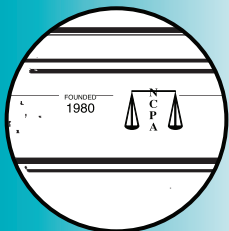
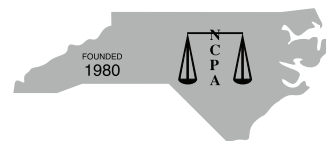


Summer 2011

North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.



NCPA

Forum

noun [C]; *för-əm*
an occasion or a place for talking about a matter of public interest

5 REASONS



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IN THIS ISSUE...

- 5 Reasons Why Double Is Better
- The Life Cycle of a Butterfly, Oops, I Mean a Budget
- NCPA Student Scholarship Winners



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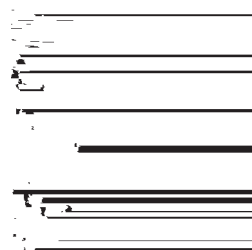


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President's Message

Stephanie B. Elliott, NCCP



Spring is my favorite time of the year. It's a time of renewal, when the harshness of winter is rolled back for another year and we find all things bright and new. It's also a time that I reflect on what is most important to me: my family and friends, my career and my ability to make the world a better place. This spring has been especially busy for my practice. We've had three major trials to prepare for since January, and are currently in the throws of a major complex business trial that is into its fifth week. This, as you can imagine, has brought the conflict parent v. paralegal. I'm not someone who is comfortable delegating, asking for help, or watching others do my tasks, but for the last couple of weeks I've been doing just that! This spring, NCPA is in a time of transition, as new officers have been installed and members have filled new roles in the Executive Board and Committees. We are excited by this change, and look forward to bringing you our membership new information and ideas. Our website is changing as well, and we will be offering new tools and resources soon.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Mid Year Review Course and Seminar, to be held September 16-17 at the Embassy Suites in Charlotte. We are currently engaging some fabulous speakers for the review course and the seminar, and this event will prove to be an informative and fun time for everyone. Check our website after July 1st for the complete brochure.

As your new President, I am open to any suggestions or concerns you may have, and my inbox is always open. Happy Spring! I look forward to seeing you in September in Charlotte!

Stephanie B. Elliott, NCCP

President

Chairman's Message

Stephanie Ivans, NCCP



Hello to all from your new Chairman of the Board. It is with great honor that I begin my tenor in this new role. Let me begin by recognizing the outstanding work of outgoing Chairman, Diane N. Morgan, CP, NCCP. I hope to carry on her good work in support of our wonderful organization. With my nomination to fill the considerable void left by Diane's departure, it appears the Board decided that the only way to follow a Chairman from the Coast was with a small town girl from the Mountains. For those of you I have yet to have the pleasure of meeting, I am a paralegal and office manager from a small criminal defense law firm in Western North Carolina, in the communities of Asheville and Westward.

Having just completed my third full year as District VII Director let me say to all of you serving across the State how much I appreciate your hard work, sacrifice and dedication in serving your fellow paralegals. Your efforts as District Directors help make this organization a true success across the State. In the years ahead, I look forward to working with each of you more closely and appreciate the opportunity to learn from your wisdom and experience. Understanding the challenges of your position, I ask that you please contact me if there is anything I can do to be of assistance.

Perhaps most importantly, let me know take this opportunity to say thank you to all the members of NCPA statewide. I congratulate each of you on being a member of this organization, which is dedicated to promoting and enhancing the professionalism of paralegals across the State of North Carolina and Nationwide. In law offices, courthouses and related businesses all across the State, professional paralegals in this association serve and assist the people of the State of North Carolina.

All around us the beauty of North Carolina is blooming with the warmth of summer and it reminds us of new opportunities and new challenges that await. Let me challenge each of you to go out amongst your fellow paralegals and encourage them to take the next step in the professional development as a paralegal by joining "The Organization" dedicated to our profession, NCPA. I encourage you to help those paralegals in your community understand that they can invest in themselves by investing in their career!

Have a warm, wonderful and safe Summer!

Yours Truly,

Stephanie Ivans, NCCP

Chairman of the Board





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Second Vice President's Report Membership

Beverly K. Moore, NCCP

The current membership breakdown as of April 28, 2011 is as follows:

General members:	255
Associate members:	46
Student members:	71
Sustaining Members:	10
Affiliate members:	3
Educational Program members:	1
Total	386

We would like to acknowledge our newest (G)eneral, (A)ssociate, and (S)tudent members joining from January 28, 2011 – April 28, 2011:

