

**Special Interest
Articles:**

Valentine's Day Grams

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Denton County Paralegal Association



Valentine's Day Grams

The **Denton County Paralegal Association** is holding its annual fundraiser selling Valentine's Day Grams. This year the valentine gram will be a valentine box filled to the brim with lovingly homemade baked goods and candy along with a personalized message tag (see the example above). You may order for friends, co-workers, teachers, and/or family members for \$5.00 each. Valentine Gram deliveries in the Denton City Limits are available this year, a \$1.00 delivery charge is in effect. Therefore, the costs for each delivered Valentine Gram will be \$6.00.

Deadline for order submission is February 5, 2020. Valentine grams can be picked up at Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP, 512 W. Hickory, Suite 100, Denton, Texas 76201 on Thursday, February 13, 2019 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Deliveries, if requested on your order form, will be made on Thursday, February 14, 2019. Payment must be made by check or cash submitted with your Order Form to Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant. Please make checks payable to DCPA.

DCPA members may make payments online at DCPA's website: <http://www.dentonparalegals.org> once your Order Form has been submitted via e-mail to Diana Dillinger at ddillinger@hbwvlaw.com or Krystal Novas at knovas@hbwvlaw.com.

The Denton County Paralegal Association's Luncheons are held on the third Thursday of month, except December, at noon at Oakmont Country Club, 1200 Clubhouse Drive, Corinth, Texas.

2020 Officers

Holly McDuffie, President
holly@cmloveless.com

Carla Pressly, President-Elect
Carla@youngbergfamilylaw.com

Sharron Dowdle,
Secretary/Parliamentarian
sharron@littelfamilylawfirm.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Jennifer Earhart, Historian
jearhart@hbvwlaw.com

Did you know...

We have streamlined the online registration process! Go to the DCPA website at <http://dentonparalegals.org/>. Under the Upcoming Events blue bar click the Monthly Luncheon & CLE link, then click the Register tab and provide the requested information. When registering online, you must indicate whether you plan to attend the CLE and pay for lunch, or will attend the CLE only. We encourage you to make the buffet lunch payment online. If you prefer to pay at the door, you can choose to receive an invoice during the registration process.

Online Registration Is Required! The deadline to register for each month's meeting is the Monday prior to the meeting. Be sure to complete the registration sequence to notify us that you will either attend the CLE and purchase lunch, or will attend the CLE only. That will help us ensure Oakmont is prepared for the number of guests who will go through the buffet line, and that we provide adequate seating for those attending CLE only. **Please note we must bill individuals who register for lunch even if they are unable to attend.**

2020 Committee Chairs

CLE, Kimberly Spivey
kim.spivey@hotmail.com

Fundraising, *Vacant*

Legal Directory, Lisa Pittman
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Membership, Jodi Moss
jodi@nelsonlawgroup.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Scholarship, Laura Powers
Laura.powers@abdhlaw.com

Social, Carla Pressly
carla@youngbergfamilylaw.com

Directions to Oakmont

Oakmont Country Club is located in Corinth off I-35 East between Lewisville and Denton.

- Exit 461 – Shady Grove Road/Post Oak Drive
- Turn west onto Post Oak Drive
- Turn right (west) onto Robinson Road at stop sign
- Turn left (south) onto Oakmont Drive – you will see an Oakmont sign in the median
- Turn right into Clubhouse Drive (second right)

President's Message

By: Holly McDuffie

I first want to say that I am so very appreciative for the 2019 Executive Committee. Everyone has been so wonderful in helping me to slide into some very big shoes. I am so thankful for each of you for all you do, not just for me as incoming President, but your hard work and dedication to DCPA.

I believe this year can be one of our greatest. We have some amazing things already in the works and still some planning to do. All the great ideas for projects, fundraisers and events will require our members to pull together to reach our goals. I am really looking forward to seeing more and more member involvement this year, as we all know that the Paralegal really is the superhero.

