



PARASIGHT

APRIL 2015

Board of Directors

Laurie Hayden
President

Leah Poovey
Vice-President

Erin Banks
Secretary

Pamela Dorsey
Assistant Secretary

Beverly Cook
Treasurer

Leah Poovey
Assistant Treasurer

Jerri Lee Craig

In This Issue

Member Spotlight
Page 2

What's New?
Page 3

Local Interest
Page 4

Member Article
Page 5

Financial Report
Page 6

Thank You
Page 7

Committee Roster
Page 8

President's Message

The Difference Between Good and Great

I am often reminded about a secretary I had many years ago. Her name is Jann. She was my secretary for 7 years, which is, by far, the longest I have ever had the same secretary. Jann would open my mail first thing in the morning; draft letters in response to the mail; I could give her a file and ask her to prepare the necessary documents and she would do so with very few errors; she rarely needed to ask questions; and she would always be one step ahead of me. For instance, if I asked her to prepare Articles of Incorporation for a new corporation, not only would she prepare the Articles, but she would draft the letter to the Secretary of State, prepare the organizational documents, draft the letter to the client, and organize the minute book. She wasn't just a good secretary, she was a great secretary. Jann knew that I expected the best from her and she, in turn, expected the best from herself.

Over the years, I have worked with many types of people. There are those who are conscientious about their work product, are detail oriented, can work independently, and are open to learning all they can about their specialty or other types of law. You rarely hear them say,

"It's not my job." There are those, like Jann, who not only do A, but also B and C if they can anticipate that their paralegal or attorney will eventually need the information or documentation. These are the *great* ones. However, there are attorneys, paralegals and secretaries alike who just do what is asked of them and no more. They aren't engaged in their work; don't take the time to make sure the documents they prepare are perfect before sending them to the client; don't anticipate what might come next; and instead, do their work by rote. I have worked with many legal professionals who don't learn how to do something while they are doing it. They might have prepared the same document 10 times with the help of an attorney or paralegal, but if asked to prepare the same document by themselves, they can't do it. I worked for an attorney once who never reviewed any documents she asked others to draft for her. To prove this, I once typed a letter for her signature informing the client that he was a pain in the butt (which was true) and making a number of typos. I handed her the letter, she glanced at it, then signed her name. She wanted her job to be easy so instead of trying to figure

things out herself, she would ask me or an associate to do her work.

It is important to not just be good at what you do, but to be great at what you do. Just being good won't get you very far in your career or in life. If your boss thinks you are only good, you may not be asked to work on specific projects. I was once asked by an attorney to travel to Chicago, then to Columbus, Ohio to meet with various clients who were selling a business and coordinate the signing of about 40 documents. When I asked the attorney why he was sending me on this trip and not someone else, he told me that he was impressed with my work ethic and the quality of my work. He knew that I would be able to make the trip without any issues and get the documents signed and back in time for the closing.

If you are great, chances are you will receive more challenging projects, a larger raise and maybe even a bonus, praise from your boss and co-workers, and clients will be more inclined to recommend your firm to others. It also makes your career more fulfilling knowing that you are doing the best you can do.



Member Spotlight—Leah Poovey

Member Spotlight

As a new feature in our newsletter, we will be spotlighting a CVPA member and asking her to answer questions about herself. Our first member spotlight is Leah Poovey, an estate administration and litigation paralegal at Young, Morphis Bach & Taylor, L.L.P. and formerly the litigation paralegal at Patrick, Harper & Dixon L.L.P. in Hickory, NC.

Q: What prompted you to choose a paralegal career?

A: I was let go from Grace Hospital. I hated looking for work. I pondered what I could do and since the government would pay for me to go to school, and in order to make enough money to live on and never, ever have to look for work, a paralegal career was the answer.

Q: Do you have a college degree or paralegal certification?

A: Yes. AS in Data Processing; BS in MIS (Management of Information Systems); MBA and AS in Paralegal Technology.