Marie Anderson, Charlotte (S)	Trish Hellard, Raleigh (S)	Dawn R. Quist, Sanford (S)	Stephanie W. Gates, Dobson (S)
Henrik Anderson, Charlotte (S)	Anna A. Hernandez, Jacksonville (S)	Sharon R. Ramsey, Raleigh (G)	Kimberly Morris, Jacksonville (S)
Lukas B. Barry, Raleigh (G)	Carol A. Heynen, Raleigh (A)	Brooke M. Riley, Midway Park (S)	Phoebe S. Wahab, Bath (S)
Jennifer Kay Boyce, Sanford (S)	Sarah W. Holsapple, Durham (A)	Holly G. Rios, Tarawa Terrace (S)	Kathy A. Glasson, Chapel Hill (S)
Kelly P. Burch, Sylva (A)	Ila M. Howard, Jacksonville (S)	Maurica Rocha, Jacksonville (S)	Anita Y. Mullinax, Raleigh (S)
Jessica M. Clark, Fuquay Varina (S)	Cheryl N. Hughes, Greensboro (G)	Tania M. Rodriguez, Pinehurst (S)	Brian D. Weaver, Thurmond (S)
Page L. Connahan, Apex (S)	Anna L. Huss, Wilmington (S)	Nancy S. Sanders, Gastonia (S)	Suzanne J. Gosney, Belmont (A)
Maryjane Conti, Charlotte (S)	Shaina Hutson, Kinston (A)	Joanne E. Santiago, Jacksonville (S)	Amanda K. Northern, Midway Park (S)
Tiffany N. Cummings, Carthage (S)	Kathy S. Jones, Hamptonville (S)	Paul M. Sconyers, Morrisville (S)	Jennifer West, Raleigh (S)
Janice I. Davies, Raleigh (A)	Kenneth F. Laughinghouse, Sanford (S)	Catherine A. Seal, Charlotte (G)	Camille E. Hall, Kinston (G)
Samantha R. Demick, Jacksonville (S)	Sheila M. Lewis, Wake Forest (S)	Gabrielle Smith, Willow Spring (S)	Amity M. Patrick, Holly Ridge (S)
Deborah M. Desmond, Raleigh (S)	Zurit Marmolejo, Dobson (S)	Sojourner G. Smith, Sanford (S)	Susan L. Youssef, Durham (G)
Cynthia F. Dietrich, Raleigh (A)	Gail C. Marsh, Youngsville (G)	Mary A. Stapleton, Carthage (S)	Elizabeth A. Harmon, Angier (S)
Gloria Edrington, Raleigh (G)	Marcia A. Maynard, Thurmond (S)	Laurie E. Sumardika, Sylva (S)	Debra K. Pendleton, Mount Airy (S)
Denise K. Forbes, Durham (A)	Christopher S. Medley, Winston-Salem (S)	Judith E. Szustakowski, Raleigh (S)	Kayla M. Harrell, Jonesville (S)
Judith French, Jacksonville (S)	Ashley A. Mines, Asheville (S)	Alex S. Taylor, Greensboro (S)	Tammy L. Pyles, Granite Falls (S)
Cori L. Frost, Hubert (S)	Tonnette D. Morgan, Winston-Salem (A)	Karen E. Waddell, Raleigh (G)	

NCPA is proud to recognize the following Sustaining members:

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NCPA would also like to recognize our Affiliate and Educational Program members:

Alamance County Paralegal Association, Cumberland County Paralegal Association, Guilford Paralegal Association, Miller-Motte College-Fayetteville, Research Triangle Paralegal Association.

Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions about membership in NCPA.

Beverly K. Moore, NCCP

Second Vice President, Membership Chair

Report of the First Vice President & Education Committee

Melissa Stockley Jones, ACP, NCCP

The 2011 Annual Meeting & Seminar is now behind us and it was a huge success. Attendance was high and we gained a few new members. Many thanks to Stephanie Brooks Elliott, NCCP and Michele Tuttle, CLA, NCCP for all of their hard work to make this event happen. We had great speakers, vendors and food. I would also like to thank Kaye H. Summers, ACP, NCCP and Chreatha Alston, NCCP for their help with Registration and getting our registrants checked in and stocked up with goodies.

Just as we catch our breath from Annual, the Mid-Year Seminar Co-Chairs, Debby Sawyer, ACP, NCCP and Crystal Robinson, NCCP, as well as CLA Review Course Chair, Melissa Rutledge, NCCP, are getting into high gear in planning for the upcoming Mid-Year Seminar & CLA/CP Review Course to be held September 16-17, 2011, at the Embassy Suites in Charlotte, North Carolina. We are still working on a proposed agenda as well as a proposed budget for this event.

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Editor's Court

Brandon L. Ruth, NCSB/CP

Welcome back to another exciting edition of the NCPA FORUM! I'm going to look into my crystal ball and say that this could very well be one of the largest editions we've put together in awhile, and maybe even the largest of my time as Senior Editor. Now that I have written that sentence I need to do everything I can to make sure that is a true statement. So let me give you a little primer as to what you'll find in this monster Summer issue...

First, there was Annual. Hope you all had the chance to go, it was a great weekend. This year's Annual was my first opportunity to go as a spectator, and not as someone earning credit, so I got to spend some time looking behind the scenes and watching little snippets of everything going on. Let me tell you, the amount of work that goes into putting on something like Annual is nothing short of amazing. Between making the arrangements for location, to setting the schedule and confirming the speakers, to getting the sponsors set up (free cupcakes didn't hurt!), the folks who put all of it together deserves a hearty "THANK YOU!" for their tireless efforts. Make sure you check out the pictures from Annual in this issue!

One of the things I was able to see during Annual was the recognition of this year's student scholarship award winners. In their honor, I have reprinted the four winning essays, along with a picture of the authors together at Annual. There were 26 total entries for the contest this year, so I certainly don't envy the judges who had to narrow those down to just four!

Now that Annual has passed we can start getting ready for Mid-Year in Charlotte. We're just teasing the readers for now with a "Save the Date" ad, but keep checking www.ncparalegal.org and watch for the Fall edition of the FORUM coming out in August - these will have all the info you need to know for this year's September gathering.

Finally, I want to thank the readers who took the time to drop me an e-mail, or who talked to me during Annual about how much they enjoyed the first NCPA Time Machine section in the Spring FORUM. The pictures brought back so many memories for so many people. I hope you enjoy how the Time Machine was put together for this issue. Another enjoyable blast from the past!

As always, thanks for reading, and don't hesitate to contact us with any feedback or ideas!

Regards, *Brandon L. Ruth, NCSB/CP*

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Scholarship fees will be paid directly to NALA and the finalists will have one year from the date of the award
to sit for the exams. The fees will be refunded to NCPA if the finalists do not sit for the exam within the one-
year time requirement.

Send your typewritten essays by August 15, 2011 to:

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For additional information, please email:

NALA Liaison Kaye H. Summers, ACP, NCCP; kaye@pulleywatson.com

NCPA Student Scholarship Winners

Each year, NCPA offers a Student Scholarship to any paralegal student enrolled in an accredited North Carolina paralegal educational program. The scholarship is determined by an essay competition, with the essay topic of I have chosen to be a paralegal

All winners receive a complementary student registration to the Annual Meeting and Seminar, a complementary one-year student membership to NCPA, and a scholarship check to be paid to his or her school. First place winners receive \$400.00; Second place winners receive \$300.00; Third place winners receive \$200.00; and Fourth place winners receive \$100.00.

