

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER JANUARY 2015
PARA SIGHT

OFFICERS

President:
Laurie Hayden

Vice-President:
Leah Poovey

Treasurer:
Beverly Cook

Assistant Treasurer:
Leah Poovey

Secretary:
Erin Banks

Assistant Secretary:
Pamela Dorsey

**ADDITIONAL
BOARD
MEMBERS**

Jerri Lee Craig
Cyndy Adams

**Your ParaSight
publishing team:**

Kelley Walker,
Cyndy Adams,
Beverly Cook, and
Laurie Hayden



Catawba Valley
Paralegal Association

Post Office Box 3068
Hickory, North Carolina 28603



2014 brought many changes, not only in CVPA, but also in our courthouses and courtrooms around the various counties. In Catawba County, we have a new Clerk of Court as well as a new District Attorney. In the 25th district, we have new representation in Congress and new judges sitting on the benches in our courtrooms.

Change is inevitable. How we roll with these changes determines our own growth and future. Personally, I saw a lot of change in the past year. I lost two very close friends, one to a freak accident and one to illness. It has made me more aware than ever that live is short and precious. We are never promised a next breath, so we all must make sure that we make the most of the time that is allotted to us. I hope 2015 will be a wonderful time of growth for CVPA, and though I am no longer in a position of leadership, I will continue to support and make CVPA a priority in the coming year.

Kelley Walker, NCCP



**President's
Message**

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**

Welcome to the first 2015 issue of ParaSight, the quarterly newsletter of the Catawba Valley Paralegal Association, and the beginning of the 7th year of the CVPA. A huge thank you to Cyndy Adams and all the former officers and directors of the Association for all their hard work and dedication and for making the CVPA such a success.

For those who don't know me, I will share a little of my history. I primarily grew up in Ohio, although we also lived in Indiana and Georgia. I graduated from Ohio University with a BA in criminology, but had no idea what I wanted to do, although the FBI was on my short list. My mother, who was a paralegal at the time, suggested I attend paralegal school, then work for a law firm to see if it would be the right fit for me. I attended the National Center for Paralegal Training in Atlanta, Georgia and received a paralegal certificate. My first job was as a corporate paralegal with a very large law firm in Cincinnati, Ohio, which, at the time, had 250 attorneys and 13 paralegals. I was offered a corporate paralegal job three years later at Katz, Teller, Brant & Hild, a much smaller law firm with only 24 attorneys and 6 paralegals. This proved to be a much more exciting place to work because most of the clientele were football and baseball players, TV personalities and restaurateurs, and I was hired during the time when Pete Rose got into a little

trouble for betting on baseball so there were TV crews stationed outside the elevator doors for weeks. I worked at Katz, Teller, Brant & Hild for 10 years, then when my husband was transferred to the Hickory area, I was hired by Patrick Harper & Dixon as the corporate and estate administration paralegal, where I have worked for 14 years.

I have been married for 23 years and have three very active children. I coach outdoor soccer, indoor soccer, and volleyball and work on the costume committee for a local youth theater group. I enjoy being busy.

My goal for the paralegal association is to grow the membership. This is such a great resource and we can do so much for our members and the community if we can get people interested in joining. There may very well be paralegals in the area who don't know about the CVPA and our goal is to locate them and invite them to join. The success and longevity of the CVPA hinges on the members, both current and new. The Association can only be as successful as the members allow it to be. I urge you to locate those future members, talk to those in the paralegal profession who are not yet members and invite them to join. Help make this Association successful and ensure that it will still be around in the years to come.

~ *Laurie Hayden*



2014

Fall/Winter

Lynn

Price

**Memorial
Scholarship**

Recipient



Criteria

Catawba

Valley

Paralegal

Association,

Inc.

We are pleased to announce that **April McCoy**, paralegal student at Western Piedmont Community College, has been selected as the Fall/Winter 2014 recipient of the CVPA Lynn Price Memorial Scholarship.

