



The Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Paralegal Association

November 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Roberta Fedorka, Pa.C.P.



There's something in the air. Cool crisp autumn air. Leaves in magnificent hues of red, orange and yellow. Anticipation of Thanksgiving and gathering with family and friends for the annual feast. It's invigorating to see your breath in the morning for the first time. Some people look forward to fall because it is time to break out their favorite sweaters and boots. Others are excited about football, hot cocoa, good comfort food and spirits. There are claims that people are generally happier in the fall, perhaps because we spend time with loved ones and are visibly reminded of all we have to be thankful for. While some people focus year round on being thankful and living simply and happily, others are particularly mindful of their blessings during the Thanksgiving prescribed time period for doing so. It's kind of like the Rules of Thanksgiving Procedure. The things many of us take for granted, many others are praying for. The thought process of never letting the things you want make you forget the things you have, sometimes takes practice. We all know that life happens and things don't always go the way we want them to or think they should. However, it serves us well to remember that it could always be worse. Imagine how nice it would be to feel this way long after Thanksgiving season has passed. I propose a Thankful Happy Thanksgiving Challenge: If, every day for the next 30 days, you start each day by recognizing one new thing that you are thankful for, you will have formed a habit of being thankful.

Developing an "attitude of gratitude" usually results in a less stressful, more appreciative, happier, well-balanced, pleasant experience in life. No, it's not a miracle cure, but an attitude adjustment that can be good for your health. Recent studies show that people who acknowledged being thankful and kept a journal most days of the week, recording things they were grateful for, had reduced levels of inflammation and improved heart rhythm compared to people who did not do so. People keeping journals also showed a decreased risk of heart disease after only 2 months of this routine!

These tips may help you form the habit and reap the rewards of a happier, healthier you. 1. Think every morning for 30 days of 1 or 2 things that you are thankful for. Tell someone special or write it in a journal. 2. Give yourself credit at the end of every day for something positive you have done or accomplished. 3. Give others credit for their accomplishments. You'll feel good about helping someone else. 4. Thank them for supporting and inspiring you. People like to be recognized and acknowledged, even for small things, yet it doesn't happen that often. Be the voice of change. Make the difference for yourself and for others around you.

MCPA HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Monday, December 11th at 6:00 pm

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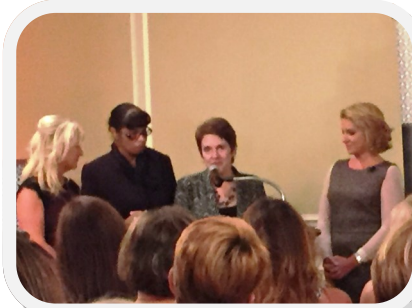
Fireside Chat with Christine Palmer Hennigan and Tracy Davidson

By Susan Friedhofer, Pa C.P. and Shari Weber Bradley Pa C.P.

On October 10, 2017 Sharon Weber Bradley, Pa.C.P., and Susan Friedhofer, Pa.C.P., attended a Fireside Chat hosted by Christine Palmer Hennigan, a Chartered Financial Consultant with 1847 Financial and a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst and Principal of Divorce Wealth Strategies.



Over the years, Christine has worked tirelessly to involve women in financial decision-making in their marriages. The evening featured a candid conversation focusing on life's "what if's" between Christine and Tracy Davidson, Emmy awarding winning news anchor for NBC10. Ms. Davidson is passionate about many causes and devotes much of her personal time to community service and is an advocate for domestic violence. Christine and Tracy are passionate about reaching as many women as possible regarding financial issues and abuse.



The topic for the evening was titled "Knowledge is Power" and focused on life's challenges as they relate to financial

concerns in divorce and death. Christine has seen the problems that arise when women are unfamiliar with their finances before a divorce or death. She explained that partners in relationships today take on "roles," where one partner is usually responsible for managing the family assets, which can leave the other partner in the dark about where the assets are held, and how much is held in each account. She also explained the signs of what she calls "Financial Domestic Violence" where one party controls the money, makes decisions that affect the credit of the unsuspecting party, improperly dissipates marital funds, overspends on credit cards, and hides assets.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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Fireside Chat with Christine Palmer Hennigan and Tracy Davidson

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Many women upon hearing these concerns think “I should know more.” We are all busy and it’s easy to divide responsibilities and the danger occurs when one party becomes too far from the financial aspects. Christine and Tracy stressed the importance that knowledge is power, and suggested that spouses have an open conversation about their finances. Additionally,



1. Both parties should have access to banking records, bills and investment documents.
2. Include sign-in and passwords for internet access to these documents.
3. Use the words “Show me.” Show me the account statements, show me how to log in and access the funds, show me a list of the financial institutions.
4. Get a pulse on where the spending is happening and build a balance sheet together.

