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The Texas Docket

October-December 2024
Volume 22, Issue 2

“Dazzled Determination”



Editor

Lola J. Smith-Gentry, ACP
lgentry@hkwwlaw.com

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The Texas Docket

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello TALP Members:

Happy Fall Y'all!!! I hope you are all enjoying the fun activities that take place around this time: football, volleyball, homecomings, crafting events, pumpkin festivals, and county fairs. Another big event in the fall is our Education Conference. This event happened on September 20 and 21 and was hosted virtually from Lubbock. There were several things that happened during this event that I wanted to discuss. First, the fact that we can attend this conference virtually is such an extremely convenient option. Second, the ability to have open discussions about how to improve our association for our members. I think that these two things will go a long way in improving the future of our association.

The ability to have a conference virtually makes attending these conferences so much easier. It gives our association the ability to offer less expensive and convenient CLE hours to our members in one or two days. In addition, members who do not wish to attend or earn the CLE hours also have the opportunity to "attend" and participate in the Board Meeting for free. This is an amazing opportunity for our members to be able to hear what is going on with the association. Specifically, at this meeting it was great to have several members attend this meeting in addition to the EC members and Directors. I just wanted to let you all know that you had this benefit that would allow you to be a participating member of our association. We want our members to know that these meetings are open to them and with a virtual meeting are extremely easy to attend.

The second benefit that I believe we had at this conference was the ability for our members to discuss changes and modifications that would help us in the future with this association. Anything that wants to grow and succeed needs to be willing to change while understanding the past. Hearing about the "Past, Present and Future of the Paralegal" from our members started this conference out during Professional Development. Then we had several discussions during open forum and the Board Meeting where our members were able to discuss ideas for changes and reasons for procedures. I personally loved hearing new ideas and also understanding why we have done the things we have done in the past. Continued interaction of all of our members can be extremely important for our association and how we move forward.

Thank you to all those who attended this past conference and I look forward to serving you in the meantime. Helping members be active in this association and its activities means a lot to me and I think it is important to the success of this association to have member participation. Changes



are necessary, and we strive to improve this association for the better. I am hoping to oversee some new beneficial changes and then seeing you all in Austin for the Annual Conference. Until then, I am determined to make this a great year and to make this association dazzle.

Laura DeLeon

President 2024-2025



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PLANNING FOR OUR ASSOCIATION'S FUTURE

The Texas ALP Planning Committee is comprised of various members throughout our state association. Pursuant to the Texas ALP Policies & Procedures Manual, this committee shall be comprised of four members to include an experienced member; an officer of Texas ALP who has served at least one year as an officer; a new member; and a member under the age of 35. Julie Abernathy, PP, PLS, is serving as Chair for this year. Joining Julie are Emily Walterscheid (experienced member); Jeri Locknane (Texas ALP officer); Brittini Hall (member under the age of 35); and Krystin Miller (new member).

During the Texas ALP Executive Committee Retreat held in mid-May, the officers reviewed the existing plan. This committee received their input and appreciate their guidance toward the future of Texas ALP.

A revised Strategic Plan (or otherwise called a Long-Range Plan) starts with a vision.

But it requires first developing a shared vision for the future, creating a mission that points the association toward the fulfillment of that vision, setting forth some practical achievable goals toward fulfilling its mission, planning to reach those goals, putting the plan into action, dedicating our energies to these plans over our personal comfort, and sticking with it for the long haul regardless of immediate results.

It is more about looking at generational change, the hope for a decade from now, two decades, and even three decades. BUT – our Association must plan AT LEAST the next 3 – 5 years.

If the goal is to relive the past, we will not be present in the future. We cannot go forward by the same gate we came in. We do not need to throw out who we were and are. We simply need to ask honestly, “How does this remind us that each of us is an integral part of our association's commitment to helping its members be the best legal professionals possible?”—and that means having an Association to guide, educate, and nurture us to achieve that purpose.

The future of the Association is not to replace itself nor to forget its rich heritage and where it came from, but to grow into what it will be in that time. The Association cannot do that by aiming towards what it was. It must look to the future. It starts with a vision...a dream.

The Planning Committee developed a preliminary survey that was sent to all the members. To be truthful, it was disappointing to see the lack of responses. Does that mean our members don't care? Does it mean our members do not take time to read and respond to surveys? If that is true, then the Planning Committee needs to look at other ways to gather information to form and implement our new long-range plan.

The Planning Committee will now focus on other priorities, as mentioned above.

What is our mission?

Texas ALP promotes a high standard of competence for legal support professionals.

Should it change from the existing mission? If so, please let our Planning Committee know your thoughts.

What is Texas ALP's vision? The existing Plan calls them "core values."

Respect, Loyalty, Courtesy, Cooperation, Competence, Integrity, Professionalism

Should it change from the existing core values?

And what are our goals, other than the obvious?

- ***Commit to Code of Ethics***
- ***Provide opportunities for legal education***
- ***Provide opportunities for networking***
- ***Support certification***
- ***Provide opportunities for professional development***

Should all change? Only some, or throw it all out and start fresh?

An example we heard during the Open Forum at the Annual Conference this past April in Waco was to retain existing members, recruit new members, certify our members (and future members through NALS), and continue with legal education programs, both in-person and virtual by way of Zoom events or webinars.

The first survey asked for input on four core "values" of Texas ALP. (1) Membership; (2) Education; (3) Certification; and (4) Marketing, with a final question on what are "Your Big Ideas." The survey consisted of 14 questions or requests for response/input. One very glaring item kept being repeated: social media. Our Association needs to participate in a more social media presence. Not just Facebook, but also Instagram, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn. Potential members are young and tech savvy. It is important that our chapters stay relevant by consistently posting on social media.

Any new plan will require input and commitment by ALL our members. It is not a committee of five who will implement the plan once it is presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Nor is it the five members of the Executive Committee who are the only members who are responsible for implementing the goals and objectives that our Association desires. As the saying goes, It Takes a Village.

Therefore, the Planning Committee would encourage you to participate in the next survey. BUT – in the meantime, if you have ideas, want to share other associations' activities of what has or has not worked, the Committee would love to hear from you.

