

THE AMICUS

North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 36264, Charlotte, NC 28236-6264

April, 2003
www.ncparalegal.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS
(336) 227-8851
btpr@vernonlaw.com

Hello, Everyone:

I am your new President and I am thankful for this opportunity to serve you. This has been an exciting undertaking for me, one that I still cannot believe I am doing! I know that the members of NCPA are supporting me. So many of you came to me at the Annual Meeting and Seminar in Wrightsville Beach to offer your help. I have created a "Volunteer File" and have placed lots of names in it for future reference. You will be hearing from a committee chair or me soon.

We just completed a wonderful Annual Meeting and Seminar at Wrightsville Beach. The weather was lovely, the sessions were great and the beach party was a blast. Congratulations to Susan M. Shaw, CLAS, for winning the beach hat contest. However, I must say I was very proud to win the "Achievement Award" for making the most from the least with my own entry!

I am looking forward to a great year. Please contact me with any ideas or suggestions at any time. This is YOUR organization and is only able to grow with your help.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA
(704) 388-7030
theresa.irvin@bankofamerica.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AS OF APRIL 14, 2003

The Paralegal Profession Act was filed in the North Carolina Senate on April 2, 2003 and assigned Bill Number SB 922. Senator Tony Rand sponsored the Bill. It was referred to the Judiciary I Committee and if favorable, will be referred to the Finance Committee.

A companion bill was filed in the North Carolina House on April 8, 2003 and assigned Bill Number HB 957. The Bill on the House side was sponsored by Representative Rick Glazier and Co-Sponsored by Representatives Larry Bell, Alice Bordsen, Becky Carney, Marvin Lucas and Ray Rapp. The Bill was referred to the Judiciary IV Committee.

The full texts of the Bills and all information about the progress of the Bills may be found at the web site of the North Carolina General Assembly, www.ncleg.net. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact me and we will provide you with information as requested.

The Bills as filed, contain some modifications from the proposal originally authored by the Alliance for Paralegal Professional Standards, which you approved last November at NCPA's Special Meeting. Revisions include the following: rewording of the purpose [§84B-1(b)]; rewording of the definition [§84B-2(2)]; the inclusion of registration language throughout the bill; the addition of two public members to the Paralegal Regulation Board [§84B-3(b)(4)]; a provision referring to N.C.G.S. 84-2.1 [§84B-6(b)]; revisions to the ineligibility section [§84B-10(b)]; and changes in the violation section [§84B-11].

NCPA will continue to monitor the status of the Bills and keep you informed. If you should have any questions or comments, please call or send an email to myself or President Pruitt.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

May 15, 2003	Application deadline for July CLA/CLAS exam
July 9-12, 2003	NALA Annual Convention, San Antonio, Texas "Remember the NALAMO!!"
July 18-19, 2003	CLA/CLAS Examination
September 19, 2003	NCPA Long Range Planning Meeting and Joint EC/Board Meeting
September 19-20, 2003	Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course-Embassy Suites, Greensboro
October 1, 2003	Application deadline for December CLA/CLAS exam
November 1, 2003	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Burlington
December 5-6, 2003	CLA/CLAS Examination
January 10, 2004	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Burlington
March 25, 2003	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Raleigh
March 25-27, 2004	24 th Annual Meeting and Seminar, Marriott Raleigh Crabtree Valley
March 27, 2004	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Raleigh

CHAIR CHATTER...

All real estate paralegals should carefully review the following opinions regarding the role of laypersons in a residential real estate closing.

2002 Formal Ethics Opinion 9 - Delegation to Nonlawyer Assistant of Certain Tasks Associated with a Residential Real Estate Transaction.

Authorized Practice Advisory Opinion 2002-1 - On the Role of Laypersons in the Consummation of Residential Real Estate Transactions.

Both opinions may be found at the web site of the North Carolina State Bar. www.ncbar.com and will be printed in the summer issue of the NCPA FORUM.

~~~~~

NCPA is now able to accept payments via credit card!

~~~~~

NCPA members had the pleasure of speaking directly with top NALA Representatives at the Annual Seminar. NALA President Vicki J. Kunz, CLAS, NALA Region II Director Amanda A. Folk, CLAS and NALA Affiliated Associations Director Sharon G. Robertson, CLAS attended our event! President Kunz announced that attending the NCPA Seminar is one of the highlights of presidency! Many thanks to NALA for all their support!

