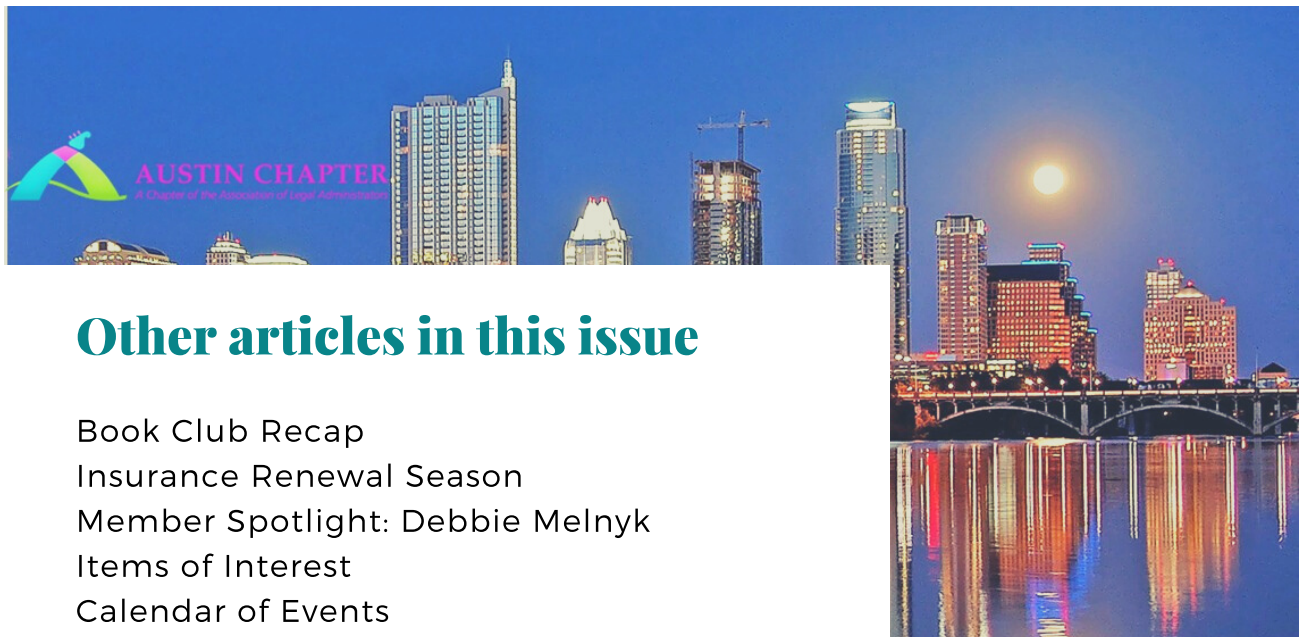


OCTOBER 2020

ATX CONNECT



The Newsletter of the Austin Chapter
Association of Legal Administrators



Other articles in this issue

Book Club Recap
Insurance Renewal Season
Member Spotlight: Debbie Melnyk
Items of Interest
Calendar of Events

President's Message

By Ana Helton, Chapter President



Hope everyone is safe. October was another busy month for our chapter.

Book club, on October 15th, was absolutely wonderful. Very grateful that our business partners and Alice Bolander organized it. We had a very good discussion based on the book "The Ideal Team Player" by P. Lencioni, about hiring the "right kind" of employee that is a team player. We also shared stories about difficulties we have sometimes at our work places with employees that are not team players... Our business partners made this discussion really fun!

We are changing our schedule for the roundtable starting this month. We will have a once a month roundtable just for our Austin ALA members and another monthly roundtable with our members and business partners. I hope you can all join our discussions. It's always nice to see faces of our members and a great time to ask questions that are on your mind.

Our Education committee is planning something special for the Thanksgiving lunch & learn. And the board is starting to think about Holiday lunch & learn. Believe it or not, it's just around the corner...

Please stay safe and healthy.

Austin Chapter Book Club Was a Success!

