

# ParaSight

January 2011



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

## New Year....Fresh Start

By Vicki Voisin, ACP

As 2010 ends and 2011 begins, it's tempting to make resolutions for the

New Year. Organize your office? Increase your billable hours? Lose weight? Be on time for work? Sit for a certification exam? Whatever you have in mind, read on...

It's common knowledge that resolutions rarely work. All those good intentions seem to fall by the wayside by the middle of January...all that's left are guilt and regret that once again you're not able to keep your resolutions. By next December you'll be making the same resolutions all over again.

It's time to change the pattern. Resolutions don't work because they're usually a very broad statement: This year I'll lose 20 pounds. This year I'll learn to speak French. This year I'll look for a new job. You've got the want down...you know what you want to do. The problem is, you're only looking at the big picture.

Instead of making resolutions, set goals. A goal is something you commit to fully and work toward all year long. Take a few minutes right now to visualize your top three goals for 2011. Then take out a piece of paper and write those goals down.

Make a plan. Once your goals are set, decide what you have to do to reach each goal and then plan each step toward your goal from beginning to end. For instance, if you want to learn French this year your first step might be to search for a class. The next step might be to enroll in the class. The next step might be to buy your study materials. Your next steps would be to attend each class and do your homework.

Do you see how each step you take helps you reach your end goal? This process will work for any goal you might want to reach.

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## LAW UPDATE

By Beverly K. Moore, NCCP, Law Update Chair

The new year brings new laws. Below are a few to be aware of:

**Paychecks** - The Federal Government gave us all a 2% raise. Well in essence they cut the percentage of Social Security that an employer withholds from employees payroll checks to 4.2% from the normal 6.2%. This should be implemented in payroll as soon as possible, but no later than January 31, 2011. As of now this is a temporary cut for 2011 only. (IR-2010-124, Dec. 17, 2010; [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/)).

**Motorcycles** - Session Law 2009-492 amends N.C. Gen. Stat 20-7(a2) to require a person less than 18 years of age wishing to receive a motorcycle

endorsement to provide proof that they have successfully completed a motorcycle safety course. It also makes it illegal for a motorcycle driver under the age of 18 to carry passengers. <http://www.ncleg.net/>.

**Drivers License** - Session Law 2010-131 increases the age of a person receiving an eight-year drivers license to 66. A license issued to anyone 66 and over expires on the fifth anniversary of issuance. <http://www.ncleg.net/>.

**Foreclosure** - Session Law 2010-190 amends N.C. Gen. Stat., Part 2 of Article 2A of Chapter 45 to state that "A mortgagee, trustee, or other creditor shall not exercise a power of sale, contained in a

mortgage or deed of trust, or provided by statute, during, or within 90 days after, a mortgagor's, trustor's or debtor's period of military service." However, the mortgagor, trustor or debtor can waive this right. <http://www.ncleg.net/>.

**Real Estate Appraisal Management Companies** - Session Law 2010-141 amends Chapter 93E of the N.C. Gen. Stat., to include a section 93E-2 which regulates real estate appraisal management companies. <http://www.ncleg.net/>.

For more information, or to see additional laws that took effect January 1, 2011, see:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/>

### OFFICERS

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### Meet A CVPA Member

Beverly K. Moore joined CVPA in 2009 and is the 2011 Law Update Committee Chair. She has worked as a Paralegal for 15 years. Presently she is employed by Tissue Law Offices, PLLC in Charlotte. This coming March, Beverly will have worked with attorney Tissue for 8 years. When asked how she made the decision to become a paralegal, Beverly said, " I had a youth worker that was a bankruptcy paralegal. One night at youth camp we were talking about

careers and she told us about her job and I was in awe. I was a junior in high school and from that night on I wanted to be a paralegal and I started looking for a college that had a paralegal program. "

Some of the things she enjoys about being a paralegal are meeting people, whether clients, brokers, bankers, attorneys, or paralegals, and learning new things from them. She has met some of her closest friends

while working in the legal profession.

Beverly is very active in the North Carolina Paralegal Association. She currently serves as Parliamentarian and in March she is running for Second Vice President. In her spare time, she helps with the North Lincoln High School Marching Band, sings in the church choir, and plays the clarinet in the church orchestra. She also loves to read!



### New Year....Fresh Start *continued from page 1*

**"Your challenge:  
Plan to make  
2011  
your best year  
ever."**

Take this one step further. Schedule each step in your planner...make an actual appointment. This ensures you will set aside the time to accomplish each step. Don't make the mistake of putting the steps on 'to do' lists because a 'to do' list is just a wish list and you will invariably run out of day before you run out of list. The 'to do' list just goes on and on. Your planner is a real

guide for accomplishing your goals. Your challenge: Plan to make 2011 your best year ever. Take a few minutes to set your goals. Break the goals down into achievable mini-goals. Decide when each mini-goal must be accomplished to reach the main goal by the end of the year. Enter those mini-goals in your planner. Make appointments with yourself for completing each one.

If you do your planning and then do your scheduling, you can accomplish absolutely anything you want and this time next year you'll be celebrating the fact that you actually reached your goals. Here's to out with the old...in with the new...to a new year and a fresh start. Happy New Year!

