

# N.C. Association of County Clerks

## MINUTE by MINUTE

August 2011

Volume II, Issue I



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### *A Message from the President*

Dear Fellow Clerks,

I'm sure I can speak for all Clerks across North Carolina in saying that the 2011-12 budget process has been one of the most difficult budgets ever. I know we've all been "knee deep" in budget meetings, and as a result, many of us will be working on minutes for most of the summer just to catch up from all special meetings. While I realize money is tight and travel restrictions are in place for many counties, I do hope your County's budget included some funding for each of you to attend some of our Association's upcoming educational opportunities in FY 2011-12.

August is just around the corner and I hope to see each of you at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual N.C. Association of County Commissioners Conference scheduled for August 18-21 in Cabarrus County. I am tentatively scheduling our Association's Executive Committee meeting for Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and the regular business meeting at 10:30 a.m. Further details will be forthcoming but please mark your calendars for this date.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the following Clerks who will be hosting our regional workshops, as follows:

- Western Regional in Watauga County, hosted by Anita Fogle on Friday, September 23, 2011
- Piedmont Regional in Iredell County, hosted by Jean Moore on Friday, October 7, 2011
- Eastern Regional in Pitt County, hosted by Kimberly Hines on Friday, October 21, 2011

The 2011 UNC-SOG Clerk Certification classes are scheduled for July 25-29 and October 10-14.

Remember that Debby Gore and the Cookbook Committee will have cookbooks available for us to stock up on and take back to our respective counties and sell. For those of you are not familiar with these cookbooks, this is a reprint of the cookbook that our Association produced back in 2004 and we are selling them for \$12.00 each as a fund raiser for our Association. We also plan to have a table set up at the NCACC Conference in Cabarrus County to sell cookbooks in an effort to take advantage of all the County Commissioners who will be there.



Last but certainly not least, it's never too early to start getting excited about our 2012 Annual Conference scheduled for April 19-21, 2012 at The Hawthorne Inn in Forsyth County. Jane Cole, Carla Holt, Effie Vartimidis and Crystal Maurer are already hard at work making preparations for this to be an exciting and informative conference.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Jeanette Deese, President  
NC Association of County Clerks



### Who Are Those Crime Fighting Crusaders?

The Brunswick County residents hunkered down for a quiet, peaceful night on April 5, 2011. Deb Gore (aka Batwoman) lounged on the chaise, as she sipped a glass of white wine and thumbed through her favorite magazine. She eagerly thought of the county clerk's conference the next day and her excitement at seeing everyone.

Suddenly, interrupting the peaceful tranquility of the star-drenched evening, the bat-phone shrilled. Batwoman raced to the batcave to privately take the call. Brunswick County Commissioner Chair William Sue excitedly explained to Batwoman that the Board of Commissioners had an ethics issue and needed training right away – that very night – and it was a matter of life and death since the Commissioners were under attack by Two-Face, the honesty-eating monster of all ethics violations.

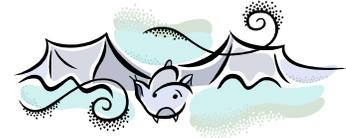
Batwoman, realizing that duty called,

signaled her trusted crime fighting partner Xena the Warrior Princess (AKA deputy county clerk Marjorie Stephenson) to strategize their battle plans. They strapped on their handy-dandy utility belts armed with general statute references, school of government phone numbers and the clerk listserv address. With agility, they jumped in the batmobile and gunned it out of the batcave. They followed the bat-signal all the way to the county government office – all the while preparing for the attack of Two-Face. At exactly 7 p.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>, the battle began!



By 9 p.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>, at the conclusion of the ethics seminar for commissioners, Two-Face met his demise. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners heralded Batwoman and Xena the Warrior Princess as their local heroines, yet another hat as county clerk and deputy county clerk that they wear with pride!

All NC county and municipal clerks applaud Batwoman and Xena the Warrior Princess for opening up a can of whup-butt and scaring Two-Face out of Brunswick County and the entire state of North Carolina. One battle down, many more to go!



