

THE AMICUS

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

November, 2002
www.ncparalegal.org

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

What a wonderful time we all had in Asheville! We had a very productive Long Range Planning Meeting, Executive Committee and Board Meeting and a super seminar! I'm ready to go back now. That mountain air is addictive!

On Friday we held the District VII Meet and Greet. Marilyn Moran and Christy Farmer came all the way from Sylva to join us for lunch. Thanks to both of you for your attendance. We enjoyed meeting you.

Terry Irvin and I attended a wonderful Meet and Greet in Greenville. The Pitt County Paralegal Association was well represented and we had a great time together. Thanks to Tracy Malan, President of the Association for her part in making the Meet and Greet a success. As a bonus to the day, **Statewide Title** surprised us with sponsoring the breakfast. Thank you Statewide for your hospitality!

On September 21, 2002, the District IV Meet and Greet was held in Burlington. Thank you to those who attended and brought prospective new members with you! We especially thank Blanche Berkowitz, President of the Greensboro Paralegal Association and Katharine Kuczkowski, President of the Alamance County Paralegal Association for attending and representing their groups.

The District Meet and Greets have been a great success. I appreciate all of those who have taken part. Meeting you has been the highlight of my year as Board Chair. I will be looking for all you members in Charlotte in November and in Raleigh in January. Please bring a friend with you!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

First, I would like to extend a very large THANK YOU to First Vice President Anita Wing and the Education Committee for producing not one, but TWO extremely educational and rewarding events. Melissa Stockley-Jones, CLA did a wonderful job with the CLA Review Course and Jocelyn Sutphin assisted with the Mid-Year Seminar. Many thanks to Angie Elliott, CLA for all her work in running a very smooth and professional registration desk.

Second, I would like to thank Mary Parrish Coley, CLA for leading a very productive Long Range Planning Meeting. You will notice several projects in the coming months that are a direct result of this meeting. In keeping with NCPA's mission the projects will "Serve, Teach, Build, Learn, Share and Grow" so be on the look out for new and exciting things.

Third, I would like to thank the Regulation Task Force Committee, Sharon (Sherri) L. Wall, CLAS, Gayle D. Green, CLA, Linda Lee Marion, CLA and Rick Reich, for all of their diligent work on the issue of paralegal regulation.

For the first time in its history, NCPA held a Special Meeting of the Membership on Saturday, November 2, 2002 in Greensboro. Open discussion on this issue yielded many good comments and questions. We are pleased to announce the RTF recommendation passed by an overwhelming majority. The RTF will keep us apprised of the developments on the regulation and the steps to move it forward.

CHAIR CHATTER...

Go to the North Carolina Bar Association's web site <http://www.barlinc.org/> for the proposed opinions on the role of laypersons in consummation of residential real estate transactions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

1. November 16, 2002 District V Meet & Greet, Golden Corral, Sharon Amity Rd., Charlotte
2. December 6 & 7, 2002 NALA CLA/CLAS Examination
3. January 11, 2003 NCPA EC/Board Meeting - Burlington
4. January 15, 2003 Application deadline for March CLA/CLAS exam
5. January 25, 2003 District II Meet and Greet, 9:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral, Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh
6. March 20 - 22, 2003 Annual Meeting & Seminar/Wrightsville Beach & CLA/CLAS Examination
7. May 15, 2003 Application deadline for July CLA/CLAS exam
8. July 9-12, 2003 NALA Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX
9. July 18-19, 2003 CLA/CLAS Examination
10. September 19-20, 2003 Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course-Embassy Suites, Greensboro

MORE CHAIR CHATTER...

NCPA will soon be able to accept payments via credit card! Stay tuned for more information.

Congratulations to Erin Burris, CLA the new Student/Schools Relations Chair. Welcome aboard Erin!! Erin may be reached at 919-877-2182 or via e-mail at eburris@closuremed.com. Erin will be working to develop a network of liaisons between NCPA and the schools offering paralegal programs. Please contact Erin if you would like to assist with this project.

Board Chair Belinda Pruitt, CLAS has held four successful Meet and Greets from Asheville to Greenville. Look for Belinda to arrive in your area soon and join her in meeting your area colleagues!!!

2002 NCPA Survey Results are available and will be published in the Winter issue of the NCPA FORUM. Many thanks go to Survey Chair Ruth Goodman, CLA and her son for developing a computer program to tally the results.

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT I

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

District I has 27 members at this time.

