

PARA SIGHT

OFFICERS

President: Cyndy Adams
cyndy.adams@live.com

Vice Pres/Asst. Treasurer: Kelley Walker
kwalker_cvpa@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Leah Poovey
lpoovey@phd-law.com

Secretary: Erin Banks
Erin.l.banks@nccourts.org

Asst. Secretary: Pamela Dorsey
pamela.dorsey@kohler.com

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Jerri Lee Craig
jerrilee@hotmail.com

Phebe McClellan
pmcclellan@ppd-law.com

Beverly Moore
bev@tissuelaw.com

Anita Sigmon
justanita1@embarqmail.com



Catawba Valley
Paralegal Association

Post Office Box 3068
Hickory, North Carolina 28603

NEW YEAR!

As we begin a new year, we would like to hear from you — what interests you, what are you excited about? Please take a few minutes and respond to me via e-mail of some of the things you would like your newsletter to contain. As always, we welcome any articles, pictures, items of interest that you would like to contribute. You may e-mail them to me @ kwalker_cvpa@yahoo.com. Thank you for your time!



A BIG

CVPA

THANK YOU TO

LARUE & ROGERS INVESTIGATIONS,
LLC, for their sponsorship of the November and
January CPEs

SUCCESS COACH PROGRAM

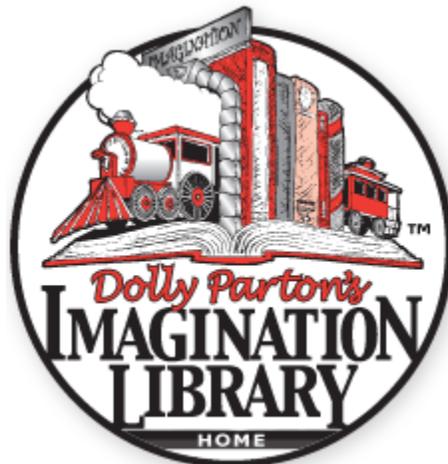
Submitted by Kelley Walker

One of the things I am most thankful for is that I adopted my granddaughter. It was a hard and long process taking almost a year to complete. However, one of the best things to come out of that process, besides Karsyn, was that it put me in touch with so many valuable resources. I was sent to classes specifically designed to help me in the adoption process. I learned how to be a better parent. I was given an adoption success coach. My adoption success coach was Christina DeNard. She met with me monthly for approximately 2 years in my home. I set goals for myself and Karsyn which Christina helped me achieve. The program is one of the few in the country and is funded by the Duke Endowment and run by the Department of Social Services. The reason that they chose Catawba County to implement the program is that the department works so well with other agencies. I have to agree. There was even an article about written for the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, that explains in further detail the impact that the program had on Karsyn and myself. I have posted the link to the article:

<http://fpg.unc.edu/news/science-and-success-coaches-keep-families-together>.

One of the agencies I worked with signed Karsyn up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Catawba County is one of the few counties in North Carolina who participate. Dolly Parton started this program in 1996. She wanted children to be excited about books. They send a book to Karsyn every month. We have gotten Llama, Llama Red Pajama; Goldilocks and the Three Bears; The Little Engine that Could and I am a Rainbow just to name a few. There is no income requirement and any child under 5 is eligible, as long as they reside in Catawba County. We look forward to our new books each month. I urge any of you who have children or grandchildren to enroll your child in this program. It helps promote a life long love of books.

Here is the e-mail address for you to check out: imaginationlibrary.com or you can just enter imagination library in your search engine.



New Concealed Weapons Legislation: Helpful or Hurtful?

Written by Suzanna Cowan

Since 1995, North Carolina has allowed its citizens to apply for and gain permits to legally carry concealed hand guns. Naturally, there have always been limitations on where a concealed weapon can be taken, how it can be used, and who can be granted a permit. But on October 1, 2013, G.S. 14-415.17(c) went into effect that made several changes to the laws governing concealed weapons. The bill allows permit holders to take their guns to more places than had previously been allowed, such as bars, restaurants, and parks, and it allows permit holders to store their guns in locked vehicles on the campuses of most of the schools and universities across the state. The bill has also changed several of the elements involved in the background checking process that has to be gone through before an applicant is granted their permit, including a requirement that more cross-checking be done with the lists of people who have been revoked when trying to purchase a gun. It has also been decided that if a person obtains a permit but is prohibited from buying a firearm, they will have their permit revoked. (www.usconcealedcarry.com)

While this can be seen as a benefit for North Carolina residents in the fact that there are now more safeguards against people who are not fit to carry a concealed weapon being able to obtain a permit, there are other, not as desirable side effects for those who work for the various county governments, including Catawba County's. According to a deputy in the Records division of the Catawba County Sheriff's Department, which is the division that handles concealed weapons permits, because of the new legislation they now have to check their gun purchase records back five years in order to make sure the applicant has never tried to acquire a gun and been revoked. Because they have about 20,000 documents related to gun purchases, they almost need another full time employee to handle the background checking.

