Join us as we welcome our March 13th Association speaker, Julie Goddard. A legal guardian, trustee and personal representative for nearly 20 years with Center for Elder Management in Tampa, Julie has recently opened an adult day center for persons with dementia. She is Co-Owner and Co-Manager of Jaime’s Adult Day Center in Lutz. Julie is a member of both the Florida State Guardianship Association and the National Guardianship Association, and was a speaker at our 2017 Annual Conference.

Julie’s presentation will address roles and perceived roles of a Guardian. Appointed to handle the legal, financial, social, residential and medical needs of their clients, Guardians are not miracle workers - they are problem solvers. Real life examples will show how to combat misperceptions of what a Guardian does and doesn’t do and will demonstrate how to “think outside the box” in many situations.

We look forward to seeing you Wednesday, March 13th, 11:30 a.m. at Cypress Palms in Largo. Please RSVP at our GAPC’s website. One CEU is provided for members in good standing.

ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATIONS
Contact Info.

P.O. Box 1826
Pinellas Park, FL 33780
(517) 256-0403
Info@GuardianAssociation.org

MARCH 13, 11:30 A.M.  ASSOCIATION MEETING
Palms of Largo - CYPRESS PALMS Bldg., 400 Lake Avenue NE, Largo

MARCH 29, 9:00 A.M.  GAPC NETWORKING BREAKFAST
WESTMINSTER PALMS, 939 BEACH DRIVE NE, ST. PETERSBURG

BOARD MEETING - DATES & TIMES ROTATE
Contact BOD Secretary for specific dates/times.
Palms of Largo - REGAL PALMS Bldg., Verandah Room

PLEASE RSVP TO ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
2019 Board of Directors
Officers

President .............................................. Traci Samuel Hudson
Vice President ................................. Maria Winer
Acting Treasurer ............................ Keith Crosby
Secretary .............................................. Michelle Lowack

Board Members

Lori Clark Ha Dao, Esq.
Marianne Fisher David Menneke
Timothy Perenich, Esq. Denise Povolish

Committees

By-Laws Committee
Timothy Perenich, Esq., Chair
Ha Dao, Esq. & Steve Hitchcock, Esq., Co-Chairs

Conference Committee
Traci Samuel Hudson, Chair
Lori Clark & Michelle Lowack, Co-Chairs

Education Committee
Michelle Lowack, Chair
Maria Winer, Co-Chair

Finance & Budget Committee
Keith Crosby, Chair
Ha Dao, Esq., Co-Chair

Legislative Committee
Timothy Perenich, Esq., Chair
Ha Dao, Esq. & Steve Hitchcock, Esq., Co-Chairs

Membership Committee
David Menneke, Chair
Quyen Trujillo, Co-Chair

Public Relations Committee
Denise Povolish, Chair

By-Laws & Legislative Committee
Meeting is normally held the first Wednesday. Please email info@GuardianAssociation.org or go to our website and register to attend meetings.

Conference Committee
Meets 4th Tuesday of each month. Please email info@GuardianAssociation.org or go to our website and register to attend meetings.

Education Committee
Meets 4th Wednesday of each month. Please email info@GuardianAssociation.org or go to our website and register to attend meetings.

Membership Committee
Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please email info@GuardianAssociation.org or go to our website and register to attend meetings.

Public Relations Committee
Meets immediately following GAPC Monthly Membership Meeting (2nd Wednesday of each month). Please email info@GuardianAssociation.org or go to our website and register to attend meetings.

Follow Us on Social Media

Guardians and Healthcare professionals can exchange ideas, ask questions, seek solutions, and build a network through social messaging.

Membership Dues
A friendly reminder that Membership renewals are due. Please check your profile on our website for accuracy and to see if your Membership is up-to-date.

Guardian Association of Pinellas County
P.O. Box 1826, Pinellas Park, FL 33780
(517) 256-0403
Info@GuardianAssociation.org
https://facebook.com/GuardianAssociationPinellas
Hi GAPC Members!

March 4th, the only day that is also a sentence... and as we are starting our 3rd month into 2019, we already have an exciting year ahead of us as our Association continues to grow! We all benefit from the vast knowledge and resources available that our members bring to our organization and I am reaching out to you to get involved.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Show your support and appreciation by ensuring your membership is in good standing. Simply [Click Here](#) to go to our secure GAPC website to pay your annual dues.

- Check out the Committees and meeting times in our newsletter and join a committee that interests you. We need and appreciate your input, plus it is a great way to get to know your fellow members.

