

# PARASIGHT

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



CATAWBA VALLEY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 2011

## Pampered Chef Fund Raiser

Submitted by Leah Poovey & Amanda Evans



**Packets** will be distributed at our March CPE on Ethics with Leslie McKesson.

**Guest special** for March is 2 FREE rubs with \$60 purchase.

Catawba Valley Paralegal Association will receive a donation for all sales and parties booked.

Our 2011 Pampered Chef Fund Raiser kicked off March 1 and will end with the Pampered Chef party on March 31, from 6-8 pm at St. Johns Lutheran Church, Conover, NC in the Joy Room.

**Orders** will be taken from 3/1/11 - 3/31/11

**Sales:** If sales are over \$600, CVPA receives a donation of 25%. If sales are less than \$600, CVPA will receive a donation of 20%. CVPA receives a donation of \$10 for every party booked from our fundraiser.

### Contacts for information:

Pam Hemphill:  
PamH@legalaidnc.org  
828-437-8280

Leah Poovey:  
lpoovey@phd-law.com  
828-322-7741

Amanda Evans:  
evans5285@yahoo.com  
828-409-1046

Amber Hawley:  
hawleyan@go.wpcc.edu  
828-234-9842

Samantha Hefner  
hefnersm@go.wpcc.edu  
828-320-6347

Phebe McClellan  
pbmcclellan@yahoo.com  
828-638-0487

### OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**President:** Cyndy Adams  
email: cadams.nccp@lewwaddelllaw.com

**Vice President:** Jennifer Koch  
email: jennik.1212@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:** Delores Deal  
email: dvdatter15@aol.com

**Secretary:** Ellen Cranford  
email: ellen@sib-law.com

**Asst. Treasurer:** Leah Poovey  
email: lpoovey@phd-law.com

**Asst. Secretary:** Cheryl Barker  
email: cheryl@sib-law.com

## CVPA Baskets Delivered

Submitted by Kelley Walker

On December 4, 2010, Cyndy Adams, Cari Burns, Delores Deal, Christel East, Peggy Hallman and Kelley Walker gathered at the Waddell Law Office to assemble baskets to deliver to various attorney offices in our area to promote CVPA. Cyndy provided a delicious breakfast, and we all set about our task. Cari provided labels for tins in which we placed personalized M&Ms bearing the CVPA logo, little blurbs about our organization

and rounded out with red and green M&Ms. They were very classy and festive.

Ellen Cranford contributed homemade treats and several others contributed goodies and baskets. Cyndy wrote a letter to be included in each basket explaining CVPA's purpose and the many benefits gained by both attorneys and paralegals from membership in our organization. Joy abounded as the baskets were filled. For myself, it real-

ly put me in the Christmas spirit. The baskets were divided up to those who volunteered to deliver them. I took mine to Attorney David Moose, the Clerk of Court and the RD's office. Cari Burns delivered a basket to the DA's office; the Waddell law firm delivered baskets to Steve Brackett and John Cutchin. Everyone was thrilled to receive them. I believe the baskets positively promoted our organization.

Kelley Walker  
kwalker\_@yahoo.com

Peggy Hallman  
phallman@charter.net

Cari Burns  
cburns@catawbacountync.gov

Christel East  
hristeldoe@yahoo.com

Pamela Hemphill  
pamh@legalaidnc.org

Debbie Miles  
debbie4matthewslawfirm@yahoo.com



I will be totally honest; I usually delete my Groupon notices without giving them much attention. The ones I receive are for restaurants or spa services that are too far away from home to make it worth my while. I never even thought about Groupon being an avenue for Lawyers.

However, due to a Missouri lawyer's Groupon the North Carolina State Bar Ethics committee has decided to take action. The Committee met in January to discuss a

Proposed NC Ethics Opinion saying lawyers can't ethically offer Groupon deals based on Rule 5.4(a) and 7.2.

Rule 5.4(a) of the Rules of Professional Conduct states that "A lawyer or law firm shall not share legal fees with a non-lawyer." There are exceptions where sharing legal fees is ok, but Groupon does not fall in one of those categories.

Rule 7.2 of the Rules of Professional Conduct deal with

what advertising is appropriate for lawyers.

To see the full Rules and comments go to: [www.ncbar.gov](http://www.ncbar.gov) and search the Rules of Professional Conduct under Ethics.

So if your attorney wants to list on Groupon, better say NO!

