

May 2008

The Monthly E-Publication of the
Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association

SMPA Today



New Lunch Procedure Important Announcement

I think most of you agree that our lunches at our monthly meetings have been superb. Having lunch tends to facilitate fellowship and networking and allows us all to eat while getting our legal education. We want to continue to provide lunch as long as we can and as long as it does not become a financial loss to our association. You pay dues and entrust the Executive Committee to spend SMPA's money wisely. In order to do that, it has become necessary for us to instigate some new procedures for our monthly meetings. SMPA has consistently lost money on our lunches, and I believe you would agree with the Executive Committee that we can better utilize our funds.

We have to let our caterer know on the Friday prior to our meetings how many we will have attending. The number I give her is the number for which we must pay. If 35 confirm for lunch but only 32 attend, we collect \$320 but have to pay \$350.

On the other hand, if 35 confirm for lunch but 38 attend and eat, we have made \$30, but we may not have enough food. Also, we have shorted our caterer. This also applies to confirming your attendance on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday before the meeting. By then I have already notified the caterer of our number and she has already begun preparing for us.

The first scenario is more common than the second one, but the second one is what happened last month. We realize circumstances arise that make it impossible for you to attend or calendars change allowing you to attend.

After much deliberation, the Executive Committee has devised a plan to hopefully alleviate some of the problems we have had. Those who confirm by 9:00 a.m. on the Friday prior to our meeting will be given a voucher or ticket to eat lunch when they check in at the meeting. Someone will be standing at the buffet to take your ticket as you go through the line.

For those of you who confirm after that date and time, you will need to be content to not eat lunch or you may eat only after all those confirmed have eaten and if there is food left.

We apologize for any inconvenience and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at president@smparalegal.org.



Meeting Reminder

The next meeting of the Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the United States Attorney's Office.

Our May speaker will be Judy M Cornett, J.D. of the University of Tennessee. She will be presenting the topic of *Legal Research*.

For members who have not previously attended the monthly meetings, the United States Attorney's Office is located in the West corner (Main Street entrance) of the Howard Baker U.S. Federal Courthouse (which is across from the City-County Building). The meeting is held in the Main Conference Room on the second floor. You should inform the Federal Officers that you are going to the SMPA meeting in the Main Conference Room, so that the officer can enter the correct security code for the elevator (the

elevator does not stop on the 2nd floor without the correct code).

Our meetings are catered by Ms. Mildred Taylor. We will have a buffet set up outside our meeting room that includes lunch, a dessert, and beverage for \$10.00 per person.

Ms. Taylor requires a week's notice on our attendance count. It is imperative that you respond to president@smparalegal.org by 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 2, 2008, and let me know if you will be attending the meeting **and** if you will be eating lunch. Please also remember that we are obligated to pay for the number of lunches we give her. If we count you as eating lunch and you do not attend, our association loses money. On the other hand, if you do not let us know you will be eating lunch, there may not be enough food for everyone.

Announcements

Mentor Program

We still need volunteers to mentor our student members. A small amount of time could become a rewarding experience as you help a student transition into our profession. Please email me at president@smparalegal.org

JDRF Walk

There's still time to join our team on the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk on May 10, 2008. Please contact Caroline E. H. Sudlow, CLA, at caroline.sudlow@knoxcounty.org to sign up. If you cannot walk, please help our team raise money for this worthy cause.

Mobile Meals

This month Susan Porter and Dallas Brown are scheduled.

Annual Seminar

SMPA will hold its Annual Seminar on July 18 and 19, 2008 at the Carnegie Hotel & Spa in Johnson City, Tennessee. We have great topics and speakers scheduled for the seminar. The seminar brochures will be mailed on May 2, 2008. Remember, put the dates on your calendar and don't miss out on this fun filled, educational seminar that is **ALL ABOUT YOU!!**

Respectfully submitted,

Shelia L. Williams, CP - SMPA President