawoodworth@dentoncounty.com



AGENDA FOR APRIL MEETING

Date: April 24, 2014
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

1. **Welcome members and guests**
2. **Old Business**
 - a. Approve March, 2014, Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Approve March, 2014, meeting Minutes
 - c. Report on the most recent social event held at Fuzzy’s
3. **New Business**
 - a. Update on Legal Directory Committee
 - b. Accept Motion to delay the printing of the Legal Directory until next year, and for it to thereafter be printed in non-election years
 - c. Announce the upcoming Bingo fundraising event to be co-sponsored with Social
 - d. Encourage members to renew their memberships
4. **Speaker:** Hugh Coleman – speaking on “Employment Law, including discussion of theft of corporate information and records.”
(Thank you trophy given to speaker, along with Certificate of Appreciation)
5. **Door Prize and Announcements**
6. **Adjournment**

CLE GUEST SPEAKER



Our speaker will be Hugh Coleman, will be speaking on “Employment Law, including discussion of theft of corporate information and records.”

President's Message

By: Kim Guertler

Hello DCPA members,

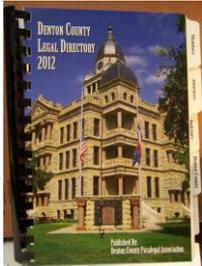
Earlier this month I attended the Texas Alliance of Paralegals Association ("TAPA") on behalf of the DCPA. It is a wonderful and informative conference in which approximately 35 paralegal associations across the state of Texas convene together to share ideas and discuss ways to improve our organizations. One session of the conference included a presentation on how to be a good leader. Some of the information provided was taken from John Maxwell's book, *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*. Since we all serve as leaders in one capacity or another, I wanted to share the 21 qualities highlighted in the book:

- Character – Leadership is the capacity and will to rally men and women to a common purpose and the character which inspires confidence;
- Charisma – How can you have charisma? Be more concerned about making others feel good about themselves than you are making them feel good about you;
- Commitment – People do not follow uncommitted leaders;
- Communication – Without it, you travel alone;
- Competence – If you build it, they will come;
- Courage – Courage is contagious and it inspires committed followers;
- Discernment – Smart leaders believe only half of what they hear. Discerning leaders know which half to believe;
- Focus – The sharper it is, the sharper you are;
- Generosity – Giving is the highest level of living;
- Initiative – Of all the things a leader should fear, complacency should head the list;
- Listening – To connect with their hearts, use your ears;
- Passion – Take this life and love it;
- Positive attitude – If you believe you can, you can;
- Problem Solving – You can't let your problems be a problem;
- Relationships – If you get along, they will go along;
- Responsibility – A leader can give up anything – except final responsibility;
- Security – No one will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all the credit for doing it;
- Self-discipline – The first person you lead is you;
- Servanthood- To get ahead , put others first;
- Teachability – To keep leading, keep learning
- Vision – You can seize only what you can see.

Our DCPA is composed of many great leaders who possess the above qualities and more! Let's all strive to continue to recognize, develop and refine the personal characteristics that are needed to be truly effective leaders in the many roles we take on, on a daily basis.

Please plan to attend our April CLE luncheon. The Honorable Commissioner Precinct #1 Hugh Coleman will be our speaker and he will present information on Employment Law. It is sure to be an informative topic that affects us all. Hope to see you all there!



**Legal Directory**

The 2012 Legal Directory is available for purchase. 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. This is a great resource! Get yours today! For more information contact Michele George or Lisa Pittman at (940) 387-3518 or at mgeorge@hbwvlaw.com or lpittman@hbwvlaw.com.

**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

Birthdays

Our members with May Birthdays are:

Georgya Rankin (5/4)
Alice Hawes (5/5)
Kathy Klein (5/11)
Linda Lewis (5/20)
Daphina Park (5/25)

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 Gina Gotti at gottigina@yahoo.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Andrea L. Finley, Coker Legal, *Active*
Kayti Mixson, Hollingsworth Walker, *Active*
Daphina Park, Coker Legal, *Active*



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

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

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



Photographer Wanted....

The DCPA website continues to be improved and we need more photos! If you are interested in taking photos at monthly luncheons, socials, and other events, please email historian Sunnie Palmer at sunnie@zellmerlaw.com. Experience not required; photographers can use their own camera or phone or can borrow.

Social Update

Priscilla Brooks, Social Committee Chair

Thanks to everyone that came out. Your presence alone helped make it a success. I would also like to thank those of you who emailed me that you would not be able to make it, but gave us your support. It meant a lot to know that you wanted to be there.

April 10, 2014 DCPA Social at Fuzzy's Taco



Michelle Beecher, Carol Pelzel & Christy Rodgers



Pamela Snavelly, Priscilla Brooks & Janene Koiner



Carol Pelzel, Gina Elliott & Wanda Woodworth



Lisa Pittman, Kim Guertler & Heather Walker



Christy Rodgers, LaKesha Bell, Sunnie Palmer & Janene Koiner

In The Know

By Wanda Woodworth

Talking with: Michelle Beecher

Employed by: Alagood & Cartwright, PC

Years' experience: 25

What made you want to become a paralegal? I didn't want to go to law school - The Dallas firm I worked for offered to pay for me to attend law school in exchange for a seven year commitment and I passed on the opportunity.

