April, 2022

Dear Legal Professional,

 Were you aware that there is a professional association in the greater Harrisburg area dedicated to paralegals? We are pleased to inform you that the Central Pennsylvania Paralegal Association (“CPPA”) has been in existence for over 38 years. Our mission is to promote, protect and advance the paralegal profession through fostering creative expansion of paralegal roles within the boundaries of the profession.

CPPA strives to offer continuing education programs as well as provide education to employers and consumers of the benefits in utilizing paralegal professionals. We also encourage communication between individual paralegals and paralegal associations regarding the latest developments within the profession.

 CPPA is affiliated with the National Federation of Paralegal Associations “NFPA” and supports the promotion of the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam (otherwise known as the PACE exam). We encourage and celebrate members who are willing to undergo the rigors of becoming a registered paralegal on a national level. On the state level, we are one of the founding members of the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations. Through this affiliation, members may become certified through the Keystone Alliance’s Pa.C.P. program. Through these associations, CPPA members can maintain continuing education and be kept abreast of the latest issues involving paralegals on both the state and national levels.

 Member benefits include the ability to network among colleagues who work in various legal fields and to have access to the job banks of CPPA and NFPA. CPPA publishes a quarterly newsletter, Amicus Lex, to share news and information. Eight months out of the year we hold Lunch & Learns and for the past several years, those programs have been offered via Zoom. The Lunch & Learns feature speakers on a wide variety of legal topics to help our members gain knowledge and continuing education credits.

We also host our “Take an Attorney to Lunch” event, which is an annual highlight. Paralegals are encouraged to invite attorneys to attend and celebrate our profession and our accomplishments. During this luncheon, we feature a keynote speaker. In past years, speakers have included Dauphin County judges and judges from the Supreme, Commonwealth and Middle District Courts. We have also featured speakers from various state agencies and state government. Another highlight is the announcement of the Outstanding Paralegal Award (OPA) winner. Each year the OPA committee bestows this honor on a nominated voting member who embodies the professionalism and dedication of a truly outstanding paralegal.

 Besides these luncheons, we hold social functions and give back to the community by volunteering for Wills for Heroes events, the Dauphin County Bar Association’s custody clinics, Dauphin County’s Guardianship program and through various veterans programs. Our members have also generously contributed to charity organizations such as Toys for Tots, the Harrisburg Humane Society, the Ronald McDonald House and Caitlin Smiles to name a few.

 If you, or someone you know, might be interested in joining CPPA, we would invite you to contact us with any questions you may have. We are enclosing a Membership Application so you can see if you would qualify for membership. We are also enclosing a copy of our latest newsletter. CPPA’s Board members believe an association is only as good as its members, and CPPA has many dedicated, talented and hard-working individuals who want to see our profession grow and thrive.

 Please feel free to share this information with colleagues whom you believe might also benefit from a membership in CPPA. We thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to learn about CPPA. Please feel free to reach out to us at CPPA20@wildapricot.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

The Board Members of the

Central Pennsylvania Paralegal Association

Kathryn Greene, RP – President

Megan Beissel – First Vice President

Vicki Bolinger, RP – Second Vice President

Eugene Weber – Secretary

Kimberly Perez – Treasurer

Cathy Wright – Membership Director

Karen Sheriff, RP– NFPA Primary Representative

Cathy Sheaffer, RP – Member-at-Large

*CPPA’s definition of a paralegal: Paralegal shall mean a person who is qualified through education, training or work experience and is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, governmental agency, or other entity to work under the direction of an attorney in a capacity that involves performance of substantive legal work that, in most instances, requires a sufficient knowledge of legal concepts and would otherwise be performed by the attorney in the absence of the Paralegal. The term "Paralegal" and "Legal Assistant" are interchangeable and used synonymously.*