Even though the new bill has made the work load for the Sheriff's department a bit heavier, the area of county government that has really gotten the bad end of the deal is the Clerk of Court's office. According to a Catawba County deputy clerk, it is almost impossible for them to be able to perform all that is required for the concealed weapons permits in the amount of time they are given, which is a two week limit for them to get the application from the Sheriff's Department, do four different background checks, and then get the information back to the applicant. Since February of this year, the Clerk's office has processed more than 1,757 applications, with each one taking twenty to thirty minutes to conduct all four of the checks, one of which is a check to see if the applicant has ever been involuntarily committed. And if an applicant is a married woman who provides her maiden name, the checks can take even longer because they have to be run on both her married name and her maiden name. In the past, there would be times where the clerks would be five months behind in getting the applications back to the applicants, but now that they have this two week deadline, they are just barely able to get them done on time, with no relief in sight because of the state-wide hiring freeze. And as if that wasn't enough, the Clerk's office receives no monetary compensation for their part in handling the permit applications, while the Sheriff's department does receive some compensation, even though they don't actually do as much work on the applications as the clerks do.

So, is the supposed extra security that comes from the new legislation on concealed weapons permits worth all the extra work that state employees are now having to go through? We will probably only be able to tell with time to see if all of the extra checks really do assist in keeping guns out of the hands of those who would use them to harm others.

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by this author do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of any member of CVPA, nor reflect the objectives and by-laws of Catawba Valley Paralegal Association, Inc.

LAW UPDATE

Submitted by: Sara Deal, REO Title Curative Technician

Tax Law:

Homeowners have the privilege to benefit from certain tax deductions and tax credits. Congress reached the "H.R. 8" on January 1, 2013 and reinstated a 10% tax credit that homeowners can claim based on energy-efficient improvements to their existing homes. There are certain types of items the credit applies to. It will also state how much credit you'll receive. This covers home improvements such as windows, doors, skylights, fans, insulation, furnaces, and hot water heaters. You may be limited to an amount per item, and there's a \$500 credit cap.

Tax Credit for Energy-Efficient Home Improvements Reinstated, Extended." [Nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com). N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Nov. 2013.

Homeowners also have the privilege to deduct the amount they pay in mortgage interest each year.

PMI is insurance that lenders require homeowners to pay that invested less than 20% down at the time of purchasing their home. The insurance pays the lender back if the homeowner cannot make the regular mortgage payments. This PMI deduction credit ended in 2011. However, the "H.R. 8" reached on January 1, 2013 extended the credit for two more years. You can't use the deduction if your AGI exceeds \$110,000.