Ms. McCoy was born in Ohio, and moved to North Carolina at the age of four. She enjoys reading, hiking, and music. She is also a “big-time college football fan.” Ms. McCoy is scheduled to graduate in May 2015 with an AAS in Paralegal Technology. She has been on the President's List for three semesters, and currently has a 3.9 GPA. Her classes include a mix of online and on-campus seated courses, with her favorite classes being Criminal Law, Family Law, and Civil Injuries.

The CVPA scholarship is established to assist two full-time paralegal students at WPCC with the cost of textbooks and supplies. One \$1,000 scholarship will be funded by CVPA per academic year, in increments of two \$500 scholarships. The first \$500 scholarship was presented to WPCC paralegal student Debra Brown by Western Piedmont Foundation, Inc. for the 2014 spring semester.

The scholarship recipients are selected and authorized by the Executive Director of the Western Piedmont Foundation and Director of Financial Aid, as recommended by the WPCC Financial Aid Subcommittee. Scholarship award guidelines include that timely application must be made by the applicant to the Financial Aid Office by the deadline each year. Applicants must maintain satisfactory academic progress standards, and be enrolled in the Associate Paralegal Technology degree

program at WPCC. Part of the application process is the completion of a personal essay concerning the paralegal profession, with the exact topic to be decided and selection of the winning essay to be judged by a panel of judges selected by WPCC. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours toward the degree. A minimum GPA of 3.5 is required, and preference will be given to those who demonstrate active participation in the WPCC community activities, including campus activities and community involvement. Recipients of the CVPA scholarship are highly encouraged to attend at least one CVPA meeting.

The CVPA Board of Directors is pleased to further one of our objectives and purposes, by and through this Community Outreach project. Past Community Outreach choices include The Children’s Book Station, The Corner Table, Women's Resource Center, Catawba County Humane Society, Longview Elementary School, Maiden Elementary School, DSS Emergency Children's Fund, supplies for our elderly citizens, and families in need during the holiday season. We will continue to promote the paralegal profession through community service activities, including The Catawba Valley Paralegal Association Paralegal Scholarship.

Submitted by:

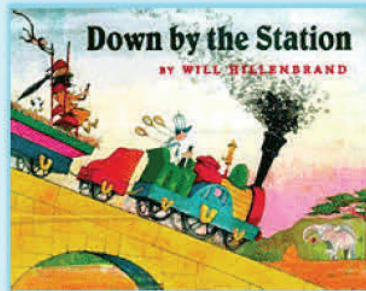
Cyndy Adams
NCCP

Community Outreach Committee Chair
Immediate Past-President, CVPA



**Community
Outreach**

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**



*The Children's
Book Station*

**CVPA's Winter
Community Outreach
Project**

Again this year, we will be collecting gently used or new books, age appropriate for younger children for the DSS Children's Book Station/Community Outreach. Books that your children have outgrown are great donations. Consider purchasing a few books from local thrift stores, Goodwill, or yard sales. There is also a need for Spanish and foreign language books. No textbooks, school books, coloring or sticker books, please.

All books collected by CVPA will be taken to the Catawba County DSS near the end of January 2015. Children who visit the Catawba County DSS with their parents or guardians are invited to read and take a book home with them. Last year when we delivered the books to the DSS, we were told by a DSS staff member that in some cases, the book that the children receive from DSS is the first book the children have ever owned. A label will be placed inside the books: *"A gift to you from your friends at Catawba Valley Paralegal Association. Knowledge is Power"*

Donations Accepted:

*January 13, 2015 Ethics CPE at CVCC

During regular office hours: The Law Offices of Blair E. Cody, III in Hickory

*Ethics CPE to be presented by William E. Morgan, Attorney
CVCC Auditorium. 6:00 p.m., January 13, 2015 - 1.0 Hr. Ethics
CPE credit to be applied for.

For more information, contact Cyndy Adams at 323-1234 or
Erin Banks at the Catawba County Clerk's Office.