"Anonymous"

### 2011 Calendar of Events

**NCACC Annual Conference**  
Aug 18-21 in Cabarrus Co.

**NC County Clerks Meeting**  
at NCACC Annual Conference  
In Cabarrus County  
Friday, August 19, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

**Western Regional in Watauga County**  
Friday, September 23, 2011

**Piedmont Regional in Iredell County**  
Friday, October 7, 2011

**Eastern Regional in Pitt County**  
Friday, October 23, 2011

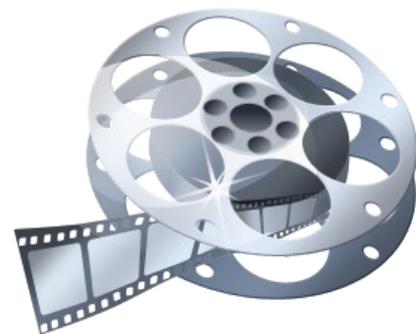
**Annual City and County Clerks**  
Academy and Institute  
Research Triangle Park  
January 25-27, 2012

**Annual Conference in Forsyth County**  
April 19-21, 2012

### —In the Spotlight—

On June 21st, Chatham County Clerk Sandra Sublett and Chatham County HR Director Carolyn Miller were featured on the Tarheel Traveler for the book, *Murder in the Old Courthouse*, Carolyn wrote using Sandra as the main character. The link for the feature by WRAL is:

<http://www.wral.com/lifestyles/travel/video/9760684/#/vid9760684>



## 2011-12 NC COUNTY CLERKS EXECUTIVE BOARD



Kristen King (Franklin Co.), Treasurer; Carolyn Athey (Rowan County), Secretary; Jeanette Deese (Carteret County), President; Ann Clark (Ashe County), Vice President; Debby Gore (Brunswick County), Past President

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**Front Row:** Paula Woodard, Johnston County; Effie Varitimidis, Guilford County; Jean Moore, Iredell County; Brenda Reaves, Person County

## 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



## Update at NCDOT "County Clerk" License Plates

For those of you who have been following the information posted on the Municipal Clerk listserv by Dona Hosch, the Oxford City Clerk, please allow me to give you an overview of what's going on with regard to City and County Clerk license plates.

Some of you may recall that I pursued having an NCDOT personalized license plate for County Clerks, retired clerks, and deputy clerks back in 2008 but ran into a roadblock (no pun intended...ha!) when the NCDOT Supervisor of Special License Plates confirmed that we would need at least 300 applications before NCDOT would process a request. This process also required local legislation, which wouldn't have been a problem because one of our local legislators was willing to sponsor a bill on our behalf. Our Association decided not to pursue this back in 2008 as it seemed like an impossible feat at the time since there are only 100 County Clerks in the state and only a limited number of Deputy Clerks.

The good news is that County Clerks can obtain personalized tags, but the bad news is that this is limited to "County Clerks" and not "Deputy Clerks" because of the way the legislation was written. Unfortunately the language in the legislation that was ratified cannot be deviated from. Therefore, County Clerks who are interested in obtaining personalized license plate, can submit an application to Donna Hosch. The application fee is \$10.00 and checks should be made payable to the City of Oxford. The reason for the checks being made to the City of Oxford is because one person and/or agency must act as the collection agency for the applications and Ms. Hosch has agreed to handle this. Once 300 applications have been received they will be sent to NCDOT and the license plates will be made. According to Ms. Hatcher, the license plates will be numbered for all 100 counties and limited to one "County Clerk" per 100 counties in North Carolina. I have to provide Ms. Hatcher with the list of County Clerks and I've obtained this list from the N.C. Association of County Commissioners and will be emailing it to her in the near future. Ms. Hatcher has informed me that only those individuals who hold the official title "County Clerk" will be eligible for the personalized tags. I explained to Ms. Hatcher that several people actually perform the duties of "Clerk" but do not hold the title but she said they could not deviate from the policy; therefore, if your County Manager holds the title and you perform the duties, you will not be eligible for the personalized. This is unfortunate.

I'll be giving an update at our business meeting in Cabarrus County on August 19th. In the meantime, if you are interested in obtaining a "County Clerk" license plate, please complete the necessary application and return it along with your \$10.00 check made payable to the "City of Oxford" and mail it to Donna Hosch, Oxford City Clerk, P.O. Box 1307, Oxford, NC 27565.

Jeanette Deese, NCACC President  
Carteret County Clerk to the Board