

A Message from Texas ALP President, Mary Bullard, ACP, TSC-RE

"Our Roots Remain As One"

Fifteen years ago, my husband Andy retired for the second time and we relocated back to Texas. I went to work at the Law Firm of Deaver & Deaver where I am still employed as "The Staff." Because I had no legal support co-workers, and am a people person, I looked around for a way to interact with other Waco/McLennan County legal support professionals. I found the Waco Legal Professionals Association, and in Waco LPA, I found an association whose motto is

Professionalism + Education = Excellence

In addition to quality legal education and networking, I also found friends, friends who encouraged me to branch out and to grow in a different direction. Thank you to Olivia Johnson for carpooling with me to the Waco LPA lunch meetings, and thank you to Texas ALP Past Presidents Donna Dendy, Mary Teague, and Kristy Turner for allowing me ride with you to the Texas ALP conferences. Listening to the three of you interact inspired me to run for office in our state association, and in Texas ALP, I found an association whose motto is

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

Of course, our family members are also important in our professional careers. My mother, Edna Henry Harwood, was secretary for the Chamber of Commerce in Warren County, Virginia, sold war bonds during World War II, and was my Girl Scout Troop Leader. She was the person who suggested I attend Executive Secretarial School in Dallas, which put me on the path to become a legal support professional. In my Mother, I found a support staff professional whose motto was

Always leave things better than you found them.

As many of you are aware, I am a genealogist. Some of you are painfully aware I am a genealogist. My theme for this year comes from a genealogy quote about family:

*Like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions,
yet our roots remain as one.*

Our tri-level association is comprised of our professional family members. Whether we work in different branches of the legal profession or we specialize in different branches of law, our roots are one. We are rooted in the Constitution of the United States of America.

Whether we are members of a local chapter in Amarillo, a local chapter in Corpus Christi, or are a member-at-large, our roots are one. We are rooted in the belief we should perform all duties of the legal profession with integrity and competence, pursue a high order of professional attainment, and thereby encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice.

Our roots are what keep us together. Our roots are what make us strong and allow us to combine *Professionalism* and *Education* to achieve *Excellence*, enable us to *promote a high standard of competence for legal support professionals*, and make it possible for us to *leave things better than we found them*.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you, the members of this association, as your president for 2016-17.
Mary Bullard, ACP, TSC-RE
2016-17 Texas ALP President