

A Message from the President



Julie Bennett
President

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Dear Fellow Clerks,

It seems that we Clerks have a theme going on with our annual conferences. The theme in 2015 was "We've got the Power!" and "Power of the Past—Force of the Future" was the theme at the 2016 Annual Conference held April 14 – 16, 2016 at the Onslow County Government Center in Jacksonville, North Carolina hosted by Onslow County. A huge thank you goes out to host Julie Wand, Onslow County Clerk to the Board. This talented Clerk along with her Deputy Clerk, Heather Norris and their supportive county staff really rolled out the welcome mat in their gorgeous new facility and we are in their debt for all their time and hard work. I enjoyed seeing everyone there and for those of you that could not join us, you were indeed missed. The annual conferences are always educational and contribute towards our certifications as well as our own personal growth, but they are wonderful opportunities for our Clerk Family to grow closer and become that supporting network that we all need these days.

This is my first official "Letter from the President" and as I sit here and type, I'm still overwhelmed by your confidence and faith in me to serve as your President this year. I'm sure you could hear it in my voice as I spoke at the banquet Saturday night. We have an excellent Executive Committee this year that I look forward to working with. I will be working on committee assignments very soon and I'd like to thank everyone in advance for your willingness to serve the Association. It truly takes all of us to make it work and your service is vital to our success. I would like to take a moment and thank my friend and our immediate Past President Paula Woodard, Johnston County Clerk to the Board. Paula did an amazing job serving as President and just like all the other Past Presidents I have had the privilege of serving under—Carolyn Barger, Kristen King and now Paula Woodard, they have all left big shoes to fill—thank goodness I like shoes! I will do my best to follow their lead. To last year's Executive Committee as well as all those that served on committees, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your service to our Association.

A big CONGRATULATION goes out to this year's Howard Holly Outstanding Clerk of the Year Award recipient Gaynell Lee, Lee County Clerk to the Board! Gaynell was one of the first Clerks I met when I became a Clerk in 2009 and she is one of the sweetest women I know and she is quick to share her knowledge if you ask her a question. She has been vital to our Association and she is certainly deserving of this honor.

So, as we start off this year new and fresh, I would ask you all to keep the communication lines open. If you have a particular educational topic that you would like to see covered this year, don't hesitate to e-mail our new Vice President Kimberly Hines, Pitt County Clerk to the Board. As Vice President, Kimberly also serves as Chairman of the Program Committee and she needs your input to share with the Program Committee in order to come up with educational sessions that we all can appreciate and learn from. Along with that, don't ever hesitate to e-mail or call me if there is anything I can help you with. If I find that I can't help you, I bet I know someone who can and I will be more than willing to point you in the right direction!

We still need Clerks to host the Regionals this year and to host the 2017 Annual Conference. I have talked to a few Clerks, but I haven't gotten a firm commitment on any sites yet. I will keep you all informed as I receive information.

Finally, I hope everyone will enjoy this spring season. Take a moment when you can to appreciate life around you. As most of you know, I lost my Mamma on March 10 of this year and I was overwhelmed with the cards, e-mails and phone calls from my Clerk family. I appreciated it more than I can tell you. So remember to spend time with your family—let them know how important they are to you. Do things that make you happy! Squash an ANT or two! I look forward to seeing everyone at our next Business Meeting in August being held during the 2016 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Conference in Forsyth County August 11th – 14th.

~ Julie Bennett, President
NC Association of County Clerks

Newsletter Editor:

Paula P. Seamster
Caswell County



2015 Howard Holly Outstanding Clerk of the Year Award

Lee County Clerk to the Board Gaynell Lee was presented the Howard Holly Outstanding Clerk of the Year Award on April 16, 2016 during the North Carolina Association of County Clerks Annual Conference held in Onslow County. The Conference was hosted by Onslow County and held at the Onslow County Government Center.

Ms. Lee began employment with Lee County in April 1983 in the Department of Social Services and was appointed as Clerk to the Board in April 1992. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of the County Clerks Association from 2008-2011. Ms. Lee achieved the designation of North Carolina Certified County Clerk from the UNC School of Government in January 2010 and in January of this year she was in the School of Government's inaugural class of only seven (7) Clerks across the entire State of North Carolina to achieve the designation of Master County Clerk.