It's never too late to be what you might have been.

~ George Eliot



**New Year's
Goals!
Not
Resolutions!**

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**

Happy New Year!!!

Every year brings endings and new beginnings. If you are like me, the end of the year is crazy busy with work deadlines, holiday shopping and family gatherings. I can never get into the holiday spirit because there is so much to do. But I manage to get everything done on time (if you count Christmas Eve at 10 PM getting done on time) and am able to enjoy the rest of the holiday and time with my husband, kids, parents and extended family.

Now, I am looking forward to a new year and a new beginning. At the beginning of each year, I set my work goals. Not to be confused with a New Year's resolution, a goal is something that you commit to doing rather than something you might get around to doing. I have read that you shouldn't make too many goals at one time. I concur. When I finish with my initial list of goals and see everything I want to accomplish, my energy starts to drain. So, I make a smaller, more manageable list of things I want to accomplish in the next few weeks or months. It's so much easier to tick off those items, then make a new list for the upcoming months. I even write some of the goals on my calendar so I give myself a deadline to get them finished. Setting a due date helps to keep your goals in your mind so you make sure to accomplish them.

You should decide what you need to do to reach your goals, then plan each step toward that goal. For instance, if your

goal is to increase your billable hours for the year, you can decide how many billable hours you need each month to reach the total goal for the year. Will you have to work late one or two evenings a month or work on a Saturday to attain this goal? How many hours will each project take to complete? What should you do if you come up short one month? Is there anything specific you have to do to attain that goal? Will you need to ask your attorney for additional work in order to attain a specific monthly goal? Write down each step you will need to take, then break each step down into mini-goals which might be easier to achieve. The same process can be used for personal goals.

Review your list of goals from time to time as you may need to make changes as the year progresses. Perhaps you need to add a step or remove a step. Perhaps your goals will change in June. Maybe you need to create new goals after completing the original set. Just because you have achieved your goals for the year early, doesn't mean you don't need to set new ones.

Check out the list on Page 8 for ideas to get you started on your goals for 2015.

~ Laurie Hayden

Continued to Page 8

If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.

~ Colin Powell



**Treasurer's
Report**

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**

CVPA Treasurer's Report: October 2014

Date	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Reason	Checks Paid	Ending Balance
	\$890.22				
10/7/2014		\$90.00	1 Renewals Cyndy Adams Leslie McKesson 1 new member Lori Edwards		
10/7/2014		\$175.00	6 Renewals: Betty Winstead Erin Banks Elaine Bivens Pamela Dorsey Jerri Lee Curtis Kelley Walker		
10/14/2014		\$55.00	2 Renewals Barbara Gore Carrie Burns		
10/17/2014			NC State Bar - Public Education CPE Application - Adams	\$75.00	
10/30/2014		\$90.00	3 Renewals: Donna Spencer Lynn Davis Phebe McClellan		
Totals		\$410.00		\$75.00	
					\$1,225.22

CVPA Treasurer's Report: November 2014

Date	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Reason	Checks Paid	Ending Balance
	\$1,225.22				
11/03/2014			Honorarium	\$25.00	
11/03/2014			PostMaster - additional key	\$9.00	
11/12/2014		\$60.00	1 Renewal Rita Hunt Heather Misenheimer		
11/21/2014		\$185.00	6 Renewals: Lisa Trickey Ellen Cranford Rose Humphrey Jean Durham Kathi Connor Mary McDermott (25) \$10 Raffle Money		
Totals		\$245.00		\$34.00	
					\$1,436.22

CVPA Treasurer's Report: December 2014

Date	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Reason	Checks Paid	Ending Balance
	\$1,436.22				
12/29/2014		\$90.00	3 Renewals: Katherine Moose Jill Wright Peggy Hallman		
12/29/2014		\$250.00	Catawba County Bar Association donation		
12/29/2014		\$326.00	Raffle Money		
Totals		\$666.00		\$0.00	
					\$2,102.22



**What's
New
in
the
Law?**

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**

By: Benjamin Brown
bbrown@newsobserver.com
November 29, 2014

Reprinted with permission:
Copyright 2014
The News and Observer.
All rights reserved.

