

CHAIRMAN'S *Report*

by Barbara A. Booker, CLA



Well, I have decided that weird weather patterns are determined to follow me wherever I go, although I don't recall having this problem prior to joining NCPA! My first experience in serving

on a committee with NCPA, was as co-chair of the Mid-Year Seminar scheduled to be held in Wilmington in 1996, which was ultimately canceled due to Hurricane Fran. My next experience was while serving as First Vice President in 1998, and a tornado ripped through Clemmons just prior to our Mid-Year Seminar, leaving the hotel undergoing reconstruction efforts while we were there. My third experience was while serving as Convention Coordinator in 1999, and praying all the while that a hurricane would not batter the hotel of choice - the Holiday Inn Sunspree at Wrightsville Beach. We got lucky on that one, as the hotel had just rebuilt from the ravages of Hurricane Fran when I had my site visit! Although, as you may recall, while we were at Wrightsville Beach enjoying the beautiful weather at our Annual Meeting & Seminar, some parts of the state were buried in snow! Now, at this writing, while traveling to Troy and Albermarle for work, I had to outrun dark eerie skies and pouring rain, only to return to my office to interludes of sunshine, rain and of all things, snow! Of course, by the time you read this message, the summer heat will be upon us and I'll probably be wishing for snow or, at the very least, some of those wonderful cool breezes we enjoyed at Wrightsville Beach!

With all this said, it only goes to show that you never know what experiences you will encounter, and I can happily report that some of my most memorable ones and my greatest learning experiences have come

through my involvement with NCPA. I am looking forward to the coming year and the opportunity to serve you as Chairman of the Board. I am anxiously anticipating that this year will be a prosperous one for NCPA, and hope that each and every member will become actively involved in furthering the recognition of our Association and our paralegal profession as a whole.

In the first issue of THE AMICUS for this new year, you were introduced to NCPA's Board of Directors. Your District Directors have already begun diligently working. As you will recall, over the past year, several very successful mini-seminars were held at locations spanning the entire State, and the Board hopes to plan similar events this year. We are also busy contacting local paralegal programs, paralegal clubs, bar associations, and the like, in an effort to advance recognition of our Association and our profession. I hope that you have had an opportunity to contact your District Director and share your ideas. Your Board representatives are devoted to serving you and strive to achieve the goals that lie before us. I urge you to keep your District Directors advised of events and news from your locality, so that they in turn can advise the entire membership. What better way to spread the word of upcoming events, seminars and other planned activities relating to our profession!

Another area in which NCPA has made great strides is in regards to paralegal regulation, through the tireless efforts of the Regulation Task Force ("RTF"). The RTF members continue to work diligently and have done an outstanding job in keeping us informed of all new developments. As was reported at the Annual Meeting in March, the first official meeting of the Alliance for Paralegal Professional Standards ("APPS") was held on February 3, 2001, and the RTF members were appointed to represent NCPA and serve as delegates in the APPS. Sharon L. Wall, CLAS, Chair-

man of the RTF, provided a substantive report at the Annual Meeting, and I encourage you, if you have not already done so, to carefully review her report and the materials she submitted so that you stay abreast of the developments involving the regulation of our profession. APPS currently consists of delegates from paralegal associations, paralegal educators and non-traditional (freelance) paralegals, with the anticipation that additional paralegal associations and other entities having an interest in our profession, will soon join as delegates. The various delegates to the APPS, through their collective experience and knowledge, will address issues relating to regulation of the paralegal profession and to the advancement of our profession, and in doing so, will rely heavily on the research compiled by the RTF over the past several years. Future reports of the RTF will include developments of the APPS, so that we remain aware of the efforts from both sources. The RTF also plans to make a presentation at the upcoming Mid-Year Seminar, which will include an update on the APPS. I encourage you to keep abreast of the activities of the RTF and the APPS, as not just your profession, but your livelihood, depends upon it. If you do not voice your opinions or concerns, no matter whether you approve or disapprove of regulation, it is sure to come about by some ways or means in our not too distant future.

Finally, NCPA's Officers and multitude of Committees are also hard at work. Plans are well underway for the upcoming Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course to be held in September in Boone. Make plans to attend not only for the educational benefits you will reap, but also for the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage in the mountains!

Again, I look forward to serving you in the coming year, and thank you for your continued support of NCPA.