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Email [president@scupa.org](mailto:president@scupa.org) or [info@scupa.org](mailto:info@scupa.org) if you would like additional information on any of the upcoming events

## President's Welcome



Hello and welcome to SCUPA 2017!

First and foremost, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for allowing me to serve as your SCUPA President for 2017. It is an absolute honor, and I can only hope to live up to the great work of our past leaders. To receive the honor of being elected

President after such a short time with the organization is a true compliment, and I could not be more flattered.

I would also like to thank the Board of 2016 for their excellent work. You have laid the foundation for greatness, and set us up for success. Thank you!!

SCUPA's 2017 Board is comprised mostly of newbies, including myself. I joined SCUPA in 2015 as a paralegal student attending Greenville Technical College. I graduated in August of 2016, and am currently obtaining my Bachelor's from Kaplan University. I work for Lauren Taylor Law, a solo lawyer in downtown Greenville, who practices family law, criminal defense, and personal injury. I absolutely love my job, and could never imagine working in any other career field.

My main goal for SCUPA this year is to grow our membership by at least 25%. There are plans in the works to expand our reach, hoping to sign new members in Spartanburg, Anderson, and other outlying counties. We are the South Carolina *Upstate* Paralegal Association, after all. Be on the lookout for secondary luncheons in these far-away lands, as we try to reach the paralegals who work and live there. We've got some other exciting events lined up, aside from luncheons, to branch out. I hope to see you there!

Last year, SCUPA members contributed baked goods to distribute to Greenville law firms in an attempt to raise awareness for Paralegal Day. I'd like to incorporate that same concept, reaching out to more firms, and provide New Membership goodie bags to attract new members.

Let me know if you have an idea to grow membership- I am open to any suggestions! I want to get SCUPA's name out there.

We've got some exciting pro bono events planned, and I personally would like to get SCUPA involved in more pro bono events for animals- donations, volunteering, etc. We can't forget about the furry children!

SCUPA is an amazing organization that strives to raise awareness of the importance of paralegals: our members lobbied the South Carolina governor to get Paralegal Day established for 2016; SCUPA members were instrumental in getting the South Carolina Certified Paralegal Program off the ground in 2016; and our annual educational seminar is a major networking event, bringing together the big names in law in the interest of continuing education. Community involvement is very important to SCUPA- our fund-raising events bolster local

## Contact Us

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## 2017 Officers

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Tiffany Davenport, CP,  
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Ashley Mills, CP, SCCP  
NALA Liaison  
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businesses and South Carolinians; we volunteer for non-profit organizations and donate to a new group every month. What an incredible thing to be a part of!

Let's keep going forward! There are many ideas in the works to keep SCUPA growing bigger and better. I am so proud to be the president of such an awesome organization, and cannot wait to share our special group with new members! This year, I am looking forward to expanding SCUPA, making new friends, helping our community flourish, and having fun!

***Jessica Franquiz***

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## Installation of 2017 Executive Board

The 2017 Executive Board was sworn in on January 12, 2017 at the monthly luncheon. Mr. John Bell, Esq., Program Manager for the Paralegal Program at Greenville Technical College, administered the oath. The SCUPA Executive Board expresses its gratitude for Mr. Bell. He taught each one of us and has had an influence in our careers.



The 2017 Executive Board:

Jessica Franquiz -President  
Paula Allamong, CP – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Programs  
Joanna Fuller, CP, SCCP – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President, Membership  
Joel Clough, CP – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Publications  
Tasha Cape – Secretary  
Tiffany Davenport, CP, SCCP – Treasurer  
Ashley Mills, CP, SCCP - NALA Liaison

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## Thank You from 2015-2016 President

When I first was asked to run on the Board as President in 2015 after serving as Secretary for the years 2013 and 2014, I was hesitant, even scared. I was not sure I could talk in front of people or do what was required of the job. However, with past presidents help from Shawn Thacker and Karen Hall the first couple of months, I realized I could do it. I was already serving as SCUPA's Pro Bono Committee Chairman which is far more work than the President's position, so I thought this would be a piece of cake. And, you know what – it was.

With the wonderful Board that we have had these past two years during my presidency, we have made many strides in strengthening our organization. One big change in 2016 was our venue. The board had been trying to change our venue for years by visiting different venues once a month for a year. Then my first year, we implemented a few of those locations by trying out different venues and finally moving to Ruth's Chris for 2016. Since we have been at Ruth's Chris for 2016 we have almost doubled our luncheon attendance and we are getting advance CLE credit approval for those luncheons. And, for the first time in years we are just about breaking even on the cost of our luncheons and no longer taking a large loss due to the increased cost of the Poinsett and other venues.

