



Metrolina Paralegal Association



THE PARAVIEW

**Quarterly Publication of the
Metrolina Paralegal Association**

Fall 2016
© 2016 All rights reserved

Metrolina Paralegal Association
www.charlotteareaparalegals.com

In This Issue

Calling All Members!	3
Ready, Aim, Fire!	4
Race for the White House!	5
Paralegal Perks	6
News & Happenings	7
Entertainment	8
Fall Paraview Recipe	9
2016-2017 MPA Patrons	10
2015-2017 MPA Executive Board & Committee Members	11

A Paralegal's Motto

If I don't know how to do it, I will figure it out!

MPA's Quarterly Goal

MPA's Fall Fest 2016 CLE Seminar & Filling Board Positions!

MPA Executive Board Recruitment Song:

Sung to the tune of "YMCA"

First Chorus

♪ **M-m - P - A,** ♪
♪ **It's Great to Be in the M-m - P - A-a** ♪
♪ **You can get C - L - E,** ♪
♪ **That you will enjoy,** ♪
♪ **And YOU CAN BE ON THE BOARD!** ♪
♪ **HEY, HEY, HEY,** ♪
(Go to second chorus)

Second Chorus

♪ **M-m - P - A,** ♪
♪ **It's Great to Be in the M-m - P - A-a** ♪
♪ **You will make awesome friends,** ♪
♪ **That you will adore,** ♪
♪ **And YOU CAN BE ON THE BOARD!** ♪
♪ **HEY, HEY, HEY,** ♪
(Repeat over and over until you join the board!)

Calling All Members

The Metrolina Paralegal Association invites all members in good standing to apply for vacant Executive Board positions. Let's take a look at 5 good reasons you should become a board member.

1. Resounding Résumé

Employers frequently look at the bottom of a resume to see whether an applicant belongs to any organizations. Of course, one of the first things they want to know is that the applicant is certified and otherwise qualified for the job. However, when they see "Metrolina Paralegal Association Executive Board Member," it raises their awareness that you are a go-getter, are interested in your profession and are worthy of consideration as an applicant.

2. Leadership Skills

Board members are in charge of the MPA. It's not the president alone who makes decisions and causes things to happen, the board as a whole is in charge of generating ideas, submitting proposals, engaging in active discussions to create an enjoyable and educational environment for its members, and keeping the organization current. As a board member, you will be involved in these activities and more.

3. Robert's Rules Of Order¹

Becoming a board member enhances your knowledge of how executive boards function, and the Bylaws are consulted and followed so that the board members can determine how best to bring about needed changes, help members with issues, and provide an environment that works well for everyone involved. If the Bylaws don't specifically address a certain situation that arises, the board consults *Robert's Rules of Order* for information and instruction.

4. Community Service

Serving on the board of a not-for-profit organization is not only a privilege and honor; it is a service to the community. The MPA is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization, which means we offer a vital service to our peers. It also means we don't pay taxes as long as we meet certain IRS requirements. We serve the paralegal community by providing crucial CLE hours that are tailored to meet our members' needs.

5. The MPA Needs You!

All board members, past, present and future, have other obligations. They have families, children, parents and friends that all need their attention. The board members are working people, doing the best they can to spend their spare time assisting fellow MPA members attain their goals. The best boards have new members every year or two because the new members bring fresh, new ideas, skills, experience and energy.

In addition to the five items listed above, *board members are entitled to one free MPA CLE seminar per year*. Please contact us at metrolinaparalegal@gmail.com to apply today for current open board positions and/or the 2017-2019 executive board.

¹ *Robert's Rules of Order* provides a standard for following Parliamentary procedure, and many organizations use it as a guide for their bylaws.



Enhanced English: Usage and Style²

From time to time we need to use the plural form of a certain noun and are uncertain of its correct spelling. This is especially difficult when the word is of Latin, Greek, French, or Italian origin. Some of these words have acceptable English plurals that may be used instead of the original plural, while others should retain the origin's plural form. It can become tricky if the word has not been naturalized into an English counterpart, so if you're unsure, use the original language plural form. Below are some typical examples.

