

**Special Interest
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Denton County Paralegal Association

2016 DCPA Christmas Social



The Denton County Paralegal Association is hosting its annual Christmas Social. This is our biggest and best Social of the year so please come out and enjoy the fun!

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2016

Time: 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

Location: Angelina's Mexican Restaurant
1400 N. Corinth Street #111, Corinth, Texas 76208

RSVP: LaKeshia Bell Phone: 940-349-2753
Email: Lakesha.bell@dentoncounty.com

Please RSVP by Thursday, December 1st so that we can have an accurate head count.

We hope to see you there!!

Letter From Mark & Linda Lewis

LEWIS & PASSONS, P.C.

(940) 591-1191
(940) 383-0557 (Facsimile)
509 S. Carroll Boulevard, Suite A
Denton, Texas 76201

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October 21st, 2016

To Our Friends and Colleagues in
The Denton County Bar Association

We want to thank you for the outpouring of love and support we received following the tragic death of our son, Andy. Your notes, calls, e-mails, visits and prayers have helped to sustain us. Many of you stood with us at Andy's funeral service, and many have made contributions since in his memory. For these kind and selfless acts we are deeply grateful. And we believe it demonstrates what is wonderfully unique about our legal community, and that is we truly care about one another.

All of you – judges, coordinators, clerks, bailiffs, reporters, lawyers, and paralegals – are precious to us. You are our extended family and, like a family, we are sometimes fractious and dysfunctional but, when the chips are down, we pull together. We thank God for you and we pray God's rich blessings on each one of you. Please accept our sincere thanks for your help in our time of need.

And please keep us in your prayers for many months to come. We will be in sore need of them.

God bless.

Mark and Linda Lewis

Meeting Notice

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **November 17, 2016** 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 the **exact** amount of cash or a check made payable to DCPA.

2016 Officers

Pamela Snavely, President
psnavely@hbwvlaw.com

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

Heather Walker, Secretary/Parliamentarian
heather.walker@dentoncounty.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbwvlaw.com

Cheryl Cooper, Historian
ccooper@dentonlaw.com

Did you know...

Oakmont developed a menu specifically for our association so each individual can order his or her own personal lunch selection. A copy of the menu can be found on the DCPA website. 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 Lisa Pittman at lpittman@hbwvlaw.com. The deadline to RSVP is November 16, 2016 by 3:00 p.m. Please clearly mark your menu choices and forward to Lisa Pittman. That will help Oakmont ensure each individual lunch 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 and menu choices for preparation of food and adequate seating arrangements. Please note we are also required to bill those individuals who make reservations to eat 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)

2016 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, Lakesha Bell
lakesha.bell@dentoncounty.com

Scholarship, Jenna Earhart
jearhart@hbwvlaw.com

AGENDA FOR MEETING

Date: November 17, 2016
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests

2. Old Business

- a. Approve October Minutes
- b. Approve October Treasurer's Report

3. New Business

- a. Inauguration of 2017 Treasurer, Secretary and Historian
Lisa Pittman, Martha Gallegos and Heather Walker

4. Annual Committee Reports

Continuing Legal Education
Fundraising
Legal Directory
Membership
Newsletter
Scholarship
Social

5. Drawing for Participation Prize

6. Announcements

- Scholarship Award Recipient
- Annual DCPA Christmas Celebration held December 8, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m at Angelina's in Corinth.

7. Door Prize

8. Adjournment

President's Message

By: Pamela Snavely, ACP

November Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be held on November 17th and will include the inauguration of our newly elected officers for the coming year. We are pleased to welcome Martha Gallegos as Secretary and Lisa Pittman as Treasurer for 2017! These two seasoned paralegals bring a lot to our association as officers, and we are fortunate to have them on board the Executive Committee.

Introducing....

Martha Gallegos majored in criminal justice at St. Edwards University and worked in Law Enforcement as a Deputy Reserve for the Terry County Sheriff's Department. Martha has worked for the County of Denton for eleven years; she was in the County Clerk's Civil/Probate Department for five years, and has been a member of the Denton County District Attorney's Misdemeanor Division for nearly six years. She earned her paralegal Certificate from PDI University of North Texas in April 2015. Martha served as a member of the DCPA Social Committee and is a regular participant in all events held by the association. She is a faithful volunteer for the National Kidney Association and PKD (Polycystic Kidney Disease) Foundation of North Texas. Martha participates in a PKD 5K walk/run fundraiser every year. The amount raised this year to find a cure is at \$1,599,337.75 - very close to their goal of \$2,000,000.00!

Lisa Pittman has been a paralegal for twenty-one years and has been with the law firm of Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant working with partner Richard Hayes for over sixteen years. She has extensive experience in residential and commercial real estate, oil & gas, transactional, eminent domain, and civil litigation. Lisa has served DCPA in a variety of roles over the years: as Secretary/Parliamentarian in 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2011; and as Treasurer from 2009 to the present. She has served as Committee Chair for the Legal Directory Committee, Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee, and Newsletter Committee. Lisa chaired the SBPD Public Relations Committee and Mentor/Protégé Committee 2009-2012; served as subchair for the PR Committee 2007-2008; and has been a TAPS on-site volunteer for the past eleven years.

