

# N.C. Association of County Clerks

## MINUTE by MINUTE

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### *A Message from the President*

Fellow Clerks,

What can I say about the January, 2012 City/County Clerks' Academy & Institute, except "WOW"! The sessions were very informative and I'm confident that everyone returned with a renewed sense of energy and knowledge, ready to tackle the many challenges that Clerks encounter every day.

I had the pleasure of conducting the orientation for county individuals attending the workshop for new clerks.

April Banks  
Lenoir County Clerk to the Board

Amie Owens, Haywood County  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Eric Johnson, Gaston County Administrative  
Assistant in the County Manager's Office

Judy Snyder  
Wilkes County Clerk to the Board

Kellie Beam, Cumberland County  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Lindsay Ray, Chatham County  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Mike Decker, Macon County Human  
Resources Director/Clerk to the Board

Sheila Sammons, Executive Assistant  
to the NCACC Executive Director,  
Deputy Director & General Counsel/Clerk  
to the Board of Directors

Our business meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> was well attended and it was exciting to see these new

Clerks becoming involved. Carolyn Athey, our faithful Secretary, will be forwarding minutes in the future so you can stay on top of the business/activities of our Association. Carolyn recently sent out the 2012 membership applications and I encourage everyone to renew your membership prior to the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.



Plans for our 2012 Annual Conference are really coming together. As you are aware, the conference is being co-hosted by Forsyth and Guilford Counties. Effie, Crystal, Jane, and Carla continue to work hard to make this our best conference ever and they have some exciting sessions and activities in store for us

Please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

- 2012 Annual Conference in Forsyth County – April 19-21, 2012
- 2012 IIMC Clerks' Certification Institute  
February 13-17    May 14-18  
July 23-27        October 15-19

Kathy Myers, the Caldwell County Clerk, is seeking articles/information/pictures for our next newsletter. If you are a new Clerk, I encourage you to send a brief article about yourself to Kathy at [kmymers@caldwellcountync.org](mailto:kmymers@caldwellcountync.org). What better way for us to get to know you better.

Thank you all for your continued support of our Association. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way.

Jeanette Deese, President  
NC Association of County Clerks

Dear Clerk Friends:

I can't believe that I have been retired a little more than two years! The time seems to go by so fast. I found that being retired does not mean that you go home and do nothing. It only means there are a variety of things you have to juggle in order to work all of them in your day. I have enjoyed having time to do things that time does not permit when you work full time.

Soon after I retired I started going to the nursing home on Wednesday and Friday mornings to play bingo with the residents. Many of them cannot play without assistance. They get cash prizes – and everybody wins. This has been such a rewarding experience for me. They are so appreciative for anything that you do for them. And believe me, if you miss going a day, you have to give an account of where you were and why you did not show up. Many of the residents do not have any family and look forward to the contact and conversation with someone other than nursing home staff.

In Plymouth we have a wonderful knit shop, Yearning For Yarn. I learned how to knit when I was in high school but due to a busy schedule, had very little time for it. The knit shop has a wonderful selection of yarn and offers an excellent place to “hang out” with a lot of wonderful people, with the same interest. I check by the knit shop two to three times a week. I even worked in the shop for two days when the owner needed to be out of town. I must say it was a much more relaxed atmosphere than a county commissioners' meeting.

For approximately one year I have had a part-time job with very flexible hours at Apex Translations. This has been a whole new experience for me. I usually work 1 ½ hours about three days a week, which I choose the day and the time that I work. If an opportunity comes up to go shopping, or whatever, I just call and let them know I will not be in that day. I do follow-up calls to companies, individuals, etc. who have been sent proposals by

the project managers, to make sure they received the proposal. The best part is if they have a problem, I just refer the call to someone else.

I have also worked a few days at Ivy Garden Florist. This is a fun place to work. I have always enjoyed flower arranging, decorating for weddings, etc. The flower shop is located next to the knit shop so it is convenient to visit both when I have the time.

As some of you know, my favorite part of retirement is spending as much time as possible with my grandchildren. They are all growing up so fast. I have five “grands” ranging from 4-15 years in age. Three of them live close to me and the other two live approximately 60 miles away.

The only down side to retirement is I miss the contact with my work family and Clerk friends. Over the 28 years of working for the County, I have made some dear friends across the state and have had the opportunity to visit a lot of counties in the state. Thanks to e-mail I do still keep in touch with some of them. I do think about all of you often and wish the best for all you.

