

History of DCLSA

The Dallas County Legal Secretaries Association chartered April 10, 1980, in Selma, Alabama, with 18 members. And the following are just some of the things we can see as we look back over these past 36 years

DCLSA has worked hard to be flexible for its members by holding meetings at night, by holding meetings at lunch and, as we have entered the age of technology, by conducting a majority of our chapter's business through the internet.

DCLSA members have had the opportunity to attend local chapters' seminars and AALS' legal education conferences in conjunction with board meetings throughout the state. Being part of our tri-level association, members have attended regional conferences in St. Simons Island and Atlanta GA, Natchez MS and on a cruise out of Mobile AL. Members have also attended national conferences held in Biloxi MS, Greenville SC, Anaheim CA, Chicago IL and Birmingham AL.

For several years in the 1980s DCLSA published a quarterly bulletin, the Dal-A-Co. And in the late 1990s the chapter compiled and published a Legal Directory covering the Fourth Judicial Circuit and including the counties of Bibb, Dallas, Hale, Perry and Wilcox.

Members have served on many state committees and as an AALS officer in positions of corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treasurer, chaplain and parliamentarian. DCLSA has hosted AALS board meetings and legal education conferences in Selma at the historic St. James Hotel on the banks of the Alabama River (Its claim to fame is its connection to the outlaws Jesse and Frank James who are said to have been guests in the hotel in the 1880's.); at the Performing Arts Center which had operated as the Walton Theater from 1914 until the 1970s; at the Selma Public Library and at Wallace Community College of Selma.

Highlights of offerings at some of the board meetings hosted by DCLSA were a visit at lunch from Kathryn Tucker Windham, author, folklorist and an American storyteller, who entertained us with some of her favorite tales; a tour of several historical homes in Selma conducted by a Chamber of Commerce tourism guide and DCLSA members; and a tour of Brownstone Manor which is a home in Selma that in the past was visited frequently by F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald.

DCLSA has cohosted several AALS Annual Meeting and Educational Conferences with our sister chapters in Mobile, MLSA, and Montgomery, MALS. In 1982 our chapter conducted a Professional Development Program for Legal Secretaries in conjunction with the University of Alabama. In 1992 and 1993 DCLSA sponsored NALS' Legal Training Courses at the local community college.

Several special events held for Court Observance Week in October over the years were a luncheon hosted in Selma for Chief Justice Sonny Hornsby of Alabama following which he visited the classroom of local students who had participated in our mock trial; two of our members appeared on Selma's local television station in a segment of Profile and spoke with the moderator on Courts: Justice Takes Time; and DCLSA organized a panel of an attorney, a court reporter, a legal secretary,

a court clerk and a bookkeeper which spoke to members of the business education classes at Wallace Community College of Selma about the qualifications and rewards of their respective careers.

Public relations events and civic projects and fund raisers have included participation in the Dusk 'til Dawn Relay events and Typers (the legal secretaries) vs Hypers (the nurses) softball games to raise money for the American Cancer Society; working the food booth for several years cooking and selling blackeye peas and cornbread for the Tale Telling Festival; a Law Day Reception held May 1st at Grace Hall; and raffling Alabama Auburn football tickets.

Some of our most enjoyed and well received events have been the 19 Bosses' Night programs given by DCLSA. Themes and skits have included Olympic Gold Medalists (our own, of course!); Kangaroo Court; St. Patrick's Day held March 17th with the Blarney Stone (affectionately called the BS) and limericks; The Legaling Sisters Circus; Fractured Fairy Tales; In the Legal Secretaries Court: DCLSA vs Lawyers; and Christmas in the Courtroom.

DCLSA members work hard at having fun. They work hard for their community. And they work hard to be knowledgeable and to do their best and to be their best. In 1983 a DCLSA member was one of the first to receive NALS' Continuing Legal Education Recognition Award. In 1990 five of our members passed what was then a two-day, seven-part exam to attain their PLS certification. They were Lori LaPorte, PLS, Lynne Day, PLS, June Meadows, PLS, and Debbie Turpen, PLS, and one member, Linda Barlow, PLS passed all seven parts on the first attempt. By the end of 1991 two more members, Ruby Jo Caver, PLS, and Darline Hughes, PLS, became certified. Since that time Loren Morrow, PLS, and Teresa Kelly, PLS, have sat for and passed the exam.

DCLSA is proud of its history and proud of its members. We are proud to be a part of the history of this trilevel association and look forward to being a part of its future.

Harriet Piper, President
DCLSA
August 15, 2016