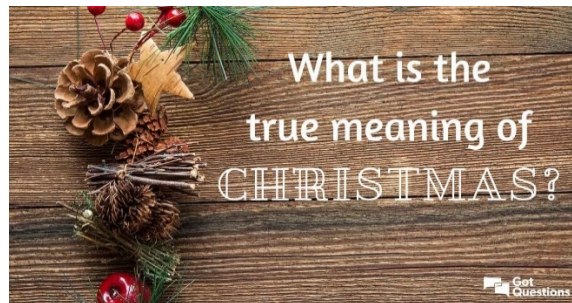




TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

President's Message
Leatha Kopech, PP, PLS

**Wishing you and your family love, peace,
and joy this holiday season.**



Christmas truly is one of the most wonderful times of the year. For many, there are warm parties, cozy homes, fond traditions to celebrate, and gifts to be shared. It's a joyous time of celebration. However, sometimes we get lost in the season and forget the reason we celebrate it, to begin with. Among the hustle and bustle, our focus is lost and priorities are misaligned.

Most people can tell you the origins of Christmas—that it's a remembrance of the birth of Christ. But either that's the extent of their knowledge or they lose sight of this in the busyness of the holiday. Why do we truly celebrate Christmas? Not Santa Claus, or the Christmas tree, or any other of the various traditions wrapped up into Christmas. Why do we celebrate this occasion—what is its true meaning?

The Birth of Jesus and Meaning of Christmas

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." -[Isaiah 9:6-7](#) (ESV)

Merry Christmas!!!

Leatha

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 December 1, 2021 BOARD MEETING
By: Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

The Executive Board met at Texas Music City Grill and Smokehouse on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 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; Brandi Turchi, Corresponding Secretary; Helen Koch, Parliamentarian; Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary, and Carrie King, Executive Advisor.

President Leatha Kopech called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm

LEATHA KOPCH, President

Old Business:

- November meeting attendance 23
- Our Christmas Luncheon will be held at Jalapeno Tree and we will have Ornament Exchange with a \$10 limit.
- Board Pictures – A group photo was taken during the board meeting.

New Business:

- December Sponsor – Deposition Resources

JO RUTH HANCOCK, President-Elect

- Jo Ruth reported that Jalapeno Tree is confirmed for our December Meeting.
- NALA reporting will be timely completed.
- A discussion was conducted regarding recent meal cost increase by Jalapeno Tree. It was decided that no increase to members will be implemented at this time.

LISA BETTS, 1st Vice President

- Membership Renewals - We have 83 renewals.
- Evite for December 9th membership meeting at noon - send evite by Thursday, December 2nd at noon with reminder on Monday, December 6th. No Speaker, Ornament Exchange. Location: Jalapeno Tree

CANDICE DILLON, 2nd Vice President

- December – No Speaker
- January – Jacob Putman, Smith Co. District Attorney
- February – Judge Robert Wilson
- December Community Services: Meals on Wheels – items for seniors and shut-ins. Puzzle books, lotions, blankets and socket for Men & Women.
- November Food Bank donation was distributed as planned.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing – This Saturday at Hobby Lobby. Need more volunteers. Available slots are: 2:00-3:00, 4:00-5:00, 5:00-6:00 and 6:00-7:00.

GAYE BOYNTON, Recording Secretary

- Board Meeting Minutes

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

BRANDI TURCHI: Corresponding Secretary

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, December 8th. Deadline to get your information to Brandi is Friday, December 3, 2021, by 5:00 pm.
- Holiday questions for newsletter: What are you most proud of? What's your favorite holiday tradition? What's the most important lesson you've learned in life?

TINA KNIGHTON, Treasurer

- November 2021 Treasurer's Report

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

CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor

- Website Renewal

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Next Regular Meeting: | December 9, 2021 – Jalapeno Tree - Select Menu |
| Next Board Meeting: | January 5, 2022 – TBD |

The meeting concluded at 12:46 pm.

Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

Leatha Kopech, President

EMPLOYMENT – DECEMBER 2021

*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 Secretary/Assistant | We are looking for a skilled Legal Secretary/Assistant with a minimum of 1 year of experience in civil litigation law. Experience should include multi-line phone management, calendaring case deadlines, electronic organization/filing. This individual shall possess the ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment, in addition to working well within a team. We require strong organizational and writing skills as well as the ability to manage a high volume of work. Salary depends on experience. Performance based bonuses. | Tyler |
| 4. 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 |
| 5. 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 |
| 6. 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 |
| 7.Bankruptcy/Civil LitigationClerk – Paralegal | Paralegal needed for local bank to work on bankruptcy, collection, and judgment accounts. See full job description emailed 11-3-21 | Tyler |
| 8. Legal Assistant | Full-time legal assistant for Tyler law firm. Apply at: https://pbfcmm.applicantpro.com/jobs/2067720.html | Tyler |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-------|
| 9. 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 |
|------------------------|---|-------|

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

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Baker, Michele | Earls, Kristen | Lexitas | Sparks, Rhonda |
| Beck, Karen | Field, Joanna | Liska, Rhonda | Spencer, Ashley |
| Bedlington, Sally | Green, Cecilia | Luker, Kayla | Stewart, Clothilda |
| 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 TAAPL 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 TAAPL are:

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

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Lic. No. A08864

903-526-1411
FAX 903-526-6453
mikecollins@sprintmail.com

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Jury Research

Interviews

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Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday December Birthday's