During the coming months, Texas ALP chairs and members will receive additional communications from this committee seeking their input for the NEXT 5 YEARS of Texas ALP programs and projects. When you see communications from this Committee, please take time to review the information and respond. It is vital to our Association that we operate under a plan to keep the focus on events and activities that are important to our members (and future members).

If you would like to see the entire survey results, please contact Julie Abernathy, Planning Chair, at julie.abernathy@sbcglobal.net .



Keep Smiling—Change Happens



E-MAIL? CELL PHONE? EMPLOYER? ADDRESS?

KEEP IN TOUCH

For TALP, Notify:

Helene L. Wood, PP, PLS, TSC-RE

Communications Chair

713-651-3713 • helene.wood@nortonrosefulbright.com

(Don't forget to update your NALS profile, too!)



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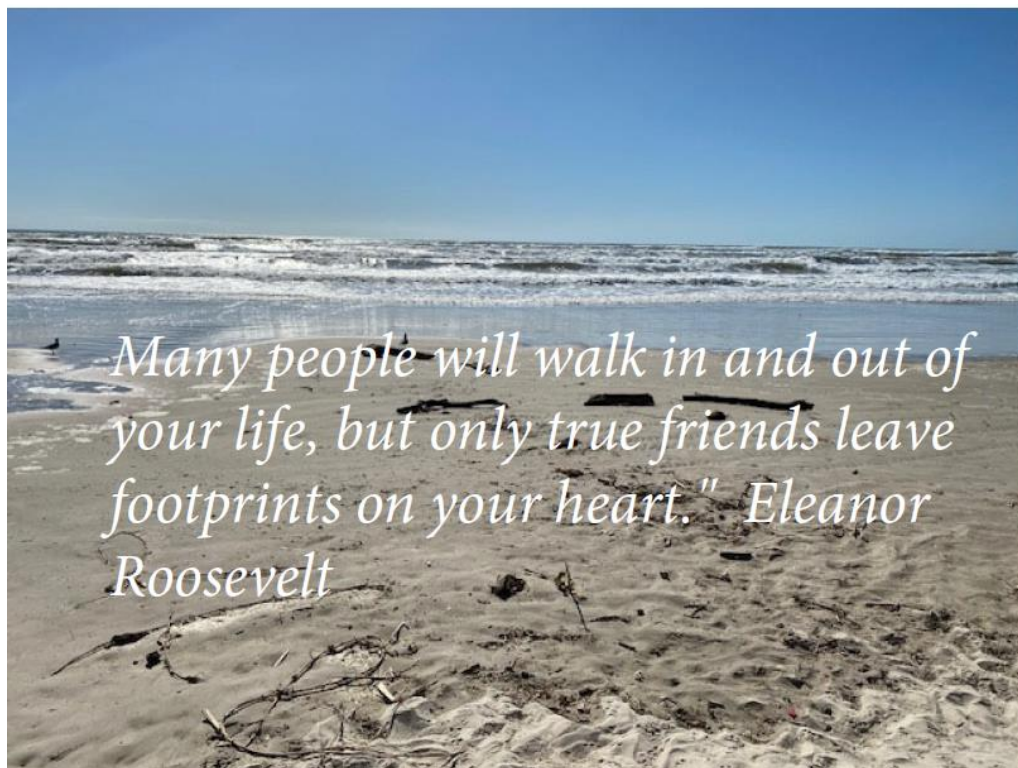
<https://www.fincen.gov>

A message from TALP Hugs Chair

Tina Hurley, PP, PLS (Dallas ALP)

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you need a “virtual hug” or someone to just listen. As part of the TALP family, we are here to support each other in times of need.

I’ll be there for you. Blessings and prayers for each and every one of you.



Remembering

Jani “Beth” Blackerby Walker, PLS, CLA

By Barbara Akins, PLS

“How Do You Wish to be Remembered?” This reminded me of a special person in my life who left life on April 15 this year and probably joked that it was a good time as she did not have to file taxes for the year.



That person was Jani “Beth” Blackerby Walker. She was the “preacher’s daughter” who had a thirst for knowledge and during her early years attended 13 different schools, graduating at the top of her class from Snyder, Oklahoma, and then attended 5 different colleges. She met the love of her life, Jefferson Walker, in Oklahoma in 1956 and they settled in Clarendon in 1964.

In Clarendon she worked for the law firm of Lowe, Courtney and Shelton as a legal secretary, bookkeeper, legal assistant, office manager, and “jack of all trades” until she retired. She joined NALS in 1972 and became deeply involved in the Texas Association of Legal

Secretaries (now TALP) and NALS, serving in various positions and offices in both organizations. Beth was TALS Legal Secretary of the Year in 1976 and was installed as the 31st President of TALP in 1985.

She had not yet done everything she could for the association. Her history in her career field with the Tri-level Association continued. During the 1986-87 year Beth attended a NALS Leadership workshop on behalf of TALS. In 1987-88 she attended another leadership workshop with Donna Dendy and Judith Smith and the three became members of the 1988-89 leadership team. Programs were developed and presented for local chapter workshops. In 1992 NALS recognized the Texas leadership team and it became the NALS Leadership Team and won the nationally acclaimed Keystone Award.

Beth served our association well. As I look at her history, I see her in a leadership role (1986-96) with Donna Dendy and Judith Smith doing workshops nationwide, chairing or working on the PLS Certifying Board, helping develop the ALS exam for NALS and the Texas Specialty Examination-Civil Litigation and

Real Estate. She was instrumental in developing the PLS Education Institute, which later became the National Education Institute as an Instructor.

Many association members looked to her for guidance in working with difficult members and interpreting the never-ending array of policies, procedures, and bylaws of our association. Her explanations were always clear. Beth's leadership qualities stood out and she was urged to take a leadership role in the national association. She declined as she believed that the younger members should step up and be heard. She encouraged those members to seek office and work within the association.

Beth and Judith Smith became close friends and often debated verses of the Bible after long days of TALP meetings. It was important to them. Her faith was strong and she radiated that faith in all her dealings with our association members. She believed strongly but accepted that others might not feel the same and respected that.

