

# THE AMICUS

North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.

July, 2002

P.O. Box 36264, Charlotte, NC 28236-6264

[www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

Vacation time is in full swing and I know you are all basking in the heat! The last three months as Chairman have been busy but rewarding. In June, I attended the State Bar Meeting for the Ad Hoc Committee on Real Estate Closings in Raleigh. The meeting was very interesting and Sharon L. Wall, CLAS did a wonderful job representing LAD and NCPA in her presentation.

During my family vacation at Long Beach I traveled to Wilmington and attended the NCBA Annual Meeting. I met other delightful exhibitors and picked up ideas for future NCPA meetings.

On June 29, 2002, I attended the first breakfast "Meet and Greet" in District III at Shoney's in Fayetteville. Trudy Rutherford did a wonderful job of coordinating the meeting. Special thanks go Terry Irvin and Anita Wing for traveling with me and sharing this time with the members of District III.

Be sure to register today for the Mid-Year Seminar or CLA Review Course. The Mid-Year Seminar will cover topics from coping with stress to medical malpractice to construction liens. The CLA Review will cover all sections of the exam. Registration deadline is September 3rd and hotel reservations need to be made by August 13th. Registration information and brochure is available at [www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org).

Essays are due August 15th for the 2002 MEREDITH R. POLLETTE, CLAS SCHOLARSHIPS. Remember - two scholarships are available, one for the CLA exam and one for the specialty exam. Log on to [www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org) for more information.

New pictures and information are posted weekly on NCPA's web site. Find relief from the summer time heat by checking out the cool Publications Page!! You have instant access to the Cover Page, Table of Contents Page, and President and Board Chair Messages of the NCPA FORUM. Technology Chair, Jamie Fuller, has expanded her skills and learned "Frontpage" to enable us to make minor changes to the web site ourselves. Thank you Jamie!

Second Vice President Michelle Gauffreau is in the midst of a large NCPA project and is compiling the directory. Look for this networking resource in your mailbox later this summer. Thank you Michelle!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

While you may be enjoying the lazy days of summer, please be advised that your Executive Committee and Board of Directors remain hard at work behind the scenes for you. By now you should have received the seminar registration brochure for the Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course along with the Meredith R. Pollette CLAS Scholarship information. We are very appreciative of the work done by First Vice President Anita W. Wing, Mid-Year Seminar Chair Jocelyn D. Sutphin and CLA Review Course Chair Melissa Stockley Jones, CLA. They are coordinating two great programs that everyone will enjoy.

NCPA exhibited at the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers (NCATL) convention for the first time in June. NCATL exhibits at our seminars and the Executive Committee and Board felt reciprocating that support and building a good working relationship between the two organizations would be beneficial. NCPA also exhibited at the North Carolina Bar Association's annual convention in Wilmington.

In May, NCPA was contacted by the North Carolina State Bar and asked to testify before the Ad Hoc Committee Concerning Residential Real Estate Closings. NCPA along with the Legal Assistants Division of the North Carolina Bar Association submitted a joint response to the issues raised by the Federal Trade Commission and the United States Department of Justice. Sherri L. Wall, CLAS represented both organizations and testified before the committee. We thank Sherri for agreeing to represent NCPA before the State Bar in addition to her many responsibilities with APPS. The Ad Hoc committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee and the Council of the State Bar. NCPA will continue to monitor this issue and keep its membership informed of any new developments.

The 2002 NCPA Survey has been mailed and Ruth H. Goodman, CLA is hard at work this summer tabulating the results for dissemination at the Mid-Year Seminar. Look for the published results in the Winter issue of the NCPA FORUM. Thank you Ruth and to all who participated!