I would like to thank our new Student/School Relations Chair, Charlotte Ward, CLA, NCCP, for providing me with the winning essays for this edition of the FORUM. I'm sure it was a difficult decision for the judges. Below are the names of the Scholarship Recipients, along with their winning essays:



Tania Rodriguez, Betty Harmon, Kathy Glasson and Tammy Pyles pose at Annual with outgoing President Patti Clapper

Tammy Pyles **1st Place Winner** **Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute**

The third of six children from a hard working blue-collar family, responsibility and a strong work ethic were not only the expectation, these ideals were ingrained in me. I have worked for nearly my entire life. In addition to routine chores, we children had a paper route, and when you turned 11 or 12 years old it became yours, until the next in line was old enough to take over the route. After that, babysitting for family, friends, and neighbors provided a steady income for me. My parents divorced when I was fifteen years old. My mother worked as a waitress or a cook, so we children used the money we earned to provide for ourselves and paid room and board to my mother to help maintain our home. At sixteen, a real, part-time, paying job was required. Through high school, I worked as a waitress, a fast food restaurant counter person, and a clothing store clerk.

After high school, my original plan was to attend a school of allied health careers and be trained as a dental assistant. However, my father did not approve of my career choice and so refused to pay the tuition as he had promised. He directed me to either military service or full time work. I applied for both. Fortunately, I received a job offer from a bank on the same day that my recruiter called to finalize the paperwork necessary for me to join the United States Navy! I

continued to work in increasingly responsible and demanding positions, moved into the healthcare field, married and raised a family. Through all of this, the desire for higher education remained in my heart. I attended college classes at night from time to time, but never completed a degree.

I am an analytical thinker in that I think through scenarios and consider possible outcomes. Through this type of mental exercise, in whatever circumstance I find myself, I can and will find a solution, a way forward, and even excitement or contentment in the process. This approach to life has never failed me. It allows me to assess options and choose pathways that have produced great adventures and challenges that have refined me as a person and have brought tremendous joy and fulfillment to my life.

In light of the economic recession and so many people out of work, though highly unlikely, or so I thought, I pondered what I would do if I ever found myself unemployed. The most attractive and exciting scenario that played through my mind was the opportunity for a new career. I could better myself, even in the face of an unprecedented economic downturn, by earning a college degree. The unlikely and devastating event of becoming unemployed did in fact occur in June, 2010. The first thing I did was take a low-budget and much needed trip to the beach. The sun, sand and time to relax and reflect helped me to clear my head as well as my heart. Upon my return home, and with the love and support of my husband and family, I was able to appraise my circumstances, and prepare logical solutions. I reviewed the Meyers-Briggs personality-type assessment that had been administered a few years ago to refresh myself on my personality traits, strengths and weaknesses, and evaluate career choices. I applied for appropriate job opportunities and explored the possibility of returning to school to earn a degree. None of the jobs panned out, but the option of earning a college degree certainly has. I have chosen to be a paralegal and recently completed my first semester with straight A's and a 4.0 GPA!

Earning my paralegal degree is more than the fulfillment of a life-long dream. The knowledge and skills that I am acquiring in school will prepare me for work in a law or corporate office, or perhaps a government, state, or county agency or court system. Serving as a paralegal in these types of organizations provides an avenue to serve people in the community. I will have the chance to help those who may be underprivileged or require support in the arena of law, social services or the political process. By earning my paralegal degree, I can do the kind of challenging work that I enjoy while making a difference in the lives of others. That will be worth every ounce of effort and focus that I apply to my studies now.

Tania Rodriguez **2nd Place Winner** **Central Carolina Community College**

Have you ever woken up feeling like you could not breathe? Have you ever felt like each day was just like the one before and you could go through the day with your eyes closed? As a teenage mother I struggled to put myself through college with big goals of overcoming the statistics of teenage pregnancy. I decided to enroll in college

for business management, a degree that I had no interest in but presumed it would bring me success. Then I started looking around me and realized that there were people surrounding me with degrees in Business Management that could not find jobs, were not being compensated adequately for a college graduate and most importantly did not enjoy what they were doing. I was drowning in student debts while actively seeking employment that would compensate me for all my hard work. I felt like I was making no impact, wondering to myself what I wanted to be when I GREW up; dreading life because I had no direction. Still to this day I work for a company in a position for minimal pay that does not require a college degree due to the fact that I have not been able to acquire a better position. So again, I ask you have you ever had a day where you felt like this. I had this day for a year straight and finally made a choice. I chose to take a risk. I chose to attempt a fresh start. I chose to become a paralegal.

I began by enrolling in one course in this field, to get into the routine of a school environment and also to determine if this was really what I wanted. The first course did not convince me either way, but I decided to go full time and give it a shot. What did I have to lose? I was actually in for a shock, for the first time ever I enjoy going to school. I am genuinely interested in learning, studying, and doing the very best I can. I have the attitude that good is not enough, only exceptional will do. Grades of C's are no longer sufficient, I now hold myself to a higher regard. I had my light bulb moment, and there is no room for transgression. I am excited about my future and have never felt like this before. I am no longer lost; I know exactly where I have been and where I am going.

I have learned that a major part of being a paralegal is being personable and helpful. I suppose that is one of the major reasons that I chose this field. I love to help others and I feel like I will be making a difference in someone's life. I am a very organized and detail orientated person. I love to schedule everything. When I began the Introduction to Paralegal course, my instructor discussed the characteristics a paralegal should possess; again I knew that I was making an accurate career choice. I remember sitting in class and saying to myself "WOW THAT'S ALL YOU". On the first day of school we read a few articles in that class, there was one that referred to paralegals as a Lawyer's nurse; I will never forget that analogy. Growing up I never wanted to be a doctor or a nurse, I never really knew what I wanted to do. All I knew was I wanted to be successful, wanted to help others, and wanted not to struggle from paycheck to paycheck.

Conclusively, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I wake up each morning HUNGRY, not for food but for success. I am thrilled knowing that each day I am just a little closer to reaching my goal. I now have hope for my future and I am setting an example for my daughter. She will grow up knowing that obstacles in her path are just that. She will know that with hard work, perseverance, and determination her goals are obtainable. She will always remember the struggles that I endured and will use these same struggles to guide her own future. I know that it is just a matter of time until I am able to obtain employment performing a task that I enjoy. I have made a choice to be a paralegal, to be ethical, to help others, and to achieve my goal and obtain a career. Life is nothing without purpose, my father always says "to find wealth you must first obtain a career you love and the wealth will come." I finally, truly understand what that means. I chose to save my life; I chose to be a paralegal.

