



North Carolina Notary Association (NCNA) 21ST Annual Notary Conference April 21-22, 2023

**Theme: Opportunity Knocking
Holiday Inn & Suites
160 Van Campen Blvd. Wilmington, NC 28403**

Friday, April 21, 2023

9:00am – 2pm

One of the newest pursuits of NCNA was to enhance notary education. NCNA sponsored an eNotary class facilitated by Cape Fear Community College, Wilmington in the ballroom at the Holiday Inn & Suites. Kathy Segda, Business & Industry Coordinator, Cape Fear Community College served as the instructor to 20 students. NCNA provided snacks, water and coffee was replenished by the hotel. It was a closed session to those who pre-registered. Crystal Gilliard, vice president of NCNA, ensured the classroom space was set to specifications for training and welcomed the instructor and notaries.

4:00pm-6:00pm

NCNA Executive Committee set up for the evening's Meet and Greet registration, arranged the space, and assembled the swag bags to include items donated by supporters of NCNA.

7:00pm-9pm

There were 58 pre-registered notaries and guests for the Meet & Greet event including Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall, Ozie H. Stallworth, and DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. Angie's Catering of Wilmington catered the event. A.J. Holmes of TechnoBabble, LLC, Virginia provided the music and live streaming. It was a wonderful time of making connections, introductions, and networking. Photos were taken by Malcolm Wilson of Touch Media, Charlotte, NC.

Saturday, April 22, 2023

9am-12:00pm

Crystal Gilliard, NCNA vice president, officially opened and welcomed everyone to the 21st Annual Conference. A moment of silence was observed for NCNA officers Judy B. Chapman, president and Jonathan Brown Guerrero, treasurer, and legislative envoy, due to the deaths within their families.

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Attendees were given instructions to complete the video release form granting permission to photograph and stream their image for the NCNA website. Crystal shared housekeeping instructions to silence cell phones, directions to the restrooms, and to enjoy the breakfast buffet.

Belinda B. Bennett, chair of the scholarship committee, welcomed the attendees and reminded notaries they are essential workers helping people every day. She directed attendees to a moment of meditative silence followed by the pledge of allegiance. She acknowledged the sponsors for the session as documented in the conference agenda. Belinda announced if anyone purchased her notary training, part of the proceeds would be given to NCNA Scholarship Fund.

Crystal led the business session by introducing the 2022-24 NCNA officers: Judy Chapman, president, Jonathan Brown Guerrero, treasurer and legislative envoy, Andrea Betaudier, secretary and Alma Wynn Jones, historian.

The 20th Annual Conference minutes were presented for review, to prepare for the vote, and to adopt. Crystal asked for someone to make a motion to approve the minutes, Joyce Leak (Winston Salem) motioned, and Gloria Green (Greensboro) seconded. Crystal asked if there were questions or corrections. One person questioned Crystal's title as President versus Vice President as notated in the 2022 minutes time stamped as 9:34am. Crystal explained the new officers were sworn in at 9:08am and her position was now vice president. No opposition.

Membership and Finance reports were posted to the website under the member section on the www.ncnotary.org website.

Old Business

NCNA had been trying to engage members to get involved as volunteers with the association. There was a survey in the conference packet for attendees to complete and return to the officers for follow-up. It was announced NCNA meetings were done by zoom to eliminate travel costs and to stay connected.

New Business

NCNA implemented and engaged a videographer to live stream the 21st Annual Conference as a test run to provide the conference information for those who could not attend and to sell as a service for future conferences; the new design of the NCNA *Signatures* newsletter was by Alma; the Meet and Greet was established due to feedback from membership; the eNotary class was new with 20 pre-registered; a

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new website designed and operated by Jonathan; and the institution of three scholarships awarded based on membership, merit, and need.

Crystal facilitated the recognition of our Lifetime Membership 102 (a.k.a. “Notary 102”) award to Ozie H. Stallworth for advanced notary work, enforcement, innovator, and education throughout the state of North Carolina. Secretary Marshall was awarded the Lifetime Membership 101 years prior in recognition for sustaining Notary Public education to a higher standard. NCNA will provide a plaque to Ozie as soon as the overseas supply chain issue is resolved.

Motion to adjourn the business session by Karen Goerndt and seconded by Belinda Bennett.