For more information: [www.abajournal.com/news](http://www.abajournal.com/news)

"SENATOR MANSFIELD FROM CUMBERLAND HAS INTRODUCED A BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW SNOW MAKE-UP DAYS VIA DISTANCE LEARNING."

## NEW NC SENATE BILLS

### Laura's Law — Senate Bill 86/House Bill 49

Senate Bill 86 was filed in hopes to

- increase punishment for DWI offenders that have three or more "grossly aggravating factors";
- "authorize the Court to require continuous alcohol moni-

toring for certain offenders"; and

- "increase the Court Costs for DWI Offenders."

The sponsors desire to have the bill passed and put into effect on December 31, 2011. The bill has passed

the first reading and has been referred to the Committee on Judiciary Subcommittee.

To read the full Bill see: [www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us).

### Snow Days — Senate Bill 62/House Bill 132

Children love snow days. However, making up those days is not fun. No one, especially the teachers, want to see Spring Break taken away. I know in Lincoln County, they have resorted to going to school on Saturdays. To me school on Saturdays seems like a lot of trouble. You have to get up early, you go for half a day and then back home. Some par-

ents I know think it is a waste of time. The kids do not do anything.

Senator Mansfield from Cumberland has introduced a bill that would allow snow make-up days via distance learning. Students would be allowed to make up five days maximum that were missed due to inclement weather. Students would have two

weeks from the day missed to complete the assignment and the local Board of Education may provide computer access to students who would not have easy access at home.

This bill has passed its first reading and has been referred to the Committee on Education.

For more information see: [www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us)



Snow Days

## A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

BY KELLEY WALKER, NCCP

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This is NOT a review. I repeat this is not a review. It is merely an observation. I am a huge movie fan. I have been since my Granny took me to see "Gone With The Wind" when I was a little girl. (It was not the original release, okay, but a re-release.) That movie is still my all time favorite, and I always watch it at least once a year. I celebrate the Oscars the way most people do the Super Bowl, but I never can last to the end of the show. It just so happens that this year, I have seen all but one of the ten nominated movies. I did catch about 45 seconds of "127 Hours", so I guess, technically, I have seen all of the nominated movies. I happened to watch "Black Swan" and "True Grit" on the same weekend, and it is those two movies that I will primarily be writing about. Both are movies about young women (or young girls), but that is where all similarity ends. The "Black Swan" stars Natalie Portman as Nina Sayers, a young woman so fragile that a dance destroys her. She is long past the age to be continually referred to as "sweet girl," but that is how almost every one refers to her. She sleeps in a room befitting a ten-year old, and her mother gives the term "helicopter mom" a sinister meaning. The movie is gripping, disturbing and may cause nightmares. Does Natalie Portman deserve an Oscar? You bet. You are drawn into her world from the very start of the movie, and by the time she raises her head as the Black Swan, you, too, have lost all sense of what is real.

Hailee Steinfeld plays Mattie Ross, a young girl so full of gritty determination to bring her father's killer to justice that she faces outlaws, rattlesnakes and dead bodies. She holds her own with men twice her age and comes out ahead. Where Nina's voice is often soft and whiney, Mattie speaks with a maturity that belies her tender age. You never see Mattie's mother, but you understand that Mattie is the one who takes care of the family after her father is gone. She may have been looking for a man with true grit, but it is Mattie that shows you what true grit is. She is an inspiration to young women everywhere.

"Black Swan" leaves you with a heavy heart, but "True Grit" leaves you with a heart full of yearning. Yearning for a time when people spoke in full sentences. When grit was something people had in abundance. When faced with challenges, these people met them head on, filled with the faith that God was directing their paths. The first "True Grit" with John Wayne is a classic, you can't argue with that. However, the Coen brothers have created a movie that is nearly perfect. Unfortunately, I don't think they will win the Oscar. I believe that honor will go to "Black Swan". Darren Aronofsky has made a movie unlike any that I have ever seen. It clings to you long after you have left the theater.

I think Colin Firth will win for "The King's Speech". He gave an unforgettable performance as

a man who is a prisoner of his fate. "The King's Speech" is the popular choice to win best picture, but I felt it was just a little too formulaic.

Christian Bale has my vote for best supporting actor. Say what you like about him, Christian Bale is probably one of the best actors of our time. His performance as Dickie Ecklund is brilliant. "The Fighter" is one of those movies that you want to stand up and cheer at the end.

