

THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2012

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1	Benefits of DCPA Membership	3	Tip of the Month	5
2012 DCPA Officers	1	DCPA Scholarship News	3	Legal Directory	5
2012 DCPA Committees	1-2	Birthday Congratulations	3	Support Our Sustaining Members	5
Meeting Notice	2	Events/News	3-4	Employment Opportunities	5
Agenda for DCPA Meeting	2	Speakers	3	Minutes	5
DCPA Website	2	DCPA Fundraising Announcements	3-4		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jennifer Stout

WOW, summer is almost over and school (for all ages) is right around the corner! This is an extremely busy time of year for all of us; a time of big Change.

Each of our firms are closing out 2012, and preparing for 2013. In our offices the 2013 fiscal budget process is in full swing; contracts and leases are being negotiated for a new year which starts October 1. Needless to say there is a flurry of activity, intensity and long days. All of our respective attorneys are working feverishly on legal matters that need to be completed by the end of the year and we, as their paralegals, are working even harder to make sure those ends are accomplished. In Family Law matters, divorces are slowing down but enforcement and custody issues are increasing. It is a time when we as paralegals step up our game; our skills are needed more than ever, are being tested and ultimately appreciated.

This is also the time when we as individuals, using our legal knowledge and paralegal skills, should research, review and become familiar with the political agendas of our Presidential candidates to determine who will best serve the interests of our Country and ultimately us and our families, in 2013. The Legislature reconvenes in January so this is the ideal time to change those laws on the books that are silly, crazy, unfair or totally outdated. Contact your Congressman and persuade your attorney to do the same. Whatever the subject matter, whether personal to you or it effects the entire Country, let your Congressman know how you feel, why you feel it and the reasons you feel change is necessary and needed.

In our positions as Para-professionals we have the skills, knowledge and power to demand Change and to see it happen.

So, as the temperatures cool down and the foliage begins to change, let us embrace the power that we have as

paralegals to work diligently and effectively on Change in 2013.

Hope to see all of you at our half-day seminar in September; it promises to be great, and some of you at TAPS.

Continue to learn and impress!

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

Fund Raising Committee -

Jenna Earhart, Chairman
Lisa Pittman
Ria Sherman
Michele George

Legal Directory Committee -

Debbie Maldonado, Chairman
Lisa Pittman

Membership Committee -

Priscilla Brooks, Co-Chairman
Linda Lewis, Co-Chairman
Sunnie Palmer
Jennifer Harris
Michelle Beecher

Rachel Hunteman

Newsletter Committee -

- Lisa Pittman, Chairman
- Jennifer Earhart
- Wanda Woodworth
- Michele George

Social Committee -

- Christy Powell, Co-Chair
- Pam Snavelly, Co-Chair
- Carolyn Ganzer
- Carol Pelzel

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)



PLEASE NOTE: EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2012

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. And per policy if you RSVP and do not attend an invoice will be sent to cover the expense.

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association’s next Luncheon will be on Thursday, *August 23, 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, August 20, 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.

AGENDA FOR AUGUST MEETING

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012

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

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business - Approve July minutes and Treasurer's report
3. New Business - TAPS Scholarship recipient (if any)
4. Speaker - Bryan Rice
5. Door prizes and 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kelly Smith, Hammerle Finley Law Firm, *Active*

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

DCPA SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Scholarship Committee offers a \$250.00 scholarship annually towards certification and we urge members to apply. The scholarship application is on our DCPA website for your convenience.

Remember, there is still time to get in your applications for NALA (National Association of Legal Assistants) certification. The fees are \$275.00 for non-members and retake fees are \$60.00 per section.

Application filing deadline
 August 1st
 December 1st
 April 1st

Exam Date
 September 1-30
 January 1-31
 May 1-31

The Executive Board will be choosing a TAPS Scholarship recipient prior to the monthly meeting. Anyone interested in the TAPS scholarship this year should apply immediately."

Attached is a copy of the Application and Instructions. For more information, please call Michele George at (940) 387-3158 or Ria Sherman at (940) 566-6649.

BIRTHDAYS!



Our members with September birthdays are:

- Jennifer Earhart (Sept 3)
- Angela Juarez (Sept 16)
- Stephanie Elvington (Sept 19)
- Cheryl Perlich (Sept 21)
- Kimberly Spivey (Sept 23)

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



Our Speaker this month is Bryan Rice whose topic will be: "Everything You Want to Know About Business Evaluations and Characterizations."

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 yearhart@hbvwlaw.com. Thank you!

2012 TAPS

TAPS will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas, October 3 – 5, 2012. **Early registration deadline is August 24th**. See attached flyer for more information or visit www.txpd.org.

DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let the Silent Auction BEGIN!!

TENATIVE DATE FOR THE SILENT AUCTION: The DCPA Silent Auction will be either October 11, 2012 or October 18, 2012 from 5:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m., and will take place at Joseph Zellmer's office located at 620 W. Hickory, Denton, Texas 76201. Ice Cream yummy goodness will be provided, so please feel free to bring your child(ren)!!



If you have not yet committed to donating an item and would like to, please send me an email with your commitment form so I can be sure to follow up with you. Our first annual silent auction was a big hit with our Members, so we are gearing up for our Second Annual Silent Auction benefitting our Thanksgiving and Christmas families. This year we have set in place FIVE very exciting categories to help our Members decide where their own talents might lay. Categories are as follows: Baby, Baked Goods, Gift Boxes, Photography/Art and Theme Baskets.

