

Lexicon

OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST TEXAS PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION
2020-2021—DECEMBER 2020

West Texas
Paralegal Association
P. O. Box 93103
Lubbock, TX 79493-3103

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 6, 2021
5:45 p.m. (Business Meeting)
6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (CLE)

Land Use Law
Speaker: Kelli Leisure



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CONGRATULATIONS
CANDACE NORRAD
2020 PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR





The WTPA Christmas Social went on despite COVID. We held a virtual cocktail party on December 2nd. I would say it was weird not being in a bar or restaurant this year, but two of our attendees actually beamed in from the MCM Elegante, so we actually had restaurant background sounds and a fireplace whenever they were on screen. The rest of us just drank for free in the comfort of our homes.

We had several door prizes to give out this year. Each winner got a gift certificate to H.E.B. Elma Moreno was a double winner – she wore the fanciest Christmas hat and came pretty darn close to guessing the exact amount of Christmas M&M's in a jar. There were 932, and I'm pleased to say I'm still enjoying them two weeks later. Just one of the perks of offering a candy counting contest! Sylvia Juarez won the prize for ugliest Christmas sweater, even though it was actually more festive than ugly. She was bedazzled from head to toe and even had a Christmas face mask to match her outfit (she was one of our guests out supporting the local economy at the hotel). Madison Scheppler won a random draw from a hat and last but not least, Lola Gentry blew us all out of the water with her knowledge of food trivia. We all had fun playing trivia – the hardest part was deciding which category to choose.

Thanks for those who made the party such fun. I hope all our members have happy and safe holidays this year!

Jolinda Westerberg
Secretary

Hi Sylvia,

Many thanks to you and the West Texas Paralegal Association for the monetary donation;
I look forward to going out to buy some bears!!!

Stay safe,

Lisa Harden
Lubbock Area Bar Association



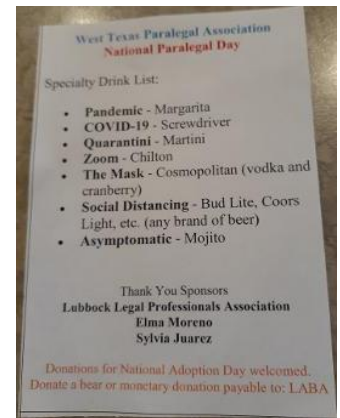
WTPA

DONATION OF BEARS

AND MONEY

FOR NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

PARALEGAL DAY



Minutes of
West Texas Paralegal Association
First Bi-Monthly Membership Meeting
2020-2021 Fiscal Year
November 4, 2020

President Madison Scheppler called the First Bi-Monthly Membership to order at 5:42 p.m. via online Zoom Meeting, Lubbock Texas. Members in attendance were: Madison Scheppler, Lola Smith-Gentry, Sylvia Juarez, Melynda Blair, Pat Roberson, Candace Norrod, Elma Moreno and Jolinda Westerberg. A quorum was present.

Guest present was Petre Racu.

Consent Agenda Items Presented:

1. Treasurer's Report: As distributed.
2. Minutes of the September 2, 2020 Membership Meeting: As distributed.

No items were moved from the Consent Agenda so Consent Agenda was adopted.

Discussion Items/Action Items:

1. Audit Committee: Sylvia Juarez sent an email out earlier in the day to the Audit Committee. Plans are to meet next week to conduct the audit.
2. Christmas Social: The Christmas Social will be held via Zoom Meeting, December 2, 2020, 6:00 p.m., directly following the Executive Committee meeting.
3. Any Other Reports:
 - National Adoption Day: The check for \$75.00 as our contribution for bears was mailed to Lubbock Area Bar Association. Melynda Blair also delivered all stuffed bears donated by individual members to LABA.

New Business:

1. Next Executive Committee Meeting: December 2, 2020 at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom Meeting.
2. Next Membership Meeting: January 6, 2021 at 5:45 p.m. Guest Speaker at 6:00 p.m. to be Kelli Leisure.
3. Any Other New Business:
 - Candace Norrod reported one membership renewal. No new members.

There being no further business, President Madison Scheppler adjourned the business meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Melynda Blair introduced our Guest Speaker, John Grace, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Lubbock, who spoke on the topic, "Law in the Time of COVID."

Sylvia Juarez for Jolinda Westerberg
Secretary

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
WERE DUE
OCTOBER 1, 2020**

Get yours in today!

Need the form?

