

**Special Interest
Articles:**

- Birthdays
- Event Pictures
- Birth
Announcement
- In Memoriam

Individual Highlights:

President's Message	7
Job Opportunity	8-9
In Memoriam	9
In The Know	10
Sustaining Members	11
Minutes	12

Denton County Paralegal Association

Ice Cream Social

By Heather Walker

On Thursday, August 14th several members gathered at Beth Marie's Ice Cream shop for a social event. Upon arrival, they were placed into the pre-determined teams and sent out on a photo/video scavenger hunt around the Denton Square. Some of the objectives to be completed were to take a group picture with a super hero, take a picture of the entire teams reflection in something other than a mirror, to video of a team member pole dancing on a street sign, and a picture of a team member planking somewhere on the square...just to name a few.

The team who completed the most objectives and earned the most points won. The winning team will be announced at the luncheon this month. Following the hunt everyone enjoyed a scoop of ice cream, while looking at the pictures and videos taken by the various teams, everyone was laughing, conversing, and having a good time. We had a decent turn out for the social event and I believe a good time was had by all. We hope another hunt can be planned in the future in which more members can attend, by which will allow for more teams and new objectives.

See event pictures on pages 4 - 6.

Meeting Notice

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **August 28, 2014** at noon at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Drive, Corinth, Texas.

The all-inclusive cost of lunch is \$14.00 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.

2014 Officers

Kim Guertler, President
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

Cheryl Cooper, President-Elect
mlj@steelalawfirm.com

Melody Brackeen, Secretary/Parliamentarian
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Sunnie Palmer, Historian
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

2014 Committee Chairs

CLE, Michelle Beecher
mbeecher@dentonlaw.com

Fundraising, Jennifer Stout
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Legal Directory, Brandi Hunter
BHunter410@gmail.com

Membership, Gina Elliot
gottigina@yahoo.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Social, Priscilla Brooks
priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com

TAPA, Jennifer Stout
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Ad Hoc Scholarship,
Wanda Woodworth
wandawoodworth@dentoncounty.com

Did you know...

Payments for the CLE Luncheon can now be made online. For more information and online registration see Events/CLE Luncheon at www.dentonparalegals.org.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com. The deadline to RSVP is August 22, 2014.

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 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 Oakmont Country Club (second right)

AGENDA FOR AUGUST MEETING

Date: August 28, 2014
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

- 1. Welcome members and guests**
- 2. Old Business**
 - a. Approve July, 2014, Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Approve July, 2014, meeting Minutes
- 3. New Business**
- 4. Speaker: Kim Tindall**
(Thank you trophy given to speaker, along with Certificate of Appreciation)
- 5. Door Prize and Announcements**
- 6. Adjournment**

CLE GUEST SPEAKER



Our speaker will be Kim Tindall with Kim Tindall & Associates, Inc. Ms. Tindall will be speaking on “Depositions and Document Preparation.”

CONGRATULATIONS



Member Gloria Porter has a new great-granddaughter. Introducing Shelby Nicole Cutforth (8 lb 3 oz) born July 23, 2014. Looks like Zane approves of his baby sister. She is just beautiful!

Ice Cream Social Event Pictures



TEAM 1

Pam Snavelly
Kim Guertler
Cheryl Cooper

TEAM 2

Sunnie Palmer
Christy Rodgers
Wanda Woodworth
Melody Brackeen

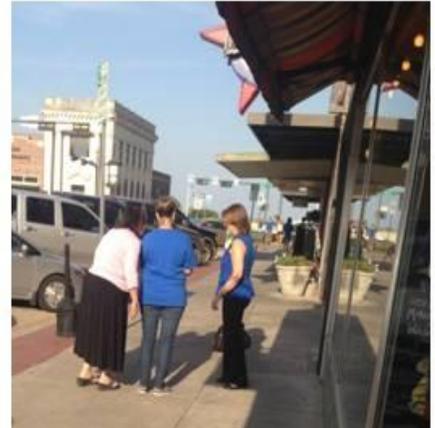


TEAM 3

Carolyn Ganzer
Vicki Schmidt
Carol Pelzel







President's Message

By: Kim Guertler

I have always loved the month of August. I know many of you are shaking your heads at that statement since it is often one of the hottest months we have, but it has always held a tinge of excitement to it to me. School starts back up, Fall is just around the corner, and of course, it marks the beginning of football season! This August, however, has also held an element of sadness. The passing of Tom Jester will leave a void in not only the legal community, but the entire Denton community, as well. I first became aware of Mr. Jester after I obtained my first job at the age of 18 at First American Title Company, and Mr. Jester owned Denton County Title Company, which was a fixture in Denton. After I left the title company and came to work for the District Attorney's office, I continued to see and interact with Mr. Jester in the Courts Building. I did not have one encounter with Mr. Jester where he was not courteous, professional and kind. He will be missed by all.