Q: What is the favorite part of your job?

A: Receiving discovery and analyzing and summarizing medical records. Then, writing a long letter to opposing counsel for stuff they didn't send.

Q: How has your membership in the CVPA benefited you?

A: I have very much enjoyed meeting my peers and the presenters. I've learned a lot, even if it is not applicable to my job. I am also proud to have helped the CVPA in some small way.



Leah Poovey

Q: What has been the highlight of your career?

A: I think getting flowers from a client. That, or being told that I'm in the top three litigation paralegals in the state by an insurance client.

Q: If someone contemplating a paralegal career asked you for career advice, what would you say?

A: It is a perfectly fine choice for a career. Just be prepared to work very hard, not get much recognition, and be able to take criticism.

Q: Is there a quote that inspires you?

A: Get up, dress up, and show up.

Q: You've enjoyed a successful paralegal career. To what single event or person do you attribute that success?

A: Probably my mother. Although she's been gone since 2004, she raised me to always look my best, do my best, and if it's worth doing, do it right the first time. And, call if you will be late.

Q: What is the most important step a paralegal can take to keep his or her career interesting?

A: Never say no. Don't be afraid to tackle anything, even if you don't have a clue.

Q: Who would play you in a movie of your life?

A: Katharine Hepburn

Q: If you could not be a paralegal, what would be your dream job?

A: Veterinarian.

Q: What makes you lose your patience?

A: Waiting on people or things that are not prompt.

[President's Message](#)
Page 1

[Member Spotlight](#)
Page 2

[What's New?](#)
Page 3

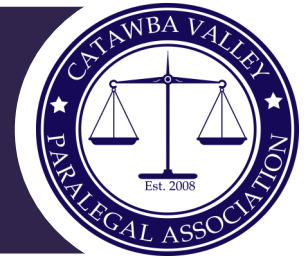
[Local Interest](#)
Page 4

[Member Article](#)
Page 5

[Financial Report](#)
Page 6

[Thank You](#)
Page 7

[Committee Roster](#)
Page 8



2014/2015 Legislative Changes

Conform Pledge of Joint Account Laws

S.L. 2014-61 (HB 1117) conforms the laws governing the pledge of joint accounts in credit unions, savings and loan associations, and savings banks to the laws governing the pledge of joint accounts in banks. The changes in the banking statute clarify that, unless otherwise specifically agreed between the bank and all of the joint tenants in writing, a pledge of a joint account by any one of the joint tenants:

- Is a valid pledge and transfer of the account or amount pledged.
- Binds all of the joint tenants.
- Does not operate to sever or terminate the joint ownership.
- Survives the death of any joint tenant.

This act became effective July 7, 2014, and applies to joint accounts created before, on, or after that date.

Filing Certified Copies of Probated Wills

The procedure for filing certified copies of probated wills in a county where devised real property is located when the will is probated in a different county was clarified. The revised statute is as follows:

§ 28A-2A-13.

Wills filed in clerk's office; certified copies filed for real property in other counties.

(a) All original probated wills shall remain in the office of the clerk of superior court, among the public records of the court where the wills were probated.

(b) If a probated will devises real property outside the county where the will was probated, a copy of the will and a copy of the certificate of probate of the will, certified under the hand and seal of the clerk of the superior court of the county where the will was probated, may be filed in the office of the clerk of the superior court of any other county in this State in which the real property is situated. The filing of the probated will in the county where the real property is situated shall have the same effect for purposes of G.S. 31-39(c) as to the priorities of claims against the real

property as if the will had originally been probated in that county and as if the clerk of superior court of that county had jurisdiction to probate the will.

This became effective October 1, 2014, and applies to estates of decedents dying before, on, or after that date.