By Holly Pulido

Mix two parts awesome Business Partners, one-part inspirational text, home delivery of cocktail makings and the Austin Chapter of ALA members and you get the perfect recipe for a book club that inspires us professionally and provides personal connections, as well.

On October 15, 2020 Clear Guidance Partners and Shepard King Employee Benefits gifted members with books and libations for a wonderful discussion of the book *The Ideal Player* by Patrick Lencioni. The book discusses the three indispensable virtues of hungry, humble and smart with its focus on the individual member of a team and what makes some people better team players than others. The easy-to-use tools for identifying, hiring and developing ideal team players in any kind of organization. The book comes with great resources as well like interview questions, self-assessments and team building ideas.

Check out <https://www.tablegroup.com/books/ideal-team-player/> for more information.

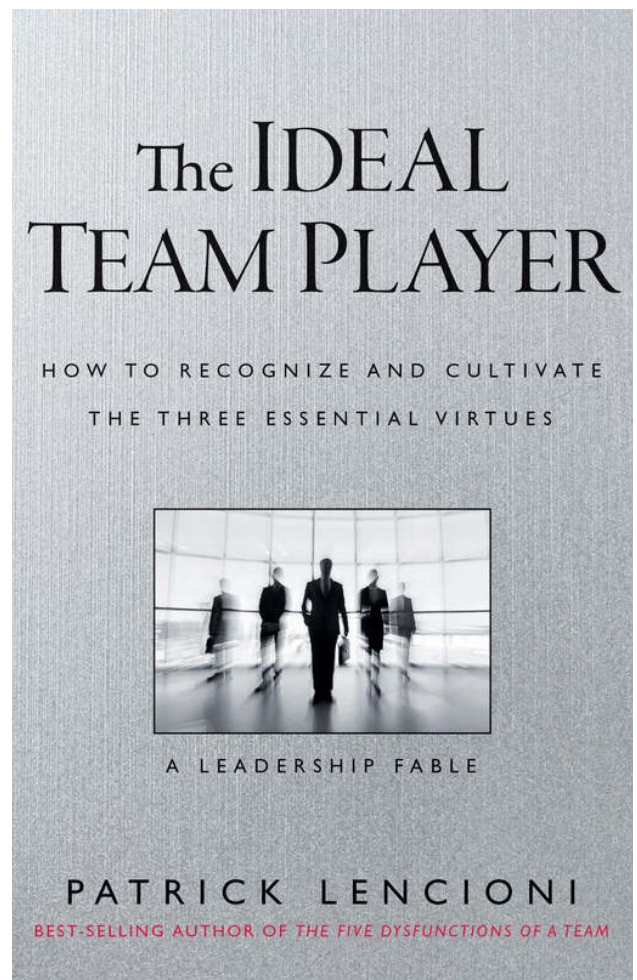
“

I really enjoyed the book, but I enjoyed the company even more. I was so happy to see so many longtime friends and thrilled to see new friends too!

In addition to the valued content of the read, we had 20 participants in our group that engaged in real life applications and a thought-provoking discussion led by Eden Minucci, CLM SHRM-CP, MSM. Karie Rivkin, CLM summarized beautifully, "It was fun and engaging. Eden, thank you for leading. Thank you, Brian, Dustin, and Kirk, for the book and treats. We are so very lucky to have you all as trusted partners and then to have the spirited treats delivered to our homes, well, that was just above and beyond."

The overall feedback was wonderful, and the discussion continued with what is decidedly not the last book club for the Austin Chapter. Summer Jurrells, PHR, SHRM-CP said it best with, "I really enjoyed the book, but I enjoyed the company even more. I was so happy to see so many longtime friends and thrilled to see new friends too!"

Keep an eye out for the Winter session and if you please send your book suggestions to communications@austinala.org!



Insurance Renewal Season

Insurance renewal season is upon many of us and it might be time to put your insurance needs out to bid. Below is a list of our valued business partners who are here to help you with all of your various insurance needs from health and life to malpractice and cyber.

More information can be found on the Austin Chapter [website](#) and the [ALA Marketplace](#).

Shepard & Walton Employee Benefits, Inc.

