

# THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2011

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Schmidt, CLA



Dear Members:

Since my term as president of DCPA is almost over and since November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving, I think I'll let my last message to the membership be one of recounting the gratitude I have for the many members who have worked hard to make DCPA a successful organization. I am also mindful of the many attorneys for whom we work who support our efforts. Some of the members who are on my "gratitude list" are:

**Lisa Bowles** who stepped in as the interim chairperson of both the CLE Committee and the Social Committee. Thanks to Lisa's willingness to head up these two important committees, not to mention the work of her committee members, DCPA has had great CLE speakers and social functions.

**Michelle Beecher** who chaired the CLE Committee for much of the year was the primary person who spearheaded our annual CLE Seminar to meet the new judges of Denton County. It was a huge effort – I know – I helped with a very small part of it.

**Jenna Earhart** served DCPA as chairperson of the Fund Raising Committee and as co-editor of *The Verdict*. It was Jenna's idea for the Silent Auction which raised a lot of money to support our charities.

**Sunnie Palmer** has worked tirelessly for DCPA and for the Paralegal Division of SBOT. Sunnie served this year as Membership Chair, as a speaker for one of our luncheon

meetings, as the District 12 delegate to PD, and she was in charge of getting door-prizes for the TAPS seminar. Now that she is expecting a baby, she will be cutting back on her work load, so that leaves a lot of opportunity for you other members to step up....

**Lisa Pittman** has served as Treasurer of DCPA several years now and this year she served as interim Secretary since September. Lisa has also been the editor of *The Verdict* for longer than I can remember. Additionally, Lisa received an award from the Paralegal Division for her work with the PD's mentoring program. And she is running for Treasurer again for 2012.

**Ava Watson** has served DCPA this year as the Chair of the Legal Directory and as the Historian. Ava and **Debbie Maldonado** have put many, many hours in preparing an up to date and accurate data base for the 2012 Legal Directory. I think you will be proud when you see the new directory next year.

**Gloria Porter** served DCPA this year as Secretary for most of the year and as an experienced advisor for both DCPA and the PD. Gloria was also honored by PD this year for her many years of service to the state organization. Thank you, Gloria, for the countless hours you have dedicated to advancing our profession.

**Jennifer Stout** has taken over as President-elect - soon to be President - for 2012 and she is going to be an excellent President for next year. Likewise, I want to thank **Kim Guertler** and **Ria Sherman** for volunteering to run for Secretary and President-elect, respectively, for next year. I am sure that team will be outstanding.

Thanks to each member who served on a committee doing the work of the organization behind the scenes. I challenge every member of DCPA to get involved working on a committee and helping the 2012 Executive Committee be the very best they can be.

And last, but not least, **thank you to all our sustaining members** who have supported DCPA in all our endeavors: **Stoffels & Associates, The Reporting Professionals, Depo Texas, Zenith Investigations, Stewart Process Service, Arlington Career Institute, and Accurate Concept Insurance.**



**2011 DCPA OFFICERS**

- President – Vicki Schmidt
- President Elect – Jennifer Stout
- Interim Secretary/Parliamentarian – Lisa Pittman
- Treasurer – Lisa Pittman
- Historian – Ava Watson



**2011 DCPA COMMITTEES**

- CLE Committee -
  - Lisa Bowles, Interim Chairman
  - Michelle James
  - Michelle Beecher
  - 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 Snavely

- Newsletter Committee -
  - Lisa Pittman, Chairman

Jennifer Earhart  
Jackie Cox

- Social Committee -
  - Lisa Bowles – Chairman
  - Barbara Denton
  - Pam Snavely
  - Amy Riggs
  - Jennifer Flores



**DCPA WEBSITE**

Check out what's new on our website at [www.dentonparalegals.org](http://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](mailto: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





Our members with December & January birthdays are:



- Ava Watson, 12-5;
- Ria Sherman, 12-20;
- Erin Pack, 12-21;
- Jennifer Flores, 12-29;
- Jodi Moss, 12-29;
- Carla Neal 12-30;
- Season Gayler, 12-30; Ivon Duenes, 12-31;
- Monica Smith, 1-2; Lacey Young, 1-5;
- Juanita Mandy, 1-9; Vicki Schmidt, 1-11;
- Nina Winfrey, 1-21; Carol Pelzel, 1-24;
- Christy Powell, 1-24, Amy Riggs, 1-24

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



The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **November 17, 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](mailto:Vicki@cmloveless.com). The Deadline for making your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, November 14, 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 NOVEMBER MEETING**

- Date: Thursday, November 17, 2011
- Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210
- Time: Noon
1. Welcome members and guests
  2. Old Business
    - A. Approve October minutes
    - B. Approve October treasurer's report
  3. New Business
    - A. Sunnie Palmer –conduct election of officers for 2012
    - B. Committee reports
  4. Adjournment



**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@hbvwlaw.com](mailto:jeahart@hbvwlaw.com). Thank you!

**DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Thanks to our Members who participated this month in donating can goods! With the monetary donations we received and money from our Silent Auction, we were able to purchase enough food for at least **EIGHT** families as well as

gift-cards towards turkeys for each family - Thank you again for your generosity!



CADC Christmas families lists are attached. CADC family Christmas donations can begin being delivered any time before our Holiday Party, but all final donations will be due during the party on December 8th.

All donations can be delivered to Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant at 512 W. Hickory, Suite 100, Denton, Texas 76201, starting now. If you have any questions, please email Jenna Earhart at [jeahart@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:jeahart@hbwvlaw.com) or call at (940) 387-3518. Thank you!!

Our DCPA Holiday Party is set for December 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm at Los Toreros in Denton. We will enjoy an ornament gift exchange - \$5.00 limit, as well as the company of each other. Please plan to join us!



**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](mailto:lpittman@hbwvlaw.com).



**OCTOBER MINUTES**

1. President, Vicki Schmidt, called the meeting of October 27, 2011, to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 41 in attendance, which included 36 members, 5 guests and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the President.

2. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the September meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Jennifer Stout and seconded by Beth Honeycutt, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the September Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Jennifer Stout and seconded by Jennifer Earhart, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. A Special Election to fill the position of President-Elect was conducted. Jennifer Stout was elected as President-Elect with a majority vote.
5. Fund Raising Committee Chair, Jennifer Earhart gave an updated report from the Silent Auction.
6. Membership Committee Chair, Sunnie Palmer announced the nominations for the officers and that the election of officers will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2011.
7. An announcement was made by Jennifer Earhart that canned goods are being collected for the Children's Advocacy Center of Denton County for Thanksgiving. Flyers with details are available for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Wish List Families.
8. Social Committee Chair, Lisa Bowles updated details for the Christmas Social.
9. Interim CLE Chair, Lisa Bowles, introduced the speaker, attorney Charla Bradshaw with KoonsFuller, who presented information on the family law legislative changes.
10. The door prize was won by Linda Lewis.
11. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