Singular	Plural	Accepted English Plural
alga	algae	
alumna	alumnae	
alumnus	alumni	
analysis	analyses	
bacillus	bacilli	
bacterium	bacteria	
basis	bases	
bureau	bureau	bureaus
cactus	cacti	cactuses
chateau	chateaux	chateaus
crisis	crises	
criterion	criteria	
curriculum	curricula	curriculumms
datum	data	
erratum	errata	
espresso	espressi	espressos
formula	formulae	formulas
fungus	fungi	
index	indices	indexes
larva	larvae	
medium	media	
memorandum	memoranda	
millennium	millennia	millenniums
neurosis	neuroses	
phenomenon	phenomena	
pizza	pizze	pizzas
referendum	referenda	referendums
stadium	stadia	stadiums
stimulus	stimuli	
stratum	strata	
terminus	termini	terminuses
thesaurus	thesauri	thesauruses
trousseau	trousseaux	trosseaus
vortex	vortices	vortexes

² From *The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation* and *The Oxford Dictionaries*



Race for the White House



While the Metrolina Paralegal Association does not involve itself in partisan politics, an election year is always an exciting time in our democracy. And boy, oh boy, has this been a campaign season to remember! People will be talking about this election for many, many years to come.

First, this election season has already made the history books because the first woman has been nominated by a major political party. Second, there has been no shortage of media excitement over the political strategies that are being pursued by both major parties and candidates.

Although individually we have opinions about the candidates and the issues facing ourselves and our country, something that we in the legal profession keep mind is the effect an election may have on our courts and appointed offices. We hear a lot about the President's responsibility to appoint Supreme Court justices and cabinet members, but what we don't hear a lot about is the fact that the President is responsible for literally hundreds of political appointments. Some require congressional approval and some do not. For example, the United States Attorney for each of the states is appointed by the President, although some exceptions exist wherein the appointment is made by the U.S. Attorney General. Cabinet members from North Carolina are Attorney General Loretta Lynch (Greensboro) and Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx (former Charlotte mayor). The appointment of Cabinet members is established in the U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2.

What these appointments mean for us is that each appointed individual brings a particular political agenda. It is our hope that this agenda is benevolent and will translate into action items that benefit the United States of America as a country and its citizens' rights and privileges. Upholding and protecting the United States Constitution is the standard to which all political appointees are bound to adhere.

So no matter which candidates we choose, it is an honor and a privilege to live in the country where we have the freedom and ability to vote on or before November 8 for the individuals that will hold the most powerful offices in the world.

Below is a list of the President's current appointed Cabinet positions.³

Vice President Joe Biden

Secretary of State John Kerry

Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew

Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter

Attorney General Loretta Lynch

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell

Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack

Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker

Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez

Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell

Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro

Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx

Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz

Secretary of the Department of Education John King

Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald

Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson

³ From <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/cabinet>

Paralegal Perks

As a profession, paralegals enjoy a number of professional perks. “What perks?” you might ask. Well, let’s examine a few, and you decide what you think.

Enhanced knowledge of legal matters

While paralegals cannot provide legal advice, we are uniquely privileged to enjoy an environment that provides us with enlightenment regarding legal subject matters, legal processes, how to get what we need and/or want, where to go for help, and how to help others get what they need/want from legal professionals.

Professional Contacts

We establish a variety of contacts as paralegals, and this is both exciting and challenging. For example, we may find ourselves speaking on the phone to a federal judge, a county magistrate, or an arresting officer. We are frequently copied on, or are the direct contact in E-mails with attorneys, law clerks, prosecutors, federal and state agency employees, and high-ranking officials.

