

# SIGNATURES NEWS LETTER

NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY  
ASSOCIATION

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The North Carolina Notary Association is a non-profit organization organized to benefit all North Carolina notaries. Our mission is to promote excellence in notary work, to encourage continuing education, and to disseminate information to notaries.



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# ***PRESIDENT PAGE***

## **Heartfelt Gratitude**

Do you remember the beginning of the soap series, “Days of Our Lives?” Like sands through the hourglass, so are the Days of Our Lives!” Funny that I should remember that because I cannot tell you how many years it has been since I watched, “Days of Our Lives.” We must admit, here we are in October already and it seems like it was only yesterday we were scurrying around getting ready for the 2023 North Carolina Notary Association Conference in Wilmington, and what a conference it was!!

For those of you who attended, **THANK YOU!!** I hope you all found it to be well worth your time. There was a lot of time, effort, and coordination that went into the Conference by your executive committee, volunteers, committee members, guest speakers, sponsors, and many others. It was like a carefully choreographed dance, should I reference American Band Stand or Soul Train? OK, now you know how OLD I really am!!

I do want to thank everyone who played any part in making the 2023 NCNA Conference a true success! We kept some parts of past conferences, such as the informative speakers on relevant topics for you, the Notary. We hope you enjoyed the meals and door prizes and we thank all the door prize donors who came through for us. **THANK YOU**, sponsors!!

We kept the educational scholarship program, but we enhanced it. And we kept the sponsorships from past conferences, but we enhanced those as well. We expanded to provide three educational scholarships to deserving recipients, one based on need, one based on merit, and one for an active member currently enrolled in college. We were able to recognize three Notary Pioneers by naming the scholarships in honor or in memory of them. The scholarships now are known as ***The Elaine Marshall Scholarship, The Dennis W. “Bud” Cameron Scholarship, and The Woodrow “Jack” Penny Scholarship.***

We enhanced the sponsorships by creating different levels of sponsorship aimed at helping to support the cost of the conference and elevate our services to our members without sizeable increases in the registration fees. We are working on restructuring those sponsorship levels to include more sponsors and allow them to introduce their Notary product or service to you.

We enhanced our offerings in assisting and educating Notaries Public by offering an e-Notary class approved by the Secretary of State and taught by a certified Instructor on Friday morning before the Conference. We will make every effort to duplicate this type of service for educational opportunities across the state. In addition to our new offering of an e-Notary class on Friday morning, we also, for the first time, hosted a Meet and Greet on Friday evening before the Saturday Conference. I understand that this time was enjoyed by all with opportunities to talk with state officials, Secretary of State, Elaine Marshall, Ozie Stallworth, and DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin as well as mingle with other Notaries from across the state. Due to the success of the Meet and Greet we will continue to make it a part of our annual conference.

## ***PRESIDENT PAGE (CONTINUED)***

Prior to our 2023 Conference we invested in AV equipment and technology which we believe will allow us to provide better assistance to you and supply you with more timely information concerning your Notary commission and your Notary work.

Our site location committee has been hard at work establishing the perfect place for our 2024 North Carolina Notary Conference which will be held...wait for it...drum roll, please... **Charlotte, North Carolina**. Details are being worked out. We will be meeting in late summer/early fall of 2024. With this timeline we are hoping to have more pertinent information available for you on upcoming Remote Electronic Notarization (REN) as we monitor new releases from the Office of Secretary of State.

In the meantime, we plan to keep you updated and continue to plan events and/or educational opportunities to keep you engaged and informed. We welcome your input! We welcome you as a volunteer committee member. We will put you to work and let you demonstrate your awesome skills.

In the meantime, I want to leave a word with you—**INTERGRITY**. Think about it. Write it down. Decide what that means to you personally and professionally. What does it mean to you in your service as a Notary Public. Incorporate it into your day. Think about it often. Send me a message with your thoughts on integrity. With your permission, some of those comments might show up in a future newsletter or maybe even in a class.... wishing you the best.

“Till we meet again,” who said that? Roy and \_\_\_\_?... really OLD!

Judy Chapman, President



***Thank  
you!***

# ***Scholarship Message From Belinda***

It was a joy and delight to see the applications come through for those that applied. Each year prior to this year, we've awarded one applicant that was chosen. With the president's goal of making a bigger impact we have now been able to select three applicants in the following categories, current member of the association, merit, and need. The dream was realized to also have the scholarships named after individuals that have done so much for the notaries of North Carolina over a few decades.

This was the first year and one for history that we'd offer three scholarships and they were in the name of S.O.S. Honorable Elaine F. Marshall for the "Membership", the late, Dennis W. "Bud" Cameron for "Merit" and the late, Woodrow "Jack" Franklin Penny for "Need".