Some specific signs of Financial Domestic Abuse are indicated when the financially aware party answers “It’s none of your business” or “you don’t need to know this” or if they have a controlling or addictive personality. Christine cautions all women, in all walks of life, if you see these signs, to “Get Control of the Knowledge or Get Out”. This sounds extreme but women need to know where their financials stand.

Another area of concern for women is the possibility of being suddenly widowed. Should this happen to you, Christine and Tracy recommend the following steps:



1. Obtain a good solid financial planner. It’s not about products or financial lines, it’s about trust;
2. Assemble your financial picture, build a list of your finances:
 - a. Include checking and savings accounts;
 - b. Look at tax returns to find out your assets;
 - c. Contact your partner’s place of employment for benefits;
 - d. Make sure the estate planning documents are executed correctly, know that beneficiary designations trump wills;
 - e. Check the titles and deeds of your properties.

The event raised \$10,000 which was donated to the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County which provides intervention, programs, outreach and advocacy to prevent, reduce and remedy domestic violence in Chester County. In 2016, direct services were provided to over three thousand Chester County survivors of abuse and their dependent children.

Peirce College

Fall Networking & Paralegal Panel Event



Professor Ivy Kempf, J.D. from Peirce College Legal Studies was profusely grateful for the presence of the MCPA at the Fall Networking & Paralegal Panel Event held on October 19, 2017. Professor Kempf exclaimed that she has since been receiving a lot of positive feedback from the students regarding this event. The students were excited with the individual attention and the excellent information given by the MCPA. She further explained that MCPA provides great role models for the students and that perhaps one day they may be future leaders!

Being involved with students enrolled in paralegal studies provides students with the opportunity to learn more about the MCPA and its member benefits and the chance to meet “real” paralegals.

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DON'T GIVE UP FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE MIRACLE NOVEMBER CLE RECAP

Article by Susan Friedhofer



The CLE titled Don't Give up Five Minutes before the Miracle hosted by The Honorable Kelly C. Wall and presented by Laurie J. Besden, Esquire was held on October 26, 2017 at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Ms. Besden is the Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) of PA which is an independent, non-profit corporation run entirely by judges and lawyers for the benefit of the Bench and Bar. Those involved in LCL are men and women in and/or in support of recovery from stress, anxiety, depression, bipolar, substance abuse, alcoholism, addiction to medication or other drugs, problem gambling, eating disorders, compulsive behaviors, and various emotional or mental health disorders who understand these illnesses and the pain, fear and frustration of the lawyer or judge who is in distress. LCL offers nonjudgmental, discrete and confidential assistance to individuals and families suffering from these issues.



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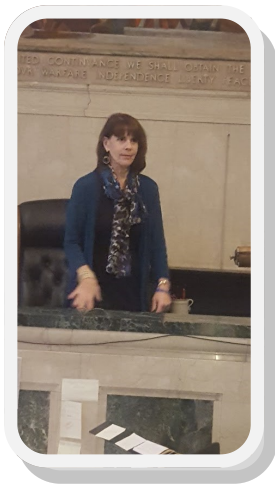
- Referral to a qualified healthcare provider for a free, private and confidential consultation and diagnosis;
- A personalized plan of recommended treatment is provided by a qualified healthcare provider;
- Peer support (recovering lawyers and judges who understand your concerns);
- Free information and literature/LCL staff support;
- Referral to LCL's executive staff or a professional interventionist to discuss your concerns regarding another lawyer, a family member or a judge.