I know we all juggle many hats, and daily life can get chaotic, and crazy busy, but I am aware of the sheer determination of a Paralegal. I know that if we give what we can to DCPA this year, things will fall into place and our goals will be reached. Please think about where your talents can be used as a member of DCPA, and reach out to the Executive Committee or the Committee Chairs in order to get plugged in! If you think you would like to chair a committee with an open slot, please reach out and let us know. We would love to put your talents and skills to use! One of the best things I experienced was being invited to a luncheon for my first time, and I knew then I wanted to do what I could to help this great organization grow. Remember to encourage your co-workers and other paralegals you know to join DCPA, or come to a monthly luncheon and let them check it out for themselves.

Thank you all for your encouragement and faith in me, as your President, and the new 2020 Executive Committee and Committee Chairs. I look forward to working and growing with each of you as part of DCPA.

Members Birthdays

Our members with January, February and March Birthdays are:

January

Brenda Raz (1/1)

Joni Barr (1/9)

Crysti Hoots (1/9)

Sharron Dowdle (1/10)

Amy Hoffee (1/24)

February

Caitlin Harris (2/3)

Toya Brown-Phillips (2/5)

Jennifer Harris (2/10)

Julia Christman (2/13)

Kim Guertler (2/19)

March

Krystal Novas (3/3)

Amanda Peachee (3/12)

Lisa Pittman (3/14)

Kimberly Shields (3/16)

Heather Collard (3/19)

Brandi Greathouse (3/20)

Holly Keen (3/30)

Lisa Bowles (3/31)

Kimberly Shelton (3/31)

We hope each of you will have a very **Happy Birthday!**



Committee News

Social Committee

By Carla Pressly, Chair

Thank you Paralegals for the stocking stuffer items you contributed to the ladies of the Friends of the Family. I was so touched by your generosity. We had enough to stuff 22 stockings! You ladies are awesome! For next year I have already purchased green stockings to do this again.

I would also like to thank everyone for coming to the Christmas Social in December 2019 entitled *Winter Elegance*. We had a great turnout! The musical entertainment was from *Further Gone Music* who sang and played some of our Christmas favorites. By popular demand we had Three of Our Favorite Things exchange again. This exchange was so much fun!!! Thank you again to Krystal Novas and *On Point Contracting* for the donation of numerous VISA gift cards, to Julia Christman for the two Avon products donations, to Hayes Berry White Vanzant for their financial donation and my husband's employer DFW Movers and Erectors for their financial donation. The Committee could not have blessed each paralegal without their contributions. A big thank you to Krystal Novas and Diana Dillinger for their dedication and hard work to make this event a success.

I already have 2 ideas for the Christmas Social in 2020. You never gnome...you might be able to crack the nut and figure out what my ideas are!!!! Lol

I am hoping to have a retreat in 2020 but will have to see if the funds are there to schedule same.

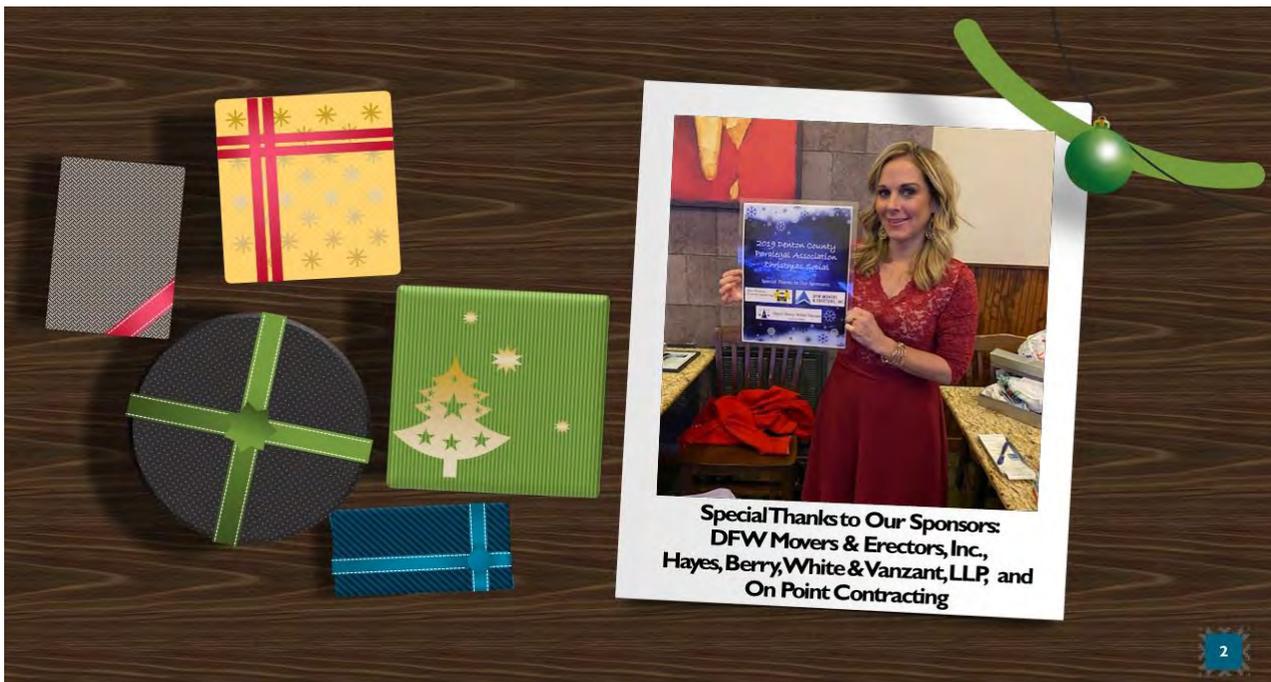
So many fun ideas for 2020...so stay tuned!!!

