

LEXICON

WTPA 30th Anniversary Celebration

October 23, 2013 – Texas Paralegal Day

On October 23, 2013, the West Texas Paralegal Association celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Association. The West Texas Association of Legal Assistants was created in 1983. Honored at the event were the Charter members of the Association who were in West Texas Paralegal Association [Pick the date]

Jeri Bryce Saffle (CLA) first President and Charter member of the Association received an award of Life member status, other charter members in attendance were Beverly Sparks, Gloria Martin, and Faydean Hart who came from Snyder...

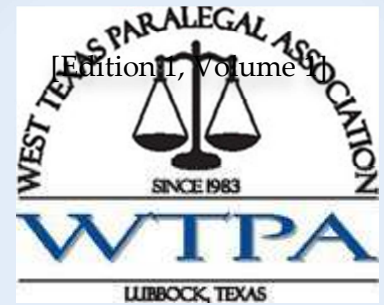
attendance, including the first President of the Association, Jeri Bryce Saffle (CLA), Beverly Sparks, Gloria Martin (CP), and Faydean Hart who came from Snyder with her sister. Jeri spoke about the benefits of being a paralegal and told the paralegal students that it was an excellent profession and that people have great respect for someone who understands the law and those paralegal skills can transfer to other positions. She also spoke about how difficult it was to get attorney support for the paralegal profession. Faydean is 89 years old and is still working in the legal arena scanning old Scurry County lawsuits to digital files with the Historical Society. They are at about 1956 and are about half way finished. These documents are on legal papers and were



tri-folded and were stored in envelope sleeves. Faydean started working in the legal profession in 1944. She retired from her firm when it closed in 2000. Life member certificates were given to Jeri Bryce Saffle and Mary Helen Valdez (formerly Mary Helen Urrutia). Life member, past President and

Paralegal of Year, Beth Arnold, CP, was also in attendance. Other special guests included students from the South Plains College paralegal studies

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of
the West Texas
Paralegal Association
Issue 1 – November 2013
Deirdre Trotter, ACP, Editor



November 6, 2013
Bi-Monthly Meeting
Schlotzsky's
19th & Memphis
6:00 pm
CLE Topic: Using MS
Outlook for Scheduling, To-Do Lists, Ticklers (1 Hour CLE)



program, attorney Charles Joplin, and James Livermore representing sustaining member, Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, LLP. Jeri and Faydean were also Charter members of the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas.



In addition, the 2013 Paralegal of the Year plaque was awarded to Deirdre Trotter, ACP. Deirdre's employer, attorney Fernando M. Bustos, was present when the award was presented. The Association appreciates Mr. Bustos' presence at the event.

Last but certainly not least, this year's scholarship winner, Darlene Smith, was honored and recognized by President-Elect Lola Smith-Gentry, ACP. Congratulations Darlene!



Thank you to our sponsors: Platinum Sponsor, Connie L. Vance, Disability

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Contributors: David C. Castro, II, Financial

Advisor, Edward Jones, Deirdre Trotter,

ACP, MSIS. Please remember these sponsors if you need outside services.

**Remember to
renew your
membership prior
to January 1, 2014,**



Like us on Facebook!

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## President's Message

Thank you to everyone that came out to the reception at Harrigan's!

Thank you to the Anniversary Committee! Elma, Debbie, Barb, and Deirdre thanks for all your hard work.

Thank you 2012-2013 officers.

Thank you 2013-2014 officers for agreeing to serve.

It is hard to believe we are at the beginning of another fiscal year for WTPA. This message is going to be short.

My message is: "Please send me any suggestions and comments you have regarding our organization. We are a great organization but there is always room for improvement and new ideas. My e-mails are [lgentry@hkwwlaw.com](mailto:lgentry@hkwwlaw.com)

and [dldjgen355@aol.com](mailto:dldjgen355@aol.com). My cell is 632-7464."

Sometimes we don't think it is appropriate to speak up in a meeting or we don't have our ideas completely in line. Know that you can contact me.