Beth made a profound impact on my life and many others – family, church friends, association friends, and clients of the law office where she “took care” of them. She was a cornerstone in the foundation of our association. She was a mentor, motivator, and an example of professionalism.

On April 15, God closed her eyes and told her to rest. She had done enough. We don't like to lose our friends, especially those who have made a profound impact on our lives. Donna Dendy, Judith Smith, and I visited Beth and Jeff in Amarillo before she left us. We're glad we did.

How would Beth want to be remembered? For her many friendships in the Clarendon and Amarillo legal community. For the church members who looked to her to take care of the youth choir. For her kindness in always speaking to new members of our association, offering help, and getting to know them. I think it would be about love of family, her friendship, her knowledge, her love of God, her church, and this association. She is truly missed by those who knew her.





THE NALS FOUNDATION...THROUGH THE DECADES!

Just a reminder that the Texas ALP Executive Committee has signed up to be part of the Foundation's Decades Competition and has chosen the 80's decade. For those Texas ALP members attending, we would love for you to bring your best 80's attire and join the fun!

Members, please show your support by making a monetary donation by clicking below and help the **TEXAS ALP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** achieve the bragging rights as the "BEST NALS ERA."

Click → [1980s: Texas ALP](#)

Thank you for your SUPPORT!



My thoughts on “One Member, One Vote (those in attendance)”

By: Emily Folsom

Many of you know me, but some don't. My name is Emily Folsom, I am from Waco, I joined Waco LPA, TALP, and NALS in 2018. Over the past couple of years, I have been guided to join the leadership team in Waco and slowly evolving into TALP. I am a younger member to this organization, constantly being asked how to get the younger members involved like me. Well, one thing I know could possibly do that is allowing one member one vote (to those in attendance).

During the 2024 Fall Conference Board Meeting, the topic of doing one member one vote (for those members in attendance) was brought up for discussion. Upon looking into this more, I discovered both pros and cons to allowing each member (in attendance) a vote. I thought I would share my findings and thoughts with you.

Right now, the association votes via Director of each chapter. I asked “seasoned” members who have been with the association to share their thoughts and knowledge with me. The majority of them said that the concern they have is that some of the bigger chapters could out vote all other chapters. They also said that when they had over a hundred members attending these meetings, it was tedious to count all the votes. I don't disagree, it was stressful just counting the 10 at this year's meeting. However, looking at the numbers from the 2024 Annual Conference and the 2024 Fall Conference, our numbers are nowhere near the hundreds. The total number for the 2024 Annual Conference was 32 members. I just want to remind you that we currently have 204 active members. The total numbers for the 2024 Fall Conference (that was held virtually) was 33 members.

The following numbers are for each chapter and the number of members they had attend the 2024 Annual Conference and the 2024 Fall Conference.

2024 Annual Conference		2024 Fall Conference (Virtually)	
Chapter/number of members	Attending Members	Chapter/number of members	Attending Members
Austin (13)	3 Members	Austin (13)	3 members
Dallas	3 Members	Dallas (0)	0 (dissolved)
Corpus Christi (39)	2 Members	Corpus Christi (39)	3 Members
Houston (32)	4 Members	Houston (32)	5 Members
Lubbock (13)	3 Members	Lubbock (13)	7 Members
El Paso (32)	1 Member	El Paso (32)	2 Members
San Antonio (21)	4 Members	San Antonio (21)	2 Members
Waco (14)	10 Members	Waco (14)	9 Members
Members at Large (20)	2 Members	Members at Large (20)	2 Members

As we all know, these are very low numbers for the amount of good standing, active members that we have. I personally would like to see all 204 members attend our conferences. Looking at the numbers and seeing who was at the conference, it seems that the majority of people who attended were either officers or chairs; people who didn't have a vote but were there because they had to be. I say had and not want, because if they did not need to fill a chair position, how many would have still attended?

The constant struggle is how to get more members active in the association. The question always is, “how to get younger members to join or become more involved.” I personally think that allowing one member one vote (to those in attendance) to go into effect would do a number of positive things for the association:

1. It will force the younger/newer members to really get involved in the changes. They will have to attend to really see their vote make a difference.
2. It will allow the younger/newer members to read and understand (learn) the reasons things are done.
3. It will allow the younger/newer members to feel like they are truly making a difference in the association, that is not run by the more seasoned members.
4. It will allow for more discussion.
5. It will allow members to teach and network either their memories or new ideas.
6. It allows our members-at-large an opportunity to have a voice.
7. More members will attend our meetings.
8. More money for the hosting chapters.

The things that I can see being a struggle with the one member one vote (those in attendance) are that:

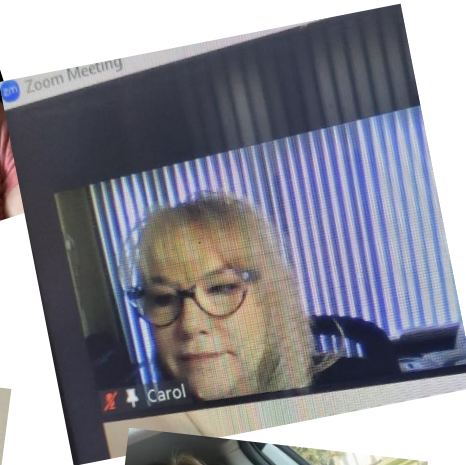
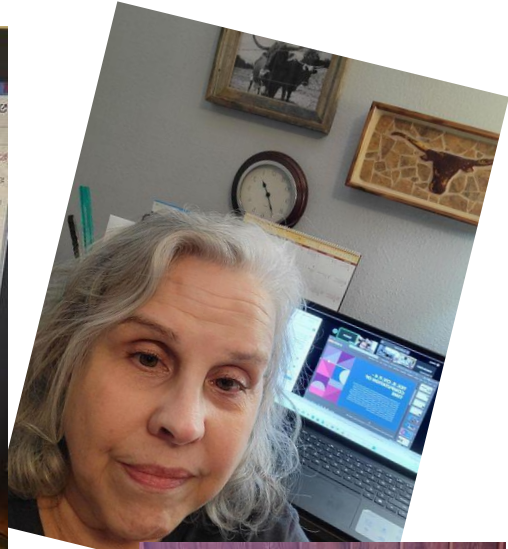
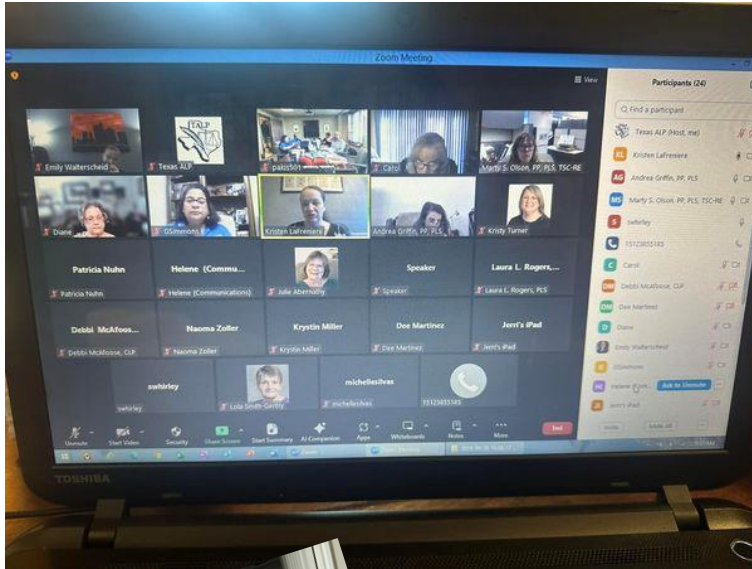
1. Members (new and seasoned) will not read or care about the information that is being put out.
2. Bigger chapters that have more members getting to be able to determine all the changes by getting more of their members to vote.
3. People can be “told” how to vote and won’t really do it for themselves.
4. People could want to have a bid by proxy which can cause more issues.
5. Counting all of the votes.
6. People really understanding what they are voting for.

This is not about the new/younger members taking over. It is about the younger members and the seasoned members working together to make this organization last. The seasoned members can teach us younger members the traditions and reasoning behind the organization. The new members can bring their fresh ideas and thoughts to help keep the traditions alive and make new ones.

There is not an easy solution to this, but I feel that we should not overlook the opportunity to make a change. The association needs to grow and change continuously, we cannot just stay in our ways, because that is how it has always been done. This was even discussed in the professional development about how far the association has come and how much further we have to go.

This is the time for ALL members to learn, grow, and be part of a change for the Association.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS FALL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024






**TEXAS ALP 2024
FALL BOARD MEETING AND
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
Lubbock, Texas – September 20-21, 2024**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024	TEXAS ALP ANNUAL MEETING
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024	CLE – BUSINESS LAW
10:05 AM – 11:05 AM		CLE – FAMILY LAW
11:10 AM – 12:10 PM		CLE – CRIMINAL LAW
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM		CLE – ETHICS
1:20 P.M. – 2:20 P.M.		CLE – CIVIL LITIGATION



Texas Association of Legal Professionals
2024-2025 Membership Campaign
May 1, 2024-March 31, 2025
(Official Tally Sheet Submission Deadline: March 31, 2025)

MEMBER CAMPAIGN

2 DIAMONDS



Each new individual or student member recruited



Each new member reclaimed



Each CLE article obtained for and published in The Texas Docket

3 BONUS DIAMONDS



Each individual nominated for LPY

3 BONUS DIAMONDS



Each individual serving as a TALP Committee Chair/Member

5 BONUS DIAMONDS



Each CLE article written for and published in The Texas Docket



Participation in a mentoring program for members

20 SUPER BONUS DIAMONDS



Each new advertiser obtained for The Texas Docket

CHAPTER CAMPAIGN

2 DIAMONDS



Each new member the chapter or members brings into the Association



Each past member the chapter or member reclaims



Each membership drive held (in person or virtually)

3 BONUS DIAMONDS



Each LPY Nominee

3 BONUS DIAMONDS



Each individual serving as a TALP Committee Chair/Member

5 BONUS DIAMONDS



100% retention of chapter members



Each chapter brag published in The Texas Docket

20 SUPER BONUS DIAMONDS



Each new advertiser obtained for The Texas Docket

PRIZES: 1st Place \$75.00



2nd Place \$50.00

Texas Association of Legal Professionals
2024-2025 Membership Campaign

Official Rules and Tally Sheet
Reporting Period: May 1, 2024, Through March 31, 2025
Submission Deadline: March 28, 2025

RULES

The **Official Tally Sheet** (below) must be received by e-mail by Membership Chair Dee Martinez (dmartinez@edwardsfirm.com), By 5:00 p.m. Central on the submission deadline date.

Eligibility to Participate in Campaign: All full TALP members (Individual, Retired, Students) are eligible. Members of the TALP Executive Committee and members of the Membership Committee are not eligible.

Participation: The reporting member or chapter must submit the Official Tally Sheet to the Membership Chair in order to claim campaign points. The total campaign tally will be certified by the TALP Parliamentarian, who will have the final word on the matter.

MEMBER CAMPAIGN

REPORTING MEMBER: _____

(Space may be increased using Word document)

New Individual or New Student Member Recruited	
Name:	Joined Date:
Name:	Joined Date:
Name:	Joined Date:
Past Member Reclaimed	
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Individual Nominated for LPY	
Name:	Date:
CLE Article Obtained	
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
CLE Article Written	
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Mentoring Program Participation (examples: being a TALP Pal or mentoring a student participating in a paralegal program)	
Location:	Date:
Location:	Date:
New Docket Advertiser Obtained	
Advertiser:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Advertiser:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Serve as a TALP Committee Chair/Member	
Committee:	Position:

Texas Association of Legal Professionals
2024-2025 Membership Campaign

Official Rules and Tally Sheet
Reporting Period: May 1, 2024, Through March 31, 2025
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CHAPTER CAMPAIGN

REPORTING CHAPTER: _____

(Space may be increased using Word document)

New Individual or New Student Member Recruited	
Name:	Joined Date:
Name:	Joined Date:
Name:	Joined Date:
Past Member Reclaimed	
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Membership Drives Held	
Location:	Date:
Location:	Date:
Location:	Date:
Individual Nominated for LPY	
Name:	Date:
Chapter Member Retention	
Official TALP Count on 5/1/2024:	Official TALP Count on 3/31/2025:
Chapter Brags Published	
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
New Docket Advertiser Obtained	
Advertiser:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Advertiser:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Serve as a TALP Committee Chair/Member	
Committee:	Position:

Welcome, New Members!

