



NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

October 2026

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Navigating the Fall Peak: Season of Substance and Preparation

As the autumn air settles across North Carolina, our schedules as notaries tend to accelerate right alongside the season. October traditionally marks a significant surge in real estate closings, year-end financial reallocations, and crucial estate planning documents—including powers of attorney and health care directives.

Sharpening Our Tools for Q4 Volume When transaction volume picks up, attention to detail remains our strongest defense against fraud and error. This month is an ideal time to review your journal entries, ensure your credentials and supplies are fully stocked, and lean into the collaborative strength of our association network. Whether you are executing complex loan packages or certifying specialized apostille documents, precision builds public trust.

Behind the Scenes: Looking Ahead to 2027 Our leadership team—including co-founder and Past President, Judy Chapman, Treasurer, Jonathan Brown Guerrero, Vice President, Monica Jones, Secretary, Brenda Hernandez-Malpica, Legislative Envoy, Michele Partee, Historian, Lindsay White, and Notary Instructor Liaison, Karen Gordon—is actively laying the groundwork behind the scenes for 2027. This includes planning our strategic transition toward quarterly regional micro-meetings and expanded educational footprints to better serve members across the state.

Your October Charge As you head into your busy appointments this week, remember our core mission: to educate, advocate, and promote notaries across our state. Take a moment to visit our member forum to share best practices on managing peak seasonal volume with your peers.

Thank you for your dedication to upholding the highest standards of our profession.

*Here for you,
Belinda B. Bennett
President, North Carolina Notary Association*

Thank you FOR BEING A VALUED MEMBER!

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WORDS FROM OUR LEGISLATIVE ENVOY



Everyone who is a commissioned notary public must purchase and keep as a reference the most recent manual approved by the Secretary that describes the duties and authority of notaries public. - G.S. 10B-5(b)(7)

Secretary – The North Carolina Secretary of State or the Secretary’s designee – G.S. 10B-3(24) 2026

2026 Manuals can be purchased at NC college bookstores, Barnes and Noble or through the SOS website.

Following Governor Josh Stein signing of HB 517 on July 7, 2026, Emergency Video Notarizations (EVNs) have been extended to 12:01AM on July 1, 2027 or until the first license is issued for Remote Electronic Notarizations.

Live Training A Hit at the SOS Notary Conference

We brought training to life through role-play at “Raising the Standard 2026: A Notary Education Conference” hosted by the SOS in Raleigh, NC, August 23-24. NCNA premiered **“The Notary Integrity Lab: Real-World Scenarios and Compliance.”** featuring the Honorable Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, “Mr. Notary” Ozie Stallworth and members of our Executive Board. These interactive, audience-participation skits were a huge success!! We’ve already gotten great suggestions and glowing reviews---and we’re excited to reenact and expand them going forward. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth to say hello and enter our raffle!

Governor Josh Stein signed the Gas Tax Suspension Bill (House Bill 3) into law on October 9, 2026. The law which took effect immediately, suspends North Carolina's 41-cent-per-gallon gas tax until November 30, 2026. This legislation aims to provide financial relief to residents amid high fuel prices.



Keep spreading the word: Encourage fellow notaries to join the NCNA. It’s the best way to stay current on notarial legislation and best practices.

Michele Partee, Legislative Envoy, “Your Eyes and Ears in Raleigh”



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☀️ Community Spotlight: Randolph County

Located in the heart of North Carolina's Piedmont region, Randolph County is a community rich in history, natural beauty, family attractions, and small-town charm. From its historic communities to one of the largest zoos in the country, Randolph County has plenty to explore!



🌳 PLACES TO EXPLORE

🦒 North Carolina Zoo

Explore natural habitats featuring elephants, giraffes, lions, gorillas, polar bears, and many other animals.

🏛️ Randolph County Historical Landmark

Take a step back in time and learn more about the people, communities, and events that shaped Randolph County.

🎨 Seagrove Pottery

Just outside Asheboro, the Seagrove area is famous for its pottery tradition. Visitors can explore pottery studios, galleries, and shops featuring handmade North Carolina pieces.

🌲 Uwharrie National Forest

Outdoor lovers can enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and other recreational activities throughout the Uwharrie area.

🏠 Downtown Asheboro

Enjoy local restaurants, shops, community events, and the charm of historic downtown Asheboro.

