

THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Schmidt, CLA



Dear members:

One of the big banks sends their monthly mortgage statements in an envelope bearing the slogan "Do one thing different and make a difference." When you stop and think about it, don't we all have a daily routine that guides us through the day without much need to think about what happens next? What if you change up your routine, ask some one else to handle some of "your" tasks so more people know how to do that task, take on new tasks yourself, examine new ways to handle an established task. Well you get the idea – how can you "do one thing different" when you are already fully scheduled?

Some people who recently made a difference for DCPA are the members of the Social Committee, Lisa Bowles, Chairperson, who planned and executed the social event at the Pourhouse that many of us enjoyed. Thanks to you from all of us who really enjoyed the opportunity to visit and network with our members.

I challenge each of you to make a difference in our professional organization by making a decision to participate in DCPA by joining a new committee, by volunteering to be a committee chair, or by volunteering for an elected position for the 2012 executive committee.

At this time there is an immediate need to fill the seat of President-Elect for 2012. As I stated in my email to the members last week, our bylaws call for the membership to

nominate and elect a new President Elect at the next regularly scheduled meeting, which will be later this month.

I am really grateful to Lisa Bowles for filling in on an interim basis since she is also the Social Committee chair.

There is also a vacancy in the Secretary's office which is being temporarily filled by Lisa Pittman. I really appreciate Lisa's dedication to the DCPA because as you know she also fills the positions of Treasurer and newsletter editor.

I believe it is in the best interest of DCPA for the responsibilities of the executive committee and the leadership of the committees to be spread out among the membership so if any of you are interested in the Secretary's position for the remainder of the year, please contact me to discuss it.

It is time for each member of DCPA to consider how you can do one thing different so you can help make a difference– for instance, by taking on a new position in our organization.

I'll see you at our meeting on September 29th. Come prepared to vote on a new President Elect. And – thanks to all of you who have already made a difference in the Denton County Paralegal Association.

2011 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Vicki Schmidt

President Elect – vacant

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 Snavelly

Newsletter Committee -

Lisa Pittman, Chairman
Jennifer Earhart
Jackie Cox

Social Committee -

Lisa Bowles – Chairman
Barbara Denton
Pam Snavelly
Amy Riggs
Jennifer Flores

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 Sunnie Palmer at 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

BIRTHDAYS

Our members with October birthdays are:

Michelle James (10-3);
Michelle Beecher (10-5);
Michael Garcia (10-5);
Elizabeth Armentrout (10-8);
Stephanie Taylor (10-8);



Rachel Huntman (10-15); Kathleen Sandlin (10-29);
Gloria Porter (10-31); and Barbara Shields (10-31)

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

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **September 29, 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. The Deadline for making

your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 26, 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 SEPTEMBER MEETING

- Date: Thursday, September 29, 2011
- Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
- Time: Noon
1. Welcome members and guests
 2. Old Business
Approve the August Minutes and Treasurer's report
 3. New Business
Special Election to Elect President-Elect
 4. Speaker: Rick Hagen on Criminal Legislative Changes and Sam Burke on Civil Legislative Changes
 5. Door prizes and adjournment



SEPTEMBER SPEAKER INFORMATION



Our Speaker this month is Attorney Rick Hagen with Jackson & Hagen who will be speaking about criminal legislative changes.

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@hbvvlaw.com. Thank you!

REMINDER: ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29TH.

**Special Paralegal Division Awarded
Presented to Lisa Pittman
Submitted by Sunnie Palmer, PD District 12 Director**

At the August membership meeting, Gloria Porter and Vicki Schmidt presented Lisa Pittman a Special Appreciation Award from the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas for Lisa's work bringing the PD's Mentor/Protégé Program to fruition.

The Special Appreciation Award is voted on by the Paralegal Division (PD) Board of Directors and is only given for special merit. Lisa was presented the award for her work, largely behind the scenes, to get the mentor/protégé program going. As Public Relations committee chair, Lisa had many other duties including working on every PD flyer and brochure, promoting every PD activity, service and event, and keeping track of sub-chairs in 15 districts. In addition to that, she connected mentors and protégés with each other. She was creative in finding new ways to match protégés and mentors. When she turned over the Public Relations committee to her successor, she had placed every protégé applicant with a mentor.

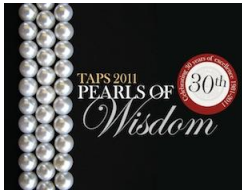
In addition to serving the PD, Lisa has served as the DCPA Secretary. She currently serves as the DCPA Treasurer and is also chair of the newsletter committee.



yummy goodness will be provided, so please feel free to bring your child(ren)!!

To view some of the items already donated – please visit the Denton County Paralegal Association on Facebook. We've had a great turn out so far and the talent of our Members is so wonderful and creative - Be sure to check it out! If you see an item you donated on our Facebook page, please feel free to add additional comments about your item.

Thank you to those who have committed to participate in this event!



TAPS 2011 - FORT WORTH, TEXAS
October 5-7, 2011

TAPS 2011 will be held October 5-7, 2011 at the Marriott Hotel (DFW) & Golf Resort. *See flyer attached.*

For additional information regarding TAPS visit the PD website: www.txpd.org



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@hbwlaw.com.

DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT AUCTION UPDATE!!



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.

PLEASE READ: If you *have* committed to donating an item, please get it to Jenna Earhart as soon as possible. You may bring your item(s) to be donated to our September luncheon, 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@hbwlaw.com, so we can arrange to pick it up.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The DCPA Silent Auction is on **Thursday, October 13, 2011** 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

AUGUST MINUTES

1. President, Vicki Schmidt, called the meeting of August 25, 2011, to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 21 in attendance, which included 20 members and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the July meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Ava Watson and seconded by Carolyn Ganzer, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the August Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Christine Piott and seconded by Denise League, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. Social Committee Chair, Lisa Bowles, announced that a social would be held on Friday, September 16, 2011 at the Pourhouse Sports Grill at 3350 Unicorn Lake Blvd., Denton, Texas, and that details would be forthcoming.

5. Lisa Pittman made a report on the school supply drive.
6. President Schmidt and Gloria Porter presented Lisa Pittman an award from the State Bar Paralegal Division for her work as Public Relations Chair and the Division's Mentor/Protégé program.
7. CLE Membership Chair, Michelle Beecher, introduced the speaker, Michelle Houston, Executive Director of the Denton County Bar Association, who presented information on the Denton County Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (DCAP) and the Denton County Bar.
8. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