Ms. Lee has one daughter, Gina, and son-in-law, Scott. The Howard Holly Outstanding Clerk Award is presented in recognition of accomplishments superior to accepted standards and distinguished continuing contributions to county government in North Carolina.

~ Article From: www.ncacc.org



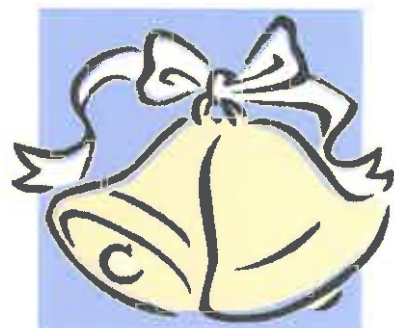
Congratulations

... to Melissa Pedersen Long,
Pender County Clerk to the Board



Spotlight on Clerks

Melissa Pedersen married Christopher Long on April 30, 2016. They had a beautiful country wedding in Wallace, NC.



Are you bored with breakfast but feel you possess some creative juices? Then this is the recipe for you! All you need is a mason jar, rolled oats, and a good flavor palette. I'll get you started with the recipe below, but feel free to play with your milks, yogurts, and fruits as well as different spices. Just mix it all up and let it chill overnight. Breakfast has never been easier!

Overnight Oats

Ingredients

1/2 cup rolled oats
1 cup plain low-fat yogurt
1 cup unsweetened almond milk
1/4 cup chia seeds
1/4 cup slivered almonds
1/2 cup fresh fruit such as cherries, strawberries, or mango, cut into bite-size pieces if necessary
2 teaspoons vanilla or almond extract
1/4 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
1-2 tablespoons maple syrup



Directions

Place all the ingredients into a mason jar and mix well. Refrigerate overnight, and voilà! It's ready to go. Eat immediately or enjoy on the road.

Nutrition Information

Serves: 2 | Serving Size: 1/2 of recipe

Per serving: Calories: 472; Total Fat: 24g; Saturated Fat: 7g; Monounsaturated Fat: 7g; Cholesterol: 7mg; Sodium: 165mg; Carbohydrate: 50g; Dietary Fiber: 15g; Sugar: 18g; Protein: 18g

Nutrition Bonus: Potassium: 687mg; Iron: 13%; Vitamin A: 6%; Vitamin C: 39%; Calcium: 87%

Exciting News in Randolph County!

There are exciting things going on at the NC Zoo thanks to the ConnectNC Bond. See if you can use anything from this for the newsletter.

The 2016 Clerk Certification Class is having our reunion there in June.

<http://courier-tribune.com/news/local/zoofari-offers-ride-wild-side-video>

Zoofari: Expect the adventure to last about one hour. Everyone must sign a release form before boarding the bus. I have attached information sheets that were provided to staff. additional \$20 Because it will be open to the public by then, I couldn't get us in on the free deal.

Air Hike will also be open by then and it is an additional \$12.



North Carolina ZOOFARI Know Before You Go!

- **Let Us Guide You**
Follow your guide's instructions at all times. Your guide is a full-time, trained zookeeper who cares for the animals. Do ask questions.
- **An Hour of Fun and Wildlife Adventure**
Expect your African wildlife adventure to last about one hour. Remember, you are on safari, so expect a bumpy ride!
- **Keep Your Cameras Ready — *But Secure***
Keep your camera **inside** the vehicle. Secure all personal items since anything dropped in the exhibit could be eaten, causing injury or death to the animal.
- **Safari Safely**
Please remain seated while the bus is in motion and keep hands, arms, and heads inside the bus at all times. The ride is bumpy, may cross uneven terrain and may need to stop suddenly for an animal's safety. For your safety, you should be in good health and free from high blood pressure, heart, back or neck problems, motion sickness, or other conditions that could be aggravated by this attraction. Expectant mothers should not ride.

Children participating on this attraction must be supervised at all times. Minors age 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult.

