

Minute by Minute



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A Message from the President

Wow! Can you believe that the holidays are already upon us? I'm sure you will all agree that this year is really flying by. I would like to start this newsletter by wishing my Clerk family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. By now the Thanksgiving turkey is history and we are focusing on twinkling lights, the smell of fresh cut trees and cookies baking, smiles on the faces of kids, and a visit from Santa! I hope the joy you find during this time of year make these the best holidays ever.

This year we finished up the Regional Workshops in November. A potential gas shortage and Hurricane Matthew threatened the Western and Eastern Regionals, respectively. However, Transylvania County Clerk, Trisha Hogan prevailed during the Western Regional by using technology to Skype in one of the presenters who was on travel restrictions due to the potential gas shortage and Paula Woodard, Johnston County Clerk still managed to have 30 attendees even after having to change the date of the Eastern Regional due to the damage left behind in her County by Hurricane Matthew. The Piedmont Regional was sandwiched in between the Western and Eastern Regionals this year and Iredell County Clerk Retha Gaither wowed us all with her catering skills as she provided the culinary fare. I love learning the hidden talents of our Clerks! Vice President and Program Committee Chair Kimberly Hines and Trey Allen put together interesting and informative sessions for all who attended. Thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard to make these workshops a success for us. !



Julie Bennett
President



Newsletter Editor:

Paula P. Seamster, Caswell County





A Message from the President (cont'd.)



can truly say that I will never listen to the Bee Gees hit “Staying Alive” the same again without thinking of CPR!

Vice President Kimberly Hines and I attended a meeting in September with the School of Government and the Municipal Clerks to make plans for the 2017 January Clerks’ School. The Municipal Clerks were excellent to work with and I feel this planning session went very well. We tried to come up with topics that can benefit everyone and I hope you all can attend. The School of Government has posted the registration links on their website. The dates are January 18 – 20, 2017. We will have our Business Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing everyone! (Cross your fingers for good weather.)

Cleveland County will be the site for our 2017 Annual Conference. The dates are April 5-7, 2017. You will note this is a slight change in the days of the week for this conference—starting on a Wednesday and ending with the banquet on Friday night. We are able to use these dates after the bylaw amendment regarding changing the days of the week for our annual conference was approved at the August 12, 2016 Business Meeting held during the Commissioners’ Annual Conference held in Winston-Salem. Please join me in thanking Cleveland County Clerk Henry Earle and Deputy Clerk April Crofts for graciously offering to be our host. They have already got a great ‘outing’ in the planning stages, so please go ahead and mark your calendars--you won’t want to miss this one. Also, if anyone has anything in particular they would like to see covered at the annual conference, please contact Vice President Hines or myself so we can make a note. These conferences are for the benefit of our Association and we need your help to make it useful to everyone.



As this year comes to a close, we will be saying goodbye to quite a few of our “seasoned” clerks as they enter their well-earned retirement years. I, personally, will miss them greatly not only because they have always been there for me, but because they have also had a hand in making our Association as great as it is today, and for that, they have my sincerest gratitude. And as those clerks are leaving us, we are graced with new clerks “coming into the fold”. It’s the evolution of our Association and I look forward to seeing the new faces. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to any of you. It takes all of us to make our Association work and I am so grateful to be part of such a supportive network. I hope 2017 brings great things for us all.

~Julie J. Bennett, President
NC Association of County Clerks

Spotlight on Clerks

Congratulations on Your Retirements



Marcia Wilson,
Wayne County

Gaynell Lee,
Lee County



Ann Kurtzman,
Scotland County



Spotlight on Clerks

Congratulations on Your Retirements



Margie Stephenson,
Brunswick County



Bonnie Huntley,
Anson County



Welcome Aboard Andrea White Brunswick County Clerk

I became Clerk to the Board for Brunswick County on November 1, 2016, after two months as interim. In addition to serving as Clerk, I continue to serve as the Executive Assistant to the County Manager. I have worked for Brunswick County for more than 25 years, assisting County Managers and Administration. Adding the duties of the Clerk has been challenging, but exciting!

I am a Brunswick County native and lifelong resident. I live in my hometown (Varnamtown) with my husband Tim and daughter Savanna. Tim and I also have three children in college. Tyler attends NC State and our twin daughters, Ashley and Amber, are in their first year of college; Ashley attends UNCW and Amber attends Campbell University. Needless to say, it's been a busy year! I am still trying to adjust to how quiet it is in our home. I am also very active in church, and in my spare time, which I do not seem to have much of, I enjoy spending time with family, being around the water (in a boat or on the beach), photography, and the mountains.



Continued on the next page . . .

As soon as I was appointed Clerk, I joined the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and I am so glad I did! I have been completely overwhelmed with the support I have received. My appointment also came just in time for me to attend the Eastern Regional IIMC Academy in Johnston County. I had officially been Clerk for 9 days! Everyone was so kind and welcoming; I felt right at home! The sessions throughout the day were very interesting and even though I have several years with the County, I have much to learn in this new role. I love working for Brunswick County and I am excited to see what lies ahead.