A Living Wage & Good Job Prospects

While many individuals struggle to make ends meet on the minimal wages paid by some corporations, paralegals, by and large, earn a living wage. Average paralegal pay in North Carolina is \$44,120 annually.⁴ In addition, The US Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected 17% employment growth for paralegals and legal assistants nationwide from 2012 to 2022.⁵

Continuing Education

How is a requirement to maintain a certain number of CLE hours a perk? It keeps us sharp. It keeps us focused. It keeps us current. It keeps us employed. Besides, when we attend a really good CLE seminar, we come into contact with some of the best in our profession, make new friends, and have the advantage of learning new skills and techniques.

Personal Growth

Paralegals are exposed to so many new and exciting innovations in technology, great minds, ever-changing experiences and adventures, and life goals that it reflects positively on our character, enhances our ability to express ourselves fluently, and creates personal growth that is never ending. We help our peers tackle and solve problems and face new challenges with eagerness to learn and overcome obstacles. The paralegal profession is without a doubt one of the most rewarding when it comes to attaining good character and helping us become honest, high-quality individuals.

⁴ <http://www.paralegal411.org/careers/north-carolina>

⁵ *Id.*

News & Happenings

The **North Carolina State Bar Board of Paralegal Certification** requires certified paralegals to obtain 6 hours of continuing paralegal education annually, of which 1 hour must be an ethics course. Certifications are renewed at the beginning of the year, and now requires proof of attendance, so be sure to hang on to those signed course documents.

The **National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA)** renews its paralegal certifications every five years, counting from the date of the original certification. Although it does not always require proof of attendance, it conducts random audits and you may need to prove attendance, so again, be sure to keep up with the required signed certificates of attendance.

Save the Date!

MPA Fall Fest CLE Seminar

November 11, 2016

The Southpark Marriott Hotel

2200 Rexford Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28211

Online enrollment available at:

<http://www.charlotteareaparalegals.com/fall-fest-cle-seminar.html>

News: MPA's 2016 Summer Social

Our summer social was held at Wine & Design on East Blvd. It was loads of fun! We ate pizza and salad, drank wine and created our own paintings! Thank you, MPA for treating us to this great event! <https://www.wineanddesign.com/locations/charlotte>



Uptown Charlotte

Creative Loafing's 29th Annual Best of Charlotte

McColl Center for Art & Innovation

October 7, 2016

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Tickets \$25

The 2016 special feature: Costume Contest! \$500 grand prize

<http://clclt.com/charlotte/itspartytime/page>

Play: *Dirty Dancing*

Ovens Auditorium

2700 E. Independence Blvd.

September 23-25, 2016

Tickets \$29.50 and up

<http://www.blumenthalarts.org/events/detail/dirty-dancing-1>

Play: *First Date*

Booth Playhouse

Blumenthal Performing Arts

130 North Tryon St.

September 27 through November 20, 2016

Tickets \$19 and up

<http://www.blumenthalarts.org/events/detail/first-date>

Breakin' Convention - Festival of Hip Hop Dance Theatre

Spirit Square

130 North Tryon St.

October 1, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m., last performance at 4:00 p.m.

Tickets Free!

<http://www.blumenthalarts.org/events-performances/coming-performances/detail/street-jam-2016>

Cajun Festival

Romare Bearden Park

300 South Church St.

September 24, 2016

2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tons of Other Great Events

<http://www.charlottesgotalot.com/events#1|2|10|||||||undefined||o>

🍂 Fall Paraview Recipe 🍂



Pumpkin Pound Cake

1 cup butter or margarine, softened
3 cups sugar
5 large eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/8 teaspoon apple pie spice
2 cups canned cooked, mashed pumpkin, (if fresh, make sure it is well drained)
1/3 cup rum
1 teaspoon vanilla extract (optional)

Preheat oven to 325°.

Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan.

Beat butter at medium speed with an electric mixer about 2 minutes or until soft and creamy.

Gradually add sugar, beating at medium speed 5 to 7 minutes.

Add eggs, one at a time, beating just until yellow disappears.

In a separate bowl, combine flour and next 6 ingredients.

In a 2nd separate bowl, combine pumpkin, rum and vanilla extract.