Tenancies by Entireties Trusts in Real Property

S.L. 2014-115, Sec. 33 (HB 1133, Sec. 33) adds a new section to the General Statutes governing conveyances by husband and wife to provide that real property held by husband and wife as a tenancy by the entireties and conveyed to a joint or separate revocable or irrevocable trust has the same immunity from claims of the spouses' separate creditors as would be if the spouses had continued to hold the property as a tenancy by the entireties, so long as the spouses remain married and the real property continues to be held in the trust and the spouses remain the beneficial owners of the real property.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2015, and applies to real property transferred to a trust on or after that date.

Changes to the Residential Property Disclosure Act

S.L. 2014-120, Sec. 49 (SB 734, Sec. 49) amends the disclosure required under the Residential Property Disclosure Act to provide that the owner of real property must furnish to a purchaser a mineral and oil and gas rights mandatory disclosure statement. This section directs the Real Estate Commission to develop and require the use of a mineral and oil and gas rights mandatory disclosure statement which would provide the owner with the option to indicate whether the owner has actual knowledge of the specified characteristics or conditions. The owner may make no representations only as to a previous severance of mineral rights and previous severance of oil and gas rights.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2015, and applies to contacts executed on or after that date.

What's New?

[President's Message](#)
[Page 1](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)
[Page 2](#)

[What's New?](#)
[Page 3](#)

[Local Interest](#)
[Page 4](#)

[Member Article](#)
[Page 5](#)

[Financial Report](#)
[Page 6](#)

[Thank You](#)
[Page 7](#)

[Committee Roster](#)
[Page 8](#)

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

Local Interest

By Kelly Walker, NCCP

On April 9, 1924, a Raleigh News and Observer sportswriter reporting on the LR Baseball team's 22 to 7 win over Atlantic Christian wrote "after a slow start, the LR team came charging out of the dugout like mountain bears charging forth from their haunts in the North Carolina mountains." By the fall of that year, the Hickory Daily Record and other local newspapers referred to the LR football team as simply, "the Bears." In 1927, Joe Bear made his first appearance on the campus of Lenoir Rhyne. He was a live black bear. His legacy is living on in the latest rendition on campus. Jason Smathers, a master chain saw artist, has turned a dead tree into a huge, growling bear. Smathers has been carving for 12 years. His father was also a chain saw artist. Joey Rowe, an assistant to Smathers and a chain saw artist as well, said that Smathers was commissioned for the work by the University. "He (Smathers) is one of the best," said Rowe. He joins his fellow bear a sculpture by John Phelps called "The Charge". Phelps sculpted



Jason Smathers designing the bear located near the Rhyne Building. Smathers is an award winning chain saw artist.

Photo by Kelley Walker

[President's Message](#)
Page 1

[Member Spotlight](#)
Page 2

[What's New?](#)
Page 3

[Local Interest](#)
Page 4

[Member Article](#)
Page 5

[Financial Report](#)
Page 6

[Thank You](#)
Page 7

[Committee Roster](#)
Page 8

the bear in his studio in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and trailered it to the campus. Shortly before Phelps was commissioned to sculpt "The Charge", his son, Chance, a marine, was killed in Iraq. The essay, Mike Strobl, a fellow marine, wrote about accompanying Chase's body back to the United States was made into a 2009 movie for HBO called "Taking Chance". "I don't really remember much about carving it," Phelps said, "I was mired down in a world of grief. I do remember

driving it to North Carolina from Wyoming, I almost jackknifed during a rain storm. That is how I learned you don't use cruise control when it is raining." Phelps is now suffering from stomach cancer and fellow artists have set up Phelps Phund to help him with expenses and support. Replicas of "The Charge" are given out to LR supporters. Local attorneys, Charles Dixon, who has an honorary degree from LR, and Blair Cody, an LR graduate, have a replica in their offices.



Oscar and Me

By Kelley Walker, NCCP

Anyone that knows me, knows that I love movies. This year, I was privileged to be a guest for the Oscar discussions on a local radio program, First Talk with Hal Row. Every Friday, Hal does a movie review with Joe Barret, a local man who has been involved with movies for many years and who is a walking encyclopedia of movie knowledge.

