

CHAIRMAN'S Report

by Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA



"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the

end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

—Sir Winston Churchill

NCPA had the honor of being selected for a NALA Affiliates Exchange on the topic of Long Range Planning and President Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS and First Vice President Anita Watts Wing gave a wonderfully educational and entertaining presentation to the NALA Convention attendees. They created the rousing cheer *"Long Range Planning, that's our goal. Run that race and jump that pole. Don't give up, you're almost done. NALA, NALA, RUN, RUN, RUN!"* and introduced everyone to the handcrafted Carolina Fly Swatter. Make sure you ask President Pruitt or Vice President Wing all about their delightful presentation the next time you see them.

Long Range Planning is the never ending, but enjoyable journey, NCPA takes each year, each month, and every day. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors continually strive to make a difference and make NCPA better and even more beneficial to our members.

On this infinite long range-planning path, education is a large goal for NCPA. We accomplish meeting this goal by providing the Annual Seminar, the Mid-Year Seminar, and the CLA Review Course. How-

ever, we are mindful that more is better and recognize that not everyone is able to attend these events. With that in mind, the Board is making a concentrated effort to bring you seminars on a variety of topics around the state. The first was held in the small mountain town of Sylvania and led by District VII Director Marilyn Moran, CLA and addressed the topic of wills. Later that same month, Second Vice President Darlene Patz coordinated a seminar in Charlotte on the topic of patents. District III Director Trudy Rutherford held a half-day seminar on law office procedures and ethics in late July in Fayetteville. Future seminars and "Meet and Greet" breakfasts are in the planning stages and are listed in the Events Calendar in this issue and on our web site. You have provided us with wonderful ideas by returning those seminar evaluation forms and we are listening.

Furthering the paralegal profession is an equally important goal of our association. We continually work on this goal unconsciously each day as we perform our daily duties and responsibilities in a manner that receives respect and praise from the attorneys who employ us. All of you (yes, You!) are assisting NCPA along this path by demonstrating professionalism and integrity each day you go to work.

NCPA as an association is achieving this goal through our work towards a regulatory scheme for our profession in North Carolina. The Regulation Task Force, Sharon (Sherri) L. Wall, CLAS, Gayle D. Green, CLA, Linda Lee Marion, CLA, and Richard H. Reich, have not taken the summer off from regulation activities. Several meetings, conference calls, and email communications continue to consume a vast amount of time from these dedicated professionals and we continue to appreciate and commend the work that they perform on our behalf.

Communication with our members is another large and continuing goal for NCPA. Senior Editor Brenda J. Mareski, CLA and the Senior Editors before her, have published this magazine on schedule and in a very professional manner all the while maintaining the high standards NCPA has set for itself. We have added the publication of the AMICUS to provide news between the NCPA FORUM issues. Another communication tool is our web site. It is monitored and updated to provide you with easy access to association information, including issues of the NCPA FORUM, AMICUS, and district news. The web site also provides an easy forum to submit inquiries, both from members and non-members. We receive an average of 15-20 inquiries each month through this medium.

Every year NCPA holds a Long Range Planning Meeting. We evaluate how the association is performing and where we need to advance. This year, the meeting will be held Friday morning, September 19, 2003 in Greensboro. All are welcomed and invited to attend. All you need to do is drop a note to President Pruitt or myself and we will give you the details. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your assistance in determining the methods NCPA employs to travel down this ever-improving path.

"Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway; we might just as well put that passing time to the best possible use."

—Earl Nightingale