Those are the highlights and that is only the first half of the summer! You have a dedicated Executive Committee and Board and I encourage you to let them know how much you appreciate all they do. You may easily send them an email directly from our web site! See you in September!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

August 15, 2002	Meredith R. Pollette CLAS Scholarship essays due to COB
August 24, 2002	District VIII Meet and Greet Breakfast in Greenville
September 13-14, 2002	<b><i>Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Asheville District VII Meet and Greet Luncheon will be held on Friday September 13, 2002 at the hotel</i></b>
September 21, 2002	District IV Meet and Greet Breakfast in Burlington
October 1, 2002	Deadline for October CLA/CLAS exam application to NALA
October 19, 2002	District I Meet and Greet Breakfast in Jacksonville
November 2, 2002	Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting in Raleigh
November 16, 2002	District V Meet and Greet Breakfast in Charlotte
December 6 & 7, 2002	NALA CLA/CLAS Examination
January 11, 2003	Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting in Burlington
January 25, 2003	District II Meet and Greet Breakfast in Raleigh
March 20 - 22, 2003	<b><i>Annual Meeting &amp; Seminar / Wrightsville Beach</i></b>



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## AROUND THE STATE

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### DISTRICT I

Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Dare, Craven, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, N. Kennail Humphrey-Wilkerson  
Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Tyrrell and Washington Counties (910) 638-6666  
[nkh@hscw.com](mailto:nkh@hscw.com)

District I currently has 27 members. Please contact Kennail with any questions or concerns.

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### DISTRICT II

Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake and Warren Counties Sarah C. Hutchins, CLA  
(919) 474-9137  
[shutchins@banksfirm.com](mailto:shutchins@banksfirm.com)

District II currently has 148 members as of the end of June. We have received 12 new members since the Annual Seminar in March! Sarah would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new members to District II and encourage you to contact her if you have any questions, suggestions or news from the District.

Due to the large numbers of District members, Sarah wants to make sure everyone is informed. Please utilize the NCPA web site ([www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org)) and more specifically the Seminar, News and Job Bank Bulletin Boards for updated NCPA news. Also, any one who plans to take the CLA exam in the upcoming months is encouraged to attend the CLA Review Course in Asheville in September.

Sarah hopes everyone who came to the Annual Seminar in New Bern enjoyed themselves and looks forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Year Seminar and CLA Review Course, September 13-14 in Asheville!

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### DISTRICT III

Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Trudy Rutherford  
Sampson and Scotland Counties (910) 485-5171  
[emr0128@aol.com](mailto:emr0128@aol.com)

District III currently has 24 members. Trudy put forth great effort to make the first MEET & GREET on June 29th a success. She was disappointed with the turn out (10 total) but this was not for lack of getting the word out. We are proud of Trudy and her efforts. Trudy is continuing to work on the counties in which there are currently no NCPA members. There are several people in Trudy's area who have indicated that they would like to join the NCPA. They have received applications and the information sheet we have about our association.

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### DISTRICT IV

Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, Randolph and Rockingham Counties Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS  
(336) 227-8851  
[btp@vernonlaw.com](mailto:btp@vernonlaw.com)

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT IV BREAKFAST MEET AND GREET ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2002, 9:30 A.M. AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL ON 3108 GARDEN LOOP IN BURLINGTON (EXIT 241 OFF I 40). PLEASE RSVP BELINDA PRUITT AT [btp@vernonlaw.com](mailto:btp@vernonlaw.com).

District IV currently has 70 members. The Alamance County Paralegal Association held their Spring Seminar at the Vernon Law Firm in April. There were 20 in attendance for the workshop in preparing a case for equitable distribution trial. For the June meeting, Sergeant Steve Mullis met with the association. He had a wonderful presentation on service and process, and the work of the sheriff's department. New officers were elected on June 18th by the membership of ACPA. They are: President, Katharine Kuczowski; 1st Vice President, Ruth H. Goodman, CLA; 2nd Vice President, Barbara Dodson; Secretary, Julie Waller; Treasurer, Sharon Boger; Historian, Eryn Griggs; and Parliamentarian, Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS. ACPA meets at various law firms from 12:00 - 1:00 on the third Tuesday of each month.

At the June, 2002 meeting of The Greensboro Paralegal Association, Blanche Berkowitz was elected President, Arlen DeVenney, Vice President, Sandra Strickland, Corresponding Secretary; Mary Clausen, Treasurer and Holly Davis, Parliamentarian. The Greensboro Paralegal Association will be hosting "Horsepower" representative, Amanda Clark, who works with special needs children. Horsepower is looking for volunteers and the Greensboro Association will be involved in that endeavor. Ms. Clark can be contacted at (336) 931-1424. Future meetings will be highlighting self defense methods taught by Catherine Phipps. GPA meets the second Tuesday of each month at the West Market Street United Methodist Church from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Contact Mary Clausen at [maryclausen@cs.com](mailto:maryclausen@cs.com) for details.