Heidi Beginski

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Alejandra Bond

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Rebecca Chancy

NALS of Amarillo | Individual | Joined May 31, 2024

Maria Estes

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | Joined June 29, 2024

Kim Lowry

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Bobby Macias

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Josefina D. Ochoa

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Madison Rosen

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Carol Sagaribay

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Sandra Vasquez

El Paso ALP | Individual | Joined May 13, 2024

Vineeta L. Volz

Houston ALP | Individual | Joined May 22, 2024

Destany Wilson

Lubbock LPA | Individual | Joined April 23, 2024



— *Dazzled Determination* —

Happy Anniversary!

*MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

— October* —

Lori Betus (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Melanie Anne Bolton (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Deanna Gunn Borrer (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Lisa Caldwell (MAL, joined 2023)
AnneMarie C. Carlin (Houston, joined 1999)
M. Carmen Cindo (MAL, joined 2023)
Kathy L. Davis, PLS (MAL, joined 1988)
Megan Dawes (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Madison Dimas-Fettiols (MAL, joined 2023)
Veronica H. Fowler (Houston, joined 1996)
Felisa Frias (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Dawna Garza (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Samantha Hall (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Sofia Hardin (El Paso, joined 2022)
Sylvia Hawthorne (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Anne Hoover (San Antonio, joined 2001)

Cynthia Hernandez (Corpus Christi, joined 2023)
Mary L. Hernandez (Houston, joined 2017)
Carlos Hinojosa-Salcedo (Houston, joined 2022)
Nancy Hurt (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Cecilian Ibarra-Martinez (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Olivia W. Johnson, PLS, CP (Waco, joined 2003)
Rachel Linder (Austin, joined 2023)
Jerrri Locknane, CLP (Lubbock, joined 2014)
Joann Parks (San Antonio, joined 2024)
Cheryl McReynolds (MAL, joined 1991)
Maria Luisa Morales (Austin, joined 2023)
Stephanie Kristie Soria (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Cathy Ann Villalobos (San Antonio, joined 2023)
Leequita Washington (MAL, joined 2023)
Kya Wight (Corpus Christi, joined 2023)

— November* —

Amber Alexander (Austin, joined 2017)
Esmeralda Fierro (El Paso, joined 2023)
Kristen J. Gibson (Waco, joined 2022)

— December* —

Shelly Amson (Amarillo, joined 2019)
Scotti Beam, PP (Austin, joined 2002)
Connor Elizabeth Clark (Amarillo, joined 2022)
Laura DeLeon (Waco, joined 2012)
Erin-Nichole Lynn Hacker (Lubbock, joined 2022)
Lucy Henderson (Amarillo, joined 2019)
Katryste Johnson (Amarillo, joined 2021)
William J. Kesman (Houston, joined 2013)
Robyn Lee (Lubbock, joined 2023)

Laurie Quiroz (Austin, joined 2013)
Sheila Roach (Amarillo, joined 2019)
Phillip Seth Rodriguez (Amarillo, joined 2022)
Angelica Tuttle (Lubbock, joined 2022)
Blake Walterscheid, CLP (Lubbock, joined 2017)
Emily D. Walterscheid, PP, CLP (Lubbock, joined 2012)
Erika Zapata (Lubbock, joined 2023)

Congratulations, Everyone!

For further membership information, contact:

Diana (Dee) Martinez | TALP Membership Chair | dmartinez@edwardsfirm.com

Happy Birthday!

October

- 4—Emily D. Walterscheid, PP, CLP
- 8—Kristy Higginbotham
- 8—Myra J. Miles, PLS
- 10—Sharon Hopkins
- 12—Jenna Stegman
- 13—Thelma Ferry
- 14—Marta Cuadrado de Garcia, ALP
- 14—Laurie Qiroz
- 16—Krystal Gutierrez
- 17—Mary R. Reyes
- 18—Andrea D. Griffin, PP, PLS
- 18—Cathy E. Peek
- 19—Edith Vela
- 20—Rebecca Long
- 21—Lola J. Smith-Gentry, ACP
- 22—Rita C. Alesi, PP, PLS, TSC-CL
- 22—Ogden Taylor Smith
- 24—Monica Lara
- 25—Kirsten Gibson
- 26—Jerri Locknane, CLP
- 28—Sylvia Hawthorne
- 28—Diane G. Saucedo
- 29—Anne Johnson
- 29—Celina Moss
- 31—Michelle Cabrera
- 31—Kathie Jean Capeheart, PP, PLS

November

- 1—MaryAnn McCam
- 2—Leequita Washington
- 3—Cheryl A. Wenzel, PP, PLS
- 7—Marty S. Olson, PP, PLS, TSC-RE
- 12—Gail Dorn
- 12—Kyle Metcalf
- 15—Lucy Henderson
- 20—Nichole Trujillo
- 21—Cesiah Serrato
- 22—Sondra Heugatter, PP, PLS, TSC²
- 22—Allison Smith
- 23—Barbara Divis
- 23—Zenaida Guerrero
- 24—Deanna Gunn Borrer
- 24—Sherida Stone, CP
- 26—Rebecca Salazar

December

- 3—Sylvia Cepeda, ALP
- 7—Evodije L. Fornelius, ALP
- 10—Vviana Vega
- 12—Olivia W. Johnson, PLS, CP
- 12—Amanda McQueen
- 13—Laura Jimenez
- 24—Conor Elizabeth Clark
- 26—De'Naesha A. Mitchell
- 28—Lisa Castaneda
- 28—Erika Gtierrez
- 31—Darlene Massington, ALP

