

**Special Interest
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Denton County Paralegal Association

Denton County Bar Association's Chili Cook-Off

Submitted by Christy Rodgers

DCPA, aka Dynamite Chili Peppers Aplenty, participated in the Denton County Bar Association's Chili Cook-off and Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, October 27, 2014, in Denton, Texas. Team members included: Christy Rodgers, Cheryl Cooper, Pam Snavely, Ava Watson, Melody Brackeen, and honorary DCPA helper for the day, Jimmy Rodgers. We served up some awesome Texas red chili, no beans! We had very cute country-looking table decorations and were rockin' our DCPA t-shirts! Team members brought lots of yummy homemade cookies to give away during the day which had our DCPA label on the baggies. We're always looking for an opportunity to expand our brand.

Our team did great in the People's Choice competition. 146 votes, to be exact, but we were ultimately edged out by 2 votes and Vicki Isaacks' team took the win! Our team won 2nd overall in the chili competition behind Vicki Isaacks' team (thanks to Christy Rodgers and her award winning chili). There was some stiff competition, but we made DCPA and the legal community proud.

Our team, consisting of Pam Snavely and Cheryl Cooper, won their first game in the Cornhole Tournament bracket, but were edged out in their 2nd game, although they definitely gave the competition a run for their money!

Although our team did not bring home any trophies, we had fun, and will give it another go next year! *See additional photos on page 6.*



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@hbwlaw.com

Sunnie Palmer, Historian
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

Meeting Notice

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **November 20, 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 November 14, 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@hbwlaw.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 NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: November 20, 2014
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

- 1. Welcome members and guests**
- 2. Old Business**
 - a. Approve October 2014, Treasurer's Report
 - b. Approve October 2014, meeting Minutes
- 3. New Business**
 - a. 2015 Committee Chair/Committee Updates
 - b. Special Event presented by Social Committee
- 4. Door Prize and Announcements**
- 5. Adjournment**



President's Message

By: Kim Guertler

Well, Thanksgiving is nearly upon us and as many people do at this time of year, I have been reflecting on the many things I am thankful for in my life. I must tell you that serving as your 2014 President has been a wonderful experience and I am truly thankful for the opportunity. Serving as President has not only given me a first-hand look at what an outstanding organization the Denton County Paralegal Association is, but it has also provided me the opportunity to get to know you all so much better! As President, I felt that it was important to participate in our many activities and events. Let me tell you, I have been the one to benefit from that "responsibility!" I learned so much from attending our informative and interesting CLE luncheons; I was humbled and honored to be able to volunteer for the Wills for Heroes; and our Social and Fundraising events were creative and SO entertaining!

It has been such an enjoyable year, and I must give credit to some amazing people! First of all, thank you to my fabulous Executive Committee, Cheryl Cooper, Melody Brackeen, Lisa Pittman and Sunnie Palmer. I cannot express to you my appreciation for your giving of your time, wisdom, patience and sense of fun! The Executive Committee works hard, but our organization would be nothing without our members who volunteer to chair and serve on committees. So, a great big THANK YOU to Michelle Beecher, CLE Chair; Jennifer Stout, Fundraising Chair; Priscilla Brooks, Social Chair; Gina Elliott and Sunnie Palmer, Membership Chairs; Wanda Woodworth, Scholarship Chair; Lisa Pittman, Newsletter Chair; and Brandi Hunter for stepping in as Legal Directory Chair. I cannot tell you enough times how appreciative I am for you and the members who serve on your committees. Our organization would be dead in the water without you all, so again THANK YOU!

While I am stepping down as President, I am not bowing out of continuing to work to help our organization continue to grow in number and continue to enrich the lives of each of our members. I would like to encourage each of you to consider working on a committee next year. Yes, volunteering is not always easy but it is always worth it! Let's all support Cheryl Cooper as she takes on the role of 2015 President and commit to using our gifts and talents to continue to grow our wonderful Denton County Paralegal Association!

Our last luncheon of the year is next Thursday, November 20th, and our Social Committee has put together a fun event for us! Please plan to attend, have some fun, AND increase your chance of winning the Pandora Bracelet which will be given away at the luncheon. See you all next week!



Birthdays

Our members with December Birthdays are:

Ava Watson (12/5)
Cindy Stewart (12/18)
Ria Sherman (12/20)
Carla Neal (12/30)

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.

Upcoming Socials...