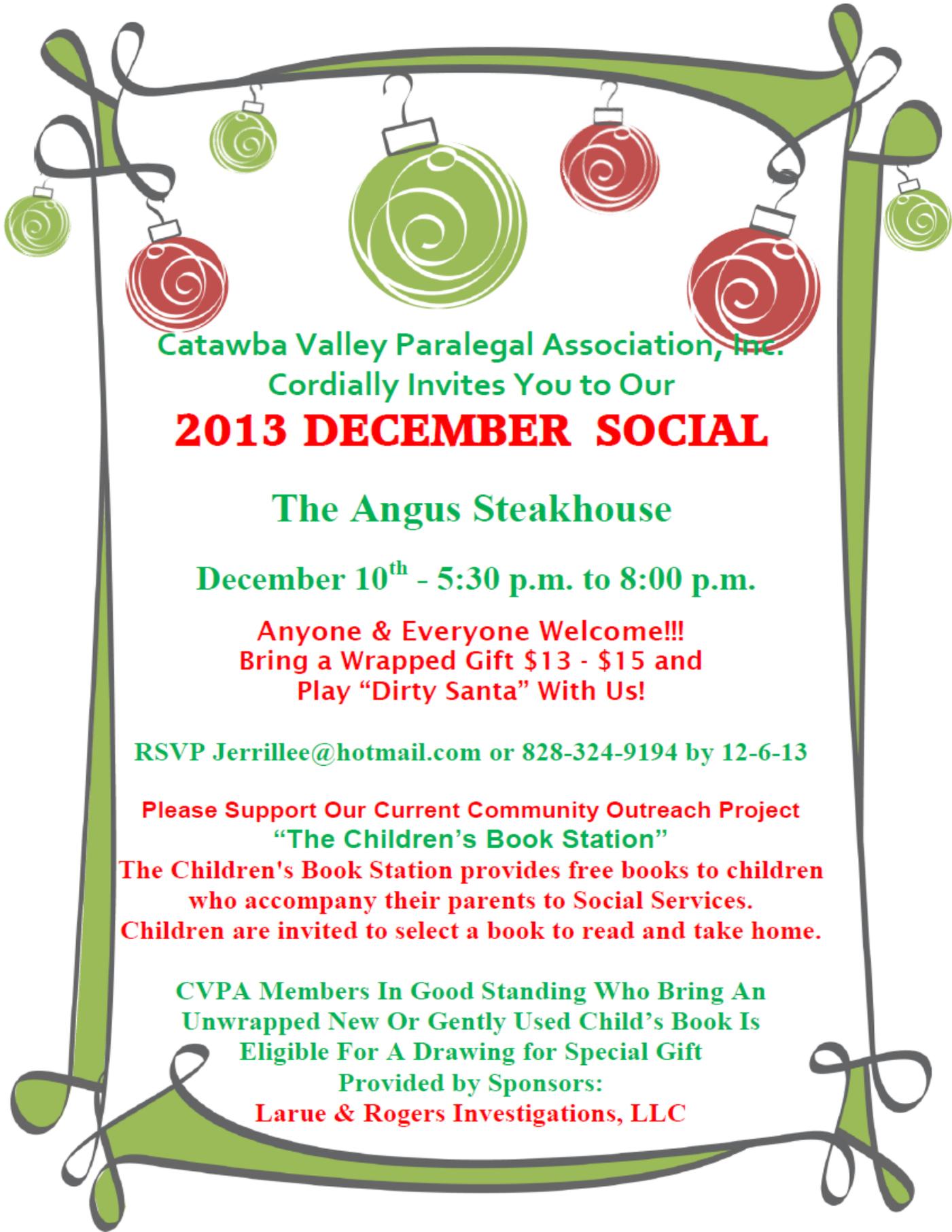
"Tax Deduction for Private Mortgage Interest (PMI) Extended to 2013." [Nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com). N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Nov. 2013.

Odd Law:

NC House Bill 683, (Commonsense Consumption Act ("Act"), became effective on October 1, 2013. The Act says two things. Firstly, it says no city or county ordinance may stop the sale of soft drinks above a certain size. The Act is sometimes referred to as the "Big Gulp" Act (such as the common 7-Eleven signature drink) Secondly, the Act protects manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and advertisers from civil liability suits. Suits that may arise from people claiming weight gain, obesity, and other health problems that come from long-term consumption of food and beverages. Note that the Act has certain exceptions to the limitation of liability.

"You Want Fries With That? New North Carolina Law Restricts Obesity Related Tort Claims" *JD Supra*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Nov. 2013. Source: <http://www.nolo.com/legal-update/tax>





Catawba Valley Paralegal Association, Inc.

Cordially Invites You to Our

2013 DECEMBER SOCIAL

The Angus Steakhouse

December 10th - 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Anyone & Everyone Welcome!!!
Bring a Wrapped Gift \$13 - \$15 and
Play "Dirty Santa" With Us!**

RSVP Jerrilee@hotmail.com or 828-324-9194 by 12-6-13

**Please Support Our Current Community Outreach Project
"The Children's Book Station"**

**The Children's Book Station provides free books to children
who accompany their parents to Social Services.
Children are invited to select a book to read and take home.**

**CVPA Members In Good Standing Who Bring An
Unwrapped New Or Gently Used Child's Book Is
Eligible For A Drawing for Special Gift**

**Provided by Sponsors:
Larue & Rogers Investigations, LLC**



TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2013

Beginning Balance: 10/1/2013	\$1,056.66
Deposits:	806.00
Expenditures:	
Ending Balance: 10/31/2013	\$1,862.66

Submitted by : Leah Poovey, NCCP