



TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Leatha Kopech, PP, PLS

Dear TAALP Members:

Welcome to 2022! WOW...where did 2021 go? I hope you all had a great holiday season. I don't know about you, but I always have a hard time getting back into the swing of things after the holidays. But here we are mid-January already. Time needs to slow down!!!

Our January meeting was held on Thursday, January 13th at The Jalapeno Tree. Davis Woudwyk spoke on Open Records Requests. It was a great meeting. Thank you **Lexitas** for sponsoring this meeting and **Deposition Resources** for providing Cocoa Bombs for everyone. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022, for our noon meeting at The Jalapeno Tree. Our speaker will be 321st Judicial District Court Judge Robert Wilson. Please make plans to attend. We look forward to seeing you all.

Here are some things coming up:

*Half-price membership for new and renewing members for the remainder of our 2021-22 year (Jan. 1 – June 30);

*April evening membership meeting and happy hour and membership social; and

*We are looking into the details of Law Day with the Smith County Bar Association. We received a Save the Date for April 28th. More information will come soon.

Something to start thinking about...It's only six more months until election of next year's board, so if you are interested in serving, now is the time to start putting some serious thought to where you might be interested in serving next year. In looking ahead, active members, remember that in order to be nominated for an office and for active voting members, your active membership status must be in good standing. In order to ensure that you remain in good standing, you cannot miss attendance at one meeting (either regular or board) per month for three (3) consecutive months during any fiscal year. If a member misses attendance at one meeting (either regular or board) per month for three (3) consecutive months during any fiscal year, then the member will be placed on "associate" status, without refund of dues, for the remainder of the fiscal year in which the violation occurred or until the said member has attended one meeting (either regular or board) per month for two (2) consecutive months, at which time the member may be reinstated as an active member. So, to paraphrase that, just make sure you don't miss attending meetings 3 months in a row! If you have, then please attend the two monthly meetings in a row before May 1st to reinstate your active status. If you have any questions or concerns about your attendance and current active status, please contact Lisa Betts, lisa@ssefirm.com regarding your attendance/active status.

Leatha Kopech

TAALP can help get your name out to our members!

For more information, email:
branditurchi@gmail.com

Transcript Ad Rates (Per Month):

Business Card - \$10.00
Quarter Page - \$20.00
Half Page - \$30.00
Full Page - \$50.00

NOTICES:

The price of lunch is \$15.00, which covers an hour of CLE and a full course meal (salad, entrée, drink and dessert). Feel free to bring your own lunch with you should you chose not to eat the catered meal.

When responding to your evite, please note whether you will attend and whether or not you will eat so an accurate count can be provided to the caterer. If an RSVP is made with a notation that a meal will be paid for and you do not attend the meeting, you will still be responsible for the cost of that meal. Those with extenuating circumstances will be taken under advisement.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

TAALP
MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2022 BOARD MEETING
By: Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

The Executive Board met at Texas Music City Grill and Smokehouse on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Leatha Kopech, President; Jo Ruth Hancock, President-Elect; Candace Dillon, 2nd Vice President; Tina Knighton, Treasurer; Helen Koch, Parliamentarian; Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary, and Carrie King, Executive Advisor.

Absent: Brandi Turchi, Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Betts, 1st Vice President

President Leatha Kopech called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm

LEATHA KOPCH, President

Old Business:

- December meeting attendance 25

New Business:

- January Sponsor – Lexitas

JO RUTH HANCOCK, President-Elect

- Jo Ruth reported that Jalapeno Tree is confirmed for our January Meeting.
- NALA year-end annual report to be sent

LISA BETTS, 1st Vice President-ABSENT

- Membership Renewals - We have 84 renewals. Half-price membership begins now through June.
- Evite for January 13th membership meeting at noon - send evite by Thursday, January 6th at noon with reminder on Monday, January 10th. Speaker – Smith County Assistant District Attorney Davis Woudwyk, Location: Jalapeno Tree

CANDICE DILLON, 2nd Vice President

- January – Davis Woudwyk, Smith Co. Assistant District Attorney, Topic – Open Records Request
- February – Judge Robert Wilson, Topic – 321st District Court Processes

GAYE BOYNTON, Recording Secretary

- Board Meeting Minutes

Gaye Boynton moved that the Minutes of the December, 2021, board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. The motion was seconded, carried and the minutes were approved.

BRANDI TURCHI: Corresponding Secretary- ABSENT

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, January 12th. Deadline to get your information to Brandi is Friday, January 7, 2022, by 5:00 pm.

TINA KNIGHTON, Treasurer

- December 2021 Treasurer's Report

Tina Knighton moved that the Treasurer's Report for December, 2021, be filed for audit. The motion was seconded and it carried.

CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor

- Website Renewal - Completed

Next Regular Meeting: January 13, 2022 – Jalapeno Tree - Select Menu

Next Board Meeting: February 2, 2022 – TBD

HELEN KOCH, Parliamentarian

- Law Day – No official update received to date.