CONTINUED

DON'T GIVE UP FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE MIRACLE NOVEMBER CLE RECAP CONTINUED

Article by Susan Friedhofer

The evening began with a video titled “Don’t Give up Five Minutes Before the Miracle” which is the compelling personal story of Ms. Besden’s insatiable drug addiction that nearly took her life but settled for her freedom. Through an in-depth telling of her recovery journey (including her eventual reinstatement to the practice of law), Ms. Besden provides information on how to identify and help attorneys in distress due to substance use and mental health disorders, and outlines the resources for help available, including an overview of LCL services. The program also includes shocking statistics regarding the prevalence of substance use and mental health disorders in the U.S. legal industry. LCL hopes that by sharing this information, those that participate will:



- I. Grasp the disease and recovery of addiction;
- II. Understand the prevalence of substance use and mental health disorders in the US legal industry;
- III. Recognize that everyone is impacted by substance use or mental health disorders at some point in their lives; directly or indirectly; and
- IV. Know that resources are available and that there is always hope.

The evening concluded with a brief question and answer session. Many thanks to Laurie Besden, Esquire, The Honorable Kelly C. Wall, and Montgomery County Paralegal Association for this informative event.



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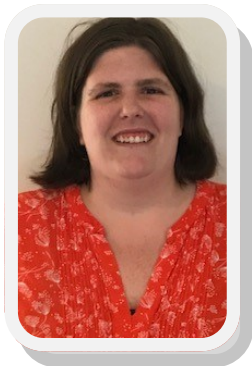
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Montgomery County Paralegal Association gained two new board members on November 13th!

Welcome . . .

Nancy A. Marchese and Dana C. Jorna!



Dana Jorna is a Pennsylvania certified paralegal who has been active with MCPA since 2013. She is a Bloomsburg University graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in French and History and a graduate of the Lansdale School of Business with Associate Degree in Business Administration. Dana assists in the areas of Civil Defense Litigation, Medical Malpractice, Legal Malpractice and Personal Injury defense at the Kane Pugh Knoell Troy & Kramer, LLP law firm since 2013.



Nancy A. Marchese is a Pennsylvania certified paralegal who currently sits as the Committee Chair of Hospitality & Events Planning Committee for MCPA! She is a graduate of Eastern University and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management, a graduate of

the Lansdale School of Business with an Associate Degree in Secretarial Science and a Penn State University graduate with a Paralegal Certificate. She assists in the areas of Family Law, Collections, Civil Litigation, Bankruptcy, Criminal Defense and Personal Injury at the law firm of Miller, Turetsky, Rule & McLennan.

New board members will be indoctrinated at the annual kick-off meeting in January, 2018.

Board meetings are open to all members. Contact a board member for more information about the next meeting date, time and location.



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NITA SERRANO, VP AND DIRECTOR OF PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION NEEDS OUR HELP!

Nita Serrano, the Vice President and Director of Paralegal Certification of NFPA is looking for testimonials from RP's and CRP's for the NFPA website, the blog and the Reporter. If you would like to participate and submit a testimonial, please complete the appropriate form. If any RP's or CRP's are willing to record an audio or video that can be used on NFPA's Facebook page or YouTube channel, that would be even better. You can send the forms, audio and/or video clips directly to Nita at vpdpc@paralegals.org.

Ideas for registered paralegal testimonials include:



- A little history about yourself, including how long you have been in the legal profession. This information gives people something to identify with and compare it to their own story.
- What type of legal experience do you have? Here ~ so many people worry about whether they know enough information about the various areas the PACE covers. If you describe what you have been doing i.e. real estate or probate ~ again readers can get the idea that they too can take PACE.
- What were your study habits? Did you participate in a study group? If so, was it sponsored by your Association? How long did you study? What study materials did you use?
- Why did you take PACE? What was your motivating factor?
- Was there anything you learned about yourself while preparing for PACE?
- What effect has becoming an RP had on your employment, if any? (Did it get you more recognition, praise, money etc.)
- Did you have any conceptions about PACE that you learned were untrue?
- What do you feel was the most valuable thing you learned during the process that you did not know before?
- What does being an RP mean to you?
- Do you recommend PACE to others? If so, why?