Volunteers Make it Work

Martha and Lisa are dedicated paralegals with a heart for volunteering. They have stepped up to donate their skills, time, and talents to keep the wheels turning on the Executive Committee. Because DCPA is an all-volunteer organization, we depend on our fellow members to serve in different capacities, ensuring we meet our goals and continue to move our association forward. The membership elects officers from the individuals who declare their intent to run for the executive offices. Program and event operations of the association are accomplished through various standing committees. Our 2016 Committee Chairs are to be commended for donating their time, creativity, and energy providing great programs and events to our members throughout the year:

President's Message Con't

LaKesha Bell, Chair – Social
Cheryl Cooper, Chair – Legal Directory
Jenna Earhart, Chair - Scholarship
Deborah Nyarangi, Chair – Continuing Legal Education
Daphina Park, Chair – Fundraising
Lisa Pittman, Chair - Newsletter
Vicki Schmidt, Chair - Membership

Each of our standing committees consists of a Chair to lead the group and optimally three members working together as a team. We need additional self-starters with a positive attitude to step into the role of Chair for those who are rotating out next year. If you are someone who has a desire to serve, can spend a few to several hours a month to coordinate matters, and communicate effectively with your team members to organize efforts, it is time to volunteer to Chair a committee for 2017! If you aren't comfortable in a leadership position just yet or don't have the time to head up a committee, please consider serving as a member of a committee that you find interesting. We need additional people willing to learn and grow! Serving as a member of a committee will give you a better understanding of that committee's goals, knowledge of how those goals were previously met, and the opportunity to determine best practices for current trends. It is less time consuming than chairing, but provides valuable assistance to the Chair in managing the committee's tasks. You can help carry the load and share new ideas for development.

As our Officers and Chairs demonstrate, no matter your career path or the amount of time you can spare, you will make a difference by stepping up to volunteer in DCPA! It is an excellent hands-on experience, will look great on your resume, help you grow personally and professionally, enable you to forge new friendships, and establish lasting connections within the legal community. We are all busy, but if we work collectively as a group, many hands make light work.

Take the opportunity to lend your skills and talent to our association by emailing me at psnavely@hbwvlaw.com about your interest in serving as a Chair or team member of a committee for the coming year!



Membership News

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

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 Vicki Schmidt at vickidcpa@gmail.com

Birthdays

Our members with December & January Birthdays are:

Ava Watson (12/5)

Carla Neal (12/30)

Lacee Young (1/5)

Joni Barr (1/9)

Vicki Schmidt (1/11)

Nina Winfrey (1/21)

Amy Hoffee (1/24)

Carol Pelzel (1/24)

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

Scholarship Winner

Submitted by Pamela Snavelly, ACP, DCPA President

The Executive Committee reviewed all applicants and their submissions, and determined that the \$250.00 Scholarship will be awarded to Adriana Sanchez for her enrollment to certify as an Advanced Certified Paralegal in criminal law through the NALA program. Congratulations, Adriana! We respect and applaud your commitment to continuing legal education and professional growth through the advanced certification process.

Participation Prize Drawing

Our November meeting activities will also include the drawing for the annual Participation Prize! Each event members attended during the year resulted in a chance to win the special year end prize. Your name is entered into the drawing for every time you attended a CLE Luncheon, social activity, fundraiser, or business meeting, so the more you participated in association events the more chances you have to win!

This year our lucky winner will receive a **Fitbit Flex 2** and health-focused goodies! Make your reservation for our November 17th meeting today, because if your name is drawn and you are not at our 11/17 meeting, we will draw again. **You must be present at our 11/17 meeting to be awarded the Participation Prize!**



*Give thanks
for each new morning with its light
for rest and shelter of the night
for health and food
for love and friends
for everything thy goodness sends*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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

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

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

Minutes

1. President Pamela Snavelly called the meeting held on October 27, 2016 to order at 12:09 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club in Denton. President Snavelly welcomed 13 attendees, 12 members and the speaker.
2. The speaker for October's meeting was The State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division Ambassador, Joncilee Davis ACP, who discussed Ethics.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Vicki Schmidt advised the members of the unanimous election results for the 2017 Officers. A total of 15 ballots were counted, Lisa Pittman will remain treasurer and Martha Gallegos will be the new secretary.
4. President Snavelly asked for a vote on the September 2016 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Michele George and seconded by Michelle Beecher. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
5. President Snavelly asked for a vote of approval for the September 2016 Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Jennifer Earhart and seconded by Michele George. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

6. A joint Paralegal Day happy hour mixer hosted by DCPA and SBPD District 12 was held on October 20th from 5-7pm at Eastside. Thanks to everyone who came out as a good time was had by all.
 7. A survey was sent out to the members a few weeks back. There was a lot of good feedback received. The survey information will be presented to the Executive Committee for discussion.
 8. Michelle Beecher advised that the State Bar is working on getting divorce class for ProSe clients set up. They are currently looking for volunteers to help attorneys in class and court. Classes will start, hopefully, in January. If you are interested in volunteering, please let her know.
 9. The next meeting will be held on November 14th.
 10. Beth Honeycutt was the winner of the door prize.
 11. There being no further business, President Snavelly adjourned the meeting at 1:07pm.
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**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641
Denton, TX 76206

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