Now there was some fun in August that I must mention. Our Social Committee put on a great event for us! We met at Beth Marie's on the square and then participated in a fun, challenging and many times embarrassing scavenger hunt around the square. It definitely made us get out of our comfort zone, but what stood out to me was how friendly the people in our community are! In order to complete the hunt, we had to interact with complete strangers many times. They were not only willing to help out, but many were active participants. So many thanks go out to our Social Committee for a fun and original event!

As we all know, the year is quickly flying by and before you know it, we will be getting ready for our October business meeting and the election of new DCPA officers for 2015. If you haven't served on the Executive Committee or as a Committee Chair, please give it some serious thought for next year. It is a lot of fun and well worth the time investment. I will write about this more next month, but please give some thought to where your gifts might benefit the DCPA.

Please plan to attend our luncheon next Thursday, August 28, at noon at Oakmont Country Club. Kim Tindall with Kim Tindall & Associates in San Antonio will be our speaker and she will speak to us regarding depositions and document preparation. I am hoping for a great turn-out! Kim has always been supportive of paralegals and paralegal associations so let's throw some support back her way, plus she is going to provide us with some great information. Hope to see you there!



Birthdays

Our members with September Birthdays are:

Jennifer Earhart (9/3)
Suzanne Smart (9/10)
Angela Juarez (9/16)
Cheryl Perlich (9/21)
Kimberly Spivey (9/23)
Estina Childs (9/29)

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

Membership News

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 Gina Gotti at gottigina@yahoo.com.

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

In Memoriam

Tom D. Jester, Jr.

From the Denton Record-Chronicle
Published August 12, 2014



Tom Davis Jester, Jr., of Denton, Texas, after a twelve year battle with pancreatic cancer, died August 9, 2014, surrounded by family. He was born in Ashdown, Arkansas, to the late Tom Davis Jester and Evelyn Sessions Jester on February 2, 1940. Tom graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and obtained his law degree from SMU.

In 1967, Tom moved to Denton to practice law with Fred Minor in the firm now known as Minor & Jester, P.C. His law firm has received numerous awards including "Best of Denton" in the Denton Record Chronicle for the past three years. His daughter Jill Jester continues to practice law with four other attorneys at Minor & Jester, P.C.

A leader in his profession and the community, Tom served as Mayor of the City of Denton from 1975-1976 and as a Denton City Council Member from 1972-1976. Tom was President of the Denton County Bar Association and a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He also served as a City of Denton Municipal Judge and a Corporation Judge. Outside of the law, Tom sat on the Board of Directors of a title company and a local bank. He was a former Director of the Denton Chamber of Commerce and of the Denton Country Club. Tom was a developer, owner and operator of apartment complexes, office and commercial buildings as well as rental residential homes in and around Denton. A man of strong Christian faith, Tom was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Denton for over 45 years.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife of over 30 years, Kathy Jester; his daughter, Jill Jester and her husband Chris Rasmussen; his step-son, Craig Allen; his nieces, Jennifer Jester Jackson and Wendy Jester Rogers; their families, and extended family. His daughter, Angie Jester Sahm, and his brother, Tim Jester, predeceased him. Tom was a loving father, husband, uncle, and friend to all.

Our heart and prayers go out to Mr. Jester's family, friends and our fellow paralegals who worked with Mr. Jester.

In The Know

By Wanda Woodworth

Talking with: Vicki Schmidt

Employed by: Loveless & Loveless, Attorneys at Law, LP

Years' experience: 12

What made you want to become a paralegal? I found the law interested me; I had already raised my kids and needed a job to help pay for their college. I decided to take a 9 month Paralegal course from the Southeastern Paralegal Institute. I realized how much I liked legal research and worked with the school placement office to get an interview at Loveless & Loveless. I've been with the same firm the entire time.

What type of law does your attorney practice? Family Law*

* Vicki also noted that, of the four people who work in the firm, none has been divorced.

How many paralegals are at your current firm? There are two of us; Carolyn Granger is the other paralegal in the firm.

