

the VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Schmidt, CLA



Guten Tag DCPA Members:

As you may remember, when you read this I will be in Germany with the Paralegal Division annual "educational" trip. I hope all of you will attend the April DCPA meeting and get a lot of helpful information from our speaker, Michele Boerder.

On behalf of DCPA, I attended the annual meeting of Texas paralegal associations. There were 35 different organizations represented at the day-long meeting held in Amarillo, Texas. Each group related the accomplishments and issues facing their organization. I got many good ideas from this meeting and I have already held a meeting with the Executive Committee and the Committee Chairs to go over some of those ideas. One of the most appealing was the idea that DCPA check out a website management program and consider hosting and managing the DCPA website instead of going through an outside webmaster. Gloria Porter sent an email asking for members who are interested on serving on an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility and we have received several volunteers. THANKS GALS!!! We will be following up on that in early May.

The Austin Paralegal Association, Capital Area Paralegal Association uses the management program and has a Web team who makes changes to their website themselves, so if you are interested, look at the CAPA website: www.capatx.org

I also got some interesting ideas for the social committee, the treasurer and the fund raising committees. More on that later...Unfortunately, we need to appoint a new chairperson for the Social Committee. This committee will need to meet very soon to plan a summer social. If you can step into that job, please contact the Executive Committee.

Until next month - Auf Wiedersehen!

2011 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Vicki Schmidt
President Elect – Michelle Beecher
Secretary/Parliamentarian – Gloria Porter
Treasurer – Lisa Pittman
Historian – Ava Watson

2011 DCPA COMMITTEES

CLE Committee -
Michelle Beecher, Chairman
Lisa Bowles
Michelle James
Christine Piott

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

Newsletter Committee -

Lisa Pittman, Chairman
Jennifer Earhart
Jackie Cox

Social Committee -

Jennifer Flores – Chairman
Barbara Denton
Pam Snavelly
Landra Turner
Amy Riggs

Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee-

Information not available at this time

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

Claudia Stapleton, *Arlington Career Institute*, Sustaining Member

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 May birthdays are:
Michelle Merritt (5-3);
Georgya Rankin (5-4);
Kathy Klein (5-11);
Allison Martin (5-16);
Linda Lewis (5-20);
Laura Henggeler (5-28);
Denise League (5-31)

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

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association April Luncheon will be on Thursday, **April 28, 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 gporterdcpa@gmail.com. **The Deadline for making your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, April 25, 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 APRIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2011

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

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
 Approve the March Minutes and
 Treasurer’s report
3. Introduction of guest speaker by Michelle
 Beecher; Guest Speaker – Michelle
 Boerder
4. Door prizes and adjournment

APRIL SPEAKER INFORMATION



Our Speaker this month is Michele Boerder, NALA Certified Paralegal and TBLS Certified in Civil Trial Law. Ms. Boerder is an Ambassador for the State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division, and she will be speaking about the “Benefits of Being Certified”.

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!

TAPS 2011

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

PD Members: Scholarships are available to attend TAPS if you need financial assistance. For information regarding TAPS visit the PD website: www.txpd.org

DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENT

SILENT AUCTION



Donation Sign Ups are now being accepted. – We have received some emails with items willing to be donated – a huge **THANK YOU** to those who have done that already! We definitely need more participation to make this Silent Auction a success – remember the proceeds will benefit our Thanksgiving and Christmas families we assist with each year.

Items we are looking for include: baked goods, plants, jewelry, skin care goodies, baby blankets, photography, monogrammed items, etc. If you do something as a hobby or a part-time job on the side or have a special talent in creating or making items - this is what we are looking for!

Please email Jenna Earhart, Fundraising Committee Chair, at jeahart@hbvwlaw.com or call at (940) 387-3518, with your donation commitment. Deadline to turn in your donated item(s) is September 16, 2011.



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@hbvwlaw.com.

MARCH MINUTES

1. President, Vicki Schmidt, called the meeting of March 31, 2011, to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 35 in attendance, which included 31 members, 3 guests, and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Schmidt advised that because of the annual seminar in February, the monthly meeting was not held. President Schmidt advised that the minutes of the January meeting were included in the February newsletter, and asked for a vote of approval. A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Ava Watson and seconded by Lisa Bowles, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Schmidt advised that the current Treasurer's Report was in the March newsletter and asked for a vote of approval. A motion for approval was presented by Michelle Beecher and seconded by Jennifer Stout, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. President Schmidt announced that an article about the Association's annual half day CLE on February 24, 2011, had been published in the Denton County Bar Association newsletter and distributed with the DCPA newsletter. President Schmidt congratulated CLE Chair, Michelle Beecher, and the CLE Committee Members for an excellent job in producing the seminar, and the attendees gave the Committee a round of applause.
5. President Schmidt asked if there was any old or new business that needed discussion. There was none.
6. President Schmidt mentioned the President's message in the newsletter regarding being inspired to change. She said along those lines she was embarking on a new adventure by touring Germany in April with 25 people she did not know, and would be gone the week of the April meeting. She announced that President-Elect, Michelle Beecher, would be conducting the April meeting.
7. Michelle Beecher, CLE Chair, introduced the speaker, Rick Robertson with the law firm of KoonsFuller, who presented "*Social Networking in Discovery.*"
8. Beth Honeycutt won the monthly drawing for the gift presented by the Association.
9. Michelle Beecher announced that the firms of Alagood & Cartwright and Earl Dobson were sponsoring a social on April 7th at Dan's Silverleaf for the new UNT Football Coach, and that everyone was invited.
10. President Schmidt apologized to the attendees for the lack of adequate seating and food, and explained that DCPA is required to give Oakmont the number of attendees prior to the meeting for seating arrangements and preparation of food, and that only 22 had confirmed attendance at this meeting. Everyone was encouraged to confirm their attendance in the future.
11. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

