



Good afternoon, Clerk family! I hope this message finds you all well and living your best life yet!

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at our Annual conference in New Bern last month. We had a wonderful and exciting time celebrating the Association's 50th anniversary. Our conference theme this year was "50 Years Strong, Shaping Tomorrow Together!". From the 70's Throwback Reception to SOG classes with the amazing Kristina Wilson, to our guest speaker Brenda Viola (Wasn't she amazing?), and finally the Annual Banquet, each part was special, and I know I will remember it for years to come.

I want to thank Abigail Wilson, Craven County Clerk and conference host. She did such an amazing job! Also, thank you to the Association's Executive Committee and Board of Directors, as well as each committee member that labored to make the conference successful. It was one for books!

This year, I want to continue with the theme, "50 Years Strong, Shaping Tomorrow Together". I want to thank each one of you for being a member of this amazing Association, but most importantly, a valued and vital part of the team. TEAM (Together Everyone Accomplishes More!) has been my professional theme for many years. Just like it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a team to build a successful organization. We are that TEAM!

My main initiative this year, as your President, is to work together with all of you to carry the torch forward for the next 50 years. The Clerk profession is a unique and challenging profession. It is not for the faint of heart; so, if you are here, it's most likely because you have a servant's heart, a strong work ethic, and are purpose-driven and resilient. All qualities and attributes of a successful leader and team member.

I want to encourage you, if you haven't already, to join a committee or sub-committee. Committees are vital to the continued success of our organization. Serving on a committee allows you to directly shape the future of our Association, while fostering professional growth. It allows each of us to play a key role in supporting the growth of our Association and ensuring it remains a valuable resource for county clerks for the next 50 years. Serving on a committee also helps prepare you for potential leadership roles in the future.

I, along with the full Executive Committee and Board of Directors, value your input; so, as a member of this TEAM - How can we make the Association better? Please think on this and share anything you feel would be helpful to the growth and success of our

Association; as well as, individually to you as a clerk. By working together, we can ensure Clerks have the necessary tools they need to be successful in their role as a County Clerk, and as members of this organization.

Thank you all for all you do! If we haven't met yet, I look forward to meeting and connecting with you in the future.

Stronger together,



Maria Hass

President, North Carolina Association of County Clerks
Clerk to the Board, Cherokee County