



OCTOBER 2024

# *Signatures Newsletter*

## A Message from our President



Dear Fellow Notaries,

Every year in my notary journey has presented unique challenges and rewards. Being a part of the North Carolina Notary Association has been incredibly fulfilling, especially as I've become more involved in addressing the organization's needs.

Volunteering our time, knowledge, and skills for a cause greater than ourselves is a rewarding experience. As notaries, we have a positive impact in many ways: assisting students in their continuing education through our scholarship committee, advocating for legislative changes that benefit notaries statewide through our legislative committee, and educating our peers on issues affecting them and their communities as an organization.

We should be proud to be part of an association built on the shared commitment of every Notary Public to protect and serve North Carolina against forgery and fraud. Each of us plays a vital role in our communities, and our dedication to upholding our oath strengthens our organization.

Becoming your president was not by chance but a necessary step in my journey. I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with and support fellow notaries, regardless of background or beliefs. Your support for my vision and mission, as well as your dedication to this organization, inspires me. Together, we are making a difference for notaries across our state.

Thank you for your continued commitment.

Sincerely,  
Belinda B Bennett, President  
North Carolina Notary Association



**Mark your calendars - November 7th is Notary Public Day.  
Stay tune for a special offer from the NC Notary Association**



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# MEET

## YOUR NEW OFFICERS 2024 - 2026



Belinda B. Bennett with her son Jonathan Bennett being sworn in as NCNA President by The Honorable Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall

## Upcoming Training!



### Notary Basics Accelerated by NC Notary Coach

Registration Ends Oct 31st

Sign Up at [ncnotary.org](http://ncnotary.org)

\$100.00 NCNA Members

\$85.00 Non-Members

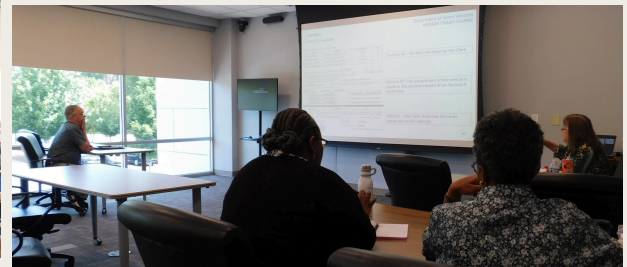
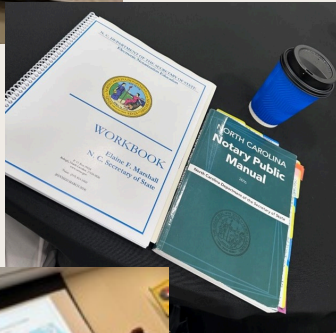
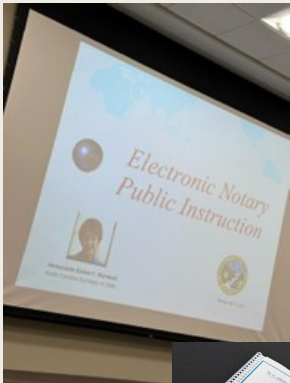
This is a pre-recorded training that you will have access to for the entire month of November.



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## CONFERENCE RECAP

## TRAINING CLASSES



At the NCNA 2024 Conference, three classes were offered, eNotary Public class with Alisha DeBerry & Central Piedmont Community College, Notary Basics Accelerated by Belinda B. Bennett, and a Crash Course on DMV Documents with Melanie J. McFarland. Each class offers unique information and training to help notaries be more confident and knowledgeable.

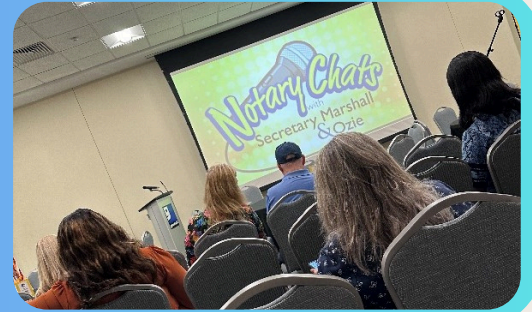
The NCNA had a sponsor table at the NC Secretary of State 5th Annual eMortgage Conference in Charlotte, NC on August 27-28, 2024. We have 27 new members sign up, sold 20 notary journals which added \$160 to the scholarship fund, and had 53 new sign up to the 2025 Conference Waitlist.