District Director office vacant at the printing of the AMICUS. **Please contact Belinda Pruitt, CLAS, at btp@vernonlaw.com if you are interested in this position.**

DISTRICT II

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

Sarah C. Hutchins, CLA
(919) 474-9137 (w)

shutchins@bankslawfirm.com

District II currently has 157 members. I would like to welcome any new members to District II and encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or comments. I would like to take the opportunity to highlight a couple of items coming up for NCPA and specifically District II in the coming months. First, Belinda Pruitt will be coming to Raleigh on January 25, 2003 for District II's Meet and Greet. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. Second, you will soon be receiving the Nominations and Elections information for Executive Committee and Board of Directors positions. Please contact me if you would be interested as serving as District II Director on NCPA's Board of Directors for the upcoming two-year term. Third, I would like to mention that Meredith College's Paralegal Program will be offering a CLA Review Course in preparation for the March CLA exam. The class will begin on Monday, January 13th and run through Monday, February 17th for a total of six weeks and it will be from 6-9 p.m. each night. Again, please contact me or the Meredith College Paralegal Program for more information.

DISTRICT III

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

Trudy Rutherford
(910) 485-5171 (w)

emr0128@aol.com

District III currently has 25 members. These members come from six of the 12 counties which make up District III. Trudy intends to keep focusing on her goal to have at least one member in every county of her district.

Note: Trudy's mom recently passed away. Please keep her in your thoughts.

DISTRICT IV

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

Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS
(336) 227-8851

btp@vernonlaw.com

District IV currently has 76 members.

The Alamance County Paralegal Association held their Fall Seminar at the Alamance County Tax Office in Graham, North Carolina, on Saturday, October 13, 2002. Representatives from the Office of the Tax Administrator, Collections, Mapping, Personal Listing, Business and Appraising made presentations of how the tax system works and gave the members a tour of the office. ACPA meets at various law firms from 12:00 - 1:00 on the third Tuesday of each month.

AROUND THE STATE

DISTRICT IV (continued)

The Greensboro Paralegal Association (GPA), has kicked off an exciting new 2002-2003 season. Speakers have included Amanda Clark of Horsepower Therapeutic Learning Center and Faye Haas, MSN, RN, CRRN CLCP of CorVel Corporation who gave a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on life care planning and its utilization in the legal profession. CorVel sponsored a wonderful luncheon for our organization. October featured Ann Stringfield of Infocrofters, focusing on creation, maintenance and enhancement of specialized databases and broadening information resources. GPA has some special events in the planning and we would like to encourage participation to all who want to join us every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:30-1:30. For information, please contact President Blanche Berkowitz at bberkowitz@sbaal.com or 336-370-8815.

DISTRICT V

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

Reba R. Whaley, CLA
(704) 679-9610

rwhaley@carolina.rr.com

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT V BREAKFAST MEET AND GREET ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2002, 9:30 A.M. AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL ON 3550 N. SHARON AMITY ROAD IN CHARLOTTE. PLEASE RSVP BELINDA PRUITT AT btp@vernonlaw.com.

District V currently has 119 members and continues to grow and thrive. Welcome to new members: Michelle A. Brown, Rita L. Leonard, Shelli L. Simontacchi, Lisa M. Gay, Royal J. Link, III, Heather M. Phillips, Rosa T. Ostrander, Kathy K. Valencic and Kary L. Hall.

DISTRICT VI

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

Patsy Anne Blackburn
(336)658-5377

patty.a.blackburn@lowes.com

District VI now has 47 members. The "Meet & Greet" breakfast in Boone, North Carolina, which was scheduled for July 13, 2002, was canceled due to the low number of anticipated participants, which was disappointing. Hopefully, in the future, our District will be able to have the opportunity to meet.

DISTRICT VII

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

Nicole Orlovitz
(828) 252-2852

Nicole@davidgantt.com

District VII has 23 members.

We have three new members this quarter. I have spoken with and given out applications to several different paralegal in various

AROUND THE STATE

law firms. Nicole is making arrangements with South College to speak with the paralegal students.

DISTRICT VIII

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

District VIII has 22 members.

District Director office vacant at the printing of the AMICUS. **Please contact Belinda Pruitt, CLAS, at btp@vernonlaw.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

District IX currently has 14 members.

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR

Teresa A. Stacey
(336) 227-8851 (w)
elb@vernonlaw.com

NCPA has one Affiliate member, the Alamance County Paralegal Association at the time of this printing, however we are proud to announce receipt of an affiliate application for Pitt County Paralegal Association. The purpose for being an Affiliate member is to help create and facilitate a network among the paralegal associations in the state, to help provide added resources for greater communication throughout the network of paralegal associations in North Carolina as well as furthering the common goals of the paralegal profession. An Affiliate Association may delegate one (1) **non**-NCPA member from the Affiliate Association to attend NCPA's Annual Meeting and Seminar at the discounted cost of an NCPA/NALA member. Please contact Teresa for more information about becoming an Affiliate Association Member.