The meeting concluded at 12:40 pm.

Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

Leatha Kopech, President

EMPLOYMENT – JANUARY 2022

*Contact: Lisa Betts
TAALP Job Bank Coordinator
903.534.0200 or lisa@sscfirm.com*

Position	Practice Areas/Job Description	Location
1.Receptionist, Immigration Legal Asst. & Immigration Paralegal	Due to the length of the job description, please see my email from 4/15/21.	Tyler
2. Paralegal	Full time paralegal need for a small law firm located in downtown Tyler. Family law experience preferred but will consider any experience	Tyler
3. Legal Assistant	Legal Assistant needed for family, criminal, and probate practice. Must have experience drafting pleadings, discovery, and trial attendance. Please see full description in my 8-3-21 email	Tyler
4. Legal Assistant	A law firm located downtown is looking for the following: 3-8 years of experience. Would be nice if their experience is personal injury on the plaintiff side. It will be doing Medical Malpractice on the plaintiff's side.	Tyler
5. Paralegal	A Longview law firm with an office in downtown Tyler is needing a full-time Paralegal for its Plaintiff personal injury practice. Must have at least 3-5 years of Paralegal experience. Requirements include; self-starter, trustworthy, be able to draft pleadings, discovery, complete the service process on a lawsuit, and be able to work independently. Benefits offered are: medical, dental, vision, retirement, and life insurance with a competitive pay. Any travel expenses and overtime are paid by firm.	Tyler
6.Bankruptcy/Civil Litigation Clerk – Paralegal	Paralegal needed for local bank to work on bankruptcy, collection, and judgment accounts. See full job description emailed 11-3-21	Tyler
7. In-take Specialists	We are looking for someone to handle our intake process. This position involves constant monitoring of our firm's intakes and reaching out to potential clients via email/text/phone to get information and set up appointments. It is a busy position. Spanish language proficiency is a plus, but not an absolute requirement. Compensation will be based upon background and experience. We do offer health insurance and the firm covers 50% of the premium for the employee. Please have candidates email their resume to info@hommelfirm.com .	Tyler
8. Paralegal	A small law firm located in downtown Tyler is currently looking for a full-time paralegal to begin in February or March 2022. Would prefer litigation experience. Salary commensurate with experience.	Tyler

	This firm primarily practices family law, probate, and school law.	
9. Paralegal	Established probate firm seeking full-time paralegal. At least 5 years of experience in estate planning and probate. Health insurance and retirement plan provided. See job description emailed 12-16-21	Frankston
10. Office Clerk	A small law office is needing a full-time office Clerk. This individual will be responsible for filing, copying, running errands (mileage will be paid), and other various office tasks. Starting pay is \$13.00/hour and the hours can be flexible. Please email your resume to: Sarah Holcomb at: nicnat@suddenlinkmail.com	Tyler
11. Paralegal	Please see my email from 1-6-22. Primarily family, criminal, and probate matters.	Tyler
12. Administrative Asst	Please see my email from 1-6-22. Primarily family, criminal, and probate matters.	Tyler
13. Receptionist/Office Asst.	Full-time receptionist/office assistant need for law firm. Duties include answering the business phone, greeting clients and guest, and other office duties. See my email from 1/11/22 for further info. Please send resumes to: Hailey Vickers at hailey@baumansmith.com	Tyler
14. Paralegal III	See my email from 1-19-22 on how to apply	Tyler
15. Legal Assistant	Position- Full-time Legal Assistant Must have 3+ years personal injury litigation experience, with some criminal defense experience preferred Salary: Negotiable depending on experience; Benefits include: health insurance after 6 month probationary period, paid vacation/holiday/sick time	Tyler

TAALP would like to thank all of the following for your membership:

Baker, Michele	Earls, Kristen	Lexitas	Sparks, Rhonda
Beck, Karen	Field, Joanna	Liska, Rhonda	Speerly, Amanda
Bedlington, Sally	Green, Cecilia	Luker, Kayla	Spencer, Ashley
Betts, Lisa	Hall, Carrie	Marshall, Tracy	Stewart, Clothilda
Blair, Erin	Hancock, Jo Ruth	Martin, Melissa	Taylor, Vickie
Blubonnet Process Service	Harvey, Terri	Martinez, Marieliza	Tekell, Amanda
Boynton, Gaye	Hemphill, Carla	May, Tamara	Thedford, Kimberly
Brooks, Bonnie	Hesse, Wendy	Mayfield, Tammye	Thomas, Deborah
Brotherton-Pyatt, Margaret	Heyder, Brittany	McKnight, Tiffanie	Toon, Kristine
Buchanan, Ann	Jackson, Laura	Mendell, Melissa	Turchi, Brandi
Burns, Katherine	Jones, Christine	Parker, Nancy	Vallery, Jo
Carter, Kimberly	Jones, Gabby	Penn, Ofelia	Vickers, Hailey
Cash, Lanell	Kinard, Griselda	Pilcher, Laney	Webb, Stacey
Clarkston, Paul	King, Carrie	Rakestraw, Macy	Wheeler, Connie
Clayton, Catherine	Kirby, Cindy	Reynolds, Kylista	Wilgus, Melissa
Collins Investigations	Knighton, Tina	Rex, Renda	Williams, Brandi
Connor, Sarah	Koch, Helen	Scirto, Hannah	Wootton, Magen
Coplan, Patricia	Kopech, Leatha	Sepmoree, Tina	
Crawford, Melani	Kramer, Jackie	Sherrill, Sharon	
Crim, Nancy		Shipp, Kelsey	
Deposition Resources		Shirley, Racheal	
Dillon, Candice		Skeen, Barbara	
Discovery Records		Skinner, Peggy	
		Slayter, Linda	