Best Wishes,  
**Lois Askew, Retired Clerk**  
**Washington County**

### —In the Spotlight—

#### **Misty Deanes**

Congratulations! In December, Misty was promoted to Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board for Bertie County. In addition to her County Clerk position, Misty previously served as Assistant to the County Manager.

**Kellie Beam  
Cumberland County Deputy Clerk**



Kellie Beam became the Deputy Clerk to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners in June 2011. She has been a Cumberland County employee for seven years. She spent five years working in collections with the Tax Office before becoming the Administrative Assistant to the Public Health Director in 2010.

Beam graduated in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and recently attended the New Clerks Academy. She plans to work toward her NCCCC in 2013-2014.

"As the Deputy Clerk, I work with a wide variety of people within county government and the community at large. I especially enjoy the fast pace and how each day brings something new and different," Beam said.

**Judy Snyder  
Wilkes County Clerk**

Judy has been Wilkes County's Clerk for fifteen months after being sworn into office on December 6, 2010. Previously, she worked for sixteen years as a Manager for the Wilkes County Health Department so she was very familiar with county government prior to assuming her role as the County Clerk.

In January 2011, upon encouragement from her County Manager and Commissioners, she attended the Clerk's Workshop in Raleigh which Judy says was a blessing in disguise. She received a wealth of knowledge from the School of Government and made contacts with experienced clerks who have been gracious and willing to help her in anyway they could during the past year. Judy says she is eternally grateful for all their help and says it is nice to know that there is always someone available to answer her

questions with either an email or phone call.

Judy has two daughters, Tasha and Brandy, and two great son-in-laws, Chris and Dave. She is also Nana to three wonderful grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Noelle (9 year old twins) and Jackson (20 months). She says, of course, they are the highlight of Nana's life. Judy enjoys golfing, playing cards, sporting events and spending time with her family and friends.

**April Banks  
Lenoir County Clerk**



April Banks is the Administrative Assistant to the Lenoir County Manager and also Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners. She began her job as a temporary from a staffing agency in June 2011 and, on December 1, 2011,

April was hired full-time. She was born in Kinston, NC but spent most of her younger years in Japan due to her father being Active Duty military. April has been married for almost 9 years and has 4 beautiful daughters, ages 6, 4, 3, and 21 months old. She is the oldest of four siblings with everyone being Active Duty military except her. Local government is a new industry for April; however, she is learning quickly. She says she was extremely intimidated for the first few weeks but has finally become comfortable in her position. She begins each day with the goal to learn something new by the end of that particular day. April says becoming a member of the NC Clerk's Association and subscribing to the listserv play a key part in her learning. She is able to see other clerks' questions and even ask her own. She says if she never gains anything else in her position; she knows she has gained an entire extended family of fellow clerks.





### Heartfelt Thoughts and Prayers

for the **Blackburn Family**—Former General Counsel to the NC Association of County Commissioners, Jim Blackburn, passed away on March 5, 2012.

for **Ed Wooters**—Our longtime friend and liaison with the NC Association of County Commissioners, Ed Wooters, is undergoing chemo and radiation therapy. Please remember Ed in your thoughts and prayers. Cards may be sent to him at 110 Granby Court, Cary, NC 27511.

for **Sandra Sublett, Chatham County Clerk**—Sandra is recovering from recent back surgery.

for **Gainer Cummings, Lumber River Council of Governments Clerk**—Gainer is recovering from heart cauterization.

### 2012 Calendar of Events

**Annual Conference in Forsyth County**  
April 19-22, 2012  
Annual Conference information can be found at <http://www.nccountyclerks.org/AnnualConference.aspx>

**NC Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference in Wake County**  
at Raleigh Convention Center  
August 16-19, 2012

**Fall Regional Workshops**  
EASTERN  
Sheila Schult, New Hanover County

WESTERN  
Cindy Turbyfill, Avery County

PIEDMONT  
Cheryl Ivey, Randolph County

### Kathy Myers, Caldwell County Clerk to the Board, Is Engaged

Kathy accepted Tony Greene's proposal of marriage on February 13, 2012. She has worked for Caldwell County since August 1994 and has served as Clerk to the Board/Administrative Officer since August 1999. Mr. Greene, a Rutherford County native, is a car buyer for a family-owned business in Hickory, North Carolina. No date has been set but the couple plan to marry in late spring or early summer.