🕒 A LITTLE HISTORY

- Randolph County was established in 1779 and was named in honor of Peyton Randolph, the first president of the Continental Congress.
- Asheboro became the county seat and developed into an important center for commerce and government in the region.
- Randolph County has a long history of agriculture, manufacturing, and craftsmanship, including its connection to North Carolina's pottery tradition.

🦁 DID YOU KNOW?

Randolph County is home to the North Carolina Zoo!

Located in Asheboro, the North Carolina Zoo is one of the largest natural-habitat zoos in the world. The zoo is home to animals representing Africa and North America and sits on thousands of acres of beautiful land.

It is one of North Carolina's most popular attractions and a must-visit destination for both residents and visitors!



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Featured Notary



Dean Eason-Williams.
Mecklenburg County

Meet Dean Eason-Williams. As a native of Charlotte, NC, Dean has been serving Mecklenburg County as a notary since 2023. Dean has hit the ground running in the notary industry and has achieved some amazing accomplishments and designations. He has built a signing service, created a notary mentorship program and holds the Master Notary designation from the American Guild of Notaries Public. The North Carolina Notary Association even had the pleasure of having Dean teach at the 2026 NCNA conference. Not to mention Dean is an author writing books like From ***Trust to Transfer*** and ***People's Lives in Ink on Paper***.

Looking ahead you can find Dean mentoring notaries in his Skool community, Apex Mentorship.

Fun Fact When Dean was a college instructor, he had the honor of teaching astronauts at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Let's all give Dean an astronomical round of applause for his outstanding achievements! We look forward to seeing what Dean has up his sleeve next.



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Notary Instructor of the month!



Karen Gordon

1. **How long have you been a Notary Public Instructor?** 19 years
2. **Which colleges do you currently teach for?** Forsyth Technical, Surry, and Davidson-Davie Community Colleges
3. **Have you taught this course for other colleges? If so, which ones?** Guilford Technical, Rowan-Cabarrus, Stanly, and Mitchell Community Colleges

What inspired you to become a Notary Public Instructor? While working in the Forsyth County Register of Deeds office for 27 ½ years, I saw the results of careless and indifferent notaries on documents being recorded in our office. I would often think “I wish I could impress upon notaries how important their job really is.” I was excited when I got the opportunity to do so by teaching individuals aspiring to become notaries for the first time.

What do you enjoy most about teaching notary education courses? What I enjoy most about teaching notary education courses is sharing my knowledge, experience, and passion for the profession with others. I’m especially passionate about educating students on notary laws and helping them understand the importance of following those laws correctly. I also enjoy sharing real-life experiences that help bring the material to life and prepare students for situations they may encounter in the field.

One of the most rewarding moments for me is seeing the expression on a student’s face when they have that “aha” moment and realize that, by performing their duties correctly, they are providing a vital service that helps protect the public and prevent fraud and forgery. Knowing that I’m helping students become knowledgeable and ethical notaries is what makes teaching so fulfilling for me.

The NCNA thanks our beloved Karen Gordon for her support and everything she does for the association.



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Save the Date!!!

As we wrap up an incredible month of preparation and professional focus, it is time to look ahead to a very special statewide celebration! Mark your calendars for National Notary Public Day on Saturday, November 7th, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, as the North Carolina Notary Association hosts an interactive virtual celebration you won't want to miss.

Test Your Knowledge & Win Big! Join your fellow NCNA members for an afternoon of community connection, statutory trivia, and high-energy fun. We will be playing three thrilling rounds of Kahoot!, giving everyone multiple chances to test their expertise on North Carolina notary laws and best practices.

Three Rounds. Three 1st Place Door Prizes! To celebrate our hardworking members, the 1st place winner of each Kahoot! round will walk away with a premium NCNA Notary Kit packed with essential professional supplies.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, November 7th
- **Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- **Location:** Online Virtual Event (link provided upon registration)
- **Activities:** 3 rounds of Kahoot! trivia with 3 chances to win a notary kit door prize!

Head over to our website today to secure your spot for this festive afternoon of learning and friendly competition. Let's come together to educate, advocate, and promote the vital work we do across our state!

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2027 NCNA Conference

MORE UPDATES COMING IN NOVEMBER! STAY TUNED

