

**Special Interest Articles:**

- Membership Drive Contest - Update
- Blanket Brigade – Work Night
- TAPA 2017
- Spring CLE Seminar

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**Denton County Paralegal Association**

## On Your Mark, Get Set... Go!

By Pamela Snavelly, ACP

DCPA Fitness Enthusiasts, Runners, and Friends here is your chance to participate in a local 5K that will benefit the Mayor’s Summer Youth Jobs Program and the Denton Chamber of Commerce! The “Denton Means Business 5K & Fun Run” will be held on **Saturday, April 8, 2017** at the University of North Texas, Apogee Stadium, 1251 S. Bonnie Brae Street in Denton. Tickets cost \$20.00 through March 16, 2017. The Schedule of Events is as follows:

- 8:30 a.m. – Fun Run
- 9:00 a.m. – 5K Run
- 10:00 a.m. – Tailgate
- 10:30 a.m. – Awards (for all age groups)

DCPA members who register to run in the 5K can show Denton “We Mean Business” by wearing your association T-shirt to the race! Go to <http://denton5k.com/> for more information and to register as an individual for the 5K. Once you are registered email Pam ([psnavely@hbwvllaw.com](mailto:psnavely@hbwvllaw.com)) to let her know you plan to be there to participate!



## Meeting Notice

### 2017 Officers

Pamela Snavely, President  
psnavely@hbwvlaw.com

Daphina Park, President-Elect  
Daphina.Park@dentoncounty.com

Martha Gallegos,  
Secretary/Parliamentarian  
Martha.gallegos@dentoncounty.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer  
lpittman@hbwvlaw.com

Heather Walker, Historian  
heather.walker@dentoncounty.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **March 16, 2017** at noon at Oakmont Country Club, 1200 Clubhouse 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 the **exact** amount of cash or a check made payable to DCPA. You can also pay online prior to the meeting at [www.dentonparalegals.org](http://www.dentonparalegals.org).

## Did you know...

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** and can be made via e-mail to Lisa Pittman at [lpittman@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:lpittman@hbwvlaw.com). **The deadline to RSVP is March 10, 2017 by 3:00 p.m. for your attendance and whether you will purchase lunch.** That will help Oakmont ensure the hot buffet is freshly prepared and ready shortly after you arrive for the meeting.

**Notice:** We must notify Oakmont of the number attending prior to the meeting for preparation of food and adequate seating arrangements. Please note we are also required to bill those individuals who make reservations to purchase lunch and do not attend.

### 2017 Committee Chairs

CLE, Debbie Nyarangi  
Deborah@bowen-law.com

Fundraising, Daphina Park  
daphina.park@dentoncounty.com

Legal Directory, Cheryl Cooper  
ccooper@dentonlaw.com

Membership, Vicki Schmidt  
vicki.dcpa@gmail.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman  
lpittman@hbwvlaw.com

Social, open

Scholarship, Jenna Earhart  
jearhart@hbwvlaw.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)

## **AGENDA FOR MEETING**

Date: March 16, 2017  
Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210  
Time: Noon

- 1. Welcome Members and Guests**
- 2. Guest Speaker L. James Ashmore**, Partner with Neal Ashmore Family Law Group  
Mediation and How to Prepare for a Successful Settlement
- 3. Old Business**
  - a. Approve February Minutes
  - b. Approve February Treasurer's Report
- 4. New Business**
- 5. Announcements**
  - Membership Drive Contest
  - Blanket Brigade work night 3/29
  - Denton Means Business 5K Fun Run 4/8
  - April Meeting & CLE 4/20
  - Save the Date - Spring CLE Seminar 5/18
- 6. Door Prize**
- 7. Adjournment**

**CLE GUEST SPEAKER**

Our March speaker will be L. James Ashmore, partner with Neal Ashmore Family Law Group and past President of the Denton County Bar Association, will give a presentation on Mediation and how to prepare for a successful settlement.

After a twelve year career in the radio broadcast industry, and a subsequent turn in residential and commercial real estate sales in the late 1980s, Mr. Ashmore attended law school at the University of Tulsa College of Law. He received his J.D. in 1992 and made the move to the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex to begin his law practice. Mr. Ashmore focuses primarily on divorce, child custody, and contested probate cases. He has been appointed by courts in

Denton and Dallas counties to represent children involved in divorce cases, both as an attorney ad litem and an amicus attorney. With the ability to find acceptable solutions to both parties in a family law case, Mr. Ashmore is a highly sought after and respected family law mediator in the North Texas legal community.



