



TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS JANUARY, 2021 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Leatha Kopech, PP, PLS

Dear TAALP Members:

Welcome to 2021! Well, we made it through 2020! Was it not a CRAZY year??? I don't know about you, but I am glad it is over. Let's pray that 2021 is better. How many times since January 1st have you written 2020 rather than 2121? I always have a hard time with that...LOL!!!! My first half year as President of TAALP has certainly flown by, I am looking forward the second half of year one. We've had some great CLE speakers and more great speakers are lined up. Our Christmas meeting was fun as always.

Join us Thursday, January 14, 2021, for our noon meeting at the HUB, 304 E. Ferguson, Tyler, TX. Our speaker is Neal Smith. He will be speaking to us on "Funding Long Term Care and Basic Estate Planning Considerations." **THANK YOU Deposition Resources** for sponsoring our meeting this month!!

Here are some things coming up:

- *Half-price membership for new and renewing members for the remainder of our 2020-21 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.

As you all know, this COVID mess is affecting our lives in so many ways. As you can imagine, TAALP is also being affected. Although we continue to offer in person meetings, and many of you are attending, we also understand that some may feel uncomfortable attending in person. Therefore, this month we are testing the ability to offer "in person" and "Zoom" attendance. I look forward to seeing how this works out and hope that you take advantage of attending in the manner of your choice.

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 Melissa Wallace, melissa.wallace@burtonoil.com regarding your attendance/active status.

We collected a lot of toys for Toys for Tots during our Christmas community service event. Thank you all so much for caring and for your donations!

See you Thursday!

Leatha Kopech

TAALP can help get your name out to our members!

For more information, email:

brandit@brownbaumsmith.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!

**TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS
MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2021 BOARD MEETING**

By: Laura Brownlow, Recording Secretary

The executive Board met at Texas Music City Grill on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 for the December monthly board meeting. The following board members were present: Leatha Kopech, President; Jo Ruth Hancock, President-Elect; Melissa Wallace, First Vice President; Tina Knighton, Second Vice President; Brandi Turchi, Corresponding Secretary; Laura Brownlow, Recording Secretary; Lisa Betts, Treasurer; and Carrie King, Executive Advisor. Those absent were: Helen Koch, Parliamentarian.

Leatha Kopech called the meeting to order at 12:19pm.

LEATHA KOPECH, President:

Old Business:

- December meeting attendance 19

New Business:

- * January Luncheon – The HUB. Clear Springs will cater.
- * Law Day is currently set for May 3, 2021 at UT Tyler. See Smith County Bar Website for more information.
- * January Membership Meeting Sponsorship: Deposition Resources.
- * January Membership Meeting: In Person or Virtual option.
- * February Membership Meeting location: TBD

JO RUTH HANCOCK, President-Elect:

- NALA Mid-Year Report – drafted and will be turned in

MELISSA WALLACE, 1st Vice President:

- 2020-21 Renewal Membership total to date 92 regular members with 6 of those being vendor members as of January 4, 2021
- Evite for January 14, 2021 membership meeting – send evite Friday January 8, 2021 with a couple of reminders; RSVP Tuesday, January 12, 2021 by noon.
Must reply if attending in person or virtually and if eating
Location – The HUB
Menu – shrimp brochette, grilled chicken breast, green beans, mashed potatoes, salad, banana pudding

TINA KNIGHTON, 2nd Vice President

January	<u>Neal Smith – Funding Long Term Care and Basic Estate Planning Considerations</u>
February	<u>Javan Johnson (ethics)</u>
March	<u>Kline Pillow – TBD</u>
April	<u>Matt Rowan – TBD (evening meeting)</u>
May	<u>Doug Ritcheson - TBD</u>

LAURA BROWNLOW, Recording Secretary:

- Board Meeting Minutes

Laura Brownlow moved that the Minutes of the December, 2020, board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. The motion was seconded, and it carried.

BRANDI TURCHI, Corresponding Secretary:

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, January 13, 2021. **Deadline** to get your information to Brandi is **Friday, January 8, 2021, by 5:00 pm.**
- January spotlight member: Joanna Field
- February spotlight member: Sally Henry

LISA BETTS, Treasurer:

- December 2020 Treasurer's Report

Lisa Betts moved that the Treasurer's Report for December, 2020, be filed for audit. The motion was seconded, and it carried.

CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor:

Website has been renewed.

HELEN KOCH, Parliamentarian: Absent

Next Regular Meeting:

January 14, 2021 – The HUB

Next Board Meeting:

February 3, 2021 – TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39pm.