This is what we are looking for in each Category:

- ▶ **Baby** - Hand-made: blankets, clothes, hats, bibs, bags, etc.
- ▶ **Baked Goods** - Hand-made: pies, quiche, cookies, cakes, etc.
- ▶ **Gift Boxes Stuffed with Fun** - Birthday, Christmas, Pamper, Goodies, Crafts, Teachers, Boys, Girl, etc.
- ▶ **Photography/Art** - Hand-made: Photo session, Framed Art, Paintings, Drawings, Woodwork, etc.
- ▶ **Theme Baskets** - grab another Member or two, and create a theme basket of your choosing and create something fun. Some theme ideas include: movie, pamper, bbq, scrapbooking, Nascar, sports, cooking, games, candles, music, etc.

Remember - these items will be great for tackling early Christmas shopping, upcoming birthdays and baby showers too. Be sure to participate during the bidding at the Auction - donations are great, bidding wars are even better!!

Our **deadline of September 17, 2012** is fast approaching, so if you have your item(s) completed, we are accepting those donations now. You may bring those items to our monthly luncheons, drop it off at Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP at 512 W. Hickory, Suite 100, Denton, Texas or contact Jenna Earhart at (940) 387-3518 and/or jeahart@hbwvlaw.com, so we can arrange to pick it up.

THANK YOU to those who have signed up to donate an item to the Silent Auction! All proceeds will benefit our Thanksgiving and Christmas families we assist with each year so if everyone can participate, this event will be a success.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



A big THANK YOU to the members that contributed monetary or school supply donations toward the Children's Advocacy Center of Denton County!

Another big THANK YOU to both Lisa Pittman and Jennifer Earhart for taking all monetary donations and shopping for supplies as well. Great work Members!!

IN THE KNOW By Wanda Woodworth

Talking with: Stephenie Taylor

Employed by law firm/company: Sally Beauty Holdings, Inc. "Sally Beauty Supply", Real Estate Dept.

Years experience: 4 years

What made you want to become a paralegal? *I actually worked in a Sally Beauty Supply store in Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1990. I decided to attend beauty school where I became a cosmetologist and owned my own salon for 14 years. A tip from a client got me to apply at the Sally headquarters in Denton and we moved from Oklahoma in 2007.*

The Legal Dept Attorney I worked with suggested I get my Paralegal Certificate so I applied with PDI of UNT and soon afterwards obtained my certification. I then furthered my career by becoming a Certified Paralegal through NALA. I then obtained a Paralegal position as Lease Negotiator for our Real Estate Dept.

What type of law does your atty practice? *Technically, the attorney covers several types of law for the corporation. We focus on the Real Estate section. Our team has negotiated leases for over 4,000 Sally Beauty Supply locations, as well as leases for our professional entity, Beauty Systems Group LLC, d/b/a "CosmoProf", which currently totals close to 1000 stores.*

What was it like being a new paralegal? *They taught me what I needed to know and groomed me for the Real Estate section. I don't do anything with other facets of law. It is a busy job as I also review renewals.*

How many paralegals are at your current firm? *There are currently two paralegals in the Real Estate section.*

What kind of law is practiced at your current firm/company? *Real Estate*

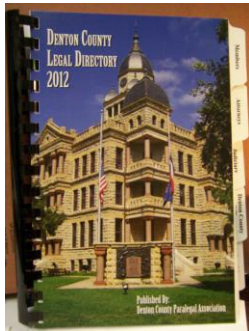
What is your advice to new paralegals? *It is stressful and my advice is "Don't Give Up!!" You'll be extremely busy and will have to work hard. Be open to new ideas and learn to like changes, definitely be used to change!*

To which paralegal organizations do you belong? *I belong to NALA and the DCPA. I am waiting for NALA to offer the advanced Real Estate certification and I will seek to achieve that goal once it becomes available.*

Additional Education/Certifications: *I have my Real Estate license.*

How do you relax after a tough day at work? *I am family oriented and like to travel with my husband and 2 kids. We like movies and traveling. My husband and I are Real Estate Agents with Small World Realty and are very excited about working as a Team.*

TIP OF THE MONTH



Members, please get your 2012 Legal Directory if you haven't already picked it up! 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. See attached Order Form. This is a great resource! Get yours today! For more information contact Debbie Maldonado at (940) 387-0404 or Debbie@spinger-lyle.com.



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

Jay Freeman @ Accurate Concept Insurance
 Dana Miller @ Zenith Investigations
 Cheryl Perlich @ The Reporting Professionals
 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.

1. President Stout called the meeting of July 26, 2012, to order at 12:03 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 35 in attendance, which included 33 members, one guest and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Stout asked for a vote of approval of the June minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Carolyn Ganzer and seconded by Ria Sherman, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Stout asked for approval of the Treasurer's Report. A motion for approval was presented by Ria Sherman and seconded by Toya Phillips, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. Under new business, President Stout reported that the menu and costs for the ½ day seminar in September needed to be determined. President Stout also opened up discussion on whether the DCPA Scholarship should be offered as a TAPS scholarship during 2012.
5. Lisa Bowles introduced the speaker, Jacqueline Cannon, who presented information on the topic of child support.
6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m

JULY MINUTES