## **Membership Drive Contest – Update**

Submitted by Vicki Schmidt, Membership Chair

Our membership drive is off to a slow start. Only two members brought guests to the February meeting – but some member is going to win a dinner at Hannah’s on the Square and tickets to the theater. It could be you – so get busy and invite those paralegals you know who aren’t yet members. And – YES – former members are fair game – race after them and invite them to join again!

Roses go to Linda Lewis who has 5 points for bringing guest Jessica Walling and to Cheryl Cooper who has 10 points for bringing two guests (Laurie Ward and Cindy Moon). Hopefully Linda and Cheryl will convert their guests into members so they can earn another 10 points for each new member.

We have a great organization that provides many benefits to its members – education, networking, mentoring, scholarships, good food, fun activities, community service.... Who can you bring to the March meeting? The finish line is the September meeting – so saddle up and join the race.

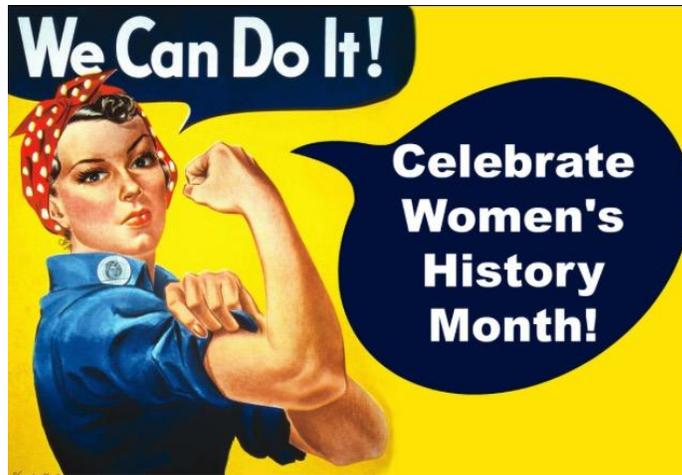


**February CLE Speaker: Attorney William Scazero**



President's Message

By: Pamela Snavelly, ACP



### **March is Women's History Month!**

In the United States, the event began as Women's History Week and was akin to the celebration of International Women's Day. In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed a joint resolution which designated March as Women's History Month. Since 1988, U.S. Presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month to celebrate the achievements, leadership, courage, vision, and talents of women whose contributions helped build and shape our nation.

In honor of Women's History Month, 31 days of auspicious events and amazing women who made history in the month of March are listed below:

March 1, 1864 - Rebecca Lee Crumpler becomes the first African American woman in the United States to receive a medical degree at a time when advanced education for women was rare.

March 2, 1968 - The World Ladies' Figure Skating Championship in Geneva is won by Peggy Fleming. She is the 1968 Olympic Champion in Ladies' singles and a three-time World Champion.

March 3, 1887 - Helen Keller meets Anne Sullivan, her teacher. Sullivan helps Keller learn to communicate and to become the first blind-deaf person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

March 4, 1917 - Jeannette Pickering Rankin, R-Mont., takes her seat as the first female member of Congress. She helped pass the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

March 5, 1931 - Geraldyn (Jerrie) Cobb is born. She became the first woman to pass qualifying exams for astronaut training in 1959, but the women's space program was scrapped.



## President's Message Con't

March 6, 1906 - Nora Blatch, civil engineer, architect, and graduate of Cornell University, is accepted as the first female junior member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

March 7, 1938 - Janet Guthrie is born. She became a race car driver who qualified for and competed in the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500 in 1977.

March 8, 1911 - International Women's Day is held, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political contributions of women.

March 9, 1959 - Graciela Olivarez is born. The first woman and Latina graduate from Notre Dame Law School, who advocated for Mexican-American rights and worked to decrease poverty.

March 10, 1903 - Clare Boothe Luce is born. American politician, author, US Ambassador to Brazil and Italy, member of the House of Representatives. She was the first American woman appointed to a major ambassador post abroad (d. 1987)

March 11, 1993 - Janet Reno is confirmed as the US Attorney General and sworn in the next day, becoming the first woman to hold that post. She received her undergrad degree in chemistry from Cornell University in 1960, and was one of a handful of women who graduated from Harvard Law School in 1963.