Attached on the following pages are pictures from our 2019 Christmas Social.

2019 Denton County Paralegal Christmas Social



1



2





3



4



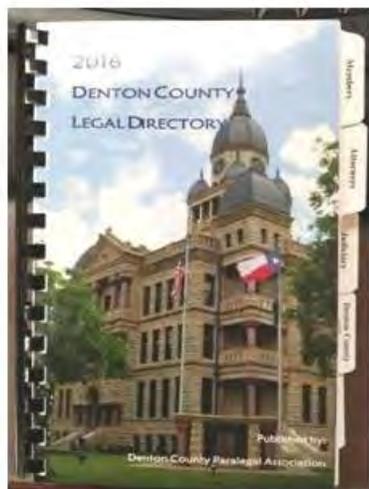


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Legal Directory



The Legal Directory Committee of the Denton County Paralegal Association has copies of our Denton County Legal Directory available!

There are two options: a bound hard copy or a digital copy of the directory contained on a flash drive. We are very pleased with the finished product and are certain you will be also!

If you, or someone you know, would like to purchase one of these directories, please contact Lisa Pittman at (940) 387-3518.

Digital directory - \$15.00 (\$2.50 Shipping Fee)

Bound directory - \$22.00 (\$4.50 Shipping Fee)

Both directories - \$35.00 (\$6.50 Shipping Fee).

If you prefer to pick up a copy at no additional cost, you may do so, with advance notice to Lisa Pittman, Treasurer at (940) 387-3518 or lpittman@hbwvlaw.com.

Checks should be made payable to Denton County Paralegal Association and mailed to P.O. Box 2641, Denton, Texas 76202.

August Meeting Minutes

As Approved by the Membership on September 26, 2019

President Elect Cindy Moon called the meeting held on this date to order at 12:09 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club in Corinth. President Elect welcomed both members and guests.

OLD BUSINESS

The June Minutes were approved first by Beth Honeycutt and seconded by Daphina Park.

The July Minutes were approved by Lisa Bowles and seconded by Kim Spivey. All Approved -None Opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. President Elect Cindy Moon announced the school supply drive for Friends of the Family was well received. Said delivery took place on August 1, 2019.
2. President Elect, Cindy Moon, announced this week was the last call to sign up for the DCPA team. If anyone has an interest in being on the Executive Committee or Membership Committee, please feel free to sign up.
3. President Elect Moon announced that the Social Committee is finalizing the plans for Paralegal Day on October 23rd. Due to popular demand, we will once again celebrate Paralegal Day at the Denton Movie Tavern. The DCPA will provide complimentary dinner and a movie. Any alcoholic drinks or item not on the prep-selected menu will be at sole expense of the paralegal.
4. President Elect Cindy Moon touched base regarding the Christmas Party in December which will also benefit the Friends of the Family with "Stockings For Mom." More information regarding same will be announced in the near future.
5. Holly McDuffie announced name tabs are being worked on and will have those available soon.
6. Kim Spivey announced that due to the DCPA luncheon being changed to September 26, 2019 due to TAPS, the September Speaker will be Mr. Mark Baumann.
7. Holly McDuffie spoke on behalf of the Fundraising Committee to announce the Prom Rewind coming up on October 19, 2019 from 7 – 10 p.m. Cost is \$45.00 per couple or \$25.00 for an individual. \$5.00 from each ticket will be donated to charity. Flyers were placed on the table. Holly would be glad to assist you, should you have any questions. Please note the new email address:
hollyhobbie79@gmail.com.
8. President Elect Cindy Moon introduced the August Speaker, Tamera Bennett.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Elect Moon adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