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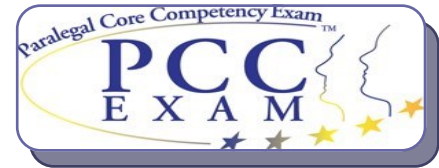
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NITA SERRANO, VP AND DIRECTOR OF PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION NEEDS OUR HELP! CONTINUED

Ideas for CRP testimonials include:

- A little history about yourself, including how long you have been in the legal profession. This information gives people something to identify with and compare it to their own story.
- What type of legal experience do you have? Here ~ so many people worry about whether they know enough information about the various areas the PCCE covers. If you describe what you have been doing i.e. real estate or probate ~ again readers can get the idea that they too can take PCCE.
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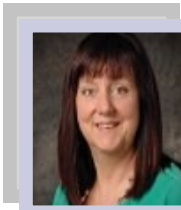
- What does being a CRP mean to you?

- Do you recommend PCCE to others? If so, why?

Thank you for considering making a testimonial. This is an exciting experience and will be interesting to see the results!

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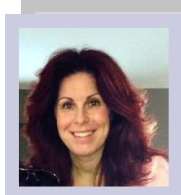


Ro is a Paralegal at the law firm of Villari, Brandes & Giannone, PC in Conshohocken. She has been a member of MCPA since 2005 and has served as chair of the Planning &

Community Outreach Committees. She has also previously served as Treasurer for four years and Secretary for two years and was recently elected to serve as President. She resides in West Norriton with her husband, Larry.

Jen Kuemmerle, CRP, Pa.C.P.—Secretary

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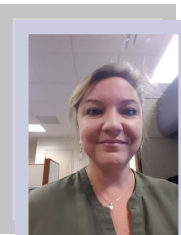


Jen is the Vice President of Finance at The Luther Woods Nursing & Rehabilitation located in Hatboro. She has served on the Association's Board of Directors and was

recently elected to serve as its Secretary. She lives in Hatboro with her husband and two children.

Suzanne H. Sarver, RP— Vice President

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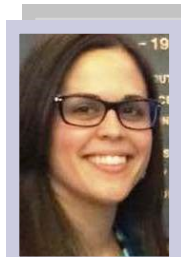


Suzanne works for Gramercy Property Trust as a Registered Paralegal in the Horsham office. She currently serves as a Board of Director of the Association as well as Contributing Editor to its

newsletter and has recently been elected as the Vice President. She resides in Upper Gwynedd with her husband Brian and their two labs, Frack and Powerstroke.

Kelly Smith, Pa.C.P. —Treasurer

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Kelly is a Paralegal at the law firm of Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer in its Norristown office. She currently serves as the Association Treasurer, a position she has held since 2013. She is also the Job

Bank Coordinator for the MCPA. She lives in Phoenixville with her cat, Emmett J.

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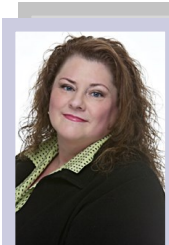
Christopher Gregg
(2017—2019)

Chris works for the law firm, Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer as a Paralegal. He has been an active board member for the past 3 years and serves as its Social Media Committee Chair. Chris was born and raised in Willow Grove and still resides there with his family and their dachshund Queenie.



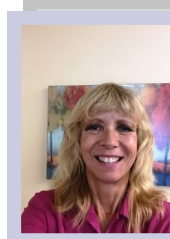
Noreen Messmer, Pa. C.P.
(2017—2019)

Noreen is a Paralegal with the law firm of Ford & Buckman, P.C. in Blue Bell and has worked with Sarah Ford, Esquire for over 40 years. She has been a Board member since 2010 and also serves on the Hospitality/Planning Committee. Noreen lives in Blue Bell and is the mother of three and Nana to three granddaughters.



Michelle Calkins, Pa. C.P.
(2017—2019)

Michelle is a Paralegal with Miller, Turetsky, Rule & McLennan located in Collegeville. She is an active member of the Association and currently serves as the Layout Editor of the MCPA newsletter. She lives live in Collegeville with her husband, Wes.



Shari Weber Bradley, Pa. C.P.
(2016—2018)

Shari works for Peter E. Bort, Esquire at Bort Law which is a general practice firm. A long time member of MCPA, she was recently elected to the Board of Directors. Shari lives in Eagleville and is the mother of two twenty something boys and stepmother of three teen boys.



Nancy Piechota, Pa. C.P.
(2016—2018)

Nancy is a Paralegal at the law firm of Mannion Prior, LLP in King of Prussia. Nancy was recently elected to the Board of Directors and also serves as Chair of the Marketing Committee. She lives in Berks County with her husband, Joe and rescue dogs.

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