By Priscilla Brooks, Social Committee Chair

Pandora Bracelet drawing

November's monthly meeting will be a meeting/social combination. Come and enjoy your lunch hour with us! There will be a box at the meeting for the Denton Community Food Center if you would like to contribute. They are desperately in need of peanut butter, breakfast cereal/oatmeal and canned fruit.

The drawing for the **Pandora bracelet**, which was generously donated to our Association by Peter Nasr of Nasr Bros Jewelers, will take place during this month's luncheon (**REMEMBER: you must be present to win**).

Christmas Social

DCPA's Christmas Social will be held on December 4, 2014, 6 – 8 p.m. at Angelina's, 1400 North Corinth Street, Suite 111, Corinth, TX 76208. See flyer attached for more information.

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

DCBA Chili Cookoff Con't



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

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Denton, Texas 76209
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Email – stewartprocess@verizon.net

The Reporting Professionals

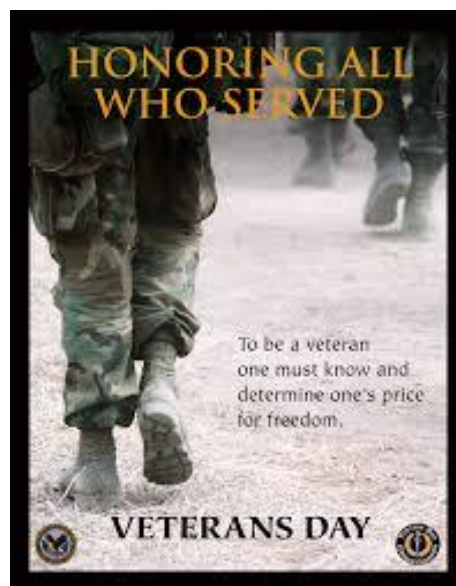
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Minutes

1. President Kim Guertler called the meeting of October 23, 2014, to order at 12:10 p. m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 16 attendees

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Guertler asked for a vote on the September 2014 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Sunnie Palmer and seconded by Jenna Earhart. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Guertler asked for a vote of approval of the September, 2014, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Pam Snavely and seconded by Carol Pelzel. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

3rd QUARTER REPORTS

4. Social Committee – Priscilla Brooks reported that the next social will be held during the regular meeting in November. More details will be announced via email. The Christmas social is scheduled for December 4, 2014. The social committee is scheduled to meet on 10/30 to discuss the next social.
5. Fundraising Committee – Jennifer Stout reported that the fundraising committee had raised approximate \$1500 this year and was all raised with the help of donations. Nothing was used out of the fundraising budget.
6. Legal Directory Committee – Cheryl Cooper reported for Brandi Hunter. They are working on the directory and costs for digital via hard copy will be submitted shortly.
7. Scholarship Committee – Wanda Woodworth reported although there isn't currently anyone signed up to apply for the scholarship, Tina Sikes @ UNT wants to apply for the scholarship next year.
8. CLE Committee – Michelle Beecher advised that ½ day seminar is still on track with the Bar Association however they like to handle everything at the last minute. She will keep us updated.

Minutes Con't

9. Newsletter Committee – Lisa Pittman – No new comments.
10. Membership Committee – Sunnie reported that we now have 70 active members.
11. President Guertler announced that we are still looking for a CLE Chair as well as a Social Committee Chair. Also, there are a couple of 5K's coming up if anyone wants to participate and/or just come out and wear your DCPA shirt please check the link she posted for the Paws for a Cause.
12. Christy Powell told everyone about the DCPA chili cook off team on Saturday, October 25th. We were asked to participate in this event that is put on by the DCBA. There is a team of 4 which consists of Christy, Cheryl, Pam and Ava. They will be decorating their table and participating in the corn hole tournament.
13. Votes were tallied and the following positions were voted on for the 2015 year and the following were unanimously elected:

Melody Brackeen President-Elect
Pamela Snavelly Secretary
Lisa Pittman Treasurer
14. Cheryl Cooper congratulated the new officers and stated she is really looking forward to a great year as President and hopes to continue to move the DCPA forward in membership and our involvement with the DCBA. As President-Elect, I too congratulated the newly elected officers and look forward to a great year.
15. Kim Guertler drew for the door prize and Priscilla Brooks was this month's winner.
16. Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. by Kim Guertler.

**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641
Denton, TX 76206

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org