Shepard & Walton Employee Benefits, Inc., is a full-service independent benefits brokerage firm with more than 35 years of experience. With offices located in Austin, Houston and the Rio Grande Valley, At Shepard & Walton Employee Benefits, we offer tailored benefits portfolios that offer a range of group insurance plan services, including group health, dental, vision, disability, life, and voluntary benefits, as well as help our clients analyze their payroll, technology and HR services.

Contact Information:

Kirk Ashy

512-371-0004

kashy@swkins.com

Texas Lawyers Insurance Exchange

Texas Lawyers Insurance Exchange is the tried and true source of reliable, responsibly priced legal malpractice insurance for Texas lawyers and judges. TLIE began operations in 1979 under the sponsorship of the State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust at a time when Texas lawyers were having difficulty obtaining legal malpractice coverage at reasonable rates. Since that time, commercial carriers have come and gone from Texas, but TLIE has been a consistent and stable source of high quality professional legal malpractice liability coverage at financially responsible rates for Texas lawyers and judges. TLIE is owned by its member insureds and is operated by a member-elected board of directors. TLIE currently provides over 5,500 Texas lawyers and judges with legal malpractice coverage.

Contact information:

Jason Syesta

(512) 480-9074

jsyesta@tlie.org

Mike Yarber

myarber@tlie.org

Amity LPL

Amity Insurance is a fully independent Legal Malpractice Insurance Broker serving the legal community since 1978. Amity prides itself on representing over 2,000 law firms who enjoy our ability to simplify the procurement and placement of quality Legal Malpractice Insurance. Amity also offers Employment Practices Liability Insurance, Cyber/Data/Privacy Liability Insurance, and also Management Liability Insurance solutions specially designed for law firms.

Contact Information:

Tesh Patel

(512) 467-4629

tpatel@amityins.com

LawMed Insurance Group, Inc.

LawMed Insurance Group, Inc. provides only two products/services - group disability and life insurance; and to only one industry - law firms.

The expertise needed to truly understand all the working parts and components of group disability is significant. It's takes unique knowledge and experience to know what and how to deliver this benefit coverage., LawMed creates customized Plan strategies for each client firm. Every firm is different from one another; your benefit Plan has to be different as well.

Contact Information:

Ron Weltmann

(512) 470-5347 ron@lawmedinsurance.com

Member Benefits

Member Benefits is a full-service insurance agency and a licensed TPA with proven strategies to reduce cost and enhance employee satisfaction. Member Benefits began its partnership with the State Bar of Texas in 2013 by creating a Private Health Insurance Exchange, which now has more than 25,000 participants. In 2018 we developed the Members Health Plan, an exclusive association health plan for Texas law firms that pools their risk as one large group to create aggressive pricing and stable renewals.

Contact Information:

Jason Cleary

(904) 861-3235

jcleary@memberbenefits.com

Member Spotlight: Debbie Melnyk

Thank you for such a warm welcome into your wonderful chapter. I started with the Maryland Chapter ALA in 2008 when I became the Regional Office Administrator of our firm's Baltimore office. (Our firm's home office is in Washington, DC with 6 regional offices across the country.) Shortly after joining the chapter, I became a member of the Business Partner Committee on which I served for several years before becoming the committee chair. Following committee service, I moved through the ranks of the Executive Committee starting as Vice President, President Elect, President (2018-19), and finally Immediate Past President. In addition to my duties with the Baltimore office, I was asked to take on responsibility for our Austin office as their Regional Office Administrator, which led me to join the Austin chapter.

When not at work, I enjoy traveling with my husband (we love cruises). Outdoors is my favorite way to reenergize by riding my bike on some of the beautiful rail trails in our area. And when the weather turns too cold to bike, I enjoy hiking, especially during the fall when the leaves provide gorgeous color. However, the ultimate is playing with my soon-to-be 3 year old granddaughter. She keeps me young and on my toes and is always an adventure.





