

Message

PRESIDENT'S

by Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA



Involvement. Personal Growth. Networking. Personal Challenge. Furtherance of the Profession. Personal Satisfaction.

If this were a Jeopardy answer, the question would be "Why is Terry Irvin running for the office of President?"

Involvement. This is my main reason for running again. I like to be involved and be kept abreast of what is occurring in the paralegal profession. Being active in NCPA is the easiest, and best, way for me to do this. The RTF is at work researching regulation and reporting on paralegal issues throughout the country. Paralegals from all areas of law and all work environments comprise the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, allowing me to hear first-hand the reports on the issues. It is a unique opportunity to listen and participate in the ensuing discussion. From my perspective, this is more educational than reading the final article or report in the FORUM or the Annual Meeting Booklet. I have the background of what lead up to the decisions, articles, and reports.

Personal Growth. I have learned, and continue to learn, a great deal from my work for NCPA in ways that were not initially apparent. Back in 1992, I chaired the Annual Seminar. In addition to learning how to plan a seminar, I learned how to work with a hotel on preparing for a convention. How was this relevant to me? It was very relevant when I started planning my wedding a few years later and soliciting bids for the reception hall. I acquired another skill by just attending the meetings. When

I went to my first Board meeting way back when, it was a joint meeting between the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Talk about confusing! Some people could make motions, others were not allowed. What was going on? Why, it was parliamentary procedure of course! By my experience in NCPA, I learned how a corporation operated. I worked mainly in real estate at my prior position, so this background helped a great deal when I joined the bank and was asked to do corporate work. I understood the basics without even realizing that I had learned them!

Networking. This reason could be repeated several times over. I initially volunteered to be active in NCPA because I knew it would force me to meet people. Does that sound silly? It may, but it worked. If given a choice, my nature lends itself to being more passive than aggressive. By working on a committee, in an officer position, or directorship, I have come in contact with my peers by getting the assigned job duties done. I have gotten to know people around the state by default and a lot of these people have become friends and a few have become very good friends. As stated above, there are several people, all with different backgrounds and experiences that sit on the Board and Executive Committee. Being active in NCPA gives me the chance to meet people outside my practice area and outside my city, and it provides me with the opportunity to get to know them on a personal level. We work together making decisions and accomplishing the tasks of the Association. Networking also allows me to find out what may be the hot new development in an unfamiliar area of law. In my current position, each week is different depending on the project. I do not foresee having to know the difference between copyrights and trademarks, but I know who to call in case I do.

Personal Challenge. These past twelve months have been a personal challenge, and I am ready to continue for another term. I have expanded my comfort zone and moved my line of challenge - greatly. I also realized when I ran for this office last year, that historically the President has run for a second term. Unless you, the members, decide otherwise, I want to continue that tradition. I am willing to accept the new challenges that will present themselves during the 2002-2003 year.

Furtherance of the Profession. Active participation in NCPA broadcasts the message that I am committed to this career and take the paralegal profession very seriously. It promotes the profession and the professionalism of this career. NCPA offers a great deal to its members and we are working diligently to offer even more. The Board and Executive Committee promulgate ideas to increase public awareness, and we strive to hold high quality educational events. By my active participation, I am supporting these endeavors and educating those that I meet about the paralegal career.

Personal Satisfaction. I am happy with the career that I have chosen and by holding an office in this association I work to give back what I have gained. I would also like to know that at the end of my term, I did the best job I could, making mistakes along the way and learning from them. Who knows what the future will hold and what untapped skills I am developing for a future responsibility...

I ask you for your support and your vote on March 15, 2002. Thank you.