<https://westtexasparalegalassociation.org/membership>

**Membership Applications also available for new,
associate, and sustaining members!**

Can't beat \$20 a year!

WTPA—An Opinion

OK, I'll say it. WTPA isn't an organization about socializing. It's about networking and education. And I'll also say this: most of us are introverts, which is one of the reasons why many of us chose this field; we're better at the behind-the-scenes work. Dare I say, a little socially awkward? Given these ingredients, our bi-monthly meetings are rarely well attended and our numbers are dwindling. That's too bad – this year more than any, we've been forced to cancel conferences, limit travel for both work and family, and generally isolate ourselves far more than even an introvert chooses.



Thankfully, the power of Zoom came to our rescue! WTPA has been meeting virtually for over six months now. Like everyone else, at the beginning, we weren't sure how it would go. But as it turns out, Zoom is an introvert's dream. You can attend a meeting and not show your face, show your face, mute yourself, lounge on your favorite couch, and even drink a glass of wine if you feel like it. It's a game changer. We may never go back to in-person meetings. The commute is just too easy.

People may say, "I don't need to be in a paralegal association. I'm not certified and don't need to be, and I'm not required to take continuing education credits. There's nothing in it for me." But I'm here to say, joining WTPA is about more than that. It's about coming together as a group with similar career interests, and getting to know each other. We also get to know other attorneys, judges, and advocates that we don't work with. They volunteer their time to share their experience and wisdom with us for an hour each meeting. I've been a member for over a year, and so far, I leave each meeting or conference feeling I've learned something I didn't know. It may be about law, but it also may be about local history, our city government, or how to prepare for my future in ways I hadn't thought about. I never go away disappointed.

So, I'm making an appeal. If you've left because you didn't see the point, or your life got too busy, maybe now is a good opportunity to come back and reconnect. We all need that. If you've never been a member, join our Zoom meeting as a guest and decide if you would like to help us strengthen our bonds to each other and our field. Listen to our great speakers and get the chance to ask questions on their topics of expertise. For \$20, I can buy four lattes. Which is awesome, because I love lattes, but they don't last. For a \$20 annual membership I can also get 4 hours of CLE over the course of a year. Which is even more awesome, because I am committed to staying informed about the law. I hope you will consider joining or rejoining. If it's been a while, the website looks great. We're looking forward to seeing you online! For more information: www.westtexasparalegalassociation.org

Jolinda Westerberg, CP
Secretary

West Texas Paralegal Association Scholarship

Deadline: May 1

This scholarship was established by the West Texas Paralegal Association to provide educational support for students pursuing a degree in a paralegal program.

ELIGIBILITY

Legal residents of Crosby, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, or Terry counties who are enrolled for a minimum of 6 hours in a paralegal program approved by the State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Student's intent is to pursue a degree as a paralegal in a program approved the State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division

CONTACT

Community Foundation of West Texas
6102 82nd Street, Suite #8B
Lubbock, TX 79424
(806) 762-8061

<https://www.cfwtx.org/current-scholarships>

Scholarship can be found at The Community Foundation of West Texas.

Look under “scholarship,” then “Current Scholarships,” then West Texas Paralegal Association. To apply, you will need to create an account.

Remember, scholarships are about more than the \$\$\$! Being awarded a scholarship looks good on a resumé!



SUSTAINING MEMBERS!!!

Any attorney, law firm, business, corporation, school or educator who supports the paralegal profession and the goals, objectives, and programs of this Association may become a sustaining Member of the Association upon approval by the Membership Committee.



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Materials for publication can be submitted to Lola Smith-Gentry West Texas Paralegal Association Lexicon/Newsletter 2413 Cedar Avenue Lubbock, TX 79404 or by email to dldigen355@aol.com or lgentry@hkwwlaw.com

This newsletter is being sent by email to anyone with a current email address on the roster.

The Lexicon is published bimonthly by the West Texas Paralegal Association and is devoted to promote and educate about the legal assistant profession. Opinions that are expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the West Texas Paralegal Association.



NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 6, 2020

ZOOM

Topic: WTPA - BI-Monthly Membership Meeting
Time: Jan 6, 2021 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73450559946?pwd=L2h6eUllcGx5RW1acWR4QjRoNGEzUT09>

Meeting ID: 734 5055 9946
Passcode: wvfc24

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2020 - 2021

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Bar Liaison and WebMaster

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Board Meeting

February 3, 2021

Zoom at Noon