**FROM DRONES TO BB GUNS,
NEW LAWS TAKE EFFECT
ON MONDAY
[December 1, 2014]**

Using drones to harass hunters? You'll have to stop starting Monday as North Carolina becomes the latest state to ban that activity as part of a new law regulating the use of drones. The drone law is one of several that become effective Monday. Here's a closer look at eight areas where new laws must be obeyed. Drones Legislators picked up on reports of animal rights activists using drones to interfere with or monitor wildlife hunting and followed the lead of states such as Illinois and Alabama that have passed laws to combat drone operators crossing the line into hunter harassment. Violations are misdemeanors. Hunters can't use drones, either. Another provision in the law bans drones for hunting and fishing. Violators will be committing misdemeanors, unless the drone has a gun attached. Possessing weapon-outfitted drones will be a felony. Other new drone regulations include a ban on using a drone to willfully interfere with a manned aircraft's takeoff, landing or flight – a felony. In addition, it will be a misdemeanor to publish or disseminate invasive photos or video captured without consent by way of infrared cameras attached to drones.

Plant protection: The penalty rises to a felony for poaching Venus flytraps in

North Carolina. Fines also increase for stealing other state-protected plants, such as lilies, pitcher plants, Dutchman's breeches and orchids. The law will also begin to count each plant taken as an individual offense. Offenders could face fines of \$75 to \$150 per stolen plant. The previous range was \$10 to \$50.

Fracking secrets: Anyone with access who "knowingly and willfully" discloses the makeup of fracking fluid – lawfully protected as a trade secret – may be charged with a misdemeanor.

Prison changes: Prisons will be able to give or sell e-cigarettes, nicotine gum, patches and other cessation tools to inmates. But anyone who gives or sells a cellphone to an inmate, and any inmate who possesses a cellphone, may be charged with a felony (previously a misdemeanor).

Agricultural safety: Agricultural facilities are added to the list of places where uninvited parties may be charged with first-degree trespassing.

Firearms: The penalty rises to a felony for anyone guilty of a second or subsequent offense of carrying concealed firearms in public without a permit. Detention officers working for a sheriff can carry weapons on school grounds when discharging their official duties. Air rifles and BB guns are no longer defined as "dangerous firearms" in Anson, Cleveland, Harnett, Stanly and Surry counties. They've opted out of that definition in a section of law that deals with children using guns under adult supervision. BB guns and the like are still "dangerous firearms" in Caldwell, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston,

Continued to Page 8



**What's
New
in
the
Law?
(continued)**

Goals

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**

Continued from Page 7

Haywood, Mecklenburg, Stokes, Union and Vance counties.

Protecting those who serve: Anyone who assaults or threatens another person as retaliation against any legislative officer, executive officer or court officer for doing his or her job may be charged with a felony. It's already felonious to attack or threaten those officers directly; the new law seeks to protect their families and associates, as well as their offices, homes and cars.

Waiving trials: An individual charged with a criminal offense may waive a jury trial and instead let a judge handle the case (unless the state is seeking a death sentence). Voters approved that constitutional change in the November election.

Benjamin Brown writes for NCInsider.com, a government news service owned by The News & Observer.

2015 Goal Ideas

Continued from Page 5

Here are some ideas to add to your list of goals:

- Update your resume
- Organize your work area
- Close files
- Be on time for work
- Get all your CPE's completed in a timely manner so you aren't trying to find a two hour seminar two weeks before your recertification expires.
- Complete all those administrative tasks that you tend to put off
- Learn Excel, Access or Publisher
- Take a writing or legal research class
- Learn a different type of law

Here's to new beginnings and best of luck on accomplishing your goals!



**Catawba County
Bar Association**

25th Judicial District

The **Catawba County Bar Association** recently made a donation to CVPA.