At this time, Zoofari is not wheelchair accessible. Due to the nature of the experience, guests with service animals should check with a Zoofari operator at the attraction for boarding information.
- **Get Real. Get Close. But Not Real Close!**
For your safety, please **do not attempt to reach out or touch any of the animals**. It is important to follow your guide's instructions. Ostrich can and will reach into the bus. If an ostrich approaches, move to the center aisle. Remove jewelry: ostrich are attracted to shiny objects like earrings and necklace charms.
- **Rhino Charges**
The animals in this exhibit are not tame. If a rhino decides to charge the Zoofari bus, take your seat immediately. The charge is likely a bluff, but if the rhino does hit the bus, you can be sure the bus will rock!
- **Have Fun!**
Share your experiences, photos and video on the NC Zoo's social media sites.
#LoveNCZoo



North **ZOO** Carolina .org





North Carolina ZOOFARI Rules of Conduct

To ensure the fun and safety of everyone participating in Zoofari, please review and follow these rules and information:

- All guests must return a signed Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, Waiver of Claims and Indemnification Agreement form to the Zoofari staff prior to participating on Zoofari.
- Guests must not attempt to disturb the animals.
- Guests must follow the guidance and instruction of Zoofari operators and Zoo staff at all times during the Zoofari ride.
- All personal items, such as cell phones, cameras, and eyeglasses, must be held securely inside the vehicle at all times. Zoofari operators and/or Zoo staff are not responsible for lost, damaged or misplaced personal items.
- No gum, food or drinks allowed on the Zoofari ride. Water bottles allowed.
- Children participating on the Zoofari ride must be supervised at all times. Minors age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
- Due to the nature of the experience, guests with service animals should check with a Zoofari operator at the attraction for boarding information.
- No running, jumping, hanging or horseplay will be allowed on Zoofari.
- Zoofari operators and/or Zoo staff reserves the right to expel guests from Zoofari who do not adhere to these rules. No refunds will be permitted when expelled.
- In the event of any emergency or injury, guests should seek the assistance of a Zoofari operator and/or Zoo staff.

WARNING!

For your safety, you should be in good health and free from high blood pressure, heart, back or neck problems, motion sickness, or other conditions that could be aggravated by this attraction. Expectant mothers should not ride. If you suspect your health could be at risk for any reason or you could aggravate a preexisting condition of any kind, please do not participate. Notify the manager of the attraction of any injuries on the attraction before leaving the area.



North Carolina .org



~ Article submitted by Amanda Varner

Two Warren County Programs initiated by County Clerk Angelena Kearney-Dunlap have been nominated for a NACo Award.

“The Warren County Report” Weekly Radio Program

In an effort to inform the public, Warren County, NC in partnership with the local radio station “WARR 1520 AM” established a weekly, fifteen (15) minute radio program. “**The Warren County Report**” provides insider information concerning programs and opportunities sponsored by the County and area non-profits to benefit local citizens.

The initial program that aired on May 1, 2014, featured an interview of Warren County Manager Linda T. Worth. The remaining programs in the first year featured updates to the listener with information regarding needed service provided by governmental departments. Example: Parks & Recreation scheduled activities; Youth Programs provided by Youth Services Bureau; Community Programs sponsored by the Senior Center and Safety tips from the Sheriff’s Office.

The second year (2015) began by featuring County and local Committees, Commissions and Boards that serve as advisory to the Board of Commissioners; examples: Library Board of Trustees, Fire Commission and Local Emergency Planning Committee.

2016 began with non-profits sharing information that many times is overlooked or unknown by the public: youth programs, historic restoration, community events, local food pantry, mental health issues, etc. The milestone 100th program aired July 2016.

The radio outreach has provided valuable information to the public and invites the public to attend Commissioners’ meetings. Listeners have begun to eagerly anticipate the program. How do we know? When the program does not air, telephone calls come in to the radio station inquiring why.

The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Angelena Kearney-Dunlap is the regular host with a Q&A interview format. Guest hosts have been used such as: local high school students, the Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners – Paula Pulley and Deputy Tax Collector – Karen Towns.

