

# *M* PRESIDENT'S Message

by Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA



As I write this, it is mid April and Spring is in the air. If you have allergies (or a green coated car) you know that this statement is a literal one! The weather has cooperated these

past few days by providing summertime heat and has set me in the proper frame of mind to write this President's message for our Summer issue. Spring will have sprung by the time you read this, new beginnings will not be so new, but the heat will no doubt have made a permanent stay - very analogous to my own life. The new presidency will have begun, the new stress and responsibility will not be so foreign, and the "heat" will have taken up residence.

As much as I thought I was ready for this position, it is quite different actually being in this position. The old adage, "Do not judge someone until you walk a mile in their shoes" goes through my mind every day. This proverb hits home hardest with volunteer positions. As I am sure the seminar committee members will agree, unless you have coordinated one before, you develop a new appreciation for the people who have organized our educational events in the past. This is true with any office or committee - you never truly realize what is involved until you are actually responsible for the outcome or product. One of the key aspects of a job well done is to make it look effortless. However, the flip side is the wonderful learning and personal growth experienced by challenging yourself.

Thank you for your vote of confidence. This coming year is going to be a challenging, but positive, one for me. It has been very exciting since election day to see the officers, directors and committee chairs entrenched in their new responsibilities. It is truly amazing to see everyone working

together to make things happen. We have a very dedicated group of people that have made it their primary goal to serve you, the members, the best way they can.

It was wonderful seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting and Seminar and the evaluations have come back overwhelmingly favorable. (Was it the switch from a banquet to a luau?) A big THANK YOU goes out to all of the people who orchestrated the seminar, all of the sponsors, contributors and exhibitors that made the event financially possible and to all of the attendees for participating. Please read the report of First Vice President, Mary Anne Smith, CLA later in this issue for a complete listing of everyone involved.

As you may have noticed, this issue is large and full of important information. Senior Editor Jamie L. Fuller and her committee have worked very hard and very quickly to deliver this issue to you in a timely manner. Please look for the new features Jamie and her staff have added. I would like to recognize and thank Patti F. Clapper, CLA for her outstanding work and commitment as the Senior Editor for the past two years. This is another seemingly effortless position that requires a high level of commitment by the FORUM editors to produce such outstanding results. You will continue to hear from Patti as she has graciously agreed to stay involved, and will serve as the Advertising Editor and chair the Patron and Sustaining Membership Committee.

If you haven't noticed already, the much awaited survey results are published in this edition. Lisa A. Weisenburg, CLA expeditiously tabulated the results from the January mailing. If you should have any questions or wish to obtain more information on the survey, please contact the new Survey Committee Chair Rita J. Scott.

NCPA made history this year when three students tied for first place in our annual student scholarship program. The decision was made to award three first place scholarships and one second place scholarship. Please take a moment to read the scholarship essays which provide an enlightening, fresh perspective on the paralegal career.

Throughout this issue you will find several items to note. The most immediate is the Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course, both scheduled for September 21-22, 2001 in Boone. Look for your registration brochure to arrive in the mail soon. A revised program taking place this summer is the Meredith R. Pollette CLA Scholarship Awards. Last year the Board of Directors approved an additional scholarship award for payment of the specialty exam fee. You now have the opportunity for NCPA to fund your CLA exam fee and your specialty exam fee. I encourage you to take advantage of this membership benefit. Please look for more information in this issue and in your mailbox. Another useful membership benefit is our job bank. Teresa N. Smith is very enthusiastic about chairing this committee, and you will see her ad in this issue.

As you will quickly see, Jamie and her staff have added several new features to our quarterly publication which we are sure you will enjoy. I encourage you to contact us about how we are doing - think of those "How's My Driving?" bumper stickers. This year promises to be a busy one for NCPA, and we need your feedback. I look forward to serving you this coming year and seeing you at our next event. Hopefully by the time Mid-Year comes around, some of the "heat" will have dissipated! Have a great summer.