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT I

Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Dare, Craven, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Tyrrell and Washington Counties

Teresa N. Smith
910-509-9827
tns@cshlaw.com

Teresa N. Smith has been a member of NCPA since 1999. She has served as District I Director, Annual Seminar Committee, Job Bank Chair, Annual Seminar Chair, and most recently as Senior Editor of the NCPA FORUM. She has been working in the legal field for nineteen (19) years and earned her Paralegal Certificate with Specialty in Litigation from The School of Paralegal Studies in 1999. She is currently employed as a paralegal/office manager with Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, L.L.P. in its Wilmington office. She primarily works in the area of medical malpractice defense. In addition to being a member of NCPA, Teresa is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association Legal Assistants Division. She lives in Wilmington with her husband, Norwood.

Teresa thanks you for your confidence in allowing her to serve as District I Director for the 2003-04 year. She looks forward to meeting many of you and hopefully recruiting some new members.

The Annual Meeting and Seminar held in District I at Wrightsville Beach was a huge success! NCPA had the highest number in attendance ever! Teresa thanks all of you who attended.

If any District I members have any suggestions or ideas for how District I can "grow" its membership, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail her. She is always open to ideas. Teresa looks forward to serving you in the upcoming year!

DISTRICT II

Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake and Warren Counties

Erin N. Burris, CLA
919-877-2182
eburris@closuremed.com

Erin N. Burris, CLA is your new District II Director for 2003-2005. Erin is a corporate paralegal specializing in intellectual property. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May of 1998 with a bachelor's degree in Interpersonal and Organizational Communications. Upon graduation, she never imagined that she would want to have a job in the legal field; but after she began working for the Vice President and General Counsel of Closure Medical Corporation, she could not imagine working in any other field! Closure sent her through Meredith College's Paralegal Program, where she obtained her paralegal certificate in May of 2001. She then obtained the Certified Legal Assistant designation from the National Association of Legal Assistants in 2002.

Erin has been a member of the North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc. since 2000. The first NCPA-sponsored event she attended was the 2001 CLA Review Course in Boone, North Carolina. She had the opportunity to speak with paralegals from many disciplines from all over the state.

In September of last year, she was asked if she would be interested in being the Student/School Relations Committee Chair and jumped at the opportunity. What a great way to get involved with the paralegal profession! Through her current position, she has learned the importance of having this support system in her professional and personal life. NCPA allows her the opportunity to learn through its educational programs. Erin has a front seat view into the North Carolina paralegals' wants and concerns. She voted for the regulation of paralegals in our state and voiced the importance of a good paralegal education. Through email, phone conversations, and at last year's CLA Review Course, she shared her experiences with those currently in our field seeking to grow professionally and those who are seeking information on joining our field.

She is eager to help, to learn, and to spread the word about our association and its benefits. Erin welcomes any thoughts, suggestions, and wishes to volunteer. She looks forward to serving as your director for the next two years.

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT III

Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland Counties

Trudy Rutherford
(910) 485-5171
emr0128@aol.com

As a member of the Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) Paralegal Advisory Committee, Trudy Rutherford participated in the meeting with the ABA on-site team for the re-certification of the paralegal program at FTCC. The attorney/paralegal team seemed very impressed with what they heard from the Advisory Committee and were equally impressed with the caliber of students whom they had interviewed. Trudy feels confident that re-certification is forthcoming.

During Paralegal Week, March 16th through 22nd, Cumberland County Paralegal Association (CCPA) held a breakfast at the courthouse for all local paralegals, courthouse personnel, lawyers and judges. As always, offering free food was a big success.

A “MEET AND GREET” for members and non-members of District III is on the drawing board and invitations will go out when plans are complete. Details will be posted on the website (ncparalegal.org) when available.

Long-time CCPA and NCPA member, **Barbara Butzgy, CLA**, has entered the “retirement-world” and is wished many years of R E L A X A T I O N, and pleasure. She so deserves it.

Trudy encourages all working paralegals to join a local, and the state (NCPA) organization to be a part of the events unfolding regarding regulation of our profession.

Trudy Rutherford, District III Director, can be reached at work: 910-485-5171; at home: 910-867-3652; by e-mail: emr0128@aol.com, or by fax: 910-485-2950. DON'T BE SHY!!