I am looking forward to another year. Again, thanks to everyone! Lola

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Report on 2013 Annual Meeting

Fall Seminar

The 2013 Fall Seminar was held on Saturday, September 14, 2013, at the Texas Tech University School of Law. Speakers included David Slayton from the Office of Court Administration; Barbara Sucsy, Lubbock County District Clerk; and Michelle Brinkman, Deputy Clerk, Travis County District Clerk's Office. David, Barbara, and Michelle all spoke on the impending mandatory e-filing requirement in Lubbock County and across Texas. Following the Fall Seminar, the members participated in the 30th annual membership meeting. At the meeting, Life member status was granted to Jeri Bryce Saffle (CLA), Mary Helen Valdez, and Charlotte Cummings (CP) for their many years of service to the WTPA and the legal community. Also, Katherine Kelly was made an Honorary Member for her work on the WTPA history and her many years of service to the legal community.

Installation of 2013-2014 Officers



The 2013-2014 Officers were also installed on October 23, 2013. The officers are Lola Smith-Gentry, ACP, President, Patricia Wanjura, CP, President-Elect, Georgia Seeley, ACP, First Vice-President (not present), Elma Morena, Second Vice-President, Sylvia Juarez, Treasurer, Debbie Aguirre, CP, Secretary, Deirdre Trotter, ACP, NALA Liaison. Appointed positions are Jan Bufkin, CP, Parliamentarian, Cynthia Martinez, PLS, PP, Bar Liaison, and Deirdre Trotter, ACP, Newsletter Editor.



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Connie L. Vance,
Disability Services

Signature Productions, Ltd.

Crenshaw, Dupree &
Milam, LLP

McCleskey, Harriger,
Brazill & Graf, LLP

2014 DATES

Texas Forum
Paralegal Committee –
State Bar of Texas
February 2014

WTPA Spring Seminar
March 2014

TAPA Leadership Conference
Dallas, TX – April 4-5, 2014

TALP – May 2014
Lubbock, Texas

NALA Convention
Charleston, South Carolina –
July 23-25, 2014

WTPA Fall Seminar &
Annual Meeting
September 2014

National Federation of Paralegal
Associations
Annual Convention
Dallas, Texas
October 2014

Thank you from
Darlene Smith,
Scholarship Recipient

I am writing to you with extreme gratitude, in regards to the West Texas Paralegal Scholarship given through the Lubbock Area Foundation. I am delighted and honored to be selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

My journey into the world of paralegals has just begun and already it is becoming the experience of a lifetime. Your generosity has not only impacted the life of a college mother struggling to make ends meet but also the lives of my four children who are thrilled to say "my mom went back to college". We made

the choice as a family for me to come back to school and I know that this decision has become the roots for a brighter future for my family. It reflects in my life through my children, you can imagine how proud I am to see A's on their report cards, because when they see me studying they study more and are curious to learn what I am learning or quiz me on my legal terminology. This encourages me because I know they will ask "what did you make on your test mom?"

I plan to continue my education at South Plains College, where I will eventually graduate. I then hope to become an important asset to an employer here locally.

By awarding me the West Texas Paralegal Scholarship you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

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WEST TEXAS PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

2012-2013

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

OPENING:

The Sixth Bi-Monthly and Annual Membership meeting of the West Texas Paralegal Association ("WTPA") was held at Texas Tech University School of Law and called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Deirdre Trotter.

PRESENT:

Members:

Debbie Aguirre, Gloria Martin, Elma Moreno, Deirdre Trotter, Cindy Martinez, Jan Bufkin, Patricia Wanjura, Emily Walterscheid, Deborah Rice, and Barbara Sucsy. A quorum was present.