Items of Interest

ALA Committee Nominations Closing October 30, 2020

A final reminder that volunteer nominations and applications for ALA's standing committees and project teams are due on October 30. Please consider members or business partners that you think would be good leaders and contributors to the Association.

<https://www.alanet.org/membership/volunteer-opportunities>

2021 Membership Renewal Begins! Renew before January 1 and earn a reward!

Looking ahead, it may be most convenient to take a moment now to renew your ALA membership for the term of January 1–December 31, 2021. To show our gratitude for your continued membership, renew before January 1, 2021, and receive one complimentary webinar of your choice, valued at \$29! Renewing members will receive email instructions on how to redeem this special reward.

To pay your dues online, log in to your ALA profile at alanet.org. Once logged in on your profile page, view your account details and renew.

If you need assistance with your membership or login credentials, email membership@alanet.org or call 847-267-1585. You may also call and renew by phone using a credit card during business hours.



Research for Your Tool Kit

- [2020 Compensation and Benefits Survey](#)
- [Job Description Tool Kit](#)

ALA Podcast

[Authentic Diversity: Changing the Workplace for Good with Michelle Silverthorn](#)

ALA Member Needs Assessments: Extended Until Nov 23

For each survey, ALA is hosting a separate prize drawing for the following:

- \$50 Amazon gift card (three available)
- 2021 specialty conference registration (one available)
- 2021 e-learning course or web-based course (one available)
- 2021 webinar (five available)

Core Survey

[Business Partner Survey](#)

YOUR FIRM VALUES AND SUPPORTS YOUR PARTICIPATION WITH ALA AND WE VALUE OUR FIRMS AND MEMBERS!

We want to share the awesomeness of our members and member Firms all across the land via our social media platforms! Austin is full of great members and Firms, doing great things and we want share it with the world!



Send your items to communications@austinala.org today!



LET'S CELEBRATE YOU!



Now is not the time to be modest! Send us your celebrations, your brags, your, "LOOK AT ME" information!

We want to hear about things like:

- Work Anniversaries
- Birthdays
- Job Promotions
- ALA Anniversaries
- Firm Accolades
- Firm community support initiatives
- ANYTHING you are celebrating!



Calendar of Events



ALA Learning Opportunities [Register Here](#)

OCT 28 2020

Onboarding and Offboarding Team Members in a Remote Work World

ALA Today: The Virtual Conference offered many popular sessions, including this one from speaker Drew Amoroso. As the size of your remote workforce grows, your ability to run exceptional and effective onboarding and offboarding programs becomes even more critical. The way you approach these processes sets the tone for your teams and your remote work environment. Learn best practices for how to cultivate and implement onboarding and offboarding programs that help your teams feel connected and strengthen your ability to nurture remote talent.

ALA Events [Register Here](#)

OCT 29 2020 | 9:30 - 4:00

ALA Virtual Master Class: Critical Skills for Legal Management Success

As the legal industry continues to experience significant and rapid changes, it is critical for leaders of law firms and other legal organizations to master complex executive leadership and management skills. This virtual event will guide you to a deeper knowledge of critical skills that are vital to your career, such as:

- Emotional intelligence
- Stress and conflict management
- Effective business communication
- How to embrace change

Each session will provide an interactive guide to help deepen your understanding and mastery of the topic. The sessions will provide insights into areas you need for your personal and professional growth and provide you with skills to help you lead your firm to becoming a well-oiled machine.

Austin Chapter Events

OCT 27 2020 | 12:00 - 1:00

Business Partner Roundtable

Join us and our Platinum and Diamond Business Partners to a roundtable discussion with our members. We will be discussing how our businesses are doing and what trends we may see going forward. The Business Partners are very much looking forward to having some interaction with us. Please check Austin Chapter ListServ for details and join in if you can.

NOV 4 2020 | 12:00 - 1:00

Member Only Roundtable

Join us and bring your topics and comradery! Check Austin ListServ for Details.

NOV 12 2020 | 12:00 - 1:00

ALA Austin Chapter Thanksgiving Lunch

Stay Tuned for Details! We know our Education Committee is cooking up a virtual feast!