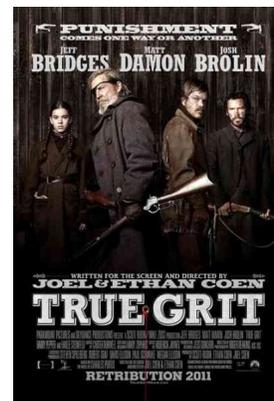
"Toy Story 3" will win as best animated picture. Kids love it, and almost every adult I know cried at the end. It is sad that we can make an animated picture that is better than half of the movies that have actual human beings in them. Hollywood take note.

"Inception" should win for best special effects. That movie is visually stunning. Too bad most people didn't really know how it ended. I hope the director and producer did.

As for the rest, "The Kids Are All Right" struck all the right notes, but it just felt wrong. "The Social Network" was great, and I enjoyed it much more than I enjoy Facebook. "Winter's Bone" told a sad story very well, but I felt like I was watching the kid version of "Frozen River". Like I said, I only saw a few seconds of "127 Hours", but if anyone can make watching someone cut off their own arm able to be watched, it is James Franco. Thanks for letting me share my thoughts.



"I AM A HUGE MOVIE FAN. I HAVE BEEN SINCE MY GRANNY TOOK ME TO SEE "GONE WITH THE WIND" WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. (IT WAS NOT THE ORIGINAL RELEASE, OKAY, BUT A RE-RELEASE.)"



## NEW NC SENATE BILLS

### Cell Phones — Senate Bill 36



Do not phone and drive

“THE PENALTY FOR USING THE MOBILE TELEPHONE WHILE DRIVING IS A FINE OF \$100.00. THE BILL DOES NOT ALLOW FOR DRIVER LICENSE POINTS OR INSURANCE SURCHARGES FOR VIOLATIONS.”

We all do it. I love to talk on my cell phone. I drive over one hour to and from work every day, and most days I use my cell phone to make the drive go faster. I do use a Bluetooth most of the time but on occasion I hold the phone. North Carolina has already made it illegal to text and drive, and now they want to make it unlawful to use a mobile phone “while driving a motor vehicle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area.”

There are exceptions – a mobile telephone is ok if used “for the sole purpose of communicating an emergency situation to an emergency response operator, a publicly or privately owned ambulance company or service, a fire department or a law enforcement agency.” N.C. Gen. Stat. 20-137.3(d).

The penalty for using the mobile telephone while driving is a fine of \$100.00. The Bill does not allow for driver

license points or insurance surcharges for violations.

It will be interesting to see if this one can get passed and be put in effect by December 31, 2011. It has passed the first reading and has been referred to the Committee Judiciary II.

For further information see: [www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us)

## UPCOMING CPE'S and MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars! Plan now to attend our monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday in each month at 6:00 p.m. There are some very informative CPE's on the schedule:

**March 8:** **Leslie McKesson's** "Ethics and Technology 2.0, Implications for Confidentiality and Inadvertent Disclosure in an Electronic Era."

**April 12:** **Andrew Cogdell**, managing attorney for Legal Aid, has agreed to present the CPE on "Summary Ejection Actions."

**May 10:** **Neal Bevans**, paralegal instructor at WPCC and former Assistant DA in Georgia, will discuss real estate.

**June 14:** **Donna Spencer**, Catawba County Register of Deeds will present our June CPE.

**July 12:** **Quarterly Social**



# MEET OUR PRESIDENT

*(Of course everyone knows Cyndy Adams, CVPA President, and she needs no introduction. The newsletter committee submitted a few questions to her and she was kind enough to answer them for us.)*

### Where do you work and what is your position there?

I have been employed at the Lewis E. Waddell, Jr. Law Office, PLLC in Newton as a certified paralegal for nearly 10 years. I handle all the domestic cases, serious felonies, civil matters, coordinate our in-house mediation program, am responsible for billing and other administrative duties.

### How long have you been a paralegal?

I've worked in the legal field for more than 30 years, and have been a paralegal for 20+ years. I've been very fortunate to have worked with some of the finest lawyers and firms in North Carolina -- Tuggle Duggins Meschan in Greensboro and Steve Brackett in Hickory, as well as my current employer.

### Do you hold any degree or certification?

AAS in Paralegal Technology, graduated with 4.0 GPA from Western Piedmont in May 2006; State Bar Certified Paralegal December 2005. Member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

### How did you make the decision to become a paralegal?

My decision to work in the legal field was heavily influenced by my high school debate coach. She taught students that to be a successful debater, you not only had to know "your side" of an issue, but be able to defend and/or attack both

points of view. The ability to see and understand more than just my client's view point is important, especially in the predominantly domestic work that I do.