NALA LIAISON

Sherry G. Vaughan, CLA
(919) 875-3128
sherry.vaughan@ncemcs.com

The Meredith R. Pollette CLAS Scholarship was recently awarded to Angela Maynard, CLA. Angela will be take the specialty exam at some time in the next year. Congratulations Angela!

If you or other paralegals you know would like information about NALA or the CLA/CLAS exams, please don't hesitate to call (919.875.3128) or e-mail me (sherry.vaughan@ncemcs.com). For general information and updates about what is

AROUND THE STATE

going on at NALA, log on to their web site (www.nala.org).

NALA LIAISON (continued)

NCPA congratulates the following new CLAs and CLAS as of the March 2001 exam:

Christine J. Andersen, CLA (NCPA Member)
Anne A. Brunnemeyer, CLA
Linda Cypres, CLA
Randi L. Gordon, CLA (NCPA Member)
Jane L. Harrison, CLA (NCPA Member)
Buffy L. Johnson, CLA
Betty-Lou Rosser, CLA
Kaye H. Summers, CLA (NCPA Member)
Tosha L. Swinney, CLA
Susan M. Shaw, CLAS (Civil Litigation) (NCPA Member)

EVEN MORE CHAIR CHATTER!...

Mary Willard, CLAS and Sharon Robertson, CLAS led two sessions during the member exchange presentations at the NALA meeting in Savannah, Georgia. We are proud of you and your dedication to NCPA and NALA!

South Carolina Trivia – Did you know that the South Carolina Attorney General has issued an opinion banning notary publics from purchasing lottery tickets? They are considered public officials and are banned from buying tickets under the South Carolina Constitution.

You can access the APPS proposal along with the status of the proposal and other valuable information online at www.apps-nc.org.

As of November 1, 2002, no action on Senate Bill 1225 regarding notaries has been taken.

NCPA was instrumental in Davidson Community College receiving a legal library from an attorney's estate.

NCPA Member Notes:

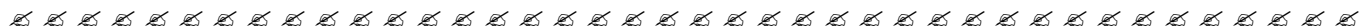
Sharon G. Robertson, CLAS was appointed as Chair of the Legal Assistants Division of the North Carolina Bar Association in June AND she was elected as Affiliated Associations Director for the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc., in July. Congratulations Sharon!

Brenda J. Mareski, CLA recently received a promotion at Bank of America and will be working in Vendor Management. Congratulations Brenda!

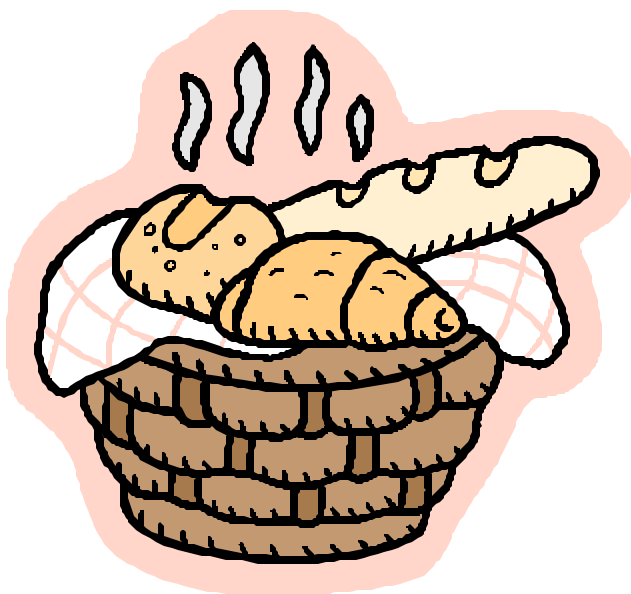
Ruth Goodman, CLA just returned from a month long stay in Australia visiting her sister, Louise. Welcome home, Ruth!

Teresa Stacey celebrated the marriage of her son on Saturday, November 2, 2002. Congratulations to the Stacey family!

Congratulations to NCPA Secretary **Susan Shaw, CLA** who is now a Civil Litigation Specialist and to Nominations and Elections Chair **Kaye Summers** who is now a CLA!



Do you have newsworthy information to share with NCPA Members? If so, please send to Board Chair Belinda Pruitt, CLAS at btp@vernonlaw.com or fax to her at (336) 226-3866. Thank you!



Happy Thanksgiving from NCPA!