Add flour mixture to creamed mixture alternately with pumpkin mixture, beginning and ending with the flour mixture. Mix at lowest speed just until blended after each addition.

Bake for 1 hour and 25 to 30 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool cake in pan on wire rack 10 minutes, then remove from pan and let cool completely on wire rack.

 **2016-2017 Patron Sponsors** 

 <p>Huseby.com GLOBAL LITIGATION SUPPORT <i>Quality, Innovation & Mobility since 1928</i></p> <p>1230 W. Morehead St., Ste. 102 Charlotte, NC 28208 (800) 333-2082 www.huseby.com</p>	 <p>NOVA OFFICE STRATEGIES</p> <p>Jason Ryan, President (704) 347-0055 frontdesk@novaoffice.net www.novaoffice.net</p>
 <p>Reynolds Professional Service Inc.</p> <p>Ruth Reynolds, Owner 800-814-8662 info@reynoldspprofessionalservice.com www.reynoldspprofessionalservice.com</p>	 <p>A W R A. William Roberts, Jr. & Associates</p> <p>Robert Laughry 704-573-3919 marketing@scheduledepo.com www.scheduledepo.com</p>
 <p>NCR NATIONAL CORPORATE RESEARCH, LTD. The Right Response at the Right Time, Every Time.™</p> <p>Jonathan D. Sanzone, Account Executive (800) 483-1140 JSanzone@nationalcorp.com www.nationalcorp.com</p>	 <p>PRESTO SERVERS®</p> <p>David Williams, CEO (919) 386-9180 dwilliams@prestoservers.com www.prestoservers.com</p>
 <p>RASI REGISTERED AGENT SOLUTIONS INC</p> <p>James Crawford (888) 705-7274 marketing@rasi.com www.rasi.com</p>	 <p>Niki's Int'l Ltd. Custom Language Solutions</p> <p>877-567-8449 Scheduling@nilservices.com www.nilservices.com</p>
 <p>CaseWorks</p> <p>Debbie Lawrence (800) 955-0541 Debbie.1@caseworksonline.com www.caseworksonline.com</p>	 <p>Metrolina Paralegal Association</p>

A Word About Our Patron Sponsors

We appreciate your patronage! Our organization would not be the same without you. Your membership means a lot to us. You bring energy, fun, excitement and variety to our membership. We love having you attend our general membership meetings, and of course the highlight for all of us is your wonderful displays and the carefully constructed information you provide at our seminars.

So, we say, "thank you," to our Patron Sponsors, and we look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.



Executive Board and Committee Members

President

Michelle Kass, CP
Alston & Bird, LLP
Michelle.Kass@alston.com

Second Vice President

(Programs)
Open – please apply (we need you!)

Fourth Vice President

(Seminar chair)
Lynn Minton
TLynnMinton@gmail.com

Treasurer

Selene Hendricks, NCCP
SHendricks68@yahoo.com

NALA & NC State Bar Liaison

Susan Randolph, ACP, NCCP
Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A.
SRandolph@rbh.com

Student – School Liaison

Ellen Hamilton, NCCP
Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont
EllenH@lssp.org

Paraview Editor

Rena Elam, CP, NCCP
RenaElam@gmail.com

First Vice President

(Membership)
Carrie Marshall, NCCP
Parker Poe
CarrieMarshall@parkerpoe.com

Third Vice President

(Website, Job Bank)
Candace Russell, ACP, NCCP
CRussell@McGuireWoods.com

Secretary

Allison Yezek
Mecklenburg County District Attorney's
Office
700 E Trade St #200, Charlotte, NC 28202
allison.d.yezek@nccourts.org

Parliamentarian

(Bylaws & Standing Orders)
Rena Elam, CP, NCCP
RenaElam@gmail.com

Public Relations, Communications

Coordinator
Open position

Audit Chair

Roxanne Crouch, ACP
BB&T Governmental Finance
RCrouch@BBandT.com



Metrolina Paralegal Association