

THE AMICUS

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

August, 2003
www.ncparalegal.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS
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Greetings!

The NALA Convention in San Antonio has come and gone. What a fabulous trip!! This was my first convention and I loved every minute of it! I met paralegals from all over the United States and learned so very much from each one. Anita Wing and I gave a presentation entitled "LRP: Does your organization have it?". We cheered our way into sharing with others the importance of planning ahead. We did our best to represent NCPA in a dynamic way!

Everyone in NCPA has been very busy even though it is summer. There are mini-seminars going on all over the State thanks to our Chairman of the Board and the District Directors. I am looking forward to attending as many of these as I can and to meeting each of you.

We are moving toward our Mid-Year Seminar at this time. Blanche Berkowitz and Teresa Stacey are lining up a great list of speakers and topics. Melissa Stockley Jones, CLA has the CLA Review Course underway. Please be watching your mailbox for upcoming events!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA
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EDUCATION UPDATE

Reminder! The Embassy Suites will be releasing the block of rooms for the Mid-Year Seminar and the CLA Review Course on **August 19, 2003**. Be sure to designate that you are attending the NCPA Seminar when making reservations.

The registration deadline is **September 9, 2003**. Registrations postmarked after that date will require an additional \$20 late fee. Walk-ins are welcome the day of the events, however, registration costs will include the late fee. Go to www.ncparalegal.org for information and registration forms.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

The North Carolina General Assembly adjourned on July 20, 2003. No action was taken on the Paralegal Profession Act in either the House or the Senate prior to their adjournment. APPS has been advised that both HB957 and SB922 are still viable bills and can be acted upon during the 2004 short session scheduled to begin on May 10, 2004. The Regulation Task Force will continue to report on this issue through the NCPA FORUM and will give a verbal report during the luncheon at the Mid-Year Seminar.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

September 19, 2003	NCPA Long Range Planning Meeting & EC/Board Meeting, Greensboro
September 19-20, 2003	Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course-Embassy Suites, Greensboro
October 1, 2003	Application deadline for December CLA/CLAS exam
November 1, 2003	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Burlington
November 8, 2003	District IX Meet & Greet Breakfast, Hickory
November 15, 2003	District II Seminar, Raleigh
December 5-6, 2003	CLA/CLAS Examination
December 19, 2003	Deadline for NCPA Officer Nominations
January 4, 2004	Deadline for NCPA District Director Nominations
January 10, 2004	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Burlington
January 31, 2004	District I Seminar, Wilmington , See NCPA web site for details
January 31, 2004	Deadline for submission of essays to the Student Scholarship Program
March 25, 2003	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Raleigh
March 25-27, 2004	24 th Annual Meeting and Seminar, North Raleigh Hilton
March 27, 2004	Joint EC/Board Meeting, Raleigh
July 14-17, 2004	NALA Convention, Reno, Nevada

CHAIR CHATTER...

Member *Sharon G. Robertson*, CLAS was elected Region II Director of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. Congratulations Sharon!



Nominations for Officers and Directors will be sent to the membership in November. Are you prepared to run?



Due to the financial costs and low usage, NCPA returned the credit card machine at the end of its lease. Payments to NCPA may be made by check or money order.

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT I

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

Teresa N. Smith
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District I currently has 31 members. A Meet and Greet Seminar is in the planning stages for members and non-members of District I. The event will take place on Saturday, January 31, 2004 at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington. Invitations will go out shortly when the plans are complete. Details will also be posted on the website (ncparalegal.org) when available. There will be two speakers – one on a litigation topic (most likely workers' compensation) and one on real estate. We are hopeful this seminar will bring in new members from District I, especially paralegal students from Cape Fear Community College.

DISTRICT II

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

Erin N. Burris, CLA
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District II has 140 members as of the end of July. Erin welcomes all new members to her district. If you should have any questions, suggestions or news from District II, please contact her. Erin met several of you at the Annual Meeting in Wilmington and thoroughly enjoyed it. She is looking forward to seeing more new faces at the Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review course, September 19-20 in Greensboro. District II is hoping to have a Meet & Greet Seminar in November. More information will follow. Students, send us your essays! The deadline for the Student Scholarship Contest is January 31, 2004. Please see www.ncparalegal.org/awards2003.html for information on entering this contest.

DISTRICT III

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

Trudy Rutherford
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District III held a seminar co-hosted by the **Cumberland County Paralegal Association** on July 26, 2003. A huge thanks goes to Trudy for all her work in coordinating this very successful event. Twenty-two attendees representing working paralegals and students from the middle part of the state were treated to a networking continental breakfast and excellent educational sessions. Methodist College Program Director Wendy Vonnegut discussed ethics and Jeffrey Clark, a Law Office Administrator from Beaver Holt Sternlicht Glazier Britton & Courie, P.A. provided great practical tips for the office and managing work loads. A good time was had by all and we are very appreciative of the time and effort Trudy put into this wonderful event.