Betty Harmon **3rd Place Winner** **Johnston County Community College**

Twenty-five years ago, if someone asked me if I wanted to be a paralegal my answer would have been what's that? I would most likely have followed up with an eye roll and a that sounds so boring. Thank goodness life usually does not take a person down a straight road, but a winding one full of dead-ends, scenic overviews, idyllic side roads and alternative detours throughout one's life. And in this case, my opinion of the legal field has changed and evolved as I have gained more life experience.

After eighteen years in telecommunications, mostly managing nameless, faceless, large international customer accounts, and internal network migrations, I was laid-off by another faceless entity – a new manager I had never met in person. I then realized that I wanted a career that was more personal; one where I could see the outcome and be proud of my part in it. So I embarked on my second career in real estate. While I have greatly enjoyed being a Realtor® it has not been a field where I have realized my financial expectations. During this time period, a chronic disease of which had been in remission for over twenty years decided to break-out and disrupt my life. I found myself hospitalized and physically struggling to work for almost a year after. It was during this time that I started to rehash my previous work experience and my career choices. So I decided to go back to school, and be a paralegal.

A paralegal is actually an obvious choice when analyzing what I had done in my adult work experience. From telecommunications to real estate; what I did was basically account management. The accounts may have been different in size and scope, but what I had done with my two careers was to go from the large and impersonal to the smaller, more individualized accounts. Each project or client was its own account, and my work constituted only one portion of that account. So much was not in my realm of responsibility. Even in real estate I had only one small part to play; it was an instrumental part, but honestly the process would work without a real estate agent. So I did what I could: work the account, do my part, and put it away. Move onto the next one.

But what I also realized during this period was that I was no longer a young, innocent and naive person who wanted to save the world, and looked only at ideals, not consequences. I now have realized that no one person can save the world, but I can make my tiny corner a better place. By working in the legal field, I can directly impact people's lives, whether it is assisting a grieving family through a personal or criminal crisis, interviewing a person for a last will, or gleaming information to help a parent get the support he/she is entitled to. The difference with these accounts is that I will be a part of it from the start to the finish. I can make a difference for that one person, and perhaps that difference will be enough for that person to go out and make a difference to another. That is what is important: keeping that chain going. Holding a hand, smiling, and making a difficult situation run as smoothly as possible does make a difference. And making a difference in one life really can make the world a better place.

Kathy Glasson
4th Place Winner
Durham Technical Community College

I have chosen to be a paralegal because I recognize it is the next logical step in my development as a member of the legal team. I have been working for a law firm for several years, and looking back I can see how my knowledge and skills have developed. I am ready to take my achievements to the next level.

After a number of years spent out of the work force raising a family, I began my career at the law firm as a Receptionist. I was lucky to be put under the tutelage of an experienced paralegal. I believe that was the first time I had heard the term paralegal, or even realized it was a profession. I soon learned how to conduct myself in the professional manner necessary while at the same time gaining first hand experience of how a law firm operates. I was also introduced to the current use of computers, which was one thing that had changed tremendously in the time I was out of the active work force. I learned to use many computer applications, including Timeslips, QuickBooks, WordPerfect, and Excel. Outlook was a completely new

concept for me. After a couple of years, I took an introduction to computers course and was pleasantly surprised to discover much I already knew from my on-the-job training.

After a time, I was promoted to the position of administrative assistant. This advancement was possible because I had mastered the daily administrative functions necessary to the smooth functioning of the office. At the same time, I had reached a level of competence which made me aware of just how much more I had to learn.

I recognize the importance of continuing my formal education to expand and hone my skills and to increase my value to the law firm. I have already learned so much in just one semester of paralegal instruction. I had accumulated many pieces of the "puzzle" working at the law firm, but I now am learning through my studies how these pieces fit together to make a whole.

My goal is to enhance my value to the team, as well as to increase my knowledge of how a paralegal's skills can be incorporated into the daily functions of the law office. I am excited to be started on my next phase of professional and self-improvement!

Amendments to NCPA Bylaws

The following amendments to the NCPA's Bylaws were approved by unanimous vote during a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Board at its March 25, 2011 meeting (the addition is underlined). In accordance with NCPA Bylaws Article XVIII, the amendments provided below are not in conflict with NALA Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII- OFFICERS

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

(a) Nominations. The Nominations and Elections Chair shall present a slate of officers to the Secretary no less than seventy five (75) days prior to the election. The Secretary shall present the slate of officers as part of the instructions to proxy and with the designation of proxy to the membership no less than sixty (60) days prior to the election. No name shall appear on the slate without the consent of the candidate. Nominations from the floor will **not** be accepted. Officers must be active General Members of this NCPA for one year prior to declaring or being nominated for any elected office and must be actively employed as a paralegal. [amended 3/25/2011]

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

(c) In the event the Annual Meeting is held and an officer's position has not been filled, that position may be appointed by the Board with a General member of NCPA, regardless of whether the appointee meets the eligibility requirements to be nominated for that office as set forth in this Article. [amended 3/25/2011]

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

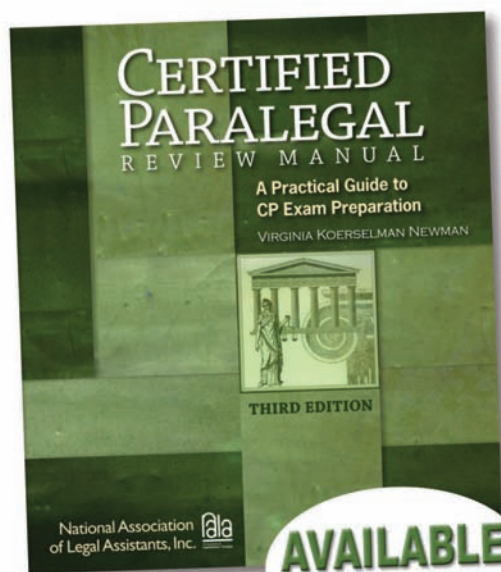
3. APPLICATION. Application for membership shall be submitted to the Membership Committee on forms approved by the NALA Affiliated Association Director and NCPA's Membership Committee. The forms should clearly state that NCPA is an affiliated association of NALA and that all members of NCPA are bound by the NALA Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility in addition to any code adopted by NCPA. An application for any class of membership shall be rejected by the Membership Committee if (a) the applicant has not met any one or more of the qualifications as set out in the preceding Sections or (b) the applicant has been convicted of a felony or **(c) the applicant has previously had his/her Membership with NCPA cancelled under Article IV(5).** [amended 3/15/2002 and 3/25/2011]

