

## President's Message

**Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS**



Summer has flown by and we are now gearing up for the Mid Year Seminar/CLA Review Course September 24th and 25th. We have a great lineup of speakers. NCPA has held the seminar/review course at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in

Asheville before and we have been treated like royalty. I know each of you would enjoy the time away and the seminar. Please make plans to attend.

The NALA Convention was held July 13 - 17, 2004 in Reno, Nevada. What a wonderful time we had! The opportunity to travel to the other side of the United States is worth being President! Reno is not as pretty as North Carolina, but I did enjoy seeing a different part of America. I attended the Probate/Estate Planning Institute given by Edward Armstrong, Esquire of Missouri. He did a wonderful job teaching a dry subject! Mary Parrish Coley, CLA, represented NCPA during the Affiliate sponsored booths on

Friday, July 16th. Besides answering questions about NCPA and our goals, she served the best blistered and boiled peanuts cooked anywhere! She did a super job with the display and meeting with other NALA members. Theresa Irvin, CLA was on the NALA Annual Meeting Committee. As always, Terry's hand in the meeting was evident. The registration, seminars and meetings were all well

organized. Thank you, Terry, for a job well done. Sharon Robertson, CLAS, "mothered" all of us during the convention. She made sure we had name tags, tickets, gave us advice and was sure we received the recognition we were supposed to. Sharon's loyalty to NCPA and other groups in our region was foremost during the convention. Thank you, Sharon.

The Call for Elections forms will be coming to you soon. Please consider taking an active role in NCPA. This may be in an officer position or as a director of your district. If you do not want to take a major role in NCPA, please consider being a committee chair.

This is my last term as President. I hope that there will be some of you who will consider taking on the position. It IS a lot of work, but well worth the time and energy. I feel that I have a family with the folks in NCPA. This has been a very rewarding year and a half for me personally.

## Chairman's Message

**Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA**



*"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."*

Vincent Van Gogh

A few weeks ago, a trade publication related to the banking industry came across my desk. I was not aware that I was even on the distribution list, and seeing that the magazine was the November/December 2003 issue, I honestly could not remember if I had even signed up for it. However, it happened to arrive on a day when I had lunch at my desk and I appreciated the literary diversion from the loan documents that I was drafting.

It was the ABA Bank Compliance magazine, not the ABA you are thinking of, but the American Bankers Association. Most of the magazine dealt with anti-money laundering and bank compliance issues. I was just about to move onto the five week old North Carolina Lawyer's Weekly I had also received, when I came across the article that is reprinted later in this issue entitled "The Value of Professional Certification."

"Certification has become standard in every industry." This is the very first sentence of the article and I read on. I was completely awe-struck by the common ground of certification in a completely unrelated profession. Each paragraph is relative to the paralegal profession and all you need do is change "compliance officer" to "paralegal" and the other bank compliance terms to law related terms. I encourage you to read this short and sweet and directly to the point article on certification and think about your own professional development.

As of the December 2003 CLA/CP testing date, there were 326 CLA/CPs in North Carolina and 12,124 nationwide. Those numbers are growing each March, July and December and they are powerful numbers. As the banking compliance certification article indicates, certification is here to stay and there are several reasons for attaining certification including giving you a competitive edge in the job market.

I would like to thank Senior Editor Brenda Mareski, CP for seeking reprint permission on the article. She shared with me how flattered the author was when she contacted him, and I would guess that he did not expect his article to be reprinted in a trade publication of a different profession when he wrote it.

Please pay particular attention to the Regulation Task Force's report in this issue. Several things have happened in the last few months and we are on the path to having state certification in North Carolina. NCPA will be traveling the state later this year and early next to talk about the certification plan and to inform members, non-members and students of the plan. We look forward to seeing each of you at a future seminar or meeting and please make sure to check the NCPA website regularly for upcoming dates and events.

*"My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment."* - Oprah Winfrey

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