Sally Bedlington 19th

Sarah Connor 6th

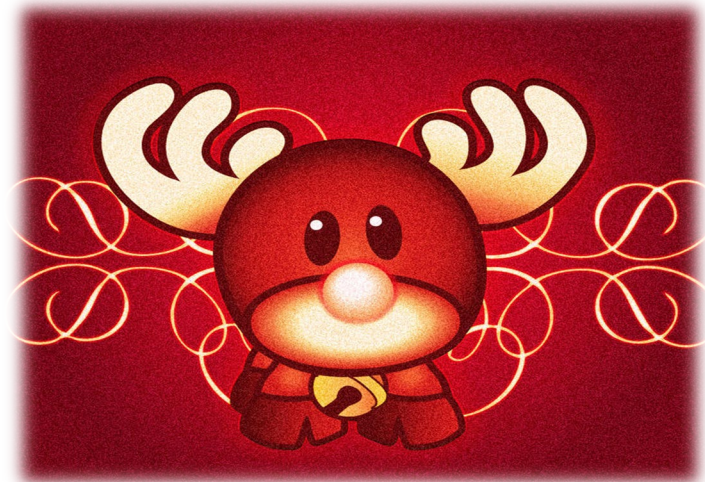
Leatha Kopech 20th

Nancy Parker 19th

Kylista Reynolds 21st

Hannah Scirto 13th

Connie Wheeler 12th



Tell Me Something Good TAALP Addition

Laney Pilcher:

What are you most proud of? In August of this year I signed up to run for Justice of the Peace in Precinct 4. During this time I have also worked and went to school full time while also planning a wedding. Sometimes I don't know how I managed to get it all done, but I never threw in the hat. I have been & will still push through. So I am proud of myself for my determination & my willpower through it all.

What's your favorite holiday tradition? Sitting around the fireplace in my parents house, reading the Christmas passage from the Bible and just spending quality time together with no phones or computers, just us and the Lord.

What's the most important lesson you've learned in life? When things get hard, don't give up- keep pushing through.

Bonnie Brooks:

Most proud of—50+ years working in the legal field

Favorite holiday tradition—being with family

Most important lesson learned—not to get too worked up over much of anything—to maintain calm state of mind.



Linda Slayter:

What are you most proud of?

Our community – diverse, tolerant, and kind.

What's your favorite holiday tradition?

My favorite holiday tradition has been my husband, daughter, and I going to dinner at the beginning of the holiday season and then having her pick out a meaningful ornament for that year. We have 24 of them on our tree! Now that she is married, I hope the tradition will continue with our daughter when she and her husband start their family.

What's the most important lesson you've learned in life?

Extend grace – not that you might need it tomorrow, but because someone needs it today.

Barbara Skeen:

What are you most proud of? My sons, Jack III and Carter – they have made my life complete.

What's your favorite holiday tradition? Relaxing with my family by the fireplace on Christmas eve after all the shopping and wrapping is complete.

What's the most important lesson you've learned in life? Don't sweat the small stuff – and all stuff is small stuff. I wish I had learned this earlier in my career.

Helen Koch:

Most important lesson:

People aren't the problem, people are the prize.

Favorite holiday tradition:

Setting up the crèche (nativity scene) in the manger my dad made for me. It is the first Christmas decoration to be put out.

**Kelsey Shipp:**

What are you most proud of? - my family and friends

What's your favorite holiday tradition? - watching Christmas movies

What's the most important lesson you've learned in life? - stand up for yourself!

Candy Dillon:

What's your favorite holiday tradition?

We play Christmas Bingo and use Hershey's Kisses as the place marker. Everyone tries to sneak one or two into their mouths. The winner of each round gets to pick an item from the prize box which is a collection of items throughout the year. Could be anything: food cards, Mary Kay, Bath & Body, items from the \$\$ Tree, etc. The kids LOVE going to the prize box.

We also play a drinking game using various small bottles of liquor from Fat Dogs: tequila, rum, crown, vodka, etc. All samples are pulled from the freezer so they are very cold and placed in a bag. We play the White Elephant game where #1 picks a bottle, #2 can steal or draw from the bag, and so on. #1 may keep his sample or he gets the final steal of the game. Then everyone has to take their shot.

I must inform you that our "Lake" Christmas is never on Christmas Day. It is usually held the week after so that everyone can come to our house and celebrate New Year's Eve with us. They each have their own rooms upstairs and if we have friends, there are recliners, couches, bunks, and a queen pull-out couch. We always enjoy the



holidays responsibly. The only tricky part is making it up the stairs to the assigned sleeping quarters.

I place ornaments individually a lunch sack. We play the Left-Right game reading a story. At the end of the story, everyone has an opportunity to see what ornament they received. Since I purchased them all, they have no clue what is in the bag. Sort of a party favor.

Leatha Kopech:

What are you most proud of? My faith, my family and my accomplishments in life.

What's your favorite holiday tradition? Decorating my home. I love all the festive lights, my village and seeing my grandbabies eyes light up on Christmas morning.

What's the most important lesson you've learned in life?

No matter what anyone else thinks of you, what really matters is what you think of yourself...Always be confident and know that God has your back.

Brandi Turchi:

What are you most proud of? My boys, Peyton and Maveric-they're both pretty awesome! My career is a close second.

What's your favorite holiday tradition? Picking out a live Christmas tree with my boys and watching Christmas movies with them.

What's the most important lesson you've learned in life?

The word impossible contains its opposite: "I'm possible."



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
AIRY QUEEN!





TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

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