THANK YOU!



**What's
New
in
the
Law?
(continued)**

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**

By: Benjamin Brown
bbrown@newsobserver.com
[December 29, 2014]

Reprinted with permission:
Copyright 2015
The News and Observer.
All rights reserved.

**NEW NC LAWS AFFECT MOVIES,
FIREMEN AND REVENUES**

A new year will bring new laws. Below is a roundup of notable laws effective Jan. 1. Replacing the state's expiring 25 percent refundable tax credit for movie and television projects is a smaller grant program capped at \$10 million for the remainder of the fiscal year. Feature films will have to spend at least \$5 million, and TV episodes at least \$250,000, to qualify. Each project may receive a maximum of \$5 million. The amount allocated for the new program, which the legislature may re-up or modify, contrasts with the \$60 million to \$80 million a year the film industry has claimed under the expiring tax credit.

New magistrates have a mandatory retirement age to consider. Those whose terms begin on or after Jan. 1 will have to step down at the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the General Court of Justice. Currently, that age is 72. Pension-spiking prevention arrives. Going into law is a contribution-based benefit cap affecting government employees salaried at \$100,000 a year or more. It's meant to stop boosts in pension when near-retirement employees get raises or convert allowance funds to salary. The News & Observer reported in 2013 that presidents and boards of four community colleges in North Carolina converted allowances into pay and juiced their pensions, which the taxpayer-supported retirement system will have to subsidize.

DHHS will manage mental health drugs with an aim to save \$12 million annually.

The law says it would achieve that with adjustments to the preferred drug list to maximize supplemental rebates and with a utilization review, among other new restrictions. Because the plan goes into effect mid-fiscal year, savings in 2014-15 are expected to be \$6 million. A report on the progress is expected no later than October.

Firefighters in North Carolina will be subject to criminal background checks. That's in a House bill that passed unanimously this summer to expand the previous law that only subjected job applicants – rather than any current firehouse employee – to background checks.

Sales of items to real property contractors for on-the-job use are taxed, as part of the base-broadening the 2013 tax reform package. The law will also define the difference between a real property contractor, who buys goods for construction and repair jobs, and a "retailer contractor," who sells those goods.

For occupational licensure and certification, the state's licensing boards must list specific criteria that military experience already satisfies. Those criteria will be posted on the websites of the boards and the N.C. Division of Veterans Affairs. This is in a section of law meant to credit members of the military for their special know-how. If a member of the military applies for a license in a regulated occupation and doesn't meet the criteria, the licensing board will have 30 days to tell that applicant why.

The motor fuels tax refund for taxicabs is repealed, saving an expected \$69,000 in fiscal year 2014-15.

Benjamin Brown writes for NCInsider.com, a government news service owned by The News & Observer.



CPVA

**Objectives/
Purpose**

**Catawba
Valley
Paralegal
Association,
Inc.**

The objectives and purposes of the Catawba Valley Paralegal Association, Inc. are to :

1. Encourage the highest order of ethical and professional conduct in the paralegal profession.
2. Further education and encourage exchange of information among members of the legal profession.
3. Establish good fellowship among the CVPA members, North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc., and members of the legal community.
4. Support the goals and objectives of the North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.
5. Promote the Paralegal Profession through community service activities.
6. Operate in conformance with and evidence our intent to be and remain a non-profit entity in conformance with Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c)(6).
7. Establish a network of paralegals to exchange ideas and information.
8. Provide a local forum for paralegals to share knowledge, forms, ideas and experience.
9. Disseminate relevant information to members of CVPA and the legal community.
10. Increase attorney awareness of the value of the efficient utilization of paralegals.
11. Elevate the status of paralegals in the Catawba Valley area through exhibiting professionalism in all that we do.

Thank you to

William Morgan

for presenting our

January 13, 2015 CPE

Professionalism, Ethics, and Effective Representation

MORGAN LAW
FLLC

200 First Avenue, NW, Suite 531

Hickory, NC 28601