September Meeting Minutes

As Approved by the Membership on October 22, 2019

President Jenna Earhart called the meeting held on this date to order at 12:00 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club in Corinth. President welcomed both members and four guests totaling 20 paralegals.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made to change an incorrect word in the previous July Minutes in order to replace the word July with the word June. Said motion was Approved by Diana Dillinger and seconded by Pam Snavelly. All Approved, Non Opposed.

A Motion to accept the August Minutes was approved by Heather Collard and seconded by Krystal Novas. All Approved, None Opposed.

The Treasurer's Report was approved by Samantha Stewart and seconded by Martha Gallegos. All Approved, Non Opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. President Jenna Earhart alongside President Elect Cindy Moon announced Cindy would be moving out-of-state. Her last day at Reecer would be October 4, 2019. President Earhart presented Cindy with a cake and acknowledged her vast contributions to the organization.

2. President Earhart announced we are now in need of a President for the 2020 DCPA team. If anyone has an interest in this position, please contact Holly McDuffie.

3. President Earhart announced there are various positions still open. However, you must be an Active Member for no less than one year to apply. She stated further that voting will take place at the end of next month.

4. President Elect Cindy Moon addressed the members and guests. Cindy advised this decision was not taken lightly. She enjoyed and loved her position and time on the board.

5. President Elect Moon announced that the Social Committee is finalizing the plans for Paralegal Day on October 23rd. Due to popular demand, we will once again celebrate Paralegal Day at the Denton Movie Tavern. The DCPA will provide complimentary dinner and a movie. Any alcoholic drinks or item not on the prep-selected menu will be at sole expense of the paralegal. The movie we will be seeing is The Addams Family. Cindy asked that everyone bring a can good(s) for Friends of the Family.

6. President Elect/Social Chairman announced Carla Pressly, Social Committee Member, would step up and finish the year with the two remaining scheduled activities: Paralegal Day and the DCPA Christmas Party,

Carla Pressly announced she would accept the Interim Social Chairman job to finish the year. Carla also announced the Christmas Party theme would be Hooville, which she previously ran by Cindy for approval.

September Meeting Minutes, **Con't**

7. Holly McDuffie announced name tabs are being worked on and will have those available soon.
8. Holly McDuffie spoke on behalf of the Fundraising Committee to announce the Prom Rewind coming up on October 19, 2019 from 7- 10 p.m. Cost is \$45.00 per couple or \$25.00 for an individual. Flyers were available at check-in. Holly would be glad to assist you, should you have any questions. Please note the new email address: hollyhobbie79@gmail.com. They need a head count in order to properly plan this event. Holly requested all members invite friends as this was not just for members. Please RSVP via the website.
9. Kim Spivey announced the September Speaker via webinar, Mr. Mark Baumann.

DOOR PRIZE - Door Prize was won by Kim Schultz.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Earhart adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

October Meeting Minutes

As Approved by the Membership on September 26, 2019

In the absence of President Jenna Earhart, Pam Snavely called the meeting held on this date to order at 12:15 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club in Corinth. Pam welcomed both members and guests totaling 8 paralegals.

OLD BUSINESS

A Motion to accept the revisions of the September Minutes. Said motion was Approved by Diana Dillinger and seconded by Pam Snavely All Approved, None Opposed.

A Motion to accept the September Minutes. Said motion was Approved by Laura Powers and seconded by Kim Spivey. All Approved, None Opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Pam Snavely announced that elections were being held and ballots were on the table for members present and proxy ballots had been received.

