

# PRESIDENT'S Message

by Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS



Hello to all. I am your new President and I am very pleased to have this opportunity to serve you.

I graduated in 1986 from Liberty Bible Institute, obtained

my paralegal diploma in 1993, and received my CLA designation in 1994 and my specialty in Civil Litigation in 1996.

I have been a litigation paralegal with the firm of Vernon, Vernon, Wooten, Brown, Andrews & Garrett, P.A., for fourteen years. I work mainly in the area of family law doing equitable distribution and alimony.

The first week of being President was quite a shock. I averaged 50-75 emails per day. The Regulation Task Force (RTF) met sev-

eral times to discuss the Paralegal Profession Act. The second week of my term, the Act was introduced in the Senate, followed by introduction into the House during my third week in office. In addition that second week, I faced a family crisis that put me out of commission for several days. Whew! Talk about a whirlwind start! Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA, has been an incredible support for me and I can never say thank you enough.

The RTF led by Sharon (Sherri) L. Wall, CLAS, Richard H. Reich, Linda Lee Marion, CLA and Gayle D. Green, CLA should receive Purple Hearts for being wounded in action. They are truly troopers for NCPA. They have represented us in a magnificent way.

We have a brand new Executive Committee for this year. They are excited and nervous about their positions. I certainly understand. But I encourage each of them to read their Orientation Manual and mark their calendars with deadlines. It is the true secret to success.

On the national level, we in NCPA have many of our own to be proud of. Sharon G. Robertson, CLAS, is running for NALA's Region II Director. Our own Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA, has been appointed to a three year term on the Continuing Education Council. Last but not least, Anita Watts Wing and I will be presenting "LRP: Does Your Association Have It?" during the 2003 Affiliates Exchange at the NALA Convention in San Antonio, Texas in July.

To the membership of NCPA, please call or email me with concerns or suggestions. We can not make improvements if we do not know what the problem is. On the flip side, it is encouraging to receive your ideas and comments when we are doing things right. Just let me hear from you.

So off we go to a new year. I am excited about the future of NCPA and my part in it. I hope you will each take an active role and get on board the NCPA train, which is moving full speed ahead!

## MEMBERSHIP

NCPA invites paralegals, paralegal students, attorneys, educators, paralegal associations and those related to the legal profession to become members. There are seven membership categories: General, Associate, Student, Patron, Sustaining, Affiliate and Paralegal Educational Program. Each membership category has its own requirements.

Learn more about the benefits of membership at <http://www.ncparalegal.org/membership/terms.htm>, where you will also find applications for General, Associate and Student membership.

If you would like to speak with an NCPA representative, please contact the following individuals:

Membership Type	Contact	Telephone	Email
General / Associate / Student Membership	Darlene Patz Second Vice President	704.552.3421	darlene.patz@celaneseacetate.com
Patron / Sustaining Membership	P. Katharine Kuczkowski Patron / Sustaining Chair	336.227.8851 ext. 276	pkk@vernonlaw.com
Affiliate Membership	Teresa A. Stacey Affiliate Director	336.227.8851	tas@vernonlaw.com
Paralegal Educational Program Membership	Erin N. Burris, CLA Student/Schools Relations Chair	919.877.2182	eburris@closuremed.com