ARTICLE XI - COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

(iv) CLA/**NCCP** Review Course Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall coordinate with the NALA Liaison in the planning and presentation of a review course, (the "CLA/ NCCP Review Course") designed to aid individuals preparing to take the Certified Legal Assistant Examination **and/ or the North Carolina Certified Paralegal Examination.** [amended 4/10/1992, 4/19/1996, 3/21/1997 and 3/25/2011].

Respectfully submitted,
 Shelby G. Tyson, NCCP
 Parliamentarian 2011-2012

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NORTH CAROLINA
LAWYERS WEEKLY

Dear Paralegal,

I am happy to inform you that **Carolina Paralegal News (CPN)**, a special publication of *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly*, will now be published monthly. As many of you know, this product started out as a quarterly publication, and then went to bimonthly and now monthly due to increased demands and content popularity.

I personally wanted to thank you for your continued support of **CPN**, which has allowed us to provide the large paralegal community in two states with important news, information, profiles and industry trends.

As of January 2010, **CPN** will be available to you each month for \$5.00 per issue. Subscribers to *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* will continue

to see **CPN** inserted in their mailed copies. Also, a PDF version of **CPN** will be available online at www.nclawyersweekly.com.

Please call our office toll-free at 877-577-6221 to order copies of **CPN**, which will be available the last Monday of each month.

Again, thank you very much for your support in growing this product and I hope you have a successful new year!

Kind regards,

Tonya Mathis
Publisher

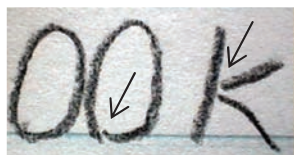
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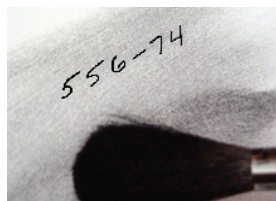
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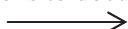
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DISTRICT II REPORT

District II had a meet and greet recently, and are in the planning stages for another. Stay tuned to the June edition of the AMICUS for more details! Also, NCPA members from District II will be participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure this June. We ask all NCPA members either take a moment to donate to this amazing cause, or if you're really feeling adventurous, sign up and walk with us! Log in to www.komennctriangle.org and look for the North Carolina Paralegal Association.

Crystal L. Robinson, NCSB/CP
District II Director

DISTRICT III REPORT

The Cumberland County Paralegal Association (CCPA) conducted its 20th Annual Educational Seminar on April 2, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux in Fayetteville. Congratulations to CCPA's 2011-2012 officers: President - Deborah Brodosky, Vice President - Michelle McCorquodale, Secretary - Wanda Evans, Treasurer - Angela Graack. The 2011-2012 officers were installed on May 13, 2011. CCPA held a bake sale in the Cumberland County Courthouse on April 18, 2011. All proceeds from the sale were donated to the American Red Cross - Highlands Chapter to assist tornado victims. CCPA generally holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month. For further information, please visit www.ccpara.com.

Sylvia L. Erickson, NCCP
District III Director

DISTRICT IV REPORT

The Guilford Paralegal Association (GPA) held its 5th Annual Spring Seminar on May 14, 2011, which provided

those in attendance with 6 hours of CPE credit. The seminar was held at the Deep River Event Center in Greensboro, NC. GPA also held nominations for new officers at its May 10, 2011 meeting at Logan's Roadhouse in Greensboro.

The Alamance County Paralegal Association (ACPA) holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at Carver's in Graham.

Karen F. England, NCCP
District IV Director

DISTRICT VII REPORT



District VII represents at Annual!

District VII had an ice cream social for the paralegal students at Southwestern Community College (SCC) in Sylva, NC on April 21, 2011 to explain to the students more about the benefits of joining and participating in NCPA. I would like to thank all the students who were able to come out and join us! Also a special thank you to SCC's Paralegal Educator, Kelly Burch, for her assistance in planning the event.

I am in the process of planning a "Meet and Greet" for District VII. I will be sending an email with more details in the near future. It is a great opportunity to get acquainted with fellow members and provide input on how NCPA can help support you in your professional career!

Stephanie Ivans, NCCP
District VII Director



District VII ice-cream social at Southwestern Community College

DISTRICT V REPORT



MPA members display their support of the newly built Charlotte Ronald McDonald House. MPA members contributed change to the Pennies for Playtime effort to provide playroom supplies for the Ronald McDonald House.



Roxanne Crouch, ACP and her nominator Susan Randolph, CLA, NCCP

The Metrolina Paralegal Association ("MPA") is pleased to announce that Roxanne Crouch, ACP has been named its 2011 Paralegal of the Year. The MPA Paralegal of the Year Award is given to a paralegal who exhibits a commitment to professionalism and to the advancement of the legal community. The paralegal must also be a member in good standing of the MPA.

Ms. Crouch is the Assistant Vice President, Sales Support Manager (formerly Contracts Administrator II) at BB&T Governmental Finance. Ms. Crouch is described as the "go to" person when complicated loan issues need special attention. She has a strong work ethic and is dedicated to "doing the job right the first time." She is a mentor to the contract administrators in her office. Furthermore, Ms. Crouch sought to challenge herself by studying for and attaining advanced certification in Contracts Administration and Management through the National Association of Legal Assistants. In addition to her invaluable work at BB&T, Ms. Crouch has served in several leadership roles in MPA including Patron Chair and most recently, as Treasurer.