What type of law did your attorney practice? I worked for Toby Gerber at Thompson & Knight and he practiced Bankruptcy law.

What was it like being a new paralegal? Technology was different...we were thrilled with a typewriter. Things are so much easier with today's technology.

How many paralegals are at your current firm? Two paralegals

What kind of law is practiced at your current firm? I work in Real Estate & Civil Litigation Law and my associate works with Probate, Personal Injury and Employment Law. I am also the office manager for the firm.

What is your advice to new paralegals? Really listen and think ahead. Picture what your case will be like a month from now and plan tasks accordingly.

To which paralegal organizations do you belong? The State Bar of Texas (I'm running unopposed for District Director in the Paralegal Division), the Wills for Heroes committee for the Denton Bar Association, and I'm the DCPA Chair for CLE

How do you relax after a tough day at work? I quilt while enjoying a nice bottle of red wine or a shot or two of tequila.



2014 TAPA CONVENTION

The 2014 TAPA Convention was held in Irving, Texas on April 5th and 6th. The Denton County Paralegal Association will be hosting the convention in 2015. Kim Guertler, Cheryl Cooper and Jennifer Stout attended the Leadership Building Seminar and Social Event Friday. Kim Guertler, Cheryl Cooper, Lisa Pittman and Sunnie Palmer represented DCPA at the Convention on Saturday.



DCPA Scholarship Information and Deadlines

Submitted by: Wanda Woodworth, Scholarship Committee Chair

Did you know that DCPA has a member-only certification scholarship fund?

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Must be currently enrolled as a member in good standing now and in the previous year,
- (2) Must be working as a paralegal in Denton County TX
- (3) Must be enrolled to sit, or have recently sat for a recognized paralegal certification examination (i.e., NALA, NFPA or TBLS) and must attach a copy of the exam application fee receipt to the scholarship application,
 - a. NALA Exam

Application filing deadline	Exam Date (Varies)
August 1 st	September 1-30
December 1 st	January 1-30
April 1 st	May 1-31

- b. TBLS Exam

Application filing deadline	Exam Date (Varies)
May 12 th	November 8th

Recipient(s) of the scholarship are selected at the sole discretion of the DCPA Executive Committee and will be announced at the October meeting.

To apply, go to Dentonparalegals.org, from the menu bar select Resources, the select Resources page. Follow the link to download the application form.

NOTE: The application must be received by the Executive Committee on or before September 15th of the current year.



Minutes

1. President Kim Guertler called the meeting of March 27, 2014, to order at 12:02 p. m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 28 attendees (22 members, 4 guests, and 2 guest speakers). President Guertler welcomed guests brought by members Beverly Rezadad and Gloria Porter.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Guertler asked for a vote on the February 2014 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Jennifer Stout and seconded by Christy Rodgers. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Guertler asked for a vote of approval of the February, 2014, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Michelle Beecher and seconded by Priscilla Brooks. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Social Committee Chair Priscilla Brooks announced that members are invited to a social on April 10, 2014, from 6:00 -8:00 p.m. at Fuzzy's on I-35.
5. President Guertler discussed delaying the legal directory publication until January 2015 so that the publication is updated and complete following elections. Member Gloria Porter mentioned that publishing in January 2015 would actually return to the original publishing schedule since most recently we published directories two years in a row, rather than our planned biannual publication. President Guertler asked for a vote for the legal directory to be published in January 2015. Member voted unanimously to approve publication in January 2015. President Guertler said that a legal directory committee chair is still needed; those interested in the position should speak with her.
6. President Guertler announced that the committees need additional volunteers. If you are willing to help, please contact the committee chair of your interested committee or a member of the executive committee.
7. Michelle Beecher announced that the Denton County Bar Association's Wills for Heroes program is assisting members of the Denton County Sheriff's Department this year, the program provides free wills to employees and their spouses. Paralegals are needed to draft documents and to notarize at the will-signing event on May 31, 2014.
8. President Guertler reminded members to renew their membership if they have not already done so.
9. CLE Chair Michelle Beecher introduced the speakers, Earl Dobson and Rick Daniel, who gave a presentation titled, "Understanding the Various Types of Sexual Charges". Upon the conclusion of their presentation, CLE Chair Beecher presented Mr. Dobson and Mr. Daniel with trophies and certificates of appreciation.
10. CLE Chair Beecher announced that Hugh Coleman would be the speaker in March presenting information on employment law.
11. President Guertler reminded everyone about the April 10th social.
12. The speakers drew the name of the door prize winner: Cheryl Cooper who won a \$25 iTunes gift card donated by Randolph W. Stout, P.C.
13. There being no further business, President Guertler 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)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org