Laura Brownlow
Recording Secretary

Leatha Kopech, President

EMPLOYMENT – JANUARY 2021

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








Position	Practice Areas/Job Description	Location
1. Legal Assistant	Full-time legal assistant needed for solo Practitioner with guardianship and probate experience	Tyler
2. Legal Assistant	Full-time Legal Assistant needed for family law, real estate & wills & probate practice; Salary flexible and depends on experience, would prefer someone with more experience in family law. Practice is 50% family law, 40% real estate; and 10% Wills and probate	Tyler
3. Legal Assistant	Solo practitioner attorney in Lindale is looking for a legal assistant to replace his legal assistant that will be retiring in June 2021. He practices in the following areas: commercial litigation, probate, estate planning, evictions, and initiate corporations and LLCs. To begin with the job will require you to work 30 hours a week while training, and then if the candidate is the right fit, will be full-time with some benefits. The attorney will require someone with legal assistant experience	Lindale

NOTE: Job postings are for TAALP members. If you share with a friend/co-worker, please advise them that they have to be a member in order for the job bank to be shared or their resume forwarded.






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

Amaya, Lia	Earls, Kristen	King, Carrie	Rex, Renda
Avery, Jacqueline	East Texas Crisis Center	Kirby, Cindy	Scirto, Hannah
Berrum, Melissa	Epic Office Solutions	Knighton, Tina	Sepmoree, Tina
Betts, Lisa	Evans, Karen S.	Koch, Helen	Sherrill, Sharon
Blair, Erin	Field, Joanna	Kopech, Leatha	Shipp, Kelsey
Boynton, Gaye	Freeman, Tabitha	Kramer, Jackie	Shirley, Racheal
Brooks, Bonnie	Godwin, Carol	Langston, Denise	Skeen, Barbara
Brotherton-Pyatt, Margaret	Goley, Carol	Lexitas	Slayter, Linda
Brownlow, Laura	Hall, Carrie	Liska, Rhonda	Sparks, Rhonda
Buchanan, Ann	Hancock, Jo Ruth	Luker, Kayla	Starcher, Darcy
Carter, Kimberly	Hankins, Melanie	Mapes, Sarah	Starkey, Emily
Clarkston, Paul	Hayati, Connie	Marshall, Tracy	Taylor, Vickie
Collins Investigations	Hemphill, Carla	Martin, Melissa	Tekell, Amanda
Connor, Sarah	Henry, Sally	Martinez, Marieliza	Thedford, Kimberly
Coplan, Patricia	Hesse, Wendy	May, Tamara	Thomas, Deborah
Crawford, Melani	Jackson, Laura	Mayfield, Tammye	Toon, Kristine
Crim, Nancy	Johnson, Sandy	McLeod, Jacob	Torres, Magali
Deck, Mary	Jones, Christine	McMillan, Jocelyn	Turchi, Brandi
Deposition Resources	Jones, Gabby	Mendell, Melissa	Vallery, Jo
Dillon, Candice	Jones, Jordae	Miller, Susan	Vickers, Hailey
Discovery Records		Pilcher, Laney	Wallace, Melissa
			Watson, Christy
			Wharen, Marcia
			White, April
			Wich, Jodi
			Wilgus, Melissa
			Williams, Brandi
			Williams, Cayce Della
			Wootton, Magen

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

Surveillance

Witness Locate

Michael J Collins
Private Investigator

COLLINS
INVESTIGATIONS

110 N. College Ave
Suite 1504
Tyler, TX 75702
Lic. No. A08864

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

Background Searches

Jury Research

Interviews

mikecollins@sprintmail.com

BLUBONNET PROCESS SERVER

*Serving Tyler-Smith County & Longview-Gregg County
& surrounding areas in East Texas*

Pamela "Blu" Daniels

903-372-2818

blondefilly@wb4me.com

SCH4241

Member TPSA, NAPPS and TAALP



January Birthdays

Gaye Boynton	5
Racheal Shirley	5
Carrie Hall	7
Laura Brownlow	20
Jo Ruth Hancock	22
Jo Vallery	22
Carol Goley	25
Tracy Marshall	29



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!



SPOTLIGHT



Hi, my name is Joanna Field! I am currently a student at TJC getting my Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies. If everything goes correctly, I will be graduating in December 2021. After graduating, I hope to get a job in the Criminal Law field, and then continue on to get a Bachelor's Degree from UT Tyler. My dream job would be to work for an organization similar to The Innocence Project. I am currently employed full time at Hospitality Health Emergency Room - which makes things very interesting with everything going on surrounding COVID! I am excited to learn and grow with this organization, and gain friendship and connections I can take with me for the rest of my life.



**TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2020-2021**

President

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