Warren County seeks every avenue to disseminate information into the community. Our local radio station has graciously provided a vehicle that we have utilized successfully at no cost to the County.

For more information regarding the “Warren County Report” weekly radio program contact Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Clerk to the Board of Warren County Commissioners:

Office: 252-257-3115

Email: angelenakdunlap@warrencountync.gov



“Student Volunteer / Student Intern ” Program

Initiated by Warren County Board of Commissioners in 2010, the Clerk to the Board has established the program from the ground up.

The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and/or Deputy Clerk hosts students with an “Orientation” on-site in the County Manager’s office, or pay a visit to the three (3) local high schools to introduce the “Warren County Government Student Volunteer” program to students and school staff at the beginning of each school year.

High School students who are required to do at least 60 volunteer hours before graduation, apply for volunteer opportunities within Warren County governmental offices. The student indicates the department(s) of interest and his/her application is circulated to those departments for first consideration.

Warren County employees are encouraged to give students meaningful duties to perform and during down-time, they allow students to shadow employees as well as, converse with them regarding: job duties, educational requirements, etc. Students are responsible to keep a record of their individual volunteer hours.

At the end of the school year, certificates are issued to student participants showing student’s name, high school attended, number of volunteer hours earned. The certificate is then signed by the Warren County Manager and Department Head from area student volunteered.

The County’s 15 minute weekly radio program has featured Student volunteers as host and as guests on several occasions.

The Warren County “Student Volunteer / Student Intern” program was established to encourage students to return to their County with a desire to have a career in local government and a strong sense of giving back to the community as a productive citizen, engaged and having a positive influence.

For more information regarding the Warren County “Student Volunteer / Intern Program contact Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Clerk to the Board of Warren County Commissioners.

Office: 252-257-3115

Email: angelenakdunlap@warrencountync.gov

Diet & Exercise Tip – The next time someone offers you candy, cookies, or anything unhealthy to eat, just turn your head to the left and then to the right ... repeat as many times as necessary.

*Submitted by Retha C. Gaither
Iredell Clerk to the Board*

Happy Birthday !!

CLERK	COUNTY/AGENCY	BIRTHDATE
JUNE		
Gwen Bryan	Craven	2
Ann Clark	Ashe	5
Hope Brayboy	Robeson	12
Maria Hass	Cherokee	14
Angela Wooten	Camden	21
Sonya Johnson	Lumber River Council of Gov	29
JULY		
Gainer Cummings-Dever (Retired)	Lumber River Council of Gov	2
Penny Owens	Tyrrell	2
Mary Gilbert	Currituck	3
Paula Woodard	Johnston	8
Debby Gore (Retired)	Brunswick	10
Susan Banks (Retired)	Wake	12
Angelena Kearney-Dunlap	Warren	13
Tory Frink	Alamance	17
Cheryl Mitchell	McDowell	20
Stacey K. Woody	Buncombe	22
Katie Mosher	Beaufort	26
Susanne Stallings	Chowan	29
Amanda Varner	Randolph	31
AUGUST		
Beth Fehrmann	Polk	3
Kerri Melton	Cleveland	4
Brenda Reaves	Person	5
Stacy Moyer	Davie	11
Megan Smit	Cabarrus	12
Brenda Hunter (Retired)	Davie	12
Courtney Norfleet	Pamlico	15
Petra Leonard	Davidson	19
Paula Seamster	Caswell	24
Renee Boyette	Triangle J Council of Gov	25
Marion Thompson	Martin	31



Thanks to Michelle Parker-Evans for keeping track of our birthdays!!