DISTRICT IV

Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, Randolph and Rockingham Counties

Ruth H. Goodman, CLA
336-584-3388
ruth.goodman@wnhplaw.com

Ruth H. Goodman, CLA lives in Gibsonville, North Carolina with her husband and an oversized beagle. She has four children, one son-in-law, two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren. It is quite a wonderful crowd to have for lunch every Sunday. Ruth works for Wishart, Norris, Henninger & Pittman, P.A. in Burlington. She has been at the firm for seven years, which is her entire legal career. She has been in domestic law for the entire seven years and received her CLA designation in May 2001. She is a member of the Alamance County Paralegal Association and currently serves as the First Vice President. She has served as Secretary and Parliamentarian in that local association as well. She is a member of NALA and NCPA.

DISTRICT V

Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Stanley and Union Counties

Reba R. Whaley, CLA
704-679-9610
rwhaley@carolina.rr.com

Reba R. Whaley, CLA is a paralegal working in domestic law for attorney I. Manning Huske in Charlotte. District V has 93 members at this time. District V offers four paralegal programs. Reba welcomes your calls and emails!

DISTRICT VI

Alexander, Alleghany, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin Counties

AROUND THE STATE

District VI has 53 members at this time. This District offers two paralegal programs. At the time of publication, the District Director office is vacant. **Please contact Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA at 704-388-7030 or theresa.irvin@bankofamerica.com if you are interested in this position.**

DISTRICT VII

Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain and Transylvania Counties

Marilyn Moran, CLA
828-586-2147
mmoran@chspa.com

Marilyn Moran, CLA is an estate planning paralegal for Thomas R. Crawford, a Board Certified Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate Law in Sylva, Jackson County. She lives in Otto, which is in Macon County. Driving the mountains is a challenge and much different from driving the "flat lands" of Florida. She has only lived in North Carolina for one and a half years. Before coming to North Carolina she worked as a real estate paralegal/legal administrator in Miami. She belongs to NALA, the Paralegal Association of FL (having served as Membership Chair and Board Member) and the South Florida Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators (having served as President from 1998-1999). She has been a CLA for over 20 years. She looks forward to serving you and although the District is spread out, hopes to bring the counties "closer together". Please contact her by phone or by e-mail with any news from around the District or any questions or suggestions you may have for NCPA.

DISTRICT VIII

Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson Counties

District VIII has 15 members at this time. This District has three paralegal programs and one paralegal association, NCPA's newest Affiliate Member. Welcome **Pitt County Paralegal Association, Inc.!** A very warm welcome is also sent to District VIII's newest general member, **Beth Everette**, of the firm Connor, Bunn, Rogerson & Woodard, P.L.L.C.

At the time of publication, the District Director office is vacant. **Please contact Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA at 704-388-7030 or theresa.irvin@bankofamerica.com if you are interested in this position.**

DISTRICT IX

Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Watauga and Yancey Counties

Beverly G. King
704-483-3495
bgk_1@msn.com

Beverly G. King welcomes everyone to SPRING!! She is officially starting her first full year as District IX Director. She is excited and looking forward to a wonderful year. Beverly currently works at Mitchell, Rallings & Tissue, PLLC in Charlotte as a legal assistant, and by the time you read this she will have been there for around one month. Prior to that she worked for seven years at Kirkley Law Offices, PLLC in Charlotte. She lives in Maiden, Lincoln County with her parents and younger sister. She has been a member of NCPA for a while now but this is her first office. She has been active in the Metrolina Paralegal Association and served as Third Vice President in charge of the job bank and NALA Liaison.

District IX is growing!!! As of April 1, 2003 four new members have joined. Beverly would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following to District IX and NCPA: **Mica Ashe-Weaver**, Newton; **Christine Mead**, Denver; **Cathy Jones**, Hickory; and **Angela Caldwell**, Newton. Beverly is looking forward to a great year in District IX!

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR

Teresa A. Stacey
336-227-8851
tas@vernonlaw.com

AROUND THE STATE

Teresa A. Stacy has been employed with the Vernon Law Firm since September 2, 1986 as a paralegal/legal assistant. Teresa works primarily for E. Lawson Brown, Jr. and they work in residential/commercial real estate, rezoning, special use permits, land development and commercial litigation. They represent creditors in bankruptcy and handle foreclosures for the banks. Prior to being employed with the Vernon Law Firm, Teresa was a secretary/paralegal with Ridge, Roberson & Richardson in Graham for five years. She has been a member of NCPA for many years and was one of the founding members of Alamance County Paralegal Association where she has held numerous positions.