Our goal is help as many North Carolinians know that we support and advocate continuous education and \$500 is a contribution that will allow us to be impactful in some way in helping someone further their education each year. If every notary shared this information with their local high school for seniors that have decided on a college or university, this is the goal to help them if they are chosen once they complete the application process. We can increase this effort as we build relationships with companies that would love to sponsor us in creating more donations to the scholarship fund so that \$500 can eventually grow to \$1000 or additional \$500 scholarships for more students that meet the criteria. Let's together be the change that we seek!

## **Scholarship Awarded**

- The Honorable Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall for the "Membership" - Brandon Crump
- the late, Dennis W. "Bud" Cameron for "Merit"- Olivia Stallworth
- the late, Woodrow Franklin "Jack" Penny for "Need" - Grant Styers



DO WHAT  
YOU LOVE!

# Snippets from the NCNA 2023 Conference Wilmington, NC

Ozie Stallworth at the Meet and Greet



# Membership

## Benefits

- Annual Conference Savings
- Access to Members Only Section on 'Website'
- Membership Card, NCNA Lapel Pin (new members only)
- Notification of Changes to Notary Statutes and more

To join, update your membership, or for information on membership, please check us out [ncnotary.org](http://ncnotary.org), [Facebook.com/ncna.org](https://www.facebook.com/ncna.org), or contact [membership@ncnotary.org](mailto:membership@ncnotary.org).

## Multi-Year Membership Discount Option

Year 1 Rate \$35 Discount Savings  
0%

Year 2 Rate \$70 Discount Savings  
0%

Year 3 Rate \$105 Discount Savings  
5%

Year 4 Rate \$140 Discount Savings  
10%

Year 5 \$175 Discount Savings  
15%

# HUGE SALE

**Membership Fees (for new  
and returning members)  
Early Bird Rate (November  
1st-December 31st) - \$25**

# ***As A Notary...Did You Know???***

**Question: I would like to know about more resources as far as learning about different forms of paperwork that wasn't disclosed in class. Some forms are different from others?**

Chapter 5 in our notary manual covers the eight steps that we apply to all notarizations. All forms will have a different version of how the notarial certificate reads, however, 6 areas must be included in order for the notary to notarize the document that can be found on both page 35, "Step 6..." and page 40 under "Acknowledgement Certificate" as well as pages 43 - 44 "Notarial Certificate for an Oath or Affirmation"

**Question: Are there CE classes that we would need to take to ensure that we are doing things the right way? The short answer is no. There are exceptions if you are a notary that also work in the following capacities:**

- An Attorney: they are required to take CLE classes once a year because they are required to take the 6.5 hour class
- A notary public instructor: although they are not required to take a CE class, they must take the instructor's examination every 2 years and meet the requirements to maintain their instructors certification and submit their applications within 10-weeks prior to their commission expiration date for their notary commission and their electronic notary commission if they are both

**Question: What's the difference between recommissioning and continuing education?**

Notaries are required to take an exam as early as 10-weeks before the expiration date of their 5-year term and pass with an 80% or greater score to reapply without going through the class. If they do not pass the online exam the first time, they do have two additional opportunities to retake the online exam to pass before they must retake the in-person class. Continuing education aka CE is not a requirement that the Secretary of State has in place. It's optional if they want to sit in with the attorneys and paralegals when these are conducted. You may call the SOS notary division to get more information. A side note; because notaries are not required by the SOS to take CE classes and are often still unsure as well as confused after the only class required is completed, NC Notary Signing Services founded by Belinda B. Bennett a notary instructor offers online trainings that are self-paced and 4 quarterly workshops that are in-person that covers various forms helping notaries with practicing notarizing documents with a partner to help build up confidence in doing it correctly.

**One of the things that I found interesting is that none of the different forms were disclosed and I found it difficult at times for Notarizations.**

The manual has changed since the first few publications that have removed many of the sample documents. The SOS encourages all notaries to study and understand Chapter 5 that covers the 6 basic steps that are required to be followed for every notarial act.