In preparation, I made sure that I saw all of the best picture nominees. I had to travel to Charlotte as well as Davidson to accomplish this. It was an experience, and I recommend it to anyone who is a movie aficionado. One theater had changed little since it's opening in May of 1964. The staff was lovely. They told me about the deals they offer and made sure that I received the best one. Our Town Cinemas in Davidson offers a full menu, wine, beer and tables with comfy swivel chairs. I wanted to move in. I came away feeling a full-fledged movie critic. I even took notes during the movies

so that I would not forget my impressions.

The day of my big radio premier, February 13th, came. I was ready. I was the only one that had seen all of the best picture nominees except for Joe, who, as luck would have it was ill and not able to be with us in the studio. He was patched in via telephone. We started at 7:30 am, and I was raring to go. It was a lot of fun, and Suzie Woods, the call screener and one-woman wunderkind would join us between commercial breaks. We talked movies and theaters. Suzie told about a theater in Winston-Salem that she had gone to growing up and they would have dances in between the movies. They are a movie loving bunch there.

I got three of my predictions right, Joe got none. I don't know, maybe movie lovers aren't the best judge. I know I can find something to love in even the worst movie. The only movie I have ever walked out of was Who's Harry Crumb? Who cared? Normally, I just have

a few nits to pick with the Academy; but this year, I have decided that whoever is making these picks is not even doing their homework. First of all, The Lego Movie not even nominated for best animated movie? Over How to Train Your Dragon 2? Really? David Oyelowo not nominated for Best Actor? Although I have to admit that I was kind of glad, because I really, really, really wanted Michael Keaton to win. Then Eddie Redmayne takes the Oscar. I am sorry, but, in my opinion, he was performing, not acting. Watch the movie and tell me if you don't agree.

As to the best picture winner, Birdman is a quirky, interesting film. I enjoyed it immensely. But if the Academy looks for pictures that take us out of ourselves and transport us to a world that seems to be as real as the one we are residing in, then Selma would have been my pick. If you don't think the events that happened there fifty years ago are relevant today, buy a newspaper.

Member Article

[President's Message](#)
Page 1

[Member Spotlight](#)
Page 2

[What's New?](#)
Page 3

[Local Interest](#)
Page 4

[Member Article](#)
Page 5

[Financial Report](#)
Page 6

[Thank You](#)
Page 7

[Committee Roster](#)
Page 8



January/February/March - 2015

Financial Information

CVPA Treasurer's Report: January 2015

Date	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Reason	Checks Paid	Ending Balance
	\$2,102.22				
1/16/2015		\$30.00	1 Renewal		
1/23/2015		\$30.00	1 Renewal		
1/16/2015			Union Square Computers	\$130.00	
Totals		\$60.00		\$130.00	
					\$2,032.22

[President's Message](#)
Page 1

CVPA Treasurer's Report: February 2015

Date	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Reason	Checks Paid	Ending Balance
	\$2,032.22				
			NC State Bar - CPE App. - Morgan	\$75.00	
1/27/2015			NC State Bar - CPE App. - Mace	\$75.00	
1/28/2015			NC State Bar - CLE Credit App. - Morgan	\$18.00	
2/10/2015			Honorarium - Mace	\$25.00	
2/11/2015			NC State Bar - CLE Credit App. - Mace	\$18.00	
2/11/2015			Postage	\$19.60	
Totals		\$0.00		\$230.60	
					\$1,801.62