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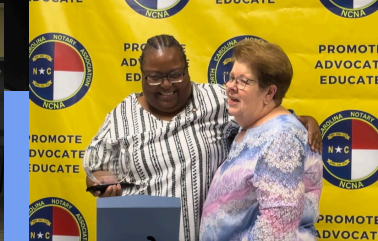
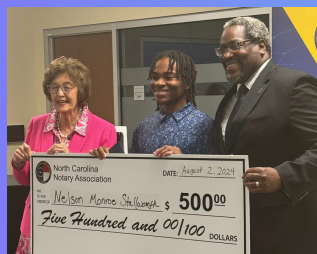
## NOTARY CHATS

Secretary Marshall and Mr. Notary, Ozie Stalworth welcomed conference attendees to their notary chats section. This was an opportunity for notaries and guests to ask questions and receive answers directly from a reliable source. The audience enjoyed the in-depth explanations overall we had a positive outcome.



## MEET & GREET SCHOLARSHIPS

The meet & greet was a great time to socialize. Attendees had the opportunity to network and speak with Secretary Marshall, Ozie, and former and new NCNA Board members. The winners of the Scholarships were announced during this time. The Honorable Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall Scholarship for the "Membership" Jonathan Bennett, the late, Dennis W. "Bud" Cameron Scholarship for "Merit"- Nelson Stallworth, the late, Woodrow Franklin "Jack" Penny Scholarship for "Need" - Lakeisha Terry. We also introduced a 4th scholarship - The Presidential Scholarship in Honor of Judy B. Chapman, Founding Member and Inaugural President - Jennifer Thompson.





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## CONFERENCE DAY!!!

The conference was filled with special guests who shared their knowledge with attendees.

The honorable Fredrick Smith opened the ceremony by giving us insight into the Register of Deeds office. He emphasized that the Register of Deeds office is one of the most important local government offices. It is responsible for issuing vital records of life events kept under government authority. Certified copies of birth certificates, certified death records, marriage licenses, and deeds are just some of the documents they record. He also acknowledged and showed his appreciation towards notaries. We are at the forefront of verifying identities and preventing fraud and forgery.

The secretary of state then gave us a brief message and informed us on various matters. Emphasizing the importance of her section Notary Chats, Facebook groups, and newsletters, she and Ozie Stalworth do what they can to stay connected with notaries. She highlighted that there are 165,854 commissioned notaries in North Carolina and 6,370 eNotaries across NC, she thanked the NCNA for advocating and educating the notary community. The Secretary Marshall team has worked diligently to launch RENA. She further explained why the EVN expired, this matter was included in a bill not related to anything notary and was vetoed, therefore EVN is still not legal. She noted that NC had experienced new growth in entrepreneurship and spoke about RISE, a resource for small businesses.

Next was Michael Dickerson the director of election in Mecklenburg County he shared facts about the voting procedure at his office, giving us in-depth insight into their responsibilities during voting season. He shared logistics about the different voting options and how most of the public prefers to vote early. He then gave us a step-by-step on how to fill out the absentee ballot and the importance of a notary public for this step. Lastly, he gave an important update, this year all ballots will require an ID to be counted. His office will assist in providing an ID should you need it.

Ozie Stalworth the director of Electronic Notarization and Notary Enforcement gave us a very informative presentation regarding updates on new notary laws, Electronic Notarization, and RENA. He explained the new procedure to follow for all the different notarial acts, the goal is to have it all under one law rather than multiple. He highlighted the new fees that notaries can charge. He informed attendees that once rules are adopted notary classes will be equipped with the proper provision to perform remote electronic notarizations and the changes on notary commissions. Ozie also gave us an update on the notary manual.





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Next Captain S. Kory Flowers from the Greensboro Police Department gave us a presentation on Sovereign Citizens, who were a trending topic around 2007-2008. His goal was to have a team to educate everyone across North Carolina, at the time little to no information was known about this group. His dedication went as far as interacting directly with sovereign citizens to get a first-hand understanding of their mindset, beliefs, and outlook on the government. To later teach other agencies including notaries. His presentation consisted of specific signs to look for to identify these individuals.

Lastly, Commissioner Wayne Goodwin from the DMV started his presentation by acknowledging the importance of notaries for DMV documents, thanking us for our hard work. He shared that vacancies in the DMV offices are decreasing and online services are available saving you time. He highlighted that his division is working to have more kiosks available to provide quicker services without setting an in-person appointment. Attendees had their first look at the new NC Driver's License. Commissioner Goodwin shared that it has a different look and is also equipped with several safety features to help against fraud. Overall it was a very informative presentation and we appreciate the time he took to answer fellow notaries' questions and have an in-depth conversation.





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ASSOCIATION



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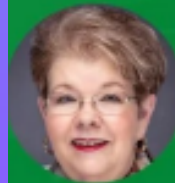
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