### EXAMPLES OF CONFUSING WORD PAIRS

“Accept” means to receive. Do not confuse with except.

“Advice” is a noun that means opinion. Do not confuse with advise.

“Affect” is always a verb and means to act on or influence.

“Effect” can be a verb or a noun, most often a noun, and means result or consequence.

“Among” relates three or more things. “The Commissioners agreed among themselves.”  
Do not confuse with between.

“Amount” refers to that which cannot be counted. “We still have a large amount of work to do.”  
Do not confuse with number.

“Attain” means to achieve. Do not confuse with obtain, to get possession of.

“Beside” means by the side of. Do not confuse with besides.

“Capital” is the city where the government sits.

“Capitol” is the building in which the legislature meets.

“Complement” means to complete.

“Compliment” means to praise.

“Farther” indicates distance. “We went farther to the conference this year than last year.”  
Do not confuse with further.

“Further” shows quantity or degree. “We heard nothing further from the petitioner.”

“Imply” meant to hint at something. “He implied he would not run again next year.”

“Infer” means to come to a conclusion. “I inferred that he did not intend to run again next year.”

“Lead” is present tense of the verb “to lead”

“Led” is the past tense.

“Morale” tries to get people to feel better.

“Moral” tries to get people to behave better.

“Personal” mean individual

“Personnel” means individuals or employees as a group.

“Precede” means to go before.

“Proceed” means to move ahead.

“Principal” means someone or something first in importance.

“Principle” means a fundamental proposition.

“Stationary” means standing still.

“Stationery” means writing paper.

“Than” shows comparison.

“Then” shows time relationship.

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## Proposed Revision to NC Association of County Clerks to the Board of Commissioners Bylaws Slated for April 21st Regular Meeting

### Article III

#### Membership

*Section 1.* Membership shall be open to the following:

- (a) The person who has been appointed and duly sworn in to official public office in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 153A-111 bearing the title of Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners or Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners or Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners;
- (b) The Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board responsible for recording minutes and maintaining records for the 17 regional councils of government in the State of North Carolina;
- (c) The Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board designated for the recording of minutes and maintaining records for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

# NC Association of County Clerks

## 2011-12 Officers

### President

Jeanette Deese  
Carteret County

### Vice President

Ann Clark  
Ashe County

### Secretary

Carolyn Athey  
Rowan County

### Treasurer

Kristen King  
Franklin County

### Past President

Debby Gore  
Brunswick County

## Board of Directors

Effie Varitimidis 2012  
Guilford County

Jean Moore 2013  
Iredell County

Doris Smith 2013  
Burke County

Brenda Reaves 2014  
Person County

Paula Woodard 2014  
Johnston County



## Recipes

### Poppy Seed Chicken

4 chicken breasts, cooked  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
1 (8 oz.) container of sour cream

1 1/2 c. Ritz crackers, crushed  
1 stick margarine, melted  
1 T. poppy seed

Cut chicken and put in casserole dish. Mix soup and sour cream. Pour over chicken. Mix crackers, margarine and poppy seed. Spread over chicken mixture. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and bake 30 to 35 minutes.

### Corn Pudding

1/2 c. butter  
1 1/2. finely chopped onion  
2 c. frozen Shoepeg or Silver Queen corn  
2 T. sugar

1 c. grated sharp cheddar cheese  
6 egg yolks, well beaten  
6 egg whites, stiffly beaten  
Salt & Pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter and cook onions until wilted. Do not brown. Add the corn, sugar, salt and pepper, and cook briefly. Let cool. Stir in cheese and egg yolks. Fold in egg whites. Pour into a 2-quart greased casserole and bake one hour. Serve immediately. Give this a southwestern flair by adding 1 (4 to 5 oz.) can of chopped green chilies and 1/4 t. cumin when corn is added. Serves 8.

### Lowfat Chocolate Cake

1 box devil's food cake mix  
1 (14 oz.) can fat-free Eagle Brand milk

1 (12 oz.) jar light caramel topping  
1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip  
2 Heath candy bars, crushed

Bake cake as per directions on box in a 9x13-inch pan. Cool completely. Using end of wooden spoon, punch holes in cake. Pour can of milk over cake and let soak for 5 minutes. Pour caramel topping over cake and let set for 5 minutes. Ice cake with Cool Whip. Sprinkle crushed Heath bars on top. Chill overnight. Yield: 16 servings.