March 12, 1912 - Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low organizes the first Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Georgia. She believed in the power of every girl, and sought to build courage, confidence, and character in girls who will make the world a better place.

March 13, 1916 - Lindy Boggs is born. American politician, member of the US House of Representatives, Ambassador to the Vatican, she was the first woman from Louisiana elected to the House, and in 1976 the first woman to preside over a major party convention (d. 2013).

March 14, 1997 - Simone Biles is born. She became the most decorated American gymnast ever, having won a combined total of nineteen Olympic and World Championship medals. With four gold medals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, Biles set an American record.

March 15, 1880 - Hattie Carnegie is born. An Austrian-American Fashion designer and entrepreneur, Carnegie was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Freedom for the design of the Women's Army Corps uniform, and for other charitable and patriotic contributions (d. 1956).

March 16, 1940 - Eveline M. Burns is born. British-American economist, writer and educator, professor of Social Work at Columbia, who is known for assisting in the design of the United States Social Security system (d. 1985).

March 17, 2000 - Julia Roberts becomes the first female actor ever to earn \$20 million dollars for a single film in her role as a tenacious paralegal in *Erin Brockovich*. Brockovich was instrumental

## President's Message Con't

in helping win one of the largest settlements ever paid in a direct-action lawsuit, and continues to work as an environmental activist and consumer advocate.

March 18, 1964 - Bonnie Blair is born. She is a five-time Olympic speed skating gold medalist and the most decorated female Winter Olympian in U.S. history.

March 19, 1859 - Ellen Gates Starr is born. American social reformer, she and Jane Addams co-founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago that offered day care services, libraries, classes, and an employment bureau that served over two thousand people per week in its second year. (d 1940).

March 20, 1852 - Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published and becomes the best-selling book of the 19th century that helped galvanize the abolition movement.

March 21, 1943 - Cornelia Fort dies. American pilot in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, first American female pilot to die during active duty (b. 1919).

March 22, 1972 - Congress passes the Equal Rights Amendment, which granted equal rights for women but was never ratified by the required number of states.

March 23, 1924 - Bette Nesmith Graham is born. A native Texan and single mom who worked as a secretary and commercial artist, she invented Liquid Paper correction fluid with the help of her son's chemistry teacher. Prepared in her kitchen, bottled in her garage, and sold to co-workers, she incorporated the business and eventually sold it in 1979 for \$47.5 million dollars.

March 24, 1820 - Fanny Crosby is born. American poet, author, lyricist and composer, she wrote over 8,000 hymns and gospel songs including "Blessed Assurance" (d. 1915).

March 25, 1931 - Ida B. Wells dies. African-American investigative journalist, newspaper editor, teacher, lecturer, suffragist, and early leader in the Civil Rights Movement (b. 1862).

March 26, 1930 - Sandra Day O'Connor is born in El Paso. She graduated from Stanford University in 1950 with a B.A. in economics, and went on to Stanford Law School where she graduated third in her class. She became the first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice in 1981.

March 27, 1924 - Margaret Butler is born. She became the first female fellow at the American Nuclear Society and director of the National Energy Software Center, and advocated for women in science and math fields.

## President's Message Con't

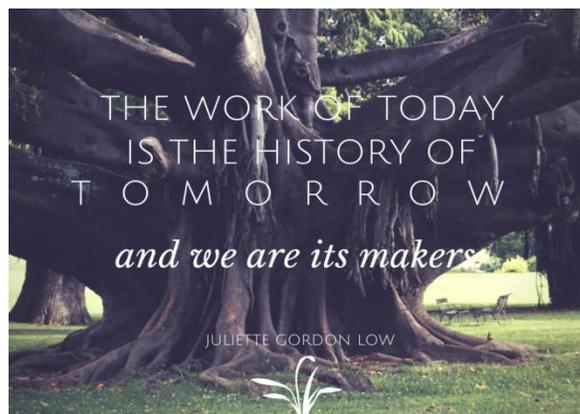
March 28, 1982 - First NCAA women's college basketball national championship game: Louisiana Tech vs. Cheyney 76-62 (Before it was the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.)

