

July 2014

The Verdict

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Denton County Paralegal Association

Annual School Supply Drive

By Kim Guertler, President



Let's show some DCPA support to the Denton County Children's Advocacy Center by participating in their annual School Supply Drive! **The supplies will be collected until August 15th** and the School Supply wish list can be found at the DCCAC website:

<http://www.cacdc.org/give/holiday-giving/backtoschool/>.

As an extra incentive, every member who brings a donation to our luncheon this Thursday can put their name on two tickets to go into the drawing for the Pandora Bracelet at the end of the year!

Meeting Notice

2014 Officers

Kim Guertler, President
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

Cheryl Cooper, President-Elect
mlj@steelelawfirm.com

Melody Brackeen, Secretary/Parliamentarian
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbwlw.com

Sunnie Palmer, Historian
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **July 24, 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.

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 July 21, 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)

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@hbwlw.com

Social, Priscilla Brooks
priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com

TAPA, Jennifer Stout
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Ad Hoc Scholarship,
Wanda Woodworth
wandawoodworth@dentoncounty.com



AGENDA FOR JULY MEETING

Date: July 24, 2014
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

1. **Welcome members and guests**
2. **Old Business**
 - a. Approve June, 2014, Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Approve June, 2014, meeting Minutes
 - c. Announce to membership that Bylaw change creating Emeritus membership was approved at the June business meeting
3. **New Business**
 - d. Committee Chair announcements:

Social – upcoming ice cream social event at Beth Marie’s downtown

Membership – drawing for \$50 Macy’s gift card (*to be eligible for drawing – you have to have logged in to your profile on the DCPA website between June 20 and July 23, 2014*)
4. **Speaker: Andrew Passons**
(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 Andrew Passons with Lewis & Passons, P.C. Mr. Passons will be speaking on “Obtaining and Admitting Evidence from Governmental Entities.”

President's Message

By: Kim Guertler

Hello DCPA members,

Hope you are all enjoying a good summer! I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that registration for the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas' annual seminar, **TAPS (Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar) 2014**, is now open. The theme for the seminar is "*The Beat Goes On!*" and it will be held on October 1-3, 2014 in Austin at the Doubletree Hotel (North). If you have never been to TAPS, I urge you to consider attending this year. The Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas does an outstanding job of putting together this awesome event. There are always a variety of sessions to attend, wonderful speakers and really fun social events! Plus lots of vendors attend with creative and useful giveaways! Most importantly, it is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your peers and get to know other paralegals from across the State.

Let's show some DCPA support to the Denton County Children's Advocacy Center by participating in their annual School Supply Drive! The supplies will be collected until August 15 and the School Supply wish list can be found at the DCCAC website <http://www.cacdc.org/give/holiday-giving/backtoschool/>. As an extra incentive, every member who brings a donation to our luncheon this Thursday can put their name on two tickets to go into the drawing for the Pandora Bracelet at the end of the year!

As some of you know, the DCPA will be hosting the annual Texas Alliance of Paralegals Association Conference in April, 2015. This is an exciting opportunity for us and I am looking forward to hosting an event that will be beneficial to all of the paralegals across the State of Texas who will be attending the event. We are just in the beginning stage of planning the event, but if you would like to help, please let me know! We will keep you updated on the details of the event.

I hope to see you on Thursday at our luncheon. Andrew Passons will be speaking and the topic will be "Obtaining and Admitting Evidence from Governmental Entities." Informative information that will benefit us all! Have a great week everyone and I will see you Thursday!



Birthdays

Our members with August Birthdays are:

Lakesha Bell (8/3)
Landra Turner (8/3)
Beverly Rezadad (8/7)
Michael McNeil (8/12)
Kristi Edwards (8/13)
Melody Brackeen (8/16)
Michele George (8/22)
Janene Koiner (8/23)
Lindsay Nixon (8/27)

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 The Know

By Wanda Woodworth

Talking with: Heather Collard

Employed by: Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office

Years' experience: 5 years

What made you want to become a paralegal? My passion for law started when I worked as a clerk at the Arlington Municipal Court. I assisted with Class C misdemeanors. I was always fond of the prosecutors and police officer's personalities. That job encouraged my decision to take a business law class and I quickly developed a profound interest in law.

What type of law does your attorney practice? Criminal law

What was it like being a new paralegal? There was certainly a learning curve, which is to be expected. You have to learn each attorney's preferences and how each law office operates. However, those who have the desire and drive to be a paralegal, can be.

How many paralegals are at your current firm? 8

What kind of law is practiced at your current firm? Criminal law

What is your advice to new paralegals? It's about swimming, not sinking! Always do your best and give 110%! Learn as much as you can and take notes when people take the time to explain new things to you! Show your dedication and loyalty to your attorney and you will be trusted with additional work. You will ultimately find that the paralegal profession is an exciting and exhilarating career!

To which paralegal organizations do you belong? National Association of Legal Assistants, North Texas Paralegal Association and Denton County Paralegal Association.

How do you relax after a tough day at work? A majority of my time is spent being an Aunt. At the end of the day, all of the small things count. From the pictures that my nieces and nephews draw for me to my dog's cheerful face. Those are the things that keep me content and help diffuse a tough work day.



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

Thank You Message

*During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends really mean
to us*

*Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered
by the family of*

Mike Schmidt

Dear Friends -

*Thank you for the
many cards + emails
+ words of encouragement
you gave me over the
last year.*

*The Peace Lily you sent
to Mike's funeral service
is very special to me.*

*And last but not least
the many dinners
+ desserts were yummy
and greatly appreciated.*

*Victor Schmidt
+ family*

Minutes

1. President-Elect Cheryl Cooper called the meeting of June 26, 2014, to order at 12:20 p. m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 19 attendees.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President-Elect Cooper asked for a vote on the May 2014 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Jennifer Stout and seconded by Priscilla Brooks. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President-Elect Cooper asked for a vote of approval of the May, 2014, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Christy Rogers and seconded by Carol Pelzel. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. President-Elect Cooper asked who had not gotten shirts as they were the sign in table. Also announced that bingo not those that volunteered looked really good in the new shirts.

2ND QUARTER REPORTS

5. Social / Fundraising Committee – Jennifer Stout reported. The Bingo fundraiser was a success. \$617 raised.
6. Legal Directory Committee – Brandi Hunter reported.
7. Scholarship Committee – Wanda Woodworth reported.
8. CLE – No one present to report. Cheryl Cooper reminded members that the change in the ½ seminar had been approved and we were now co-sponsoring the DCBA seminar in 2015.
9. Newsletter Committee – Lisa Pittman – No new comments.
10. Membership Committee – Sunnie Palmer reported that we now have 69 active members. They are working on a new incentive to be entered into a drawing for all those that go onto the website and update their profile.
11. TAPA 2015 Information – Jennifer Stout – the 2015 TAPA Conference is sponsored by the DCPA. Brief discussions on the event and dates of same.
12. Sunnie Palmer discussed changing the by-laws to incorporate Emeritus Members. Jennifer Stout stated this might also need to be in the standing rules. The motion to change the by-laws was presented by Cheryl Cooper. Sunnie Palmer approved and Jennifer Stout seconded the Motion.
13. Cheryl Cooper drew for the door prize and Suzanne Smart was the lucky winner.
14. Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. by Cheryl Cooper.

**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641
Denton, TX 76206

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org