***Belinda B. Bennett is launching the first every workbook for NC notaries to assist as a help aid that will include various documents not limited to: car titles, court documents, school forms, medical forms, powers of attorney, wills, hand written documents and more to help cover the range of documents a notary may be introduced to along their journey. How to complete a journal entry will also be covered to help notaries to take the best detailed notes to rely on later if ever necessary to use them in court.***

# ***As A Notary...Did You Know???***

National Notary Public Day - November 7th

First established in 1975 as a day to “recognize notaries for their public service and their contributions to national and international commerce.” The date of November 7 was chosen in recognition of the day that America’s first notary, Thomas Fugill, was appointed. Fugill’s appointment by the Colony of New Haven occurred on October 25, 1639 (Julian calendar), November 7 on the Gregorian calendar now in use. History of the Notary Public [Source: National Notary Association (<http://www.nationalnotary.org/>) and the Informed Notaries of Maine (<http://www.informednotariesofmaine.org/>)]

The practice of the notary public dates back to ancient Roman times when few people were taught to read and write. A notary was appointed as a public official to create written documents of agreement or wills and hold them for safekeeping. Wax seals with individualized engravings or symbols were used as signatures at the end of the written agreements. In later centuries, ribbons were woven into multiple page documents to tie the pages together. Seals were placed over the knots to ensure no pages were added or removed. This was the birth of the notary seal and certificate. In colonial America, persons of high moral character were appointed as public notaries to certify and keep safe documents of shipping and bills of lading for transatlantic shipping.

Around the globe today, there are three major, distinctly different notarial systems, each associated with a different kind of Notary: The Civil Law Notary system of the Latin nations, the Common Law Notary system of the English-speaking nations, and the Notary system of the United States, which is derived from the English Common Law system but quite different. The following selective historical accounts provide illuminating background information on the evolution of the three modern systems of notarization. Kudos to Notary Julie King of Wake County as she will be presenting a proclamation to the City Council of Durham, NC in recognition of National Notary Public Day on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

If you are doing something fabulous in recognition of National Notary Public Day, please submit five sentences of what you are doing in your community to [info@ncnotary.org](mailto:info@ncnotary.org) .



# ***NCNA Welcomes !!!!***

## ***Welcome to the NCNA Executive Committee***



Karen Gordon, NCNA liaison with the NCNA Instructors

My name is Karen Gordon, and I am serving the NCNA as the Official Liaison with North Carolina Notary Instructors. I am a lifelong resident of Winston-Salem. My husband, Keith, and I have been married for almost 40 years and have one daughter. I worked in Forsyth County Register of Deeds for 27 ½ years with the last part serving as the Register of Deeds. Through my job, I served as a notary ex-officio for many years before I became a commissioned notary public. I have been a notary instructor for over 16 years and currently teach at Forsyth Technical Community College. I previously taught for several other community colleges before cutting back on my schedule recently. I have been a member of the NC Notary Association for many years and at one time served as Historian.

I have been tasked with educating the notary instructors on the benefits of becoming a member of our organization. Since we do not have access to an official list, I am currently working on contacting the coordinator of notary classes at each community college. So far, I have sent information to 32 of the colleges to pass on to all their instructors. There are 25 community colleges that I still need to get coordinator contact information for. If you are a notary instructor, you could help me by emailing your administrator's information to me (email and/or phone number).

You can send that information to me [gordonkaren2023@gmail.com](mailto:gordonkaren2023@gmail.com)

Notary Instructors are required to be recertified every two years. This leaves a gap for Notary Instructors as far as new developments between required training, and by being a member of the NCNA, the instructors of NC will be better able to stay abreast of current developments and problems/concerns of Notaries statewide. The association is a venue for Notaries, Notary Instructors, and Publicly Elected officials to come together and discuss notary issues.

# ***In Memory***

## Losses Within Our NC Notary Family

It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of Jessie Thomas “Tommy” Bunn, Husband of Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. His passing was shortly after our 2023 NCNA conference. For those in attendance and who had the opportunity to meet and interact with him, I am grateful that you were able to do so. From information included in his obituary <https://www.poolefuneral.com/tributes/JessieTommy-Bunn>, he was a significant presence within the North Carolina Agricultural business world. He was Secretary Marshall’s biggest fan and supporter and he will be missed by his family, our Notary family, and North Carolina at large.

We equally are saddened to report the passing of Dennis W. “Bud” Cameron from our presence. Bud was one of the Notary pioneers for whom one of our scholarships was named. Bud has been an advocate of education both in the world of Registers of Deeds, as former Register of Deeds of Wilkes County and Notaries Public as former notary instructor. He was the founder of the Northwest Notary Society in the northwest part of North Carolina. So it only seemed fitting that the scholarship for Merit would be the one to better recognize Bud. He had expressed his appreciation for the association having recognized his efforts and honoring him by naming the scholarship for him. See Bud’s obituary at <https://www.moodyfuneralservices.com/obituaries/reverend-dennis-cameronfbclid=IwAR31HJ8WuJ1YAwCyHO7PVzLAnJGRWvmfGQx6miuaOkOAJkSyAXIPb-NOnvk>

# ***The 2024 NCNA Conference***



***Stay Tuned!!!***