

THE AMICUS

North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 36264, Charlotte, NC 28236-6264

April, 2004
www.ncparalegal.org

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF *THE AMICUS* DELIVERED THROUGH THE MAIL. ALL FUTURE ISSUES WILL BE DELIVERED ON LINE TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE. PLEASE NOTIFY INFO@NCPARALEGAL.ORG OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. ISSUES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT WWW.NCPARALEGAL.ORG UNDER THE "PUBLICATIONS" LINK.

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS
(336) 227-8851
btp@vernonlaw.com

Belinda thanks you for your vote of confidence in electing her President of NCPA for another year. She has enjoyed the past year and looks forward to working with you again.

Belinda has been a member of NCPA for 10 years and has served as 2nd Vice President, District IV Director, Chairman of the Board and CLA Review Course Chair. She is a frequent speaker for the NC Bar Association and other groups, including the National Association of Legal Assistants last summer when she and Anita Watts Wing gave a presentation on Long Range Planning in San Antonio, Texas.

Belinda has been employed by the firm of Vernon, Vernon, Wooten, Brown, Andrews & Garrett, P.A. for 15 years. She works primarily in the area of domestic law. Even though this is a hectic and stressful area of the law, she feels that she has been able to contribute ideas and develop an expertise which has enhanced the practice for her supervising attorneys as well as furthered her own career as a paralegal!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA
(704) 388-7030
theresa.irvin@bankofamerica.com

REGULATION UPDATE

APPS has been in active discussions with the North Carolina State Bar since May of last year. On February 20, 2004 the North Carolina State Bar Legislative Study Committee on Paralegal Regulation finalized its Plan for Paralegal Regulation and proposed statutory amendments to N.C.G.S. 84-23 and 84-37.

The Plan and the proposed statutory amendments will be presented to the State Bar Council during its quarterly meeting, April 20-23, 2004.

You may view the Plan and the proposed statutory amendments at:

<http://www.apps-nc.org/proposal.html>

You may also find answers to some of your questions at:

<http://www.apps-nc.org/faq.html>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

NCPA currently has four affiliate members! Please welcome ~

Alamance County Paralegal Association
Cumberland County Paralegal Association
Greensboro Paralegal Association
Pitt County Paralegal Association

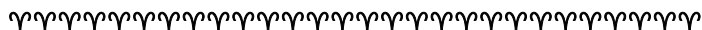
MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

May 1, 2004	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Burlington
May 15, 2004	Application Deadline for July CLA/CLAS Exam
June 19, 2004	Paralegal Leadership Forum, North Carolina Bar Association, Asheville
July 14-17, 2004	NALA Convention, Reno, Nevada
July 24-24, 2004	CLA/CLAS Examination
August 15, 2004	Application deadline for Meredith R. Pollette, CLAS, Scholarship Awards
September 24-25, 2004	NCPA Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course, Asheville
November 6, 2004	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Burlington
January 8, 2005	Joint EC/Board Meeting
March 10-12, 2005	NCPA's 25th Silver Anniversary! Wrightsville Beach

CHAIR CHATTER...

NCPA will be celebrating its 25th Silver Anniversary in March 2005! Please call President Pruitt if you would like to be involved in planning this milestone event.

Remember - this is your last paper issue of The Amicus! Is your correct email address listed with headquarters?



AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT I

Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Dare, Craven, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Tyrrell and Washington Counties

Shirley C. Carter, CLA
910-763-6207
shirleyc@legalaiddnc.org

Shirley is originally from Tampa, Florida. She attended University of South Florida and is a graduate of the Paralegal Institute. She is a member of the National Association of Legal Assistants as a Certified Legal Assistant, the NC Academy of Trial Lawyers (Legal Assistants Division and Disability Advocates Section), National Association of Social Security Claimants Representatives (NOSSCR) and, of course, NCPA. Shirley is employed at Legal Aid of North Carolina - Wilmington Office as a Government Benefits Paralegal, she represents clients in disability issues before the Social Security Administration and the NC State Department of Health and Human Services. Shirley thanks you for allowing her to serve as your District I Director for the 2004-2005 year and looks forward to meeting with you and serving you in the coming year. As the new District I Director, Shirley encourages other members to share any suggestions or ideas with her regarding District I.