And, in 2017, our move to City Range has provided us with the same budget and better food!

Our Board over the past two years, in an effort to re-brand and pump up the organization, changed our logo with membership votes and updated our website. Our board also implemented a new accounting software that enables us to take credit cards and send invoices for everything from our luncheon fees to our seminar.

Now, what has my presidency meant for me?

In July of 2015, Carolina Paralegal News approached me about being featured in an article for their magazine on "Overcoming Obstacles to Become an Association Leader" because in 2012, after my husband was severely injured, losing his left leg in the line of duty in Afghanistan, I never would have thought I would have accepted the nomination to be Secretary of SCUPA in 2013, much less become the President in 2015. However, with all the turmoil in those years following his injury, and believe it or not, even still today there are even more obstacles to overcome as a family after my husband's injury – SCUPA has remained the one constant in my life.

I think sometimes we let time stand in our way. We are always so busy, working full-time, working over-time, cooking, cleaning, and carting our kids around that we don't make time for ourselves. We don't make time to volunteer or join a group. SCUPA is something I do for myself. It's not for my husband, it's not for my child, it's not for my boss - it's for me.

Once you make the decision to give your time, everything else falls into place. And, SCUPA would not be the organization it is today without those on our Board, or on our Committees, or our volunteers that give their time.

So, thank you for allowing me to be a part of SCUPA, because without SCUPA and its members, which have become some of my best friends, I don't know where I'd be today.

***Tiffany P. Davenport, CP, SCCP***

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## Pro Bono Report

**Tiffany P. Davenport, CP, SCCP**

Treasurer

Pro Bono Committee Chairman



SCUPA is looking forward to some fun for 2017. But first let's re-cap a little of 2016! In June of 2016, SCUPA celebrated Paralegal Day on June 10, 2016 by delivery fresh baked goods from its membership to area law firms, promoting both SCUPA membership and the new South Carolina Board of Paralegal Certification. Thank you to all our members that contributed baked goods. We were so happy with the tremendous amount of baked goods we collected. It is because of you that we were able to deliver 20 plates of baked goods to

celebrate Paralegal Day! I would like send a special thank you to Ashley Mills,

Wendy MacDonald, Tasha Cape, Jessica Firpo, and Karen Hall for volunteering to put our plates together. I would also like to thank Ashley Mills, Wendy MacDonald, Tasha Cape and Wendi Walker for taking time away from work and volunteering to deliver the items.

In August, SCUPA hosted one, large annual benefit for a selected charity per year. This year, SCUPA hosted a Rhinestone Rodeo cocktail party on August 27, 2016. This fundraiser was held for Strawberry Fields Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that takes in abused and unwanted farm animals and has a long-term goal of opening a youth outreach program. SCUPA is proud to have helped raise **\$7,467.09** for this charity! And a special thanks to the Rhinestone Rodeo committee: Tiffany Davenport, Ashley Mills, Tasha Cape, Jessica Firpo, Jessica Guzman Calvert, and Karen Dorkings, Founder of Strawberry Fields Sanctuary! We had a great time putting this event together!

In September, SCUPA promoted volunteers for the Court Monitor program through the Greenville County Probate Court. The Court Monitor Program, also called the Special Visitors Program. The Court Monitor Program was established by Judge Debora Faulkner to ensure, through home visits, the welfare of incapacitated adults who have Guardians. The Court sends volunteers to visit with the protected person and guardian in their home, facility, or hospital. The volunteers then report their findings to the Court. Monitoring helps the court manage risks, prevent abuse, and increases public awareness. A special thank you to Tasha Cape for spearheading this event.

For October, SCUPA helped raise awareness for Let'em Live Upstate, a pet rescue. After Hurricane Matthew, this organization helped foster animals rescued in flood waters. And in November, SCUPA held a food drive for Harvest Hope Food Bank to help replenish its stock after delivering food items to the flood victims from Hurricane Matthew. SCUPA helped raise 218 pounds of food.