[Member Spotlight](#)
Page 2

[What's New?](#)
Page 3

[Local Interest](#)
Page 4

[Member Article](#)
Page 5

[Financial Report](#)
Page 6

CVPA Treasurer's Report: March 2015

Date	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Reason	Checks Paid	Ending Balance
	\$1,801.62				
3/13/2015		\$30.00	1 membership		
1/13/2015			Honorarium - Morgan	\$25.00	
2/26/2015			NC State Bar - CPE App. - Ventura	\$75.00	
3/16/2015			Postmaster - Postage - Atty. Mailing	\$98.00	
3/5/2015			Western Piedmont Foundation - Scholarship	\$500.00	
Totals		\$30.00		\$698.00	
					\$1,133.62

[Thank You](#)
Page 7

[Committee Roster](#)
Page 8



Thank You / Miscellaneous

Thank you
to
Derek L. Mace
of the
law firm
Hawkins & Mace, PLLC
for presenting
our February CPE
“Equitable Distributions.”

**Thank
You!**

[President's Message](#)
Page 1

[Member Spotlight](#)
Page 2

[What's New?](#)
Page 3

[Local Interest](#)
Page 4

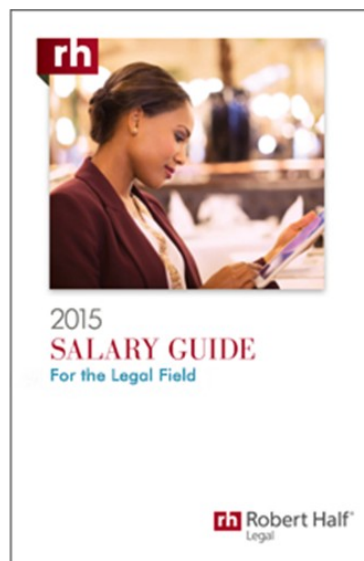
[Member Article](#)
Page 5

[Financial Report](#)
Page 6

[Thank You](#)
Page 7

[Committee Roster](#)
Page 8

Check out the *Robert Half 2015 Salary Guide* for information about compensation in the legal field, including legal secretaries, paralegals and legal administrators. The website also includes a salary calculator which provides salary ranges and job descriptions for legal positions in various cities. To obtain a copy of the guide, visit <http://www.roberthalf.com/>





CVPA Roster of Committee Members

Committees

CPE

Jerri Lee Craig (Chair)
Hawkins & Mace, PLLC
jerrilee@hotmail.com

Leah Poovey
Young, Morphis, Bach & Taylor, L.L.P.

Erin Banks
Catawba County Clerk of Court

Heather Misenheimer
John F. Cutchin, P.A.

Community Outreach

Erin Banks (Chair)
Catawba County Clerk of Court
erin.l.banks@nccourts.org

Cyndy Adams
Law Offices of Blair E. Cody, III, PLLC

Fundraising

Pamela Dorsey (Chair)
Baker Furniture
Pamela.dorsey@kohler.com

Membership

Laurie Hayden (Chair)
Patrick, Harper & Dixon L.L.P.
lhayden@phd-law.com

Pamela Dorsey
Baker Furniture

Newsletter

Beverly Cook (Chair)
Patrick, Harper & Dixon L.L.P.
bcook@phd-law.com

Kelley Walker
Self-employed
kwalker_cvpa@yahoo.com

Laurie Hayden
Patrick, Harper & Dixon L.L.P.

Social:

Heather Misenheimer (Chair)
hbmisenheimer@gmail.com
John F. Cutchin, P.A.

Erin Banks
Catawba County Clerk of Court

Website:

Lori Edwards
Patrick, Harper & Dixon L.L.P.
(Facebook updates)

President's Message
Page 1

Member Spotlight
Page 2

What's New?
Page 3

Local Interest
Page 4

Member Article
Page 5

Financial Report
Page 6

Thank You
Page 7

Committee Roster
Page 8

Get Involved!

If you would like to participate on a committee, please notify Laurie Hayden or any committee chair listed above.

Also, if you are interested submitting an article to be included in ParaSight, please forward your contribution to Kelley Walker, Beverly Cook or Laurie Hayden.