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT II

Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake and Warren Counties

Erin N. Burris, CLA
919-877-2182

eburris@closuremed.com

Erin N. Burris, CLA is beginning her second year as your Director in District II. She is a paralegal at Closure Medical Corporation in Raleigh where she spends a lot of her time working in the area of intellectual property.

She has been a member of the North Carolina Paralegal Association since 2000 and has served as the Student/School Relations Committee Chair since September of 2002.

Erin hopes to have another Meet & Greet this year, as last year's Meet & Greet at Meredith College was extremely successful. Erin is eager to help, to learn, and to spread the word about our association and its benefits. She welcomes any thoughts or suggestions; and she challenges members in District II to get involved with NCPA.

DISTRICT III

Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland Counties

Trudy Rutherford
910-485-5171

emr0128@aol.com

District III Interim Director, Trudy Rutherford, is a charter member of NCPA and a long-time member of Cumberland County Paralegal Association (CCPA). She has held the office of 2nd Vice President of NCPA for 2 years, 1983-1985, and is currently serving in her 4th year as NCPA District III Director. For Cumberland County Paralegal Association, Trudy has held every officer's position, except Vice President, at least once.

Trudy graduated from Fayetteville Technical Institute, (FTI) the present-day Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), in 1977 and then went on to earn another Associate degree, in 1979, this time in Criminal Justice. Coming full circle at FTI/FTCC, she went from being a student and graduate, to serving on the Paralegal Program Advisory Committee, and eventually teaching some night classes in that program as adjunct faculty.

In the fall of 1979, she started her paralegal career, with a Family Law firm, and switched from that job to her present job where she celebrated her 24th anniversary on March 3rd of this year. She hopes to make it 25 years.

In addition to her full-time job, Trudy is active in the American Business Women's Association, volunteers twice a month on the CONTACT crises line telephones, is active in her church, works out at the Eutaw Health Club, and spends quality time with her two grandchildren every weekend that her time is not otherwise committed.

On Saturday, April 3rd, Trudy helped out with the Cumberland County Paralegal Association annual seminar which drew 45 attendants, an event which was, by all accounts, a successful event.

For this year, Trudy aims, as before, to get at least one paralegal from all her 12 counties to join NCPA, and she will be grateful for any assistance from the paralegals in those counties to help her reach that goal.

DISTRICT IV

Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, Randolph and Rockingham Counties

Ruth H. Goodman, CLA
336-584-3388

ruth.goodman@wnhplaw.com

Ruth works for Wishart, Norris, Henninger & Pittman, P.A. in Burlington, NC. She has been with this firm for seven years working in domestic law. Ruth earned her CLA in May 2001. She is a member of NCPA Affiliate Member, Alamance County Paralegal Association (ACPA) where she currently serves as the First Vice President. She has previously served ACPA as Secretary and Parliamentarian. In addition to her memberships in NCPA and ACPA, she is a member of NALA.

Ruth lives in Gibsonville with my husband and pet beagle. Since the beagle has lost weight, she is not able to say that he is oversized! Her family has recently grown with the addition of an adorable grandson and Ruth enjoys cooking dinner for her family each Sunday.

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT V

Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Stanley and Union Counties

Alison Reynolds VanDyke
704-373-8061

avandyke@mcguirewoods.com

Alison Reynolds VanDyke is a commercial litigation/labor & employment paralegal with the Charlotte law offices of McGuireWoods, LLP. She has been with McGuireWoods since September of 2000. Alison graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a BA in English and since that time has worked with law firms in Winston-Salem and Charlotte.

Alison recently served as the editor of the Metrolina Paralegal Association's (MPA) quarterly newsletter and has been elected as President for MPA for the 2004-2005 term. She will be installed into this position in May.

Alison resides in Huntersville, with her husband, dog, cat and two goldfish. She was appointed Interim District V Director during the 2003-2004 term, which she thoroughly has enjoyed, and is happy to have been appointed for another year. District V has recently gotten quite a few new members, which is a great way to start out the year!

Plans are in the works for a Meet & Greet with CLE credit available in District V. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please let Alison know by contacting her at avandyke@mcguirewoods.com or during business hours at 704-373-8061.