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## AROUND THE STATE

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### DISTRICT V

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

Reba R. Whaley, CLA

(704) 679-9610

[rwhaley@carolina.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:btp@vernonlaw.com).

District V currently has 109 members.

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### 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](mailto:patty.a.blackburn@lowes.com)

District VI now has 47 members. Please contact me regarding any information you need on NCPA. I will be happy to help you. On Saturday, July 13, 2002, District VI had a Saturday Morning "Meet & Greet" Breakfast in Boone, North Carolina at the Golden Corral at 187 Watauga Village Drive, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Chairman of the Board was present. This was a great opportunity to meet other members in our District.

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### DISTRICT VII

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

Nicole Orlovitz

(828) 252-2852

[Nicole@davidgantt.com](mailto:Nicole@davidgantt.com)

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT VII LUNCHEON MEET AND GREET ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2002, 12:00 NOON IN THE RESTAURANT OF THE HOLIDAY INN SUNSPREE RESORT IN ASHEVILLE. PLEASE RSVP BELINDA PRUITT AT [btp@vernonlaw.com](mailto:btp@vernonlaw.com).

District VII has 19 members. Nicole has been in contact with South College in Asheville to try to talk to paralegal classes about joining. She is also researching other avenues to expand membership.

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### DISTRICT VIII

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

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT VIII BREAKFAST MEET AND GREET ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH, 2002, 9:30 A.M. AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL ON 504 SW GREENVILLE BLVD., IN GREENVILLE. PLEASE RSVP BELINDA PRUITT AT [btp@vernonlaw.com](mailto:btp@vernonlaw.com).

District VIII has 21 members. District Director office vacant at the printing of THE AMICUS. **Please contact Belinda Pruitt, CLAS, at [btp@vernonlaw.com](mailto:btp@vernonlaw.com) if you are interested in this position.**

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### DISTRICT IX

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

District IX currently has 14 members. District Director office vacant at the printing of THE AMICUS. **Please contact Belinda Pruitt, CLAS, at [btp@vernonlaw.com](mailto:btp@vernonlaw.com) if you are interested in this position.**

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### DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Marsha L. Johnson, CLAS

(910) 892-7858

[marshaj@intrstar.net](mailto:marshaj@intrstar.net)

Sharon G. Robertson, CLAS of District IX is now serving as LAD Chair. The Board of Governors approved her appointment in June. Congratulations Sharon!

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## AROUND THE STATE

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### AFFILIATE DIRECTOR

Teresa A. Stacey  
(336) 227-8851  
[tas@vernonlaw.com](mailto:tas@vernonlaw.com)

Teresa sent letters to all local Associations on May 30th. The letters included the purpose for being an Affiliate member which 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.

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## ***DID YOU KNOW????***

**Our own Sharon L. Wall, CLAS, spoke before the North Carolina State Bar Ad Hoc Committee Concerning Residential Real Estate Closings on June 7, 2002, representing NCPA and the North Carolina Bar Association's Legal Assistants Division. NCPA and LAD were the only paralegal groups who were given the opportunity to state our position on the FTC/DOJ issue. Sherri did an excellent job as always. We are most grateful for her dedication to NCPA!**

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Guilford College is offering a new course, the Registered Paraplanner. As the only College for Financial Planning affiliate in North Carolina, Guilford is offering a 12 week course to prepare individuals for the Registered Paraplanner exam. The RP certification is useful for paralegals working in legal practices and department where financial, investment, estate, or tax planning is involved. Guilford College is now enrolling for the Fall 2002 class. Please call (336) 316-2169 for more information, or visit Guilford online at [www.guilford.edu/rp](http://www.guilford.edu/rp).

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**Paralegals across the state are voicing concern about Senate Bill 1225. The bill will require notaries to keep a journal among other changes. The bill can be reviewed at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/>. In "Bill Look-Up by #", key in "s1225" and click "go." Please read the bill carefully and address any concerns you may have to your representative.**

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