Ms. Crouch receives a commemorative plaque, a cash gift, and a complimentary year of general membership in the MPA.

The MPA is local affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants and serves as a source of networking and educational programs for paralegals in Charlotte and the surrounding area. For more information on MPA, go to www.charlotteareaparalegals.com.

The Metrolina Paralegal Association ("MPA") installed its officers for 2011-2012 on May 12, 2011 at its monthly luncheon meeting. The officers for the 2011-2012 year are: President, Candace Russell, ACP, NCCP; First Vice President, Michelle Kass, CLA; Second Vice President, Penny Higdon, NCCP; Third Vice President, Tiffany Butcher, NCCP; Fourth Vice President-Jennifer Sawtell-Day, CP; Treasurer, Roxanne Crouch, CP; Parliamentarian-Victoria Swaringen, NCCP; and NALA Liaison, Susan Randolph, CLA, NCCP.

The MPA is local affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants and serves as a source of networking and educational programs for paralegals in Charlotte and the surrounding area. For more information on MPA, go to www.charlotteareaparalegals.com



President, Candace Russell, ACP, NCCP; First Vice President, Michelle Kass, CLA; Third Vice President, Tiffany Butcher, NCCP; Fourth Vice President-Jennifer Sawtell-Day, CP; Treasurer, Roxanne Crouch, CP; Parliamentarian-Victoria Swaringen, NCCP; and NALA Liaison, Susan Randolph, CLA, NCCP)

Not pictured is Second Vice President-Penny Higdon, NCCP



July 1, 2011

Deadline to register for September 2011 NCCP Exam

July 27-30, 2011

NALA Annual Conference in Dallas, TX

August 1, 2011

Deadline to register for September 2011 NALA CLA Exam

August 15, 2011

Deadline to submit essays for the Meredith R. Pollette Scholarships

September 15-17, 2011

NCPA's Mid-Year Seminar and Review Course in Charlotte, NC

September 24, 2011

NCCP Exam

December 1, 2011

Deadline to register for January 2012 NALA CLA Exam



5 REASONS WHY DOUBLE IS BETTER

By Vicki Voisin, ACP

A question was posed to me recently while I was doing one on one coaching with a paralegal who wanted tips to get her career off dead center and moving forward. She asked me: "Vicki, do you think I should get state specific certification or take a certification exam offered by a national paralegal professional association?" My answer? "Both!" Double is always better. Here are five reasons why you should double up on your certifications. Credible. Certification typically consists of the "3 E's": Education, Experience and Exam. You are not able to take a certification examination unless you meet certain criteria. It is a career-long commitment that demonstrates to your peers and your employers that you have mastered core principles and that you are dedicated to staying current in your profession. Certification gives you expert status which translates to credibility. Having that on a state level is definitely a plus. You double your credibility when you take that expert status to the national level, showing advanced analytical abilities and writing skills, as well as a broad understanding of laws and procedures nationwide. Marketable. Whether you're job hunting or job hopping, you are more valuable if you have doubled up on your certifications. Think of it this way: (a) almost everyone acquires a certificate or degree in paralegal studies prior to entering the profession; if everyone has a paralegal certificate, they have identical qualifications and are on a level playing field; (b) state specific certification hikes you up a notch and gives you a leg up on someone with only their basic education; (c) doubling up with your national certification puts you on top of the heap. Portable. Your state specific certification will serve you well so long

as you never move to another state. For instance, if you move from North Carolina or Ohio to Texas, you will be competing with paralegals who may already have that state's certification. Since you will need all the ammunition you can muster to land a job in a place where virtually no one knows you, your very portable national certification will give you the credibility you need for employment in your new location. Profitable. Salary surveys illustrate the value of your certification. If you're a paralegal with one credential, you will certainly earn a higher salary than a paralegal with none. However, if you're a paralegal with double certifications, you are in a position to demand an even higher salary. In this case, certification makes both sense and cents. Recognizable. Certification is a standard by which employers can judge the competency of a potential employee and the value of a current employee. You can be very proud of the letters displayed after your name. They demonstrate your advanced abilities, your depth of experience, and your knowledge. Double the letters translates to double the recognition of your advanced skills and knowledge. A handful of states have state specific certification. There are different qualifications for taking each. Some require you to have up with national certification to qualify, others do not. Wherever you live, national certification is available and accessible.

How do you "double up" if you have no state certification available? Move on to advanced certification (NALA has 17 ACP areas) or work on some other industry certifications. For instance, if you work in insurance defense, a CRM (Certified Risk Manager) might be helpful. Do you work with employee

benefits? You might look into a PHR (Professional in Human Resources). There are also certifications in the computer and medical fields that could be beneficial. You will want to be sure that the certification you seek has value in your specialty area and enhances the scope of your work. The only other precaution is to be sure the certification is professionally managed and administered. Do you want to move your career in the right direction? A single certification will do that. Double certification will make you more credible, marketable and noticeable. You will find it is both portable and profitable. Double certification will move you miles ahead. Double is definitely better!

©2011 Vicki Voisin, Inc. Vicki Voisin, "The Paralegal Mentor", delivers simple strategies for paralegals and other professionals to create success and satisfaction by achieving goals and determining the direction they will take their careers. Vicki spotlights resources, organizational tips, ethics issues, and other areas of continuing education to help paralegals and others reach their full potential. She publishes a weekly ezine titled *Paralegal Strategies* and co-hosts *The Paralegal Voice*, a monthly podcast produced by Legal Talk Network.

More information is available at <http://www.paralegalmentor.com> where new subscribers to *Paralegal Strategies* receive the Paralegal Mentor's 151 Tips for Your Career Success.



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"People who ask our advice almost never take it. Yet we should never refuse to give it, upon request, for it often helps us to see our own way more clearly." --Brendan Francis

Please consider contributing to the next edition of the *NCPA Forum*. Not only do we want our association's publication to be informative and innovative for each and every member, we also want it to include helpful hints and sound advice from our main resources, our members. We are looking for all types of articles that relate to the paralegal community. Anything of interest to you will most likely be of interest to other paralegals across the state. Let your voice be heard in the *NCPA Forum*. Please submit all articles in Word format to mel_clayton79@yahoo.com. You may also e-mail your comments, suggestions and possible article contributors to us as well.