DISTRICT VI

Alexander, Alleghany, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin Counties

Michele A. Tuttle
336-716-8138

matuttle@wfubmc.edu

Michele A. Tuttle is your new Interim District VI Director for 2004-2005. Michele is a Contract Management Paralegal for the in-house legal department at Wake Forest University Health Sciences ("WFUHS") in Winston-Salem. Prior to joining WFUHS in October of 2002, she worked as a Legal Assistant for Edwards, Ballard, Clark, Barrett and Carlson, P.A., specializing in labor and employment law. Michele graduated in 1994 with an Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies and has absolutely loved working in the legal field since then. Michele has been a member of the NCPA since 2002, the North Carolina Bar Association – LAD Division since 1998 and was a member of the Legal Support Staff of Winston-Salem from 1996 - 2000. Michele would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as District VI Director and urges anyone in the District to contact her at any time with comments, questions, suggestions or news. She may be reached at work (336-716-8138), home (336-351-6304), mobile (336-682-4195) or by e-mail at matuttle@wfubmc.edu.

DISTRICT VII

Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain and Transylvania Counties

Marilyn Moran, CLA
828-586-2147

mmoran@chspa.com

Marilyn Moran, CLA is an estate planning paralegal for Thomas R. Crawford, a Board Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Elder Law and Probate Law in Sylva, Jackson County. She lives in Otto, which is in Macon County. She has finally learned to maneuver over the mountains and is getting better on the curves. She has been in NC for two and one-half years and is enjoying the change of seasons and beautiful scenery. Before coming to NC she worked for the same firm for 30 years as an administrator/real estate paralegal. She belongs to NALA, the Paralegal Association of FL where she held Board positions and the South Florida Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators (having served as President from 1998-1999 and several Board positions). She has been a CLA for 21 years. If you have any ideas or thoughts to share, please contact her by phone or e-mail.

Marilyn is in communication with a new paralegal association in her district – the Asheville Paralegal Association. They are proceeding to formally organize as an association. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month and are in the form of lunch meetings or dinner meetings. For more information on this association contact Marilyn.

District VII (continued)

AROUND THE STATE

District VII hosted a dinner meeting on Tuesday, April 20th at Antipasto's in Waynesville. Officer Jeff Howell, Waynesville Police Department spoke on the BADGE (Becoming Achievers and Doers Through Guided Education) Program for Haywood County Middle Schools. Look for more area meetings during the coming year.

DISTRICT VIII

Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson Counties

District VIII has 14 members at this time. This District has three paralegal programs and one paralegal association, Affiliate Member **Pitt County Paralegal Association, Inc (PCPA)**. PCPA meets monthly in the Greenville area. If you would like more information about this association, please contact Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA.

At the time of publication, the District Director office is vacant. **Please contact Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA at 704-388-7030 or theresa.irvin@bankofamerica.com if you are interested in this position.**

DISTRICT IX

Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Watauga and Yancey Counties

Beverly G. King
704-483-3495
bgk6489@aol.com

Beverly King is employed at Mitchell, Rallings & Tissue, PLLC in Charlotte. She works mainly in real estate, collections and business organizations. Beverly lives in Maiden, Lincoln County, with her parents and younger sister, Pam, when she is home from College at Western Carolina University. Aside from her membership in NCPA, Beverly is an active member of the Metrolina Paralegal Association (MPA) where she has held such offices as Third Vice-President, NALA Liaison and Patron Membership Chair. She is also a member of NALA. Beverly also attends the University of Maryland Distance Education Program where she is working towards her Bachelor Degree in Legal Studies with a minor in Human Resource Management. In her spare time, she works with the East Lincoln and North Lincoln marching bands, and participates in Salem United Methodist Orchestra and drama.

Beverly is excited about serving as District IX Director. She welcomes your calls and emails!!

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR

Teresa A. Stacey
336-227-8851
tas@vernonlaw.com

Teresa A. Stacey has been employed with the Vernon Law Firm since September 2, 1986 as a paralegal/legal assistant. Teresa works primarily for E. Lawson Brown, Jr., one of the firm's partners. They work in commercial/residential real estate, rezoning, special use permits, and land development, dealing with various governmental entities. They also do litigation, personal injury, foreclosures, creditor bankruptcy, and some estate planning. Prior to being employed with the Vernon Law Firm, Teresa was a secretary/paralegal with the firm of Ridge, Roberson & Richardson in Graham for five years. She has been a member of NCPA for many years and was a founding member of the Alamance County Paralegal Association, where she has held many positions, and is now in her second term as President of ACPA. Teresa was co-chair of the Mid-Year Seminar for NCPA in 2003. Along with being the Affiliate Director of NCPA again this year, Teresa is also the Chair of the Associations Network Committee and one of the co-chairs of NCPA's 2005 Annual Seminar.