2. Kim Spivey mentioned the door prize winner for August was Kim Shields not Kim Schultz and needed to be corrected for the September minutes. All Approved, None opposed.

3. Pam Snavely announced on behalf of President Jenna Earhart that volunteers are needed for the committees and once committee chairs were in place we would need volunteers.

4. Pam Snavely announced the ballot instructions and advised members to make their votes and turn them in. The ballot counting was done by Julia Christman and Pam Snavely.

5. Pam Snavely announced the votes were unanimous and the new 2020 Officers would be:

President - Holly McDuffie

President Elect - Carla Pressly

Treasurer - Lisa Pittman

Secretary/Parliamentarian - Sharron Dowdle

6. Pam Snavely congratulated the new 2020 officers and ask if there is any old business. None was announced.

DOOR PRIZE

Door Prize was won by new member: Natasha Omylyon.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Pam Snavely adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

November Meeting Minutes

As Approved by the Membership on October 17, 2019

President Jenna Earhart called the meeting held on this date to order at 12:00 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club in Corinth. President welcomed both members and guests.

OLD BUSINESS

A Motion to accept the October Minutes was approved by Holly McDuffie and seconded by Julia Christman. All Approved, None Opposed.

Jenna Earhart asked if anyone had any questions about the Quarterly Reports that were previously sent out. No one presented any questions to the President, Jenna Earhart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. President Earhart announced the incoming committee chairs and members would be late introduced to the members once the stockings were filled with donations for Friends of the Family.
2. Membership committee member, Holly McDuffie, announced if your membership has lapsed, you have been moved to "lapsed membership". To reactivate your account, you will need to go online and make yourself active. If you are inactive, you no longer see any notifications or announcements from DCPA. Holly emphasized to the members the importance of being active in order to receive information from DCPA.
3. President Earhart announced the upcoming Christmas Social with the theme My Favorite Things will be addressed by Carla Pressly who will talk a little more about that.
4. President Earhart announced we are looking for donations for the Christmas Party so please be thinking about that and let Carla know.
5. President Earhart requested Carla come before the DCPA members and discuss the social.
6. Interim Social Chairman Carla Pressly presented herself before the DCPA members. Carla reminded everyone they should have received a Christmas flyer. She further announced the date and time of the Christmas Party. She announced you were welcome to come early for Happy Hour.
7. Carla Pressly asked the members to look at their party favor, especially on the back where she included the email address should anyone have any questions about any committee or directed toward any committee.
8. Carla revealed the 2019 Christmas Party Theme: ELEGANCE. Carla then introduced to the DCPA members the 2019 Social Committee Members: Diana Dillinger and Krystal Novas, who was not present. Interim Social Chairman Carla further announced the newest Social Committee Member for 2020: Sharron Dowdle.
9. Carla asked if there were any questions. Three questions were asked: 1) Are the gifts suppose to be wrapped, 2) do we dress elegant and 3) price average of My Favorite Things. Diana Dillinger responded the party she went to the gifts were unwrapped but the social committee would get back to the members regarding same, Carla responded

November Meeting Minutes, **Con't**

you do not have to dress elegant, work clothes is fine, but no jeans, and the average price for your My Favorite Things is \$5.00.

10. Carla asked Jenna if she had anything else to add. Jenna did not. Carla left the announcement podium.
11. Jenna announced we need all members to go on the DCPA website and RSVP for the Christmas Party.
12. Carla asked Jenna to mention the Facebook letter President Jenna posted regarding looking for donations.
13. Jenna announced we needed donations for door prizes and sponsors for events throughout the year. Jenna announced we got a new sponsor for the CLE next year. Donations go toward door prizes, speaker gifts and anything else we deem necessary for DCPA.
14. Jenna announced the criteria for being a Sponsor. She announced that Sponsors are for specific events. She gave an example of Paralegal Day. She stated we have a board with all the Sponsors name on it and their flyers that we send out. Your input and ideas on any of that is appreciated. President Jenna said you could contact her, Carla, Holly, or anyone who is on the Executive Committee.
15. DCPA President, Jenna, announced adjournment and wished all members ...Happy Thanksgiving.

DOOR PRIZE

Kim Guertler won the door prize for this DCPA November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Earhart adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.