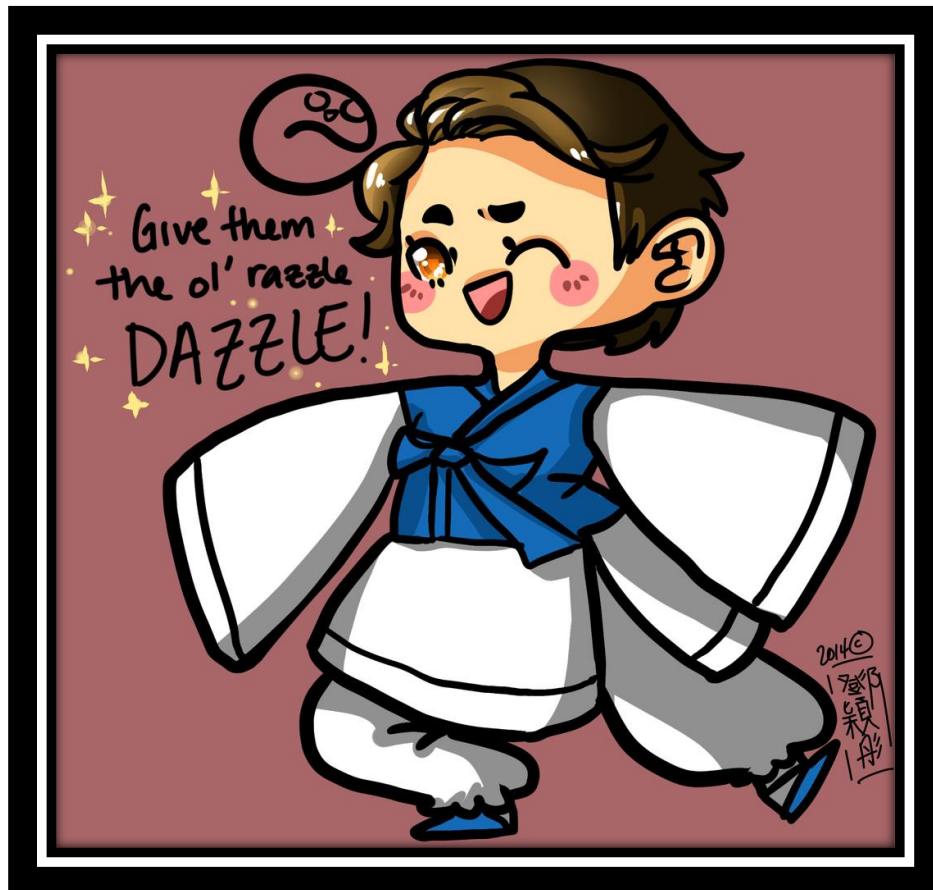


DAZZLES

**Individuals
Local Associations**

(aka “It Ain’t Braggin’ If It’s True!”)

**Share your local association news!
Just send your stories and brags to
lgentry@hkwwlaw.com**



CORPUS CHRISTI

BOOST YOUR CHAPTER ON SOCIAL MEDIA

CCALP is utilizing social media platforms as a marketing tool to share relevant content, engage with members, and promote association events. Social media can be a powerful tool for reaching a wider audience and attracting new members. The results have been overwhelming.

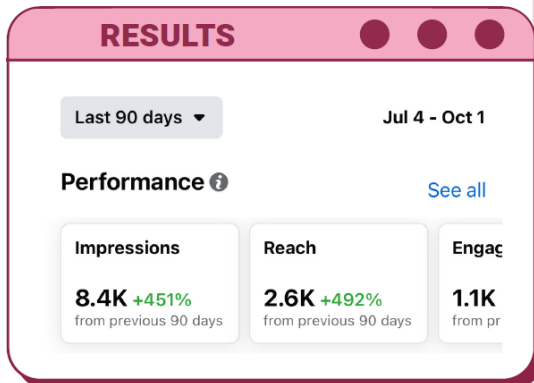
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RESULTS



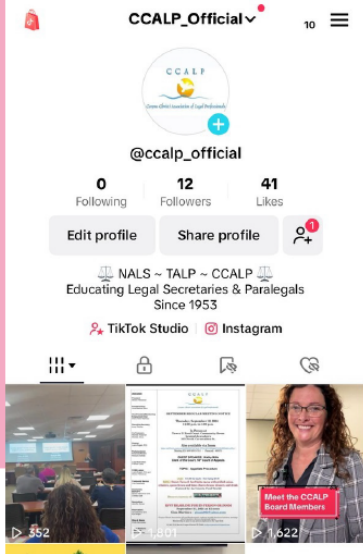
RESULTS



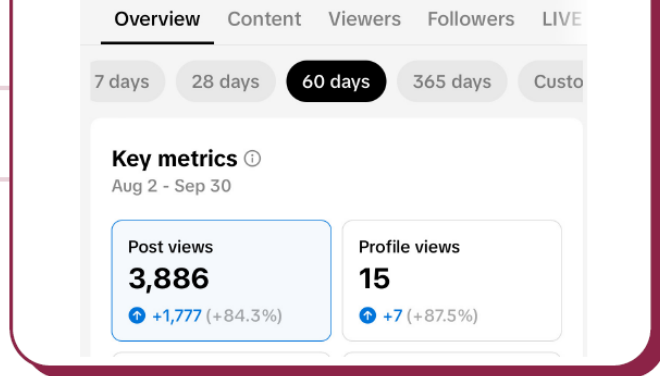
FACEBOOK ACCOUNT



TIKTOK ACCOUNT



RESULTS



Podcast & Speaking Arrangements, Mentorship Program, Mixers, Education Materials, Certification, and conferences

OTHER OUTLETS FOR REACHING NEW MEMBERS



This project was made possible through a grant from the NALS Foundation

CONGRATULATIONS ALYSSA SYLVA

FROM



***Congratulations to Alyssa
Sylva for passing the NALS
Professional Paralegal (PP)
exam on September 15, 2024!***



Lubbock Legal Professionals Association



Lubbock LDA Hosting Chapter TALP 2024 Fall Conference

It's not bragging, well maybe just a little bit

By: Sylvia Juarez, LLPA Director

The Lubbock LPA hosted the 2024 TALP Fall Conference virtually. Our line-up of speakers was great. Matthew Harris from Matthew Harris Law, PLLC, spoke on Family Law. Phil Johnson, Attorney at Law, had the interesting subject of Criminal Law. Around the noon hour we had Shanea Salter with the Texas Tech Student Legal Service, who spoke to us about Ethics and informed us on changes coming to permit paralegals to work on certain cases for income. There are still gray areas that are being reviewed. Lastly, we had Morgan Day Vaughn from Crenshaw Dupree & Milam, LLP, talk to us about Civil Litigation. All the subjects were very interesting.

