

CHAIRMAN'S Report

by Barbara A. Booker, CLA



At this writing, my husband and I are celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary! Yes, you are correct in your calculations that we were married at the age of 10! Actually we were

“high school sweethearts” - graduating in June of 1981 and wed in November. I’ve had a lot of folks ask me if it seems like 20 years (or more like 40), and I’m very happy to say that I find it hard to believe that we’ve been together for two decades (that sounds even longer, doesn’t it?). Even more difficult to believe is that I’ve been out of high school for 20 years! Now I really feel old, saved only by the fact that a senior partner in my office told me I have 35 more years of marriage to go before I catch up with him!

My husband and I have also just recently assessed our goals for the future and attempted to set priorities, both on a personal as well as professional level. Although if given the chance, we might opt to change some circumstances in our past, we can honestly say that we are proud of our accomplishments and the milestones reached through the years.

On a professional level, I am certain that had I not chosen to be an active participant in professional associations on both local and state levels, I may not have had the opportunities I’ve had over the past years. I know without a doubt that without having done so, I would not have attained the mentors and friends, nor the skills and knowledge that I have been so fortunate to acquire.

What seems like ages ago, I joined the Greensboro Paralegal Association (GPA), and shortly thereafter took on the responsibility of preparing and mailing meeting

notices to the membership, as well as approving membership applications. Subsequently, I ran for President of GPA, not only to remain in a leadership role, but also as a means by which I could overcome my fear of public speaking! I served as GPA’s President for two terms and having had the responsibility for calling the meetings, as well as having had speaking engagements outside of GPA, I overcame my fear of public speaking, although I still must have a podium to which to cling!

I also joined the ranks of NCPA, and shortly thereafter in 1996 was recruited to serve on a Mid-Year Seminar Committee, followed by an Annual Meeting Committee. I later served as First Vice President, then Convention Coordinator, then Nominations and Elections Chair, and now as District IV Director and Chairman of the Board. Whew! They saw me coming, didn’t they?

No, I’m not bragging about my involvement in these associations, but instead am attempting to show how active participation can become an addiction! You may be fearful of the responsibilities before you at first, but it quickly becomes “old hat”, and you find yourself desiring to take on more responsibility and serve in a variety of capacities. The professionalism, diplomacy, experience and wisdom exhibited by the people you work with along the way, make active participation all the more desirable.

NCPA is a wonderful association, but it would not exist were it not for its members. Every member has experiences, skills and attributes to contribute in leadership roles within the association. No idea, suggestion or concern is trivial. The current administration is looking to the 500+ members of NCPA to step forward and stake their claims. I wholeheartedly encourage you to respond to the recruiting efforts of the Nominations and Elections Committee in the coming months, and take an active role in the leadership and administration of your professional paralegal association.



Calendar OF EVENTS

January 5, 2002

EC / Board Meeting, Greensboro

February 8, 2002

Sanford Student Paralegal Club Seminar
Sanford, NC

March 14, 2002

EC / Board Meeting, New Bern

March 14-16, 2002

NCPA’s 22nd Annual Meeting & Seminar
Sheraton Grand, New Bern

July 10-14, 2002

NALA Convention 2002
Savannah, Georgia

September 13-14, 2002

Mid-Year Seminar CLA
Review Course, Asheville, NC

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