March 29, 1843 - Frances Wisebart Jacobs is born. American charity organizer and worker, with others founded the *Charity Organization Society* which eventually became the *United Way* (d. 1982).

March 30, 1911 - Ellen Swallow Richards is born. American chemist, the first woman admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and its first female instructor (b. 1842).

March 31, 1888 - Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe and Sojourner Truth, among others, organize The National Council of Women of the U.S., the oldest American non-sectarian women's organization.

This is only a highlight of some of the contributions made by women in history and society in a wide range of fields. By learning about their achievements our understanding of problem-solving, innovation, and the possible is expanded. Women of accomplishment serve as role models to encourage us to step forward with confidence!



### Works Cited

Today in Women's History. (n.d.). One Day at a Time.

USA Today. (2017, March 1). 31 Days of Amazing Women.

## Blanket Brigade – Work Night

Submitted by President, Pamela Snavelly, ACP

DCPA is embarking on a community service project for the benefit of the children and youth that stay in the Friends of the Family shelter. We are making colorful, cozy fleece blankets to cheer and comfort kids displaced from their homes. Members who wish to participate and become a part of the Blanket Brigade are asked to donate or solicit donations of materials or funds for their own project.

The cozy no-sew fleece blankets are easy enough for beginners to tackle and do not require any sewing experience. This is the time of year that fleece is on sale at many fabric stores, so you can purchase your materials at big savings! Instructions with basic measurements, type of fleece to use, and acceptable print are attached. Some fabric stores also offer kits that contain pre-cut material and only require assembly.

Our first Blanket Brigade work night to learn and enjoy the process together as a group activity will be held Wednesday evening, **March 29, 2017** beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the office of Hayes, Berry White & Vanzant. We will schedule additional work nights over the course of the next several months depending on our progress and the interest shown. Members are also welcome to work on their own individual projects at home in their leisure.

Our goal is to complete 25 blankets for presentation to Friends of the Family by DCPA's October meeting. This is a great opportunity to reach out and offer an extra bit of warmth, comfort, and security to kids who find themselves in difficult circumstances. It is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with other DCPA members and work together for the betterment of our community! Get your materials soon to take advantage of area sales and join us for very first Blanket Brigade session on 3/29! Please RSVP to Pam Snavelly ([psnavely@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:psnavely@hbwvlaw.com)) by Monday of that week so we can ensure there is enough work space for everyone. Basic instructions attached.

**Thank you for your participation and support!**



**TAPA 2017**

The Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations (“TAPA”) leadership conference will be hosted in Lubbock April 7- 8, 2017 by the West Texas Paralegal Association. This conference is an annual event where leaders of paralegal associations throughout the state of Texas join together to exchange ideas regarding development of the paralegal profession. President-Elect, Daphina Park and Secretary/Parliamentarian, Martha Gallegos will attend as representatives of DCPA. It is a wonderful opportunity for our executive officers to enhance their leadership skills and return with exciting new ideas for continued professional development of our association.

**Happy St. Patrick’s Day!**

MAY YOUR TROUBLES  
☘ BE LESS ☘  
and your  
Blessings  
.....be MORE.....  
AND NOTHING BUT  
**HAPPINESS**  
come through your  
☘>>> door  
☘ IRISH BLESSING

FIVEheartHOME



## Membership News

Membership is looking for New Members! This year we are sponsoring a membership drive to spread the word about our great organization. Here's how you can get involved. Each time you bring a potential new member to a regularly scheduled DCPA meeting, you will receive 5 points in the membership contest and if that person joins DCPA, you will get an additional 10 points. If you bring a guest to a social event, you will get 2 points. [HINT: you will get 10 points if you line up a sponsor, too – maybe your boss owes you one!]

Each month we will post the race results in the *Verdict* so you can keep tabs on your competition.

The winner will be announced at the September meeting (and you MUST be present to win). THE PRIZE will be a \$100.00 gift certificate to Hannah's Restaurant and two tickets to the Campus Theater production of "Big Fish" which is scheduled in October 2017.

