



## 2020 January Spotlight

### Dena Penner

#### Bio



Vice President with BankPlus Mortgage Center

- Employed with BankPlus since 2006 as a Mortgage Underwriter
- Over 20 years of experience in the banking industry
- Highly trained in reviewing FHA, USDA, VA, Conventional loans
- Native of Gray, Louisiana and a graduate of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA
- Married with two children
- Parishioner of St. Francis Catholic Church in Madison, MS
- Member of Mississippi Mortgage Bankers Association
- Troop Leader with Girl Scouts of Greater of Mississippi for the past 5 years
- Volunteer with Salvation Army and Webster Animal Shelter

#### Interview

- 1. On the weekends, where would we most likely find you?** Since I was born and raised in Louisiana, I am usually spending time with my family in New Orleans. Mardi Gras season is coming up and I'm sure I'll be celebrating with them soon.
- 2. How did you get into the Mortgage business?** I first got into the Mortgage business while residing in Atlanta, GA. I started working with Conseco Finance doing title work on Manufactured Homes. I eventually moved on to work for HomeBanc Mortgage, one of the Largest Mortgage Companies in the Atlanta area at that time. The company offered an extensive mortgage training program. I gained knowledge of the mortgage industry by working as a CSR, Closer, Processor and basic underwriter.
- 3. Name three people (or one person if that is easier) that you view as mentors?** The one person who I can attribute as a mentor in the field of underwriting is Carla Dean. She was my manager when I first started working at BankPlus. Even though she is now working with a different

company, she is still there for me whenever I call. Carla believed in me and guided me to become a strong and independent Underwriter.

4. **What keeps you up at night?** On the weekends I am usually waiting up for my teenage daughter Taylor to get home before her curfew. You might also find me fighting off my daughter Mia's tabby cat who sneaks into my bedroom at night and bites my feet while I'm sleeping.
5. **What has the Mortgage Bankers Association meant to your career?** MBA has provided great networking with vendors within the industry and has helped me form relationships with local professionals in the business. The lunch and learn seminars are also beneficial in keeping up with changes within the industry.
6. **Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about yourself? (hobbies, etc.)** A large portion of my free time is spent volunteering with the Girl Scouts of Greater MS as a Troop Leader. It is rewarding to see these young girls growing and becoming independent women. Cookie Sales are coming up and we will be selling at the local Krogers or Sam's Club near you. Come and buy some cookies.