AROUND THE STATE

BAR LIAISON

Sherry G. Vaughan, CLA
919-875-3128

sherry.vaughan@ncemc.com

Sherry G. Vaughan, CLA, has been employed by North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) as legal services administrator for almost eight years. Sherry primarily works with the general counsel and the corporate boards and committees, and her work focuses on the corporate areas of the company such corporate structure, bylaws and articles. Sherry oversees the work of a paralegal and a staff assistant, and assists with regulatory, contract, environmental and employment law issues. Prior to being employed with NCEMC, she worked in two Raleigh law firms for a total of fourteen years, and has experience in the areas of corporate, estate planning, employment and litigation law. In addition to her membership in NCPA, Sherry is a member of the N.C. Bar Association Legal Assistants Division and the National Association of Legal Assistants. She has served in several positions on the NCPA board and committees over the past several years.

NALA LIAISON

Mary Parrish Coley, CLA
704-954-1706

mcoley@bbandt.com

May 15, 2004
July 14-17, 2004
July 23-24, 2004
October 1, 2004
December 3-4, 2004

Application deadline for July CLA/CLAS exam
NALA Annual Convention, Reno, NV
CLA/CLAS Examination
Application deadline for December CLA/CLAS exam
CLA/CLAS Examination

Many thanks to Debra J. Monke, CLAS, First Vice President of NALA, for her entertaining and motivational speech at the CLA Breakfast on March 20, during NCPA's 24th Annual Meeting and Seminar. Ms. Monke spoke on "The Three-Legged Stool of Leadership." Look for a reprint of her presentation in the summer issue of the NCPA FORUM.

The NALA 29th Annual Convention and Exhibition is scheduled for July 14-17 and will take place in Reno, Nevada. For further information, visit the NALA website (www.nala.org) or contact me.

NCPA will offer its annual CLA Review Course September 24-25 in Asheville at the Holiday Inn Sunspree. Details and registration brochures will be forthcoming.

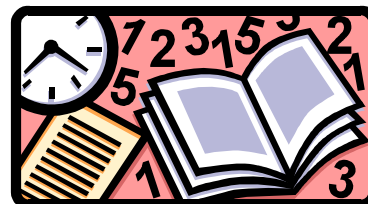
Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about any of these events or if you'd like further information on NALA.

!!!!!! Special thanks go to April Gary and the people at Document Technologies, Inc. !!!!!
For sponsorship of this issue of the AMICUS! DTI is NCPA newest Sustaining Member! Please see their ad on the back page, thank them for their support of our profession and contact them for all of your document/copying/scanning needs!
April may be reached at 704-953-2010 or agary@dtiglobal.com.

2004 MEREDITH R. POLLETTE, CLAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

THINKING ABOUT TAKING THE CLA OR CLAS EXAM . . .

WORRIED ABOUT THE EXAM FEE? THIS IS FOR YOU . . .



TWO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

One for the **CLA** exam fee **AND**

one for the **CLAS** exam fee!!

CLA EXAM FEE AWARD

Submit an essay on one of the following two topics:

*“Discuss the Advantages and Disadvantages of Certification
and Licensure for the Legal Assistant Profession”*

or

“What the CLA Designation and the CLA Program Mean to Me”

CLAS EXAM FEE AWARD

Submit an essay on:

“I am pursuing the CLAS designation because ...”