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### 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

## Birthdays

Our members with April Birthdays are:

Christine Piott (4/16)  
Priscilla Brooks (4/24)  
Sunnie Palmer (4/24)

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

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## **Spring Seminar – SAVE THE DATE!**

DCPA's Annual Spring Seminar will be held May 18, 2017 at Oakmont from 10-4 and will offer 5 Hours of CLE. "For Safety's Sake – Aware, Prepared, and Ready to Respond" will feature presentations on:

Open Carry laws and Firearms Statutes in Texas

Threat Assessment, Active Shooter Defense

Cybersecurity Rules for Law Firms

Trial Procedures in Human Trafficking Cases in Denton County

Prevention, Identification, and Empowerment of Victims of Human Trafficking

The cost of the spring seminar will be \$30.00 for DCPA members and \$35.00 for non-members. A hot buffet lunch is included. Registration will begin in mid-April and space will be limited.

## **Upcoming DCPA Monthly Luncheons & CLE**

Held the Third Thursday of the Month at Oakmont Country Club in Corinth. CLE is free; the cost of lunch is \$14.00 per person and is payable online or at the door.

April 20, 2017 – Litigation (*Discovery*)

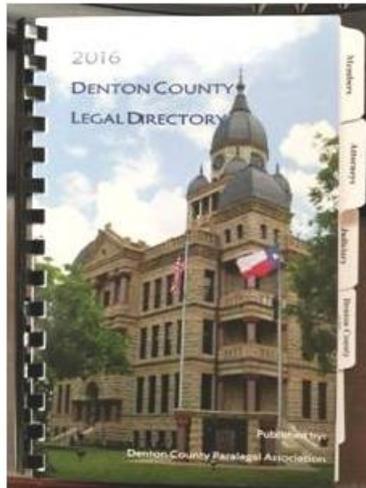
May 18, 2017 – Seminar

June 15, 2017 – Business Meeting



## 2016 Legal Directory

By: Cheryl Cooper, Committee Chair



The 2016 Legal Directory Committee of the Denton County Paralegal Association is pleased to report that we have published our Denton County Legal Directory.

We are providing two options for the directory this year: a bound hard copy of the directory, as well as a digital copy of the directory that is on a flash drive. This is the first time in the history of DCPA that we have offered a digital copy of the directory and we are very pleased at the way they turned out.

If you, or someone you know, would like to purchase one of these directories, please contact Cheryl Cooper at [ccooper@dentonlaw.com](mailto:ccooper@dentonlaw.com); Work (940) 891-0003; or Cell (979) 277-8761.

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 at Alagood Cartwright Burke P.C., 319 W. Oak Street, Denton, Texas, 76201, with advance notice.

Checks should be made payable to Denton County Paralegal Association and either hand-delivered or mailed to our address.

## **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](mailto:stewartprocess@verizon.net)

### **County Process Service**

#### **Fred Bowles**

159 Sunny Side Lane  
Valley View, Texas 76272  
Phone: 940-390-0914  
Fax: 940-484-6054  
Email – [fbowles@ntin.net](mailto:fbowles@ntin.net)

### **Stoffels & Associates, Inc.**

#### **Janel M. Stoffels**

207 W. Hickory, Suite 304  
Denton, Texas 76201  
Phone: 940-565-9797  
Fax: 940-565-9197  
Email – [jmstoffels@aol.com](mailto:jmstoffels@aol.com)



## **Minutes**

1. President Pamela Snavelly called the meeting held on February 16, 2017 to order at 12:10 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club in Denton. President Snavelly welcomed 23 members, 2 guests and the speaker.
2. Guest Speaker for February's meeting was William V. Scazzero, Associate Attorney at Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP., Mr. Scazzero presented "Preparing for Jury Trial, What Paralegals Should Anticipate."

### OLD BUSINESS

3. President Snavelly asked for a vote on the January meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Michele George and seconded by Sunnie Palmer. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. President Snavelly asked for a vote of approval for the January 2017 Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Julian Christman and seconded by Michele George. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### NEW BUSINESS

5. Vicki Schmidt talked about the Membership Drive Contest. Race results will be posted every month in the Verdict.
6. Daphina Park informed us that the Valentine Fundraiser was a big success with 141 S'mores in a Jar orders sold this year. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped.
7. President Snavelly talked about the Blanket Project. There will be a work night to learn about the activity in March. Goal is to complete 25 blankets by Fall of 2017.
8. Next luncheon and CLE will be March 16, 2017. L. James Ashmore will give a presentation on Mediation and how to prepare for a successful settlement.
9. Martha Gallegos was the winner of the door prize.
10. There being no further business, President Snavelly adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.