Guests:

Andrea Darland and Zelma Medrano

Treasurer's Report

Elma Moreno, Treasurer, submitted the Treasurer's Report for review and discussion. There were no comments or discussion. The report will be filed for audit.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the fifth bi-monthly meeting were unanimously approved as distributed. **Motion was made by Debbie Aguirre and seconded by Jan Bufkin.**

Reports and Discussion

- ❖ President, Deirdre Trotter –
 - Deirdre's report is posted in the Lexicon.
- ❖ President-Elect, Lola Smith-Gentry –
 - Not present.
- ❖ 1st Vice President, Cindy Martinez –
 - No report.
- ❖ 2nd Vice President, Mary Helen Valdez –
 - Not present. Deirdre reminded members to renew memberships.
- ❖ Secretary, Debbie Aguirre –
 - No report.
- ❖ Treasurer, Elma Moreno –
 - See above report from Treasurer.
- ❖ Parliamentarian, Elma Moreno –

- No report.
- ❖ NALA Liaison, Patricia Wanjura –
 - No report.
- ❖ PD Liaison, Deirdre Trotter –
 - Meeting will be at the end of October. If anyone is interested in serving on the State Bar Paralegal Committee go to their website for information.
- ❖ Newsletter (Lexicon) Chair, Lola Smith-Gentry –
 - Next publication will be a special edition. Submit articles to Lola.
- ❖ Bar Liaison, Barbara Sucsy –
 - No report.

New Business

1. Approval of expenses for Fall Seminar.
 [Motion made by Elma Moreno and a second by Cindy Martinez that \$509.54 (\$200 for speaker David Slayton; \$250 for speaker Michelle Brinkman; \$59.54 for coffee) be approved for Fall Seminar expenses. Motion carried with none opposed.]
2. Elections. Nominees are as follows:
 President-Elect – Patricia Wanjura
 First Vice President – Georgia Seeley
 Second Vice President – Elma Moreno
 Secretary – Debbie Aguirre
 Treasurer – Sylvia Juarez
 NALA Liaison – Deirdre Trotter
 President-Elect – No other nominees from the floor - Patricia Wanjura elected.
 First Vice President – No other nominees from the floor - Georgia Seeley elected.
 Second Vice President – No other nominees from the floor - Elma Moreno elected.
 Secretary – No other nominees from the floor - Debbie Aguirre elected.
 Treasurer – No other nominees from the floor - Sylvia Juarez elected.
 NALA Liaison – No other nominees from the floor – Deirdre Trotter elected.
 Debbie Aguirre collected signed nomination acceptance forms from all nominees.
3. Audit Committee (Deirdre Trotter, Lola Smith-Gentry and Jan Bufkin) should audit books prior to first meeting of 2013-2014 year.
4. Report from Paralegal Day Committee. [Motion made by Elma Moreno and a second by Debbie Aguirre that a \$250.00 budget be approved for expenses of the WTPA Anniversary Celebration on October 23. Donation money will also be used for this event (LLPA \$50.00; TTU Law \$40.00; Connie Vance \$300.00; Guy Hawkins \$50.00. Motion carried with none opposed.]
5. Nomination of current and past members for Life Member status. [Motion made by Gloria Martin and a second by Elma Moreno to accept Jeri Bryce, Charlotte Cummings, and Mary Helen Valdez as life members of the West Texas Paralegal Association. Motion carried with none opposed.]
6. Meeting was turned over to the First Vice-President. Nomination for Honorary Member status. [Motion made by Deirdre Trotter and a second by Elma Moreno to accept Katherine Kelly, [former Probation Officer of Hale County; Former Court Administrator for Judge Stovall in Hale County; Former Legal Secretary/Legal Assistant for Don Cummings and Jack McClendon in Lubbock County] for her work on the WTPA history. Motion carried with none opposed.]
7. Meeting was returned to President. TALP-LLPA – Discuss sponsoring coffee break at TALP Annual Meeting on May 1-3, 2014 in Lubbock. [Motion made by Cindy Martinez and a second by Sylvia Juarez for WTPA to sponsor a coffee break at the TALP Annual Meeting. Motion by Cindy Martinez and a second by Emily Walterscheid to amend the previous Motion and approve a donation of \$200 to LLPA to sponsor a coffee break at the TALP Annual Meeting on May 1-3, 2014. Motion carried with none opposed. The Motion for WTPA to sponsor a coffee break with a money donation in the amount of \$200.00 was put to a vote; the motion carried with none opposed.]

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.