Our purpose of TAALP is:

To establish good fellowship among association members, national and state legal associations, and members of the legal community.

- ✚ To encourage a high order of ethical and professional attainment.
- ✚ To advance high standards of integrity and professionalism for legal professionals to the end that the public and the legal profession may be better served.
- ✚ To further education among members of the legal profession.
- ✚ To cooperate with state and local bar associations.
- ✚ To further the interests of legal support staff and professionals through this Association.
- ✚ To support and carry out the programs, purposes, aims and goals of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.

The benefits you will have with TAALP are:

- ✚ CLE approved programs and seminars
- ✚ Discounts to TAALP seminars
- ✚ Access to job bank
- ✚ Subscription to monthly newsletter - The Transcript
- ✚ Great network to other legal professionals

Process Service

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COLLINS
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Jury Research

Interviews

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Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday January Birthday's

Gaye Boynton 5th

Racheal Shirley 5th

Carrie Hall 7th

Deborah Thomas 7th

Catherine Clayton 8th

Jo Ruth Hancock 22nd

Jo Vallery 22nd

Tracy Marshall 29th



In The Know

NALA 2020 UTILIZATION AND COMPENSATION SURVEY

Fees: \$0 - Members, \$79 - Nonmembers

About every 2 years, NALA conducts a national survey of paralegals. Paralegals invited to participate include members of NALA, non-members, and members of NALA affiliated associations. This "look" at the paralegal profession has produced some interesting and valuable data through the years. The findings are divided into 4 sections: participant background; employers and practice areas; billing rates; and compensation levels. The survey analysis includes reviews of current findings in comparison with findings of previous surveys. Economic data is presented in terms of such factors as size of city, size of firm, educational backgrounds, years of experience, and specialty area of practice.

BILLING RATES AND COMPENSATION

The studies continue to show that roughly half of paralegals are primarily paid hourly, while the other half are salaried. On average, paralegals work 40 hours per week where 29 of those hours are billable, which continues to be the trend since 2016. About 53% of firms bill paralegal time. Total compensation for paralegals continues to grow with an average of \$68,240 in 2020, which is a 1% increase compared to 2018 (\$67,578) and an 11% increase over 2016 (\$61,671).

For more information on how to obtain a copy of the full report, please visit the NALA website at www.nala.org.

Source: <https://www.nala.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2020UtilizationSurvey-FINAL-Summary-of-Findings.pdf>

This Month in History

January Highlights in US Women's History

- **January 3, 1949** – Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) starts her tenure in the Senate, where she stays in office until 1973, became the first woman to serve in both the House and Senate as she previously served in the House (1940-49)
- **January 5, 1925** – Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the first woman Governor in U.S. history (Governor of Wyoming)
- **January 7, 1896** – Fanny Farmer's first cookbook is published in which she standardized cooking measurements
- **January 7, 1955** – Marian Anderson is the first African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera
- **January 8, 1977** – Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray is the first African American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood, by Bishop William F. Creighton at Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C.
- **January 11, 1935** – Amelia Earhart makes the first solo flight from Hawaii to North America
- **January 12, 1932** – Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Arkansas) is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, becomes the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and the first to serve as the Senate's presiding officer
- **January 25, 1890** – Nellie Bly, journalist, completed her around the world trip in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds after setting sail east to prove she could circle the globe in less than 80 days
- **January 25, 1980** – Mary Decker became the first woman to run a mile under 4 1/2 minutes, running it at 4:17.55
- **January 29, 1926** – Violette Neatly Anderson is the first black woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court

Source: <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/events/january/>

Quote

Give the respect you want to receive; embody the grace you hope to encounter; and help others with no expectations whatsoever.

- **Cory Booker** at AZquotes.com

TAALP
would like to extend a
BIG “THANK YOU”
to **DAIRY QUEEN OF TYLER,**
for donating the nice **TREATS**
members are finding in their
birthday cards!!
Be Sure To Frequent Your Local
DAIRY QUEEN!





TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

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