I appreciate everyone's willingness to assist me, and I welcome any and all wisdom and guidance my fellow clerks have to offer. I am honored to be a part of the Clerk family and I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you!

*Submitted by: Andrea White,
Brunswick County*



CLERK HUMOR CORNER

“Complete” or “Finished” how should they be used?

Here is an English lesson for every local public official. This does not require you to put on your thinking caps. So get ready for a great English lesson---regarding “Complete” and Finished”.

Here goes. No dictionary has ever been able to satisfactorily define the difference between “complete” and “finished”. However, during a recent linguistic conference held in London, England, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world, Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese linguist, was the presenter when he was asked to make that very distinction.

The question put to him by a colleague in the erudite audience was this, “Some say there is no difference between ‘complete’ and ‘finished’. Please explain the difference in a way that is ‘easy to understand’.

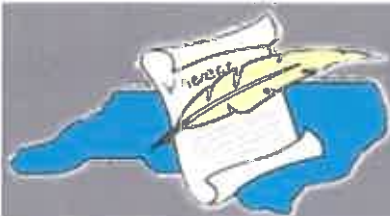
Mr. Balgobin’s response, “When you marry the right woman, you are ‘complete’. If you marry the wrong woman, you are ‘finished’. And, if the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are ‘completely finished’.”

His answer received a five minute standing ovation.

(Posted by Gabe Gabrielsen)

Well I say “When a County hires the right Clerk, the County is ‘complete’. If the County hires the wrong Clerk it is ‘finished’. And if the right Clerk catches you messing with her minutes you are ‘completely finished’.”

Submitted by: Paula Seamster



NCACC

North Carolina Association of County Clerks

Annual Membership Renewal Information

Please fill out the Annual NC Association of County Clerks’ Membership Application and return to: **Michelle Parker-Evans, Durham County , 200 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701**. The \$50.00 dues are payable during the first quarter of each calendar year and should be remitted by March 31, 2017. Please forward your dues at your earliest convenience. Thanks!

Debra Weary
Clerk to the Board
Granville County



2016 Western Regional IIMC Academy

The 2016 Western Regional IIMC Academy was hosted by Transylvania County Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan on Friday, September 23, 2016 in beautiful Brevard, NC. Clerks from Western NC attended the academy on a sunny fall day in the mountains.



Due to the gas crisis, Ozie Stallworth, Director of Electronic Notarization & Notary Enforcement with the NC Secretary of State's office was unable to attend. But with great staff and technology, Mr. Stallworth was Skyped in and able to make his presentation.



The academy continued with a hands-on CPR instructional. The remainder of the day was spent with Trey Allen where he provided Clerks with a legislative update and an in-depth look into the legal requirements for ordinances.

Overall, the academy was a great success! Mountains, good food, friends, fellowship and CLERKS!



*Submitted by: Trisha Hogan,
Transylvania County*

2016 Western Regional



Above there are several “dancing” shots...during breaks, to get everyone energized, we were doing a little hand jive to the tune of “That’s what I like about you!”

*Submitted by: Retha Gaither,
Iredell County*

Western Fall Regional Conference 2016



The Western Fall Regional Academy was hosted by Transylvania County on Friday, September 23, 2016. Many thanks to Transylvania County Clerk, Trisha Hogan, who served as hostess.

Eastern Fall Regional Conference 2016



The Eastern Fall Regional Academy was held in Iredell County on Friday, October 21, 2016. Many thanks to Iredell County Clerk, Retha Gaither and Deputy Clerk, Amy Anderson, who served as hostesses.

Piedmont Fall Regional Conference 2016



The Piedmont Fall Regional Academy was held in Johnston County on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. Many thanks to Johnston County Clerk, Paula Woodard and Deputy Clerk Dana Cuddington, who served as hostesses.

Happy Birthday!

| <u>CLERK</u> | <u>COUNTY/AGENCY</u> | <u>BIRTHDATE</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | | DECEMBER |
| Gaynell Lee | Lee | 23 |
| Sandra Sublett (Retired) | Chatham | 25 |
| June Hall | Columbus | 26 |
| | | JANUARY |
| Conchita Atkins | Surry | 9 |
| Kristen King | Franklin | 19 |
| Bonnie Huntley | Anson | 22 |
| Laura Williams | Moore | 28 |
| | | FEBRUARY |
| Tami Smale | Mid-Carolina Council of Gov. | 1 |
| Kimberly Hines | Pitt | 4 |
| Monica Toomer (Deputy) | Durham | 16 |
| Doshia Haywood | Montgomery | 18 |
| Lindsay Ray | Chatham | 19 |
| Michelle Parker-Evans | Durham | 24 |
| Ann Kurtzman | Scotland | 24 |
| Debra Ivey | Region A COG | 26 |

Be sure to contact Michelle Parker-Evans with your birthdate so that we can help you celebrate . . . mpevans@dconc.gov



Upcoming Events

2017 Annual Clerks' Academies and Institute
January 18 - 20, 2017

2017 Annual Conference
Hosted by Cleveland County
April 5 - 7, 2017



From the Mountains to the Sea . . .



North Carolina Association of County Clerks



2016-17 Officers and Directors

Officers

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



Directors

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