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The Judges' Panel was a huge success!

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*NALA President Karen Greer McGree
at the CLA Breakfast*



Stuffed animals donated to the Highway Patrol



Another tremendous turnout for Annual

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Districts III, VI and IX need Directors! District Directors are responsible for the promotion of NCPA and its activities throughout the District, including the recruitment of new members and the development of mini-seminars or other educational events within the District.

- District III includes the counties of Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland
- District VI includes the counties of Alexander, Alleghany, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin
- District IX includes the counties of Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Watauga and Yancey.

If interested, please contact Stephanie Ivans, Chairman of the Board, at wncparalegal@gmail.com.

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The Life Cycle of a Butterfly, Oops, I Mean a Budget

Kimberly C. Pellicone, ACP, NCCP

Did you know that the life cycle of a budget is much like that of a butterfly? Who would ever think to make that comparison?

Hi, my name is Kim Pellicone, and I currently serve as the Auditor of NCPA. Prior to my position as Auditor, I have served two terms as Treasurer. Throughout the roles of Auditor and Treasurer, I have learned many valuable lessons. One of the lessons I consider most valuable is having learned about the life cycle of a budget. Recently, it dawned on me that you can compare the life cycle of a budget to that of a butterfly – wait, I know that sounds crazy but let me explain.

The life cycle begins with the egg. The “egg” is the initial discussion that takes place amongst the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. In the fall of each year, the Directors and members of the Executive Committee meet to discuss the upcoming budget. A comprehensive review of the budget takes place, numbers are reviewed from an “actual vs. budget” basis, and suggestions are made on items requiring an increase, or decrease, for the upcoming fiscal year.

The egg develops into the next stage of the cycle, the larvae (caterpillar). The “larvae” is the proposed budget crafted by the Treasurer, which is based on the egg. After initial discussions and evaluation by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, the Treasurer sits down and crafts a proposed budget.

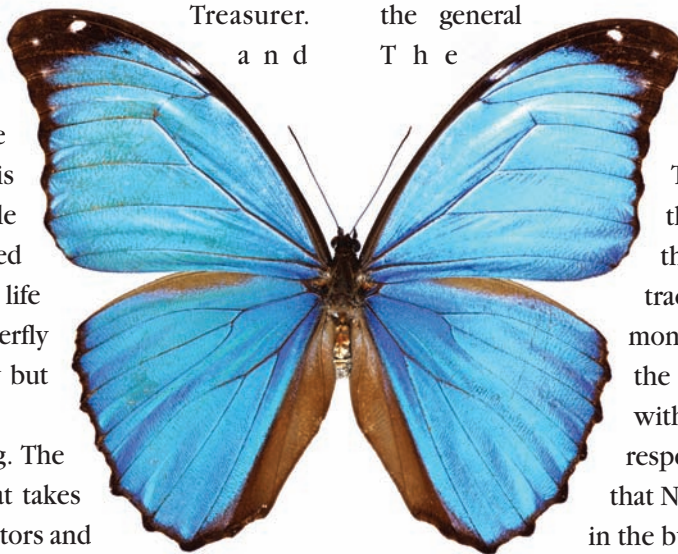
The larvae then spins itself into the pupa (chrysalis), which is the third stage in the cycle. The “pupa” is the proposed budget submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the following Board of Directors/Executive Committee meeting, typically held in early January of each year. At that time, the Board of Directors votes to approve the proposed budget and instructs the Secretary to submit the proposed

budget to the general membership via the Notice of the Annual Meeting.

The life cycle hits its final stage when the proposed budget is put to vote at the Association’s Annual Meeting, held in the spring of each year. Once the budget is approved by the general membership, it becomes final. The chrysalis becomes an adult – the “butterfly” is born and spreads its wings.

The life cycle continues throughout the remainder of the fiscal year, with the Treasurer tracking revenue and expenses in a monthly report. The Directors approve the monthly reports and are charged with keeping a careful eye on their respective budget line items, ensuring that NCPA is staying on track as directed in the budget.

In the fall of each year, the butterfly (the old budget) lays a new egg and a new budget life cycle begins...



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The 2011-2012 Annual Budget				
As Approved at the March 25, 2011 Annual Meeting Held in Cary, NC				
REVENUES:				
		Year to Date as of 12-31-2010	2010-2011 Budget	Proposed Budget 2011 - 2012
Advertising:				
	NCPA FORUM	\$ 840.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Membership Dues:				
	Affiliate	\$ 290.00	\$ 345.00	\$ 345.00
	Associate	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 1,620.00
	General	\$ 26,065.00	\$ 27,625.00	\$ 27,625.00
	Student	\$ 3,180.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
	Sustaining	\$ 9,695.00	\$ 6,180.00	\$ 6,180.00
	Paralegal Education Program	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous Receipts (Jewelry, Sweatshirts, Labels)		\$ 524.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Online revenue	\$ 776.10	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Seminars:				
	All Others	\$ 2,187.04	\$ 555.00	\$ 555.00
	Annual	\$ 20,286.00	\$ 29,030.00	\$ 29,030.00
	CLA/NCCP Review Course	\$ 2,355.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Mid-Year	\$ 4,964.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES:		\$ 74,062.14	\$ 81,305.00	\$ 81,305.00
EXPENDITURES:				
Accounting Services:				
	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Administrative Services:				
	Fee	\$ 7,815.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
	Phone	\$ 330.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00
	Postage	\$ 404.07	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
	Supplies	\$ 637.91	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
Annual Meeting		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Awards		\$ 210.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
Board of Directors				
	Bar Liaison	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	Chairman of the Board	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
	9 Districts, At Large, Affil, Atty Adv, AMICUS	\$ 75.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 650.00
	Secretary to Board	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Committees:				
	Audit	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
	Convention Coordinator	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Ethics	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
	Historian	\$ 87.04	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	Job Bank	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Long-Range Planning	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Mentoring	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
	NC Land Records Task Force	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	NC State Bar Certification Liaison	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Nominations and Elections	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
	Sustaining Membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
	Public Relations/Official Publications	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
	Student/School Relations	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
	Technology	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160.00
CPE Approval Fee		\$ 150.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Document Retention/Storage		\$ 2,184.41	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 900.00
Executive Committee and Board Meetings		\$ 337.72	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
FORUM Printing and Mailing		\$ 6,706.44	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
General Expenses (Stationery, Jewelry, Sweatshirts, etc.)		\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
Miscellaneous (Post Office Box Rental, Bank-Related, etc.)		\$ 201.80	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
NALA Annual Meeting (Delegate Attendance)		\$ 1,927.48	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
NALA Affiliated Association Dues		\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Officers:				
	First Vice President	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	NALA Liaison	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Parliamentarian	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	President	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	Local	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	NALA Annual Meeting	\$ 1,893.26	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,750.00
	Second Vice President	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Secretary	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Treasurer	\$ 36.87	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
Scholarships:				
	Student	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Meredith R. Pollette CLA Fund	\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
Seminars:				
	All Others	\$ 749.76	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Annual	\$ 26,206.89	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
	CLA Review Course	\$ 872.23	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Mid-Year	\$ 14,266.87	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Technology:				
	First Data Fees	\$ 1,473.23	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	MemberClicks Web Hosting	\$ 2,047.42	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 71,338.40	\$ 81,305.00	\$ 81,305.00