### What is the one thing you like most about being a paralegal?

I enjoy the satisfaction of having a client tell me that I helped him or her through a difficult time, not only with the paralegal work I did, but just as important, because I treated them with respect and compassion. I am careful not to form a personal bond with clients, but I genuinely care and am concerned about the outcome of all cases to which I am assigned.

### Do you have any organizational tips or "good things" ideas a la Martha Stewart that you would like to share?

(1) I have a "day by day" alpha file on my desk at all times. This is my "catch all" for everything until I am ready to work on a particular file. It's easier to flip to one section in the file than to sort through a stack of papers on my desk. I try to handle and shuffle papers as little as possible.

(2) Even after all these years, I still maintain daily timesheets through the use of a calendar, which I retain for 6 years. This is an invaluable tool, especially in Court. It also reminds me if I am spending too much time on a particular project, to step back and perhaps re-think what I am doing.

(3) Lastly, I have a special e-mail account that I use only for communication with myself. I might send myself a reminder to prepare a file by a certain date in advance of a trial, or

it may be a telephone number of a prospective witness. And I always detail the "subject" line so that I can easily find what I am searching for.

### What is something personal about you that you would like to share?

My life is very full, happy and busy these days. I am settling into my new home and still searching for a few items I haven't seen since the move! I am active in my church, Trinity Reformed UCC in Conover. I attend a women's Bible study, which I find inspirational and rewarding. I am being "trained" to be a volunteer at the Humane Society of Catawba County. I am passionate about animal welfare, particularly dogs. We are very fortunate to have a no-kill shelter that is the caliber of the Catawba County Humane Society. My hobbies include cooking, fishing, road trips with a car club, reading, travel, photography of people, places and things, playing with my dog and target shooting. My son and I go to the gun club, and we really enjoy this time together. I am kicking around the idea of returning to school to finish my BA, but that won't be until my time as President of CVPA ends later this year. Serving as website and publicity chair for 3 years, and as President for 2 years have been wonderful experiences for me. I have grown and learned from every new adventure and each person I've met through CVPA. I feel quite privileged being associated with and serving such a hard-working, dedicated group of professionals as the CVPA membership, as well as the many attorneys and others in the community who have given of their time and talents to CVPA.



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CATAWBA VALLEY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC



Post Office Box 3068  
Hickory, NC 28603

email:  
info@catawbavalleyparalegalassoc.org

OF INTEREST:

MARCH 26 IS NATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANTS DAY

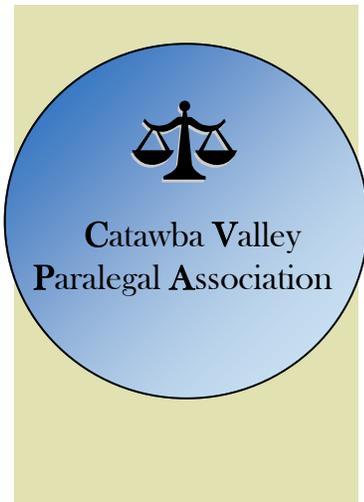
We're on the Web:  
[www.catawbavalleyparalegalassoc.org](http://www.catawbavalleyparalegalassoc.org)

Visit us on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/cvpa>

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance As of 1-3-2011:	\$3,384.73
Deposits:	
1-27-2011 —1 new student membership	\$15.00
Disbursements:	
Microsoft Publisher 2010	\$151.19
Prepared by: Delores Deal	
Submitted to Board of Directors: 2-9-2011	
Reconciled w/ Bank Statement	Yes

ABOUT CVPA



CVPA is a non-profit organization which encourages ethical and professional conduct within the paralegal profession, and promotes paralegal careers in Catawba, Burke, Caldwell, Lincoln, Alexander, Cleveland, and surrounding counties. CVPA furthers education and quality fellowship among its members through CPE, regular meetings, networking and quarterly social events and furthers the para-

legal profession through its participation in Community Involvement projects. Membership in the Catawba Valley Paralegal Association, Inc. is open to paralegals, legal assistants, legal secretaries, attorneys, students enrolled in paralegal programs of study, paralegal educators, employees of judicial entities and other recognized legal agencies.