Lastly, In December, SCUPA collected 12 wish lists from the foster children with the Greenville County Foster Parent Association to help the foster families with their children's Christmas. A special thank you to Ashley Mills and Jackson Lewis; Danielle Kalu and Salle Galloway, LLC; Bronwyn Ellington; Tasha Cape and Crystal Hayes for the children they sponsored. For each of the



wish lists our members spent a minimum of \$100 for a total of over \$1,200 spent for the foster children in Greenville County. We couldn't be happier with the results!

For 2017, we have a great year planned. In February 2017, some members participated in the Ground 5K on February 4, 2017 to benefit trail construction and improvements at Paris Mountain State Park . In March 2017, we will be participating in Let There Be Mom again this year in the Bingo Dash and we hope to participate with Piedmont Cares for a fundraiser in Spartanburg.

Keep an eye out for SCUPA E-blasts for more upcoming pro bono events. Thank you SCUPA for your continued support and participation. Let's make 2017 the best yet!!

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## 2016 Paralegal of the Year: Ashley M. Mills, CP, SCCP

**Tiffany P. Davenport, CP, SCCP**  
2016 President

Every year SCUPA's President has the honor of presenting a Paralegal of the Year Award to a paralegal that has gone above and beyond throughout the year. The paralegal of the year award is a President's award, meaning the President of SCUPA selects the recipient from the nominations received by the membership. In 2016, every member that nominated a paralegal for this award nominated the same person – Ashley M. Mills – over and over.

Ashley worked hard in 2016 year for our organization and the profession so it goes without saying that she is very deserving of this award. After convincing her that she would only have to take a few notes at the luncheons, she accepted a position on the Board for SCUPA in 2015 and she has become an invaluable member of SCUPA ever since. She is an active member of SCUPA's Pro Bono committee, charitable fundraising and membership activities; including spearheading a Safe Harbor drive among many other charitable events. She participates annually in Let There Be Mom. She participates in every "Girls Night In" that SCUPA has sponsored at Pendleton Place (a home for underage girls), which is how she decided to dedicate additional personal time and become a Mentor for the young girls at Pendleton Place. And, most importantly, she helped with our largest pro bono event of 2016. The Rhinestone Rodeo for Strawberry Field's Sanctuary. Without her tremendous amount of work on this benefit's raffle items, we couldn't have raised the money that we did.

In addition to the Pro Bono Committee she is also involved in our annual seminar committee. And, let's not forget the work she's done in 2016 year with NALA, the National Association of Legal Assistants. She was selected by NALA to participate in its LEAP Program, which is a series of leadership courses giving paralegals the opportunity to learn, grow, and develop their personal leadership skills. She was also selected by the membership as the 2016 recipient of the NALA affiliate award.

SCUPA's membership describes her as always going above and beyond and a great team player. They say that she takes on responsibilities and tasks with ease and willingness and she has a very positive attitude. Another member said that her reliability and hard-work on the pro bono committee and other committees is what it takes to make these events succeed. That these events are more than just about leadership, they take many volunteers who are passionate and willing to help. And that she's more than just a volunteer, she always brings laughs, and fun to our events. And, she does all these all things while managing to keep her litigation paralegal job running smoothly.

It is for all these reasons and more, that Ashley M. Mills is our 2016 Paralegal of the Year.



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## 2016 Honorary Paralegal of the Year: Elizabeth Mann, JD

**Tiffany P. Davenport, CP, SCCP**  
2016 President

In 2015, we gave a surprise award to a very special member that always goes above and beyond each year and presented our seminar committee chairperson, Karen Hall, with an award for all she's done for SCUPA throughout the years.

In 2016, we gave out another special award. Given that 2016 is SCUPA's self-proclaimed, "Year of the Paralegal" for all the strides the State of South Carolina had taken to develop a state certification program for paralegals, we presented our Key Note Speaker of the 2016 SCUPA's Annual Seminar, Elizabeth Mann, JD, with our "Honorary Paralegal of the Year" award.

Members and Co-workers shared some very special words about Elizabeth:

Tasha Cape stated that "I did not have any classes with her but she has been a big advocate for SCUPA and the paralegal program at Greenville Tech. She is passionate about her students and students in the program. Any time I had questions, her door was always open. She is very knowledgeable and I wished I had her for a class before I graduated."

John R. Bell, Jr., Esq. shared that "Elizabeth is a great boss and mentor and the architect of a great paralegal program. Please don't get hit by a beer truck. I don't know what we would do without you."