Be sure to contact Michelle with your birthdate so that we can help you celebrate at: mparker-evans@dconc.gov

2016 – 2017 Committees

Nominating

Paula Woodard, Johnston County, Chair
Jason Robinson, Yancey County
Denise Hogan, Wake County

Outstanding Clerk

Gaynell Lee, Lee County, Chair
Carolyn Barger, Rowan County
Kathy Greene, Caldwell County
Marcia Wilson, Wayne County
Gwen Bryan, Craven County

Program

Kimberly Hines, Pitt County, Chair
Paula Woodard, Johnston County
Retha Gaither, Iredell County
Trisha Hogan, Transylvania County
Henry Earle, Cleveland County
April Crotts, Cleveland County
Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County
Julie Bennett, Ex-Officio, Washington County

Site Selection

Henry Earle, Cleveland County, Chair
April Crotts, Cleveland County
Julie Wand, Onslow County
Donna Buff, Gaston County
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Burke County
Julie Bennett, Washington County
Kimberly Hines, Ex-Officio, Pitt County

Scholarship

Julie Bennett, Washington County, Chair
Paula Woodard, Johnston County
Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County
Jason Robinson, Yancey County
Debbie Harris, Davidson County

Membership

Debra Weary, Granville County, Chair
Janice Evans, Nash County
Melissa Pedersen, Pender County
Lynn West, Union County
Debbie Harris, Davidson County
Terri Wilson, Henderson County
Donna Buff, Gaston County

Homepage

Kristen King, Franklin County
Carolyn Barger, Rowan County

Newsletter

Paula Seamster, Caswell County

Historian

Paula Woodard, Johnston County

Professional Development

Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County, Chair
Denise Hogan, Wake County
Kathy Young, Mitchell County
Debra Ivey, SW COG
Marion Thompson, Martin County
Amanda Varner, Randolph County
Kathy Hughes, Buncombe County

State Certification

Kathy Hughes, Buncombe County, Chair
Julie Bennett, Washington County
Laura Williams, Moore County
Kimberly Hines, Pitt County
Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County
Kristen King, Franklin County

Scrapbook

Kristen King, Franklin County, Chair
Jason Robinson, Yancey County
Dana Cuddington, Johnston County
Paula Woodard, Johnston County
Donna Buff, Gaston County

Records Retention

Laura Williams, Moor County
Ann Clark, Ashe County
Lindsay Ray, Chatham County

Goody Bag & Door Prize

Penny Owens, Tyrrell County, Chair
Debra Weary, Granville County
Paula Woodard, Johnston County
Conchita Atkins, Surry County
Dana Cuddington, Johnston County

Hospitality

Directory

Ann Kurtzman, Scotland County, Chair
June Hall, Columbus County
Rachel Hammer, Carteret County

SUB-COMMITTEES

Clerks' Reference Guide

Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County

Fundraising

Dana Cuddington, Johnston County
Debbie Harris, Davidson County
Gwen Bryan, Craven County
Trisha Hogan, Transylvania County

Birthdays

Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County



2016 Clerks' Spring Annual Conference in Onslow County



Hosts Julie Wand & Heather Norris with Onslow County Commissioners



Trey



President Julie



Pilot Carolyn



New River Aviation Memorial



Jason Robinson, Yancey County
aka Machine Gun Kelly



Onboard the Osprey

Upcoming Events

2016 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Conference & North Carolina Association of County Clerks' Business Meeting

August 11-14, 2016
Forsyth County

Annual Fall Regional Workshops

Western Regional – Transylvania County – September 23, 2016
Eastern Regional – Johnston County – October 14, 2016
Piedmont Regional – Iredell County – October 21, 2016

Clerks' Annual Spring Conference

April 2017
Cleveland County

From the Mountains to the Sea . . .



North Carolina Association of County Clerks

2016-17 Officers & Directors

Officers

President: Julie Bennett, Washington County
Vice President: Kimberly Hines, Pitt County
Secretary: Laura Williams, Moore County
Treasurer: Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County
Immed. Past President: Paula Woodard, Johnston County

Directors

Penny Owens, Tyrrell County
Jason Robinson, Yancey County
Donna Buff, Gaston County
Julie Wand, Onslow County
Trisha Hogan, Transylvania County



Left to Right: Director, Laura Williams; Treasurer, Michelle Parker-Evans; Director, Penny Owens; President, Julie Bennett; Director, Jason Robinson; Immediate Past President, Paula Woodard; Vice President, Kimberly Hines; Director, Trisha Hogan; Director, Julie Wand and Director, Donna Buff.