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If your birthday is not listed correctly, please edit your profile on our website (www.ncparalegal.org) to make sure we have the correct month!

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Jane E. Connelly
Beth Fabish DeCaro
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Stephanie B. Elliott
Angela S. Elliott
Sylvia L. Erickson
Mary B. Flannigan
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Ashley Hibbard
Suzanne L. Magin
Sarah A. Maha
Amy W. Mitchell
Audrey Moore
Diane N. Morgan
Kaye L. Orander
Ujeana A. Pearson
Sharon M. Queen
Wayne Quick
Crystal L. Robinson
Veronica Rockwell
Meghann Rutherford
Helen B. Stewart
Olivia Swigart
Mariann Swoyer
Donna H. Wall

July

Inez Aguilar
Leslee N. Black
Michelle Jean Blair
Amy D. Moore
Donna L. Cooper
Hannah I. Cox
Debra K. Cranford
Joan Brinson Dressler
Jennifer Marie Eason
Karen F. England
Kimberly Roberts Eshleman
Tory M. Frink
Bethanie Holland Gauntt
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Anna M. Hamby
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NCPA TIME MACHINE

It seems that there is no shortage of ideas when trying to come up with ways to present this history of NCPA through this feature. One of the things that has been kicked around was taking one of the quarterly issues, in this case, the "Summer" edition, and see what was going on during this period in years past. So for our latest trip through the NCPA Time Machine, we will take a look at some significant happenings that were covered in previous "Summer" issues of the FORUM.

We're going to call this trip "You Win Some, You Lose Some". It will feature two pieces from summers gone by, which show how hard the members of NCPA work toward growing and improving our chosen profession. Sometimes those folks were successful, and sometimes they were not. What you can take away from these little bits of history is that no matter the outcome, NCPA never shies away from taking on any battle that it believes will ultimately better things for all of us. Another reason for all of us to do what we can to help make NCPA a stronger organization.

First, in the Summer FORUM from 1994, District V Director Terri Irvin, CLA, breaks the news that the Bar Association has elected not to give associate membership privileges to paralegals.

Second, in the Summer FORUM from 2004, Sharon L. Wall, CLAS, of the NCPA Regulation Task Force, delivers the news paralegals had long been waiting to hear: that we were on our way to Certification.

District V by Terri Irvin, CLA

Greetings to District V! James M. Talley, Jr., President of the North Carolina Bar Association, spoke to the Metrolina Paralegal Association at its July banquet membership meeting. Mr. Talley discussed the recent decision by the Bar Association not to offer associate membership to legal assistants. He shed light on why the Bar acted as it did.

While stressing the importance of the legal assistant's role, and the need for close communication with attorneys, Mr. Talley advised that the Bar did not think associate membership for legal assistants would be advantageous at this time. He pointed out that legal assistants may already attend the CLE seminars the Bar sponsors and that the seminars are offered at a reduced rate to legal assistants. He mentioned if legal assistants did receive membership, this might actually raise the already lowered admission fees.

Mr. Talley said that the Bar considered our request very seriously and decided to appoint a liaison between the Bar and NCPA. Gray Wilson, with the firm, Wilson & Iseman, L.L.P., in Winston-Salem, was appointed as the liaison.

Mr. Talley favored the idea of a joint seminar between the Bar and NCPA and encouraged legal assistants to request copies of newsletters that are published by the different sections of the Bar. Mr. Talley also indicated that the attorneys should forward these newsletters to their legal assistants. Mr. Talley mentioned there was some question as to the definition of a "Legal Assistant" and the Bar did not want to limit this profession or confuse the public by making a special membership category for us at this time.

Mr. Talley was encouraging and positive towards our profession and understands the importance of keeping the communication lines open between NCPA and the Bar. For more information concerning the efforts of NCPA and NCBA to strengthen their relationship, see Sherri Wall's Bar Liaison Report.

Regulation Task Force

Sharon L. Wall, CLAS



The NCPA Regulation Task Force (RTF) is pleased to report that history was made this past April when the North Carolina State Bar (State Bar) Council arose from their Council meeting chairs in a standing unanimous vote to publish the Plan for Certification of Paralegals (Plan) and introduce statutory amendments concerning the Plan in the NC Legislature during the 2004 short session. As one of our members put it – it was a "hallmark" moment.

Many of our members may not understand the monumental task that was undertaken in the attempt to bring Certification to North Carolina. Sharon's article from 2004 was very detailed, and I believe very informative. Our student members, who are working hard toward their degree and their Certification, may find it quite interesting to see how things used to be, and how hard NCPA worked to make Certification a reality. For that reason, I will work to post Sharon's article in its entirety on the NCPA website, so that we can all get a feel for how history unfolded.

See you next Time.

2010 – 2011 NCPA Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

As of April 15, 2011

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