BAR LIAISON

Kaye H. Summers, CLA
919-682-9691
kaye@pwkl.com

Kaye H. Summers, CLA, is employed at Pulley, Watson, King & Lischer, P.A. as a paralegal in the business department. Her focus of work is on commercial real estate; business start-up (corporations, LLC's, partnerships, etc.) commercial litigation and general practice. She has worked as a paralegal since 1985 and her past experience includes bankruptcy, residential real estate, estate planning and administration; intellectual property. In addition to her membership in NCPA, Kaye is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association Legal Assistants Division and the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. Along with NCPA Bar Liaison, Kaye is currently serving as LAD liaison to the General Practice Section of the NCBA. Kaye earned the CLA designation in July 2002 and she is currently studying for a specialty exam.

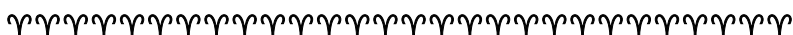
NALA LIAISON

Sarah C. Hutchins, CLA
919-474-9137
shutchins@bankslawfirm.com

Are you are planning on taking the CLA or CLAS exam in the upcoming year? If so, you can apply for NCPA's *Meredith R. Pollette CLAS Scholarship Award*. Two scholarships are available—one for the CLA exam fee and one for the CLAS exam fee. Finalists will be selected from essays submitted by August 15, 2003. Finalists will be notified by September 15, 2003. If you would like to have additional information about the certified legal assistant exam or the scholarships, please contact Sarah Hutchins, CLA, NALA Liaison by e-mail at shutchins@bankslawfirm.com or by phone at 919-474-9137.

More Chair Chatter.....

Beautiful (and professional) NCPA lapel pins are now available! Cost is \$25 plus shipping and may be ordered by calling Headquarters at 704-535-3363.



An article in *LAT* magazine reported that Ohio paralegals are looking into regulation similar to the proposal before North Carolina.



NCPA had "first time" attendees at the Annual Meeting and Seminar representative from all nine districts in the state! Congratulations Education Committee! We hope to see all of you "first-timers" many more times!

**!!!!!! Special thanks go to April Gary and the people at Document Technologies, Inc. !!!!
For sponsorship of this issue of the AMICUS! Please see their ad on the back page
and thank them for all their support of our profession!**

April may be reached at 704-342-1020 or agary@dtiglobal.com.

NCPA Member Notes:

- ☺ Many thanks are extended to the Education Committee for hosting a very successful, educational and fun 23rd Annual Meeting and Seminar. **First Vice President Anita W. Wing** was a little concerned last year when she found out **2003 Annual Seminar Chair Elizabeth B. Wilson, CLA** was expecting a baby girl in May, however Elizabeth performed her duties wonderfully. NCPA wishes the Wilson family an easy delivery and much joy in celebrating this new life.
- ☺ **President Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS** and **First Vice President Anita W. Wing** will represent NCPA at the NALA Annual Convention in July and present "L.R.P. – Does your Association Have It?" to the NALA Affiliated Associations. Good luck Belinda and Anita!
- ☺ In May, **NALA Liaison Sarah C. Hutchins, CLA** and her husband Chris will be traveling the countryside of Ireland for ten days. NCPA wishes them a safe journey and looks forward to hearing about their experience at the September Board meeting!
- ☺ Member **Sharon G. Robertson, CLAS** has declared for Region II Director of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. Election results will be announced in July at NALA's Annual Convention. Good luck Sharon!
- ☺ **Convention Coordinator Carmi Henderson** and her husband Doug adopted Eliana Paige Henderson from China late last year. NCPA had the pleasure of meeting Miss Eliana at the Annual Meeting and Seminar and she stole the hearts of all. Eliana in Hebrew means "My God has answered." NCPA wishes the Henderson family much joy and happiness.

☆☆

Do you have newsworthy information to share with NCPA Members? If so, please send to Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA at theresa.irvin@bankofamerica.com. Thank you!



North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 36264
Charlotte, North Carolina 28236-6264

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit #3709
Charlotte, NC