About Vicki Voisin "The Paralegal Mentor", delivers simple strategies for paralegals and other professionals to create success and satisfaction by achieving goals and determining the direction they will take their careers. Vicki spotlights resources, organizational tips, ethics issues, and other areas of continuing education to help paralegals and others reach their full potential. She publishes a weekly ezine titled Paralegal Strategies and co-hosts The Paralegal Voice, a monthly podcast produced by Legal Talk Network. More information is available at <http://www.paralegalmentor.com>

### WILLS FOR HEROES EVENT: December 4, 2010

By Leah Poovey

Several CVPA members participated in the North Carolina State Bar Young Lawyer Division's Wills for Heroes Event on Saturday, December 4, 2010. Heart-felt thank yous go to Kim Turner, Debbie Miller, Amanda Evans and Samantha Hefner for assisting, braving the snow and enduring the cold inside and out.

It was a very busy time as around 120 wills, durable powers of attorney and health care powers of attorney were executed for our local heroes including fire fighters, military, police and other first responders.

We met a lot of really nice people who all greatly appreciated the services. It also gave the CVPA members a chance to get to know each other better. As well, I had the great pleasure to meet Beth Stallings and Melanie Miller. They both came down from Asheville to help out. As you may know, they are very active in Asheville Paralegal Association and I peppered them with questions every chance I had. How wonderful of them to travel that distance because they believe in the purpose so much.

**New Laws Taking Effect December 1, 2010**

By Patti Clapper, ACP, NCCP



The following new laws will take effect on December 1 in North Carolina:

Any person who is subject to a domestic violence protective order who enters or remains on the premises of a shelter where the protected party is residing shall be guilty of a Class H felony (increased from a Class A1 felony).

Drivers who cover any registration number, registration letter, or the State name on a registration plate, number on a year sticker, or number on a month

sticker with any frame or transparent clear or color-tinted cover that makes the registration numbers, registration letters, the State name, or the numbers on the stickers illegible commits an infraction. Fine is \$100.00. (Check your plate today!)

New policies have been enacted to fight fraud in the Medicaid health insurance program.

Susie's Law increases the penalty for maliciously killing an animal by intentional deprivation of necessary sustenance from a Class A1 misdemeanor to a

class H felony. Additionally, the penalty for maliciously torturing, mutilating, maiming, cruelly beating, disfiguring, poisoning, or killing an animal is increased from a Class I felony to a Class H felony.

Video sweepstakes machines are banned.

*Patti Clapper is the President of the North Carolina Paralegal Association and has been working at a general practice for just over 15 years, focusing primarily on civil litigation, estate planning, misdemeanors and domestic law. Read her [blog here](#).*

**CVPA PRESIDENT QUOTED IN CAROLINA PARALEGAL NEWS**

Kudos to our President, Cyndy Adams, who contributed to the feature article in the November 2010 issue of the *Carolina Paralegal News* "Strike a (Professional) Pose" by Diana Smith, CPN Managing Editor.

Cyndy was quoted with respect to appropriate fashion in the law office and court room: "To me,

you're in a situation where you need to show respect, both to the court and your client. The way we do that is by dressing appropriately."

The article also quotes California based Chere Estrin, editor-in-chief of *KNOW*, a magazine for paralegals.

You can read the entire November 2010 issue of the *Carolina Paralegal News* [here](#).

**"To me, you're in a situation where you need to show respect . . ."**

**CVPA Treasurer Report**

Submitted by Delores Deal, Treasurer



<b>BALANCE as of 11-30-10</b>		<b>\$3,705.92</b>
<b>Deposits:</b>		
11-01-10	2 Renewals	\$ 40.00
11-15-10	1 Renewal, 1 New Member	60.00
11-16-10	3 Renewals, 1 New Member	105.00
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
	CLE Certification-Fulkerson	\$ 18.00
	Office Supplies-Receipt book	8.79
	Web page maintenance	125.00

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We're on the Web!

[Catawba Valley Paralegal Association](http://www.catawba-valley-paralegal.com)

## LESLIE MCKESSON

Leslie McKesson is an instructor and coordinator for the Paralegal Technology program at WPC in Morganton. She began her paralegal career in 1981 and moved to the education side of it in 1989. Leslie is a member of the American Association for Paralegal Education and is a North Carolina certified paralegal. As if that doesn't seem like big enough achievements, she also holds degrees from the University of North Carolina and Appalachian State. She has recently had an article published in The Paralegal Educator (bi-annual magazine for The American Association for Paralegal Education) called "Globalizing the Paralegal Curriculum." She is also currently working on a racial/ethnic diversity training project. Leslie enjoys her work as an educator and her students enjoy her as well. She is well liked and respected by her students. She also adores her life at home, spending time with her lovely family and working on her home improvement projects.

—By Amanda Evans

Our Ethics CPE to be presented by Leslie McKesson on January 11 has been postponed. A new date will be announced shortly.

### CPE'S AND MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Make one of your new year's goals to attend all of the monthly meetings of CVPA. So mark your calendars now! Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday in each month at 6:00 p.m. There are some very informative CPE's on the schedule:

**January CPE postponed:** Leslie McKesson's Ethics & Technology 2.

**February 8:** Eric Farr & Tammy West from the District Attorney's office present a CPE regarding the new discovery procedures in the DA's office;

**March 8:** Quarterly Social

**April 12:** Andrew Cogdell, managing attorney for Legal Aid, has agreed to present the CPE on Landlord and Tenant law;

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