- Help yourself by helping others! Contribute items or gift cards to our Everyday Essentials pantry program. Items needed and not limited to; shampoo, toothpaste, tissues, baby wipes, toilet paper, soft blankets, costume jewelry, shaving lotion, etc. Fun Fact: Helping others triggers a release of oxytocin, which has the effect of boosting your mood and counteracts the effects of cortisol (the dreaded stress hormone)--it's a win win!

- Share your experience. Submit an article that would benefit Guardians for our newsletter. Submit a positive story regarding a senior. Be a presenter. Invite a guest. Everything helps and makes a difference!

GAPC is YOUR organization and if you have any ideas on topics you would like to see or present we welcome your input. Email [info@guardianassociation.org](mailto:info@guardianassociation.org). In the words of our GAPC President, “I know that by working together in 2019, we will accomplish great things for the benefit of Pinellas County Elders!”

DENISE

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**Association News**

Amber Watkins recently stepped down as GAPC Vice President. We wish to thank her for her service to our Association.

Maria Winer has accepted the position of GAPC Vice President and Denise Povolish is excited to join the Board of Directors.

Join us March 29th for the Monthly Networking Breakfast at Westminster Palms in St. Pete. Our host is Brian Cain. Be sure to RSVP at the Association’s website.

Eileen Dougan has accepted the position of Chair for our popular Everyday Essentials program.

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The Guardian Association of Pinellas County encourages all members and/or vendors to utilize PayPal for all transactions with the GAPC.

You do not need to have an account to pay with PayPal.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF HIRED BY THE DIVISION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Pinellas County, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Division of Inspector General (IG), is excited to announce the newest member of the team. Ms. Ramona Denmark accepted the position as an Inspector General I, and started on February 11, 2019. Ms. Denmark’s duties will include conducting audits and investigations of Pinellas County operations, conducting investigations of professional and public guardians referred to the IG office by the Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG), and assisting in the IG’s Public Integrity Unit with audits and investigations of court ordered guardianships within Pinellas County. Ms. Denmark’s professional career includes working for the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court as the court monitor for approximately five years, as an investigator and counselor for the Department of Children and Families, and other social services organizations for 14 years. Ms. Denmark holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Gerontology from Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL GUARDIANS

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OPPG and the Statewide Investigation Alliance (SIA) was amended for six Clerk IG offices to include Pinellas, Palm Beach, Okaloosa, Lee, Polk, and Sarasota Counties. These six Clerk IG offices conduct investigations of professional and public guardians that have violated a provision of the Florida Guardianship Law or Florida Criminal Code for all 67 counties in Florida. Jurisdiction for the Pinellas IG includes Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Hernando, Manatee, Alachua, Levy, Citrus, Marion, Dixie, Gilchrist, and Sumter Counties.

Since October 2016, IG has conducted and completed 41 investigations of professional and public guardians, with 25 of the investigations completed in 2018. To date, in 2019, Pinellas IG has 12 open investigations; three have been referred to OPPG for their review and action. Since January 2017, three professional guardians have voluntarily withdrawn or not renewed their registrations. When an investigative report is completed, IG forwards it to OPPG; each report is sealed until closed. If the investigative report is for the Sixth and/or Thirteenth Circuit Court, then a copy of the completed investigative report is also provided to the appropriate circuit; however, the report is sealed.

Please note: If there is a topic you would like discussed in any of our upcoming monthly newsletter articles, please email it to:

aDiNatale@mypinellasclerk.org.

HOW TO CONTACT US:
If we can be of assistance, please call:
Division of Inspector General, PIU ....... 727-464-8371
Division of Inspector General, Fax ......... 727-464-8386
Probate Court Records ......................... 727-464-3321
Guardianship Hotline ............. 727-45FRAUD (453-7283)
The GAPC is collecting items for the indigent seniors in our community. Items needed include, but are not limited to the following:

- Shampoo
- Hairbrush
- Combs
- Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Incontinence Products
- Body Wash
- Nail Polish
- Nail Polish Remover
- Greeting Cards (with stamp included on envelope)
- Tissues
- Cosmetics (powder, blush, lipstick)
- Costume Jewelry
- Lotion
- Aftershave
- Cotton Balls
- Plasters
- Bandages
- Gauze
- Tissues
- Cosmetics (powder, blush, lipstick)
- Costume Jewelry
- Lotion
- Aftershave
- Cotton Balls

Please donate new, unopened items. Bring your donations to our monthly luncheon or monthly networking breakfast.

If you know of a senior in need of Everyday Essentials, please email: eegapc@gmail.com.

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**GAPC IDENTIFICATION BADGE ORDER FORM**

Identification badges with our logo are available to all members free of charge. Badges will be mailed to your address. For information, email Info@GuardianAssociation.org

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**Save the Date**

**for our upcoming Conference on September 27, 2019.**

**Venue TBD**