

THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2012

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jennifer Stout

Welcome to 2012, DCPA members! I feel 2012 will be an exciting, challenging and rewarding year for each of us individually and our Association as a whole. However, before we delve into 2012, I would be remiss to close out 2011 without acknowledging the hard work and dedication of our outgoing Officers and Committee Chairs. I want to personally thank our 2011 President, Vicki Schmidt, for a job well done; the help she has already given me and the help she has generously offered me for 2012. Sunnie Palmer, thank you for your continued dedication to DCPA, District 12 and the State Bar of Texas-Paralegal Division. Your knowledge, assistance and contributions to our Paralegal Associations have been unequalled! Good luck in your District 12 Presidency; be assured DCPA is behind you 100%. Ava Watson thank you for your expertise as our Historian, and stepping up as Committee Chair on our Legal Directory Committee. I believe DCPA's Historian torch has been passed to a fine replacement in Vicki Schmidt. Our Social Committee, Wow! What a great bunch of members! My thanks to Lisa Bowles, Barbara Denton, Pam Snavelly and Ria Sherman for pulling together a spectacular Christmas Social. Those members who were unable to join us for our Christmas celebration, you missed a fabulous event. Thank you, ladies! Last, but of course not least, to our many faithful and generous contributors; without your assistance our work would be that much harder. You are truly, truly appreciated! I am sure I have missed something or someone, but please know it is an honest oversight; definitely not intentional. Thanks to all who made DCPA 2011, successful.

Forward 2012!!! No joke, I am a little frightened and unsure of myself in taking over the reins of DCPA, but am excited to be given the opportunity. I hope each and every one of you will have patience with me and tolerate potential fumbblings, possible tumbblings and maybe even a Rick Perry moment (or 2)! I haven't been in the legal private sector for awhile now so I do ask for your tolerance in getting to know

each of you. It may well take me the entire year, but I will and look forward to doing so.

I have been asked about this year's theme. I really did not have one, per se, until recently when a few ideas began rattling around in my brain. The one that stuck was Growth. So, "Growth" it is; my DCPA theme for 2012.

Growth can mean many different things: develop, expand, evolve, enhance, increase, and sometimes change. My goal for 2012 is to push the envelope; strive for excellence; stay fast to our ethics and professionalism; bring advancement and achievement to our Association as a whole and to our members individually. I want us to reflect on where we have been, where we are and where we want to go. Let's all put our collective heads together and collaborate on Growth for 2012.

I feel it is going to be an exhilarating year full of "Growth" for DCPA! Let's get started! See you on January 26, 2012!

Jen

2012 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Jennifer Stout

President Elect – Ria Sherman

Secretary/Parliamentarian – Kim Guertler

Treasurer – Lisa Pittman

Historian – Vicki Schmidt

2012 DCPA COMMITTEES

CLE Committee -

Lisa Bowles, Chairman
Michelle James
Debbie Mitchell
Marguerita Alba
Allison Martin

Fund Raising Committee -

Jenna Earhart, Chairman
Lisa Pittman
Ria Sherman
Michele George

Legal Directory Committee -

Debbie Maldonado, Chairman
Ava Watson
Lisa Pittman

Membership Committee -

Priscilla Brooks, Co-Chairman
Linda Lewis, Co-Chairman
Sunnie Palmer
Jennifer Harris
Denise League
Michelle Beecher
Rachel Huntman

Newsletter Committee -

Lisa Pittman, Chairman
Jennifer Earhart
Wanda Woodworth
Michele George

Social Committee -

Barbara Denton, Co-Chair
Christy Powell, Co-Chair
Pam Snavely
Carolyn Ganzer
Lacee Young
Carol Pelzel

PLEASE NOTE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Due to the increase cost in food & beverages, and to insure there is no increase in cost to DCPA members, the DCPA monthly luncheon meetings will now be held in the smaller banquet room at Oakmont; space will be limited. Therefore, it is imperative you make your reservation to attend and eat or to attend with no lunch.

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **January 26, 2012** 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 jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com. The Deadline for making your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 23, 2012.

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 JANUARY MEETING**

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2012

Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. New Business
 - A. 2012 budget
3. Old Business
 - A. Approve November minutes
 - B. Approve November treasurer's report
4. Speaker – Jay Freeman
5. Door Prizes
5. Adjournment

DCPA WEBSITE

Check out what's new on our website at 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 Priscilla Brooks at Priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com, (940) 349-2758 or Linda Lewis at linda@dentonfamilyattorneys.com, (940) 591-1191.

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
-

BIRTHDAYS!



Our members with February birthdays are:

Jennifer Harris (2-10);
Debbie Mitchell (2-10);
Ruthann Stovall (2-14);
Adriana Sanchez (2-14);
Glenda Hill (2-18);

Kim Guertler (2-19); and Bruce Stewart (2-22)

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

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Our Speaker this month is Jay Freeman with Accurate Concept Insurance who will be speaking about "The Texas Safety Responsibility Law and the Ethical Treatment of Your Client, What Every Criminal Defense Attorney Must Know."



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. Thank you!

REMINDER: If you have not already completed the "Getting To Know You" questionnaire please take a moment to fill it out and forward to Ria Sherman at ria@cokerlegal.com. The questionnaire is attached.

DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fund-Raiser Event - Cookie Grams!

It's that time of year where we love to bring a smile to the faces to those we love and care about - why not show them this year by gifting them a Cookie Gram - Homemade cookies and goodies made by our Members stuffed in a Valentine keepsake box and adorned with a brief message from you!

The order form is attached to this month's *The Verdict*. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it with your payment. Please complete an order form for EACH Cookie Gram you wish to be sent. If you have any questions,

please contact Jenna Earhart at (940) 387-3518 or by email at jeahart@hbwvlaw.com If you would like to donate some goodies, please contact Jenna as soon as possible to discuss what is needed and the deadline to drop off the goodies. Thank you!



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!

Brent Ballow @ Depo Texas
 Jay Freeman @ Accurate Concept Insurance
 Dana Miller @ Zenith Investigations
 Cheryl Perlich @ The Reporting Professionals
 Claudia Stapleton @ Arlington Career Institute
 Bruce Stewart @ Stewart Process Service Inc
 Janel Stoffels @ Stoffels & Associates Inc.

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.

NOVEMBER MINUTES

1. President, Vicki Schmidt, called the meeting of November 17, 2011, to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 22 in attendance, which included 21 members and 1 guest, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the October meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Beth Honeycutt and seconded by Carolyn Ganzer, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the October Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Ria Sherman and seconded by Juanita Mandy, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. Membership Chair, Sunnie Palmer asked for nominations from the floor. Gloria Porter nominated Ria Sherman for President-Elect, Kim Guertler for

Secretary and Lisa Pittman for Treasurer. Sunnie Palmer passed out paper ballots to active members present. Sunnie Palmer collected the ballots and together with the proxy votes, gave the Polling Report: 31 ayes – Ria Sherman/President-Elect; 31 ayes - Kim Guertler/Secretary and 31 ayes - Lisa Pittman/Treasurer. There were no nays for any candidates.

5. President Schmidt asked for Committee Reports. Lisa Pittman gave the Newsletter Committee report, Sunnie Palmer gave the Membership Committee report and Election Results, Jennifer Earhart gave the Fundraising Committee report and Ava Watson gave the Legal Directory Committee report with a status update on the printing of Legal Directory.
6. President-Elect, Jennifer Stout encouraged members to consider service on the various committees and to sign up on the Committee Sign-Up sheets located on each table which would be collected and would contact each Committee and the Executive Board to schedule a meeting at a later date.
7. Door prize was won by Christy Powell.
8. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