DISTRICT IV

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

Ruth H. Goodman, CLA
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District IV currently has 75 members. **Greensboro Paralegal Association (GPA)** elected new officers for 2003-2004. They are **Mary L. Clausen**, CLA-President, **Blanche S. Berkowitz**-Vice President, **Sandra R. Strickland**, CLA-Secretary, **Gina Surratt**-Treasurer, **Holly Davis**-Parliamentarian and Chair for Membership is **Amy Vernon**. GPA has been involved in the community in numerous charitable activities leading to the creation of a new committee, the Community Charitable Activities Committee. CCAC is chaired by **Cynthia Knight** and **DeAnna Fannin**. GPA meets the second Tuesday of each month at the West Market Street United Methodist Church from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m. Please contact Mary Clausen, CLA at McLausen@triad.rr.com for details.

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT V

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

District V has 108 members at this time. This District offers four paralegal programs. A very warm welcome is sent to the district's newest members **Gerri Ellen Aytes, Pam T. Ross** and **Cindy D. Shay** of the firm Wishart, Norris, Henninger & Pittman, P.A., **Phyllis Laraine Dunham** of Chicago Title Insurance Company, **Sandra J. Faiella, Terrilyn N. Goods** of The Hearst Corporation, and **Cynthia A. Spitzhoff** of the Douglas K. Simmons Firm. 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 VI

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

District VI has 56 members at this time. A warm welcome is sent to students **Haven K. Bass, Nancy J. Honeywell,** and **Martha L. Zamoida** our newest district members. This District offers two paralegal programs.

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 VII

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

Marilyn Moran, CLA
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On June 2nd District VII had its first dinner meeting in Sylva, at which Thomas R. Crawford, Esq., of Coward, Hicks & Siler, P.A., was the speaker. The topic was "Where There's a Will, There's a Way". Nine were in attendance, both members and non-members, and Marilyn believes this was excellent as the district is so spread out in the mountains. All enjoyed Mr. Crawford's talk and had many questions. Marilyn is in the planning stages for another dinner meeting in Asheville sometime in September. If anyone knows of an interesting speaker or would be willing to host, please give her a call or send an email. Marilyn's goal, as your Director, is to have three dinner meetings a year in various cities in your District to enhance paralegal networking and education.

DISTRICT VIII

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

District VIII has 17 members at this time. This District has three paralegal programs and one paralegal association, Affiliate Member **Pitt County Paralegal Association, Inc.** A very warm welcome is sent to District VIII's newest member, **Melissa Hooker**, of the firm Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard.

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
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bgk_1@msn.com

Beverly is in the planning stages for District IX's first Meet & Greet breakfast. Please contact her if you would like to assist with this event or if you should have any ideas or suggestions for District IX.

AROUND THE STATE

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR

Teresa A. Stacey
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The **Alamance County Paralegal Association (ACPA)** meets every month (with the exceptions of July and August) on the third Tuesday of the month at various attorney offices in Burlington. In March, ACPA had a speaker from the Clerk's office talk about the adoption process. In April, ACPA had a mini-Judge's conference at the Courthouse with three (3) District Court Judges present. Questions about getting things heard in a timely manner, the best ways of filing documents for speedy results, and what could be done about changing things at the State level to help the Judges and their staff were topics of discussion. Another area that was discussed was not being able to put enough cases on the court calendar for specific dates (the State level has a maximum number of cases you can put on for trial, then cases are settled prior to hearing and the Judges end up with nothing to be tried). New officers were elected in June; **Teresa Stacey**, President; **Ruth Goodman, CLA** First Vice President; **Barbara Dodson**, Second Vice President; **Meredith Stokes**, Secretary; **Sharon Boger**, Treasurer; **Katharine Kuczkowski**, Historian; and **Audrey Brannan**, Parliamentarian.

BAR LIAISON

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Did you know that Paralegal Guidelines/Guidelines for Use of Non-Lawyers in Rendering Legal Services as adopted by the North Carolina State Bar on July 17, 1998 are available at their web site www.ncbar.com? NCPA Member **D. Grace Carter, CLA** was appointed Chair of the Legal Assistants Division of the North Carolina Bar Association and NCPA Member **Jennifer H. Avriett, CLA** was appointed Vice Chair of the Division. Congratulations Grace and Jennifer!

NALA LIAISON

Sarah C. Hutchins, CLA
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Congratulations to **Catherine L. Stewart, CLA**, of Charlotte for earning her Specialty designation in Civil Litigation!

Upcoming NALA events and deadlines:

October 23-25, 2003	CLA Short Course, Jacksonville, FL
January 15, 2004	Application deadline for March CLA/CLAS exam
March 26-27, 2004	CLA/CLAS Examination
May 15, 2004	Application deadline for July CLA/CLAS exam
July 14-17, 2004	NALA Annual Convention, Reno, NV
July 23-24, 2004	CLA/CLAS Examination
October 1, 2004	Application deadline for December CLA/CLAS exam
December 3-4, 2004	CLA/CLAS Examination

Feel free to contact Sarah any time with your questions about NALA or the CLA/CLAS exams.

!!!!!! Special thanks go to April Gary and the people at Document Technologies, Inc. !!!!!
For sponsorship of this issue of the AMICUS! 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.

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