Thank you to all the participants who attended in person or via Zoom. We had Waco, Houston, Corpus Christi, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, and other chapters in the house. Thank you for helping us make this a successful conference. We cannot make anything happen without YOU!

Emily Walterscheid, PP, CLP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FINALIST

Submitted by: Sylvia Juarez, Director



Emily started her legal career in 2007 in Plano, Texas, and has accomplished many other things since that time. She graduated from American Military University in May 2017 with honors. Emily did not stop furthering her education. She attained her CLP and PP certifications.

Emily is currently the President of Lubbock LPA. She has served various committees and has held various offices for Lubbock LPA.

Emily served as President of Texas ALP in 2021-2022 and has served on various committees with NALS, Inc.

Emily also received the CLE Award from NALS, Inc. in 2017. Other awards Emily has received are Legal Professional of the Year from Lubbock LPA and the Liberty Bell award from the Lubbock County Young Lawyers Association.

Emily has been working at Matthew Harris Law, PLLC since 2012.

Our chapter is very proud that she is one of the finalists for the Award of Excellence from NALS, Inc. Good luck Emily, you are a winner in every sense to the Lubbock LPA chapter!

Waco LPA Brag

Waco LPA has been busy this summer planning and implementing legal education speakers for our monthly Membership Meetings. In May and June, we participated in a NALS download program that was titled A Paralegal Walks Into a Bar, presented by Amylyn Riedling, PP, PLS. Our July speaker was Jeanine Rispoli, Esq., who spoke on Family Law. The August speaker was Tashania Morris, who presented on Creating a Culture of Ethics Within Your Organization.

Eight members participated during the recent Texas ALP Board Meeting and Educational Conference. On Friday evening, these members joined together at the Pakis Giotes law firm and enjoyed networking and pizza during the Friday sessions. On Saturday, Pakis Giotes once again opened their conference room for use for our members. Some members participated via Zoom.

Waco LPA received a grant from the NALS Foundation for utilization to update our certification lending library. Our chapter appreciates the continued support we receive from the Foundation to assist our chapter in costs associated with providing resource materials for use by our local chapter members who are in the process of taking one of the three NALS exams to become certified members.



Four members from Waco LPA will fly to Portland, Oregon, to attend the NALS Annual Conference. While our chapter is small, our members are very engaged and participate on all levels of our tri-level association.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



Our very own Donna Dendy has been nominated by her peers for the NALS (National Association for Legal Professionals) 2024 Award of Excellence. Donna is one of three finalists! We are very proud of her, she is an amazing mentor at our firm. We will find out if she receives this award in October at the NALS meeting. Wishing her all of the luck and excitement for this amazing honor!

Donna has been a HUGE role model the Waco LPA members. We would be lost without her. We wish her the best of luck!



100 Club of Heart of Texas

P.O. Box 21990
Waco, TX 76702-1990
www.100clubhot.org

Board of Directors:

David Anderton
Bill Davis
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Charlie Rigney
Dennis Stapleton
James Stefka
Norman Townsend
John Truchitt

April 16, 2024

Donna K. Dendy
Waco Legal Professionals Association
P.O. Box 58
Waco, Texas 76703

Dear Donna and the Waco Legal Professionals Association Team,

On behalf of the members of the 100 Club Heart of Texas and its board of directors, thank you for choosing our Club as the recipient for the donation of \$1027 from the collection of donations at your annual conference. Your letter relays an understanding and connections to the public servants who serve to keep us safe in our homes and communities.

Since 2012, we have helped McLennan County first responders and families with over \$130,000 in financial support in their time of loss and need. Most recently we supported the wife of a West Volunteer Firefighter who died in the line of duty in March 2023 with a \$25,000 check. Your donation will be used in our mission of service going forward and in support of our first responders.

Again, thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Brent E. Stroman,
Executive Director
Chief of Police (ret.), Waco Police Department
254-457-1681
director@100clubhot.org

Thank You!

The 100 Club Heart of Texas is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contribution may be tax deductible. IRS EIN: 46-08267



Phone: (254) 457-1681 | Email: director@100clubheartoftexas.com

P.O. Box 21990 | Waco, Texas | 76702

The Texas Docket

Advertising Rates

The Texas Docket is the official publication of the Texas Association of Legal Professionals and is published quarterly each year as a service to the legal profession. Publication dates are July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1, with submission deadlines being May 1, August 1, November 1, and February 1. *The Texas Docket* is distributed electronically to its statewide network of members, subscribers, and others. Vendors who work in the legal field are welcome and encouraged to advertise in *The Texas Docket*.

<u>Ad Options</u>	<u>Ad Rates</u>	
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Half Page Horizontal (4.5" h x 7" w)	Full = \$100	Full = \$50
Quarter Page Vertical (4.5" h x 3.25" w)	Half = \$75	Half = \$35
	Quarter = \$50	Quarter = \$20

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AUSTIN IN APRIL

We look forward to you joining us on April 4-5, 2025 in Austin for the 70th Annual TALP Annual Meeting and Educational Conference.

We are working on speakers on a variety of topics such as 501c3 Non-profit, State Office of Administrative Hearings, Healthcare, Insurance Defense and Trial Prep.