All essays must be **1,000 to 1,500 words** in length, typewritten and
postmarked on or before **August 16, 2004**

Participants do not need to be NALA members, but must be NCPA members in good standing and meet the eligibility criteria for sitting for the CLA or CLAS Exam. Finalists will be notified by September 15, 2004. Scholarship fees will be paid directly to NALA and the finalists will have one year from the date of the awards 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 essay by August 16, 2004 to:

North Carolina Paralegal Association
c/o Chairman of the Board
P.O. Box 36264
Charlotte, NC 28236-6264

For additional information, please call: NALA Liaison 704-535-3363

2004 – 2005 NCPA Officers & Committee Chairs

Officers:

President

Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS

Vernon, Vernon, et al
336-227-8851
btp@vernonlaw.com

First Vice President

(Education)

Melissa Stockley Jones, CLA

Smith Anderson, et al.
919-838-2015
mjones@smithlaw.com

Second Vice President

(Membership)

Darlene M. Patz

Celanese Acetate
704-554-3421
darlene.patz@celaneseacetate.com

Secretary

Yolanda Nicole Smith

Lucas, Bryant, et al.
919-965-8184
ysn@lbdelaw.com

Treasurer

Patricia F. Clapper, CLA

Levine & Stewart
919-929-0386
lglduck@aol.com

Parliamentarian

D. Grace Carter, CLA
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
919-854-1400
gcarter@carolinapatents.com

NALA Liaison

Mary Parrish Coley, CLA

Branch Banking and Trust Company
704-954-1706
mcoley@bbandt.com

Committee Chairs:

Audit

Elizabeth B. Wilson, CLA

704-568-2005
wilsons1992@aol.com

25TH Annual Seminar Chairs

Blanche S. Berkowitz

Schell Bray Aycock, et al.
336-370-8815
bberkowitz@sbaal.com

Teresa A. Stacey

(and Associations Network Comm.)

Vernon, Vernon, et al
336-227-8851
tas@vernonlaw.com

Mary A. Joyce Wheeler, CLA

Donaldson & Black, P.A.
336-273-3812
mjw@ncrights.com

Anita Watts Wing

Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.
336-632-2111
anita.wing@syngenta.com

Mid-Year Seminar Chairs

Kaye H. Summers, CLA

Pulley, Watson, et al.
919-682-9691
kaye@pwkl.com
Betsy Crittenden, CLA
Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, LLP
910-332-0950
bcrittenden@cshlaw.com

CLA Review Course Chair

Sarah C. Hutchins, CLA

The Banks Law Firm, P.A.
919-474-9137
shutchins@bankslawfirm.com

Registration Chair

Angela S. Elliott, CLA

Pulley, Watson, King, et al.

919-682-9691

angie@pwkl.com

Convention Coordinator

Carmi H. Henderson

Meineke Discount Muffler Shops, Inc.

704-377-8855 Ext. 134

carmi_henderson@meineke.com

Ethics

Mary A. Joyce Wheeler, CLA

Donaldson & Black, P.A.

336-273-3812

mjw@ncrights.com

Historian

Mary E. Willard, CLAS

Bank of America

704-387-8232

mary.willard@bankofamerica.com

Job Bank

Sandra G. Carter

Roberts & Stevens, P.A.

828-258-6991

carters@Roberts-Stevens.com

Long Range Planning

Mary P. Wachob, CLAS

Roberts & Stevens, P.A.

828-210-6849

wachobm@Roberts-Stevens.com

Nominations and Elections

Rena M.Harp

Patron & Sustaining & Advertising Editor

Teresa Nichols Smith

Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, LLP

910-509-9827

tns@cshlaw.com

Public Relations

Senior Editor

Brenda J. Mareski, CLA

Bank of America

704-543-6667

bmareski@carolina.rr.com

Articles Editor & Association News Editor

Tricia Creech, CLA

Cranfill, Sumner, et al.

919-863-8820

trc@cshlaw.com

Regulation Task Force

Sharon L. Wall, CLAS, Chair

Highwoods Properties, Inc.

919-875-6786

sherri.wall@highwoods.com

Pro Bono

Tracy Bowling

Tharrington Smith, LLP

919-821-4711

tbowling@tharringtonsmith.com

Student/School Relations

Erin N. Burris, CLA

Closure Medical Corporation

919-877-2182

eburris@closuremed.com

Survey Chairs

Therese A. Morin

Vernon, Vernon, et al.

336-227-8851

tam@vernonlaw.com

Annette T. Younger

Vernon, Vernon, et al.

336-227-8851

myounger@netpath.net

Technology

Jamie L. Fuller

Bank of America

704-388-1990

jamie.fuller@bankofamerica.com

NCPA Coordinator

Mary F. Haggerty, CLA

Grubb Properties, Inc.

mhaggerty@grubbproperties.com