Joanna Fuller stated that "When I registered for Greenville Tech, Elizabeth went out of her to make sure that admissions understood I didn't need certain prerequisites. She met with me personally even though she wasn't my assigned advisor, helped me map out a plan to graduate in one year, and acted as a go-between for me up until graduation. Her extra efforts and guidance with students shows what a commitment she has made to the paralegal program at Greenville Tech. She is caring, encouraging, visionary, and an outstanding mentor. I wouldn't be where I am today without her!"

Vickie Maxwell with Greenville Technical College shared that she was "So thankful that you are my boss. You are not only a great leader at Greenville Tech and to me, but you are also an inspiration. I appreciate all you do for me. Besides, there is no one else that calls me "Your Highness."

K. Camille Chapman, Esq. wanted to say that she was thankful for "being the perfect example of what a paralegal instructor should be – one who cares for her students above all else and keeps their best interests at heart and in mind always. Watching you shows me what is possible. Neither the beer truck, nor the chicken truck shall get you! Now, about making that horse swallow water . . ."

Ashley Mills stated that "Ms. Mann is a champion of the paralegal profession as well as personal development. She met with me before I ever enrolled in the Paralegal Program at Greenville Tech, to ease my mind that it was a great career move for me. She advised me through every step of the program, and diligently prepared me for my certification exam. She continues to positively impact my career by pioneering South Carolina paralegal certification and increasing awareness of the paralegal's value in the legal world. Not only is she a brilliant attorney with endless legal knowledge, but she has a compassionate heart and genuine concern for every paralegal."

It was for all those reasons, that Elizabeth Mann, JD was presented with our Honorary Paralegal of the Year Award for 2016.

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## Announcements

Do you know a SCUPA member who could use a little sunshine? The Sunshine Committee takes pride in spreading joy to members and reminding them that they are important to our organization. If you know of a member who has been hospitalized, lost a loved one, or is going through a traumatic time, please reach out to Karen Hall at [sunshine@scupa.org](mailto:sunshine@scupa.org) and let her know.

The Social Committee would like to mix things up in 2017 by hosting several small events in lieu of one large end-of-the-year event. Look for an announcement of our spring event in February. Do you have suggestions for a social event? If so, please email Karen Hall at [social@scupa.org](mailto:social@scupa.org).

The 2017 NALA Conference & Expo will be held Wednesday, July 19, 2017 through Friday, July 21, 2017, in Orlando, Florida. Registration is currently open. The conference totals 12 CLE hours (1 hour on July 19, 5 hours on July 20, and 6 hours on July 21).

	<b>Best Rate - ends May 31st</b>	<b>Standard Rate</b>
Member	\$535	\$600
Nonmember	\$590	\$655
Student	\$199	\$299
Social - Day 1	\$79	\$99

For a more detailed overview, including session and travel information, visit <https://www.nala.org/conferences/2017-nala-conference-expo>, or access the full brochure at [https://www.nala.org/sites/default/files/files/banner/Conference\\_Bro\\_2017.pdf](https://www.nala.org/sites/default/files/files/banner/Conference_Bro_2017.pdf). If you need any additional information, please contact Ashley M. Mills at [nala@scupa.org](mailto:nala@scupa.org).

If you are interested in writing an article for this newsletter or giving a presentation at our meetings or Seminar, please contact us at [publications@scupa.org](mailto:publications@scupa.org) or [programs@scupa.org](mailto:programs@scupa.org).

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

January	February
12 – Luncheon	9 – Luncheon
March	April
9 – Luncheon 11 – Let there Be Mom TBA – Group event with Upstate Nonprofit	13 – Luncheon TBA – Luncheon – Anderson Toiletry and Personal Hygiene Product Drive TBA – Project with Upstate nonprofit
May	June – Membership Month
11 – Luncheon Greenville Technical College Paralegal Graduation Picnic TBA – Group project with Upstate nonprofit	8 – Luncheon 9 – Paralegal Day TBA – Pendleton Place Taco & Game Night
July	August
8 – Color Run 13 – Luncheon Book Drive	10 – Luncheon 11 – 13 Book Sale Backpack & School Supplies Drive TBA - Annual Fundraising Event
September	October
14 – Luncheon TBA – Luncheon – Spartanburg	12 – Luncheon 20 – Annual Seminar TBA - 5K Run
November	December
9 – Luncheon Food Drive	14 – Luncheon TBA – Holiday Party Gift Drive

# SCUPA



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