The Conference will be hosted at the Wyndham Garden Inn, 3401 South IH 35, a familiar venue for some members who attended the 2019 Fall Conference in Austin. This location is close to many popular Austin areas: South Congress District (SoCo) ([South Congress](#)) restaurants and shops, 2nd Street District ([2nd Street](#)) restaurants, and running/hiking on the trails around Lady Bird Lake. Parking can be a challenge, but all are just a quick Uber or Lyft ride away.



If you'd like to extend your stay, the 96th Annual Austin Kite Festival is on Sunday, April 6, in Zilker Park. This event is the nation's oldest kite festival and is a free event. [Austin Kite Fest.](#)

TEXAS ALP 70TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Austin, Texas * April 4-5, 2025

"Hand in Hand WE Are One"

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—MARCH 21, 2025

REGISTRATION FORM

Name
Address
City/ST/ZIP
Daytime Phone
Mobile Phone
E-mail

Certifications

- ALP, PLS/CLP, PP, CLA/CP, ACP, TSC, RP, SC, Other

Local Chapter

Current Texas ALP Position Held

Current Local Position Held

Current NALS Position Held

- NALS Life Member, Texas ALP Past President, This is my first Texas ALP meeting, I want to be a Texas ALP PAL, Special dietary request

FULL REGISTRATION FEES

- NALS Member*, Texas ALP Officer, Texas ALP Chair, Nonmember, Student

*Per Standing Rule No. 22, members are required to pay the full registration fee.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT REGISTRATION FEES

- Education Only - Nonmember, Education Only - Student, Recognition Luncheon, Professional Development Luncheon, Presidents' Banquet

MEMBER'S GUEST REGISTRATION

- Recognition Luncheon, Professional Development Luncheon, Presidents' Banquet

GUEST NAME:

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Please mark each event you will attend)

Friday, April 4, 2025

- 9:00 am - 10:00 am Travis County District Clerk, 10:15 am - 11:15 am 501c3 Nonprofit, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Professional Development Luncheon, 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm President-elect's Forum, 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm Open Forum, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm State Office of Administrative Hearings, 4:00 pm - 4:15 pm Credentials Check-in, 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm Texas ALP Annual Board Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2025

- 9:00 am - 10:00 am Health Care, 10:15 am - 11:15 am Litigation - Insurance Defense, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Recognition Luncheon, 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Appreciation of 2024-25 TALP President, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Medicare 101, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Trial Preparation, 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm President's Toast, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm President's Banquet

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total Amount Due: \$

Please make check payable to: Austin LPA Special Meeting Account (Federal Tax ID No. 75-3006562)

Notices: (1) A \$30 fee will be assessed for returned checks. (2) Refunds requested and confirmed in writing (less a \$25 processing fee) will be made until March 28, 2025.

Conference Chair: Patricia Nuhn, PLS 512.370.2904 • pnuhn@winstead.com

Mail registration form and payment to: Patti Heaney, PLS, Registration Chair c/o Cain & Skamulis PLLC 303 Colorado Street, Suite 2850 Austin, TX 78701 512.477.5000 pheaney@cstrial.com

Hotel Reservations should be made directly with Wyndham Garden Austin, 3401 S 1-35 Frontage Rd., Austin, TX 78741 (737.304.0630). To receive the discounted room rate of \$154 double/king (plus 18% tax). The booking code is: 040325TXA.

Quoted room rates are available until March 3, 2025.

Contributions or gifts to the Texas Association of Legal Professionals are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

TEXAS ALP 70TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Austin, Texas, April 4-5, 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 4, 2025

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Vendors
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Travis County District Clerk
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am – 11:15 am	501c3 Nonprofit
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Professional Development Luncheon – The Grady Group
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	President-elect’s Forum & Meeting of 2025-2026 Chairs
1:45 pm – 2:15 pm	Open Forum
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	State Office of Administrative Hearings
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Credentials Check-in
4:15 pm – 6:00 pm	Texas ALP Annual Board Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2025

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Vendors
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Health Care
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Litigation – Insurance Defense
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Recognition Luncheon
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Appreciation of 2024-2025 Texas ALP President
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Medicare 101
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Trial Preparation
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Texas ALP Fundraising Raffle
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	President’s Toast
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Presidents’ Banquet

TEXAS ALP *2023-2024* ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Chartered July 27, 1956



Executive Committee

PRESIDENT	Laura DeLeon (Waco LPA)
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Theresa Ann Alba, PLS (Austin LPA)
TREASURER	Jerri Locknane, CLP (Lubbock LPA)
SECRETARY	Emily Folsom (Waco LPA)
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Donna K. Dendy, PP, CLP, TSC-RE (Waco LPA)

Standing Committees

ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Patricia M. Nuhn, PLS (Austin LSA)
AWARDS	Sharon Heinaman (Corpus Christi ALP)
BYLAWS/STANDING RULES	Patricia M. Nuhn, PLS (Austin LPA)
CERTIFICATION	Marty S. Olson, PP, PLS, TSC-RE (Houston ALP)
COMMUNICATIONS	Helene L. Wood, PP, PLS, TSC-RE (Houston ALP)
EDUCATION	Andrea D. Griffin, P)P, PLS (Member at Large)
FALL EDUCATION CONFERENCE	Emily D. Walterscheid, PP, CLP (Lubbock LPA)
FINANCIAL REVIEW	Olivia W. Johnson, PLS, CP (Waco LPA)
FUNDRAISING	Kristin J. Gibson (Waco LPA)
MARKETING	Diana (Dee) Martinez (Corpus Christi ALP)
MEETINGS COORDINATOR	Diane M. Stanley, RP (Houston ALP)
MEMBERSHIP	Diana (Dee) Martinez (Corpus Christi ALP)
NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS	Michelle M. Silvas (Corpus Christi ALP)
PLANNING	Julie A. Abernathy, PP, PLS (Waco LPA)
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Marty S. Olson, PP, PLS, TSC-RE (Houston ALP)
THE TEXAS DOCKET	Lola J. Smith-Gentry, ACP (Lubbock LPA)
WEBMASTER	Emily D. Walterscheid, PP, CLP (Lubbock LPA)

Special Committee

TALP HUGS	Tina D. Hurley, PP, CLP (Member at Large)
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