

# PRESIDENT'S *Message*

by Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS



From July 8th through the 12th, I attended my first NALA Convention in San Antonio, Texas. NCPA was well represented by many of our officers

and directors. The first evening we ate at a wonderful restaurant on the San Antonio Riverwalk and listened to bands and piano music (being President is a tough life!). I was able to tour San Antonio one afternoon. I visited the Alamo (no, the setting is not like it was in the John Wayne movie. The Alamo is in downtown San Antonio, surrounded by hotels!!) I also toured the historic district by trolley and took a horse and buggy ride. I walked around most of the afternoon with a goofy grin on my face because I was awed by the beauty of the city.

My favorite session was presented by the Honorable John G. McBain, Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge from Jackson County, Michigan, who spoke at the first general session on Wednesday. What an incredible job he did to motivate us to adopt a new mantra, "not what my firm can do for me, but what I can do for the firm!" As paralegals, we must make the first move to our supervising attorneys to say "Show me, I can do it." By using this mind set, we can prove that what we bring into our firm is valuable and so are we.

Probably the highlight of my first convention was meeting the wonderful paralegals from all over the nation. Everyone is interested in learning what others are doing and how they make a difference. A group of our folks from North Carolina met one day at lunch with representatives from Florida to discuss the Paralegal Profession Act. Another evening, I had dinner with paralegals from North Carolina, California, Florida, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. New perspectives and ideas came from each one I spent time with.

Anita Watts Wing, NCPA's First Vice President, and I shared our strategy for long-range planning during the Affiliate Exchange Presentation on Wednesday. We received extremely positive comments regarding NCPA and the planning strategies that have been implemented. I enjoyed working with Anita to plan and present the program.

May I say, we should all be proud of the accomplishments of NCPA. We have incredible leadership and the best membership anywhere. Thanks to each of you for making NCPA an association to be proud of. Please stay actively involved. You will be amazed at how NCPA and your participation can be a major asset to your career, now and in the future.

On a personal note, I want to thank my firm for allowing me the opportunity to attend these wonderful events. I appreciate the firm's support of me as an employee of the firm and my activities as President of NCPA. I will continue to strive to be a person you all can be proud of!



## *Calendar* **OF EVENTS**

Visit [www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org)  
for more information  
on these events:

### **September 19-20, 2003**

NCPA Mid-Year Seminar and  
CLA Review Course  
Embassy Suites, Greensboro, NC

### **September 27, 2003**

NCPA District I Meet &  
Greet Seminar in Wilmington

### **October 1, 2003**

Application Deadline for  
December CLA/CLAS Exam

### **October 23-25, 2003**

CLA Short Course, Jacksonville, FL

### **November 8, 2003**

District IX Meet & Greet Breakfast

### **November 15, 2003**

NCPA District II Meet & Greet  
Seminar in Raleigh

### **December 5-6, 2003**

CLA/CLAS Examination

### **January 14, 2004**

Application Deadline for  
March CLA/CLAS Exam