

Chairman's Message

Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA



*"What lies behind us
and what lies before us
are tiny matters
compared to what lies
within us."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

President Pruitt has accomplished a great deal during her term as President and I thank her for all that she has done for the members, the association, and for me personally. The first year as president is not an easy one and she has persevered and led the organization in a responsible, professional, and dedicated manner, despite personal hardships and work demands. We are truly blessed to have her at the helm and we are forever grateful for her leadership, creativity, and down to earth sense of humor. It is an honor to the association that she has chosen to run for a second term.

The association is also indebted to and grateful for the other officers, directors, and committee chairs. Everyone has played a part in the workings of the organization and they are all to be commended for their part in delivering another successful year in the organization's history.

Meetings. During the 2003-2004 term, we held three "in-person" meetings and one meeting via teleconference. We have one additional meeting to be held just hours before the Annual Seminar where 2003-2004 business will be wrapped up and the current administration will complete its term. Outside the meetings, it has been a very active year for NCPA.

Seminars. We held seminars or meetings in Districts I, II, III, IV, V, VII, VIII and IX. All events were well attended and provided a great source for education, networking, and camaraderie.

Membership. The number of student members has increased dramatically from two years ago and this may be a product of the Meet and Greet President Pruitt began in her term as Chairman of the Board, and have been continued. We have also increased our affiliate memberships threefold and we receive inquiries regularly about this program.

AMICUS. Timely issues of the AMICUS were sent via email notification to those that checked "yes" on their renewal form. Hard copies of the AMICUS were distributed via bulk mail. Document Technologies, Inc. (DTI) printed all issues of the AMICUS in exchange for an advertisement. We greatly appreciate all the support and contributions DTI gives to our organization. In addition to the complimentary printing of the AMICUS, DTI has financially supported our seminars and events. Please thank them the next time you see them or contact them for service.

RTF. Gayle Green, CLA, Linda Lee Marion, CLA, Rick Reich, and Sherri Wall, CLAS continue to represent NCPA in the Alliance for Paralegal Professional Standards (APPS). This year has been different from the prior years for the Regulation Task Force (RTF), as APPS has entered into discussions with the North Carolina State Bar about a regulatory scheme. The RTF continues to keep NCPA informed through reports in the NCPA FORUM and on our behalf, both as members of NCPA and as members of the paralegal profession, we appreciate all the work and hours Gayle, Linda, Rick, and Sherri give to this association.

Communications. Throughout the year, all the directors have been in constant communication with members, non-members, paralegal instructors, paralegal

associations, and those sending general inquiries to NCPA. Most communication is done via email; however, several letters are sent via regular mail and phone calls are returned. This communication is not unique to the directors. Several officers and committee chairs also communicate regularly to members and non-members alike. NCPA strives to send prompt responses and this goal is being met. Again,

I wish to publicly thank the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for all their hard work and dedication in making this a professional, organized, and well run non-profit association.

It has been a pleasure to serve you as Chairman of the Board and I appreciate the opportunity to work with such a group of caring, dedicated individuals who have chosen to contribute their time and talent toward furthering their career and profession.

*"I am only one;
but still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but still I can do
something; I will not
refuse to do something
I can do."*

Helen Keller