What was it like being a new paralegal?* I felt prepared after going through the institute. Fortunately, I was mentored by several other Paralegals from other companies who worked in my building. One of the stipulations I had was to continue my education so I could become a Certified Paralegal.

* Vicki commented that when she first started interviewing for a paralegal position, she wasn't sure Family Law would be to her liking, however, she soon realized the position is a lot like raising children – you must console them when they are hurt, calm them down when they are angry, and make them turn in their homework on time – and that she already had 20 years of experience doing!

What is your advice to new paralegals? If you don't understand your task completely ASK QUESTIONS! You don't want to guess and find out later that you have to redo the entire assignment. Keep educating yourself; reading the materials your attorney brings back from CLE classes is a good way to learn new things. Don't be discouraged if a job requires experience. Sometimes the attorney's want to change the new paralegal their way without having to undo previous habits, so they are more open to a baby paralegal.

To which paralegal organizations do you belong? I belong to DCPA and NALA (National Association of Legal Assistants). I was certified by NALA and participated in study groups and used the NALA study guide. I studied for 6 months before sitting for the test.

How do you relax after a tough day at work? I like to read non-legal fiction and I like to garden. I used to be into decorative art and furniture (my house is full of my finished projects). I play with my dogs, a teacup Yorkie & a cute All American Terrier mutt.

Special Note: As you may remember, Vicki lost her husband of 36 years to cancer earlier this year. She misses him every day but the friends she has made at DCPA have kept her spirits up, and she is grateful for that.

Support Our Sustaining Members

Please help support our Sustaining Members by calling them when you have a project that needs outside support. Remember it is through their continued support and generosity that DCPA is able to provide social events at a low cost.

Stewart Process Service, Inc.

Bruce G. Stewart

110 Sheraton Place
Denton, Texas 76209
Phone: 940-367-4643
Fax: 940-484-0999
Email – stewartprocess@verizon.net

The Reporting Professionals

Cheryl K. Perlich

2925 Country Club Road, Suite 104
Denton, Texas 76210
Phone: 940-484-6053
Fax: 940-484-6054
Email – reportingpros@sbcglobal.net

Stoffels & Associates, Inc.

Janel M. Stoffels

207 W. Hickory St., Ste. 304
Denton, Texas 76201
Phone: 940-565-9797
Fax: 940-565-9197
Email – jmstoffels@aol.com



Minutes

1. President Kim Guertler called the business meeting of July 24, 2014, to order at 12:11 p. m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 30 attendees (27 members, 2 guests, and our guest speaker), all of whom were welcomed by President Guertler.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Guertler asked for a vote to approve the June, 2014, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Sunnie Palmer and seconded by Ava Watson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. President Guertler asked for a vote to approve the June, 2014, meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Christy Rodgers and seconded by Priscilla Brooks. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. President Guertler announced that during the June business meeting the membership unanimously voted to approve Sunnie Palmer's proposed change to the DCPA By Laws to include a new category of Emeritus Membership and that Gloria Porter was our first Emeritus member.

5. President Guertler announced that the Executive Committee and TAPA Committee Jennifer Stout are working hard to prepare for the TAPA Conference we are hosting next year in April.

6. Social Chair, Priscilla Brooks, introduced Social Committee member, Heather Walker, to give an announcement about the upcoming Ice Cream Social to be held at Beth Marie's Old Fashioned Ice Cream on the old Denton square on Thursday, August 14, 2014, from 5:30 – 8:00 p. m. and that there would be an activity associated with it.

7. CLE Chair, Michelle Beecher, introduced the speaker, Andrew Passons, who gave a presentation titled, "Obtaining and Admitting Evidence from Governmental Entities." Upon conclusion of the presentation, CLE Chair Beecher presented Attorney Passons with a trophy and certificate of appreciation.

8. There was an announcement made about the upcoming speakers:

- August - Kim Tindall – related to depositions and document preparation.
- September - Scott Alagood – related to formation of companies.
- October – to be determined.

9. President Guertler announced the winner of the monthly meeting door prize. Debbie Mitchell was the winner of the Cracker Barrel gift card.

10. The special membership drive (*announced to the membership at the previous monthly meeting and via email*) door prize was handed out by Membership Chair, Sunnie Palmer. A \$50 Macy's gift card was won by Cheryl Cooper.

11. There being no further business, President Guertler adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p. m.

**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641
Denton, TX 76206

Visit us on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/
Denton-County-Paralegal-
Association](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Denton-County-Paralegal-Association)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org