Belinda recognized and presented the three scholarship namesakes. The Honorable Elaine F. Marshall shared her surprise and delight that NCNA had named an educational scholarship after her. She highlighted that NC notaries are the protectors of NC citizens assets. **Brandon Anthony Crump was the recipient of the Elaine F. Marshall scholarship for \$500.00**

Belinda introduced the second scholarship namesake, Dennis “Bud” Cameron. Bud shared notaries must educate employers how different notarial acts are performed. He expressed his gratitude to NCNA for honoring him. **Olivia L. Stallworth was the recipient of the Dennis “Bud” Cameron scholarship for \$500.00.**

Belinda announced the third scholarship namesake, Woodrow Franklin “Jack” Penny. Belinda read the short bio on Jack regarding his dedicated notary community service. Jack passed away on May 29, 2021. This scholarship was awarded to **Grant Styer, not in attendance, for \$500.00.**

Greetings and reflections were delivered by Wayne Goodwin, NC DMV Commissioner. He presented the implementation for NC residents to have shorter lines, shorter wait times, more online services, better customer service and improved law enforcement to fight fraud. Notaries are very instrumental with DMV documents and the process of the same. DMV Kiosks are coming to grocery stores with the experimentation of twenty (20) locations. Commissioner Goodwin directed attendees to the NC DMV website to view all the new additional services.

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Ozie Stallworth addressed the group on the evolution of the NC Notary Public. His presentation portrayed the historical account and fun facts of the NC Notary. The first Notary Public on record in North Carolina was Thomas Jones of Chowan County. He was appointed by Governor Sir Arthur Dobbs on March 8, 1763.

Other related facts about NC Notaries:

- Ruth Middleton of Goldsboro (Wayne County) was the first female notary in North Carolina. She was appointed on August 27, 1920
- 1970 the North Carolina commission term was two years before it was changed to the present five-year term
- July 14, 1971, the Notary Public program in North Carolina was transferred from the Governor's office to the Secretary of State
- NC ranks 7th in the nation with the most Notaries Public
- 63% of North Carolina notaries are women and 36% are men
- The average age of a U.S. notary is 42
- NC has 150K notaries
- Notable notaries: William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and Jennifer Lopez (actor)
- May 4, 2020, the Emergency Video Notarization law was passed
- The Remote Electronic Notarization (Ren) law passed in the General Assembly on 7/1/22 and signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper on 7/8/22:
 - Fee increased for notarial acts from \$5.00 to \$10.00
 - Mileage allowance was approved for the first time

Door prize tickets were drawn, and gifts given to winners.

Notaries in Trouble Panel Discussion

- Crystal Gilliard, Register of Deeds, Union County
- Jennifer Keel, Director of Vehicle Services, Raleigh
- Angela Beeman-Ratliff, Regional Coordinator for Advance Care Planning
- Ozie Stallworth, Secretary of State Office

Each panelist introduced themselves and shared situations where notaries had common oversights and mistakes. Panelists identified frequently occurring notary violations. Ozie stated sometimes it is okay to say 'no' to avoid potential violations and the consequences of the same. Jennifer provided a handout highlighting DMV

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infractions: a) notarizing a document without the signer being in the notary's presence b) failing to inspect the credentials of the persons appearing before the notary c) allowing other employees to use your notary seal. Q & A followed the panelist's presentation.

12:00-12:45pm Lunch

1:00 pm- conference resumed with Part II of Ozie's segment on Remote Electronic Notarization (REN). Q & A ensued after the presentation.

Ozie thanked the NCNA body for the invitation to present at the 21st Annual Conference. The PowerPoint presentation link:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=61b2983c83&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1765455137413315855&th=18802817fc68bd0f&view=att&disp=safe>

1:45pm Break and Door Prizes

Boost Your Business with In-Person Electronic Notarization (IPEN)

2:00pm -the IPEN presenter, Brittany Wallace from Gilbert, AZ, joined the conference via zoom. Brittany is the manager of customer success at EscrowTab. She ensures all EscrowTab notaries receive training. EscrowTab is a NC authorized electronic signing provider.

An EscrowTab notary uses a tablet to notarize docs and verify identity in-person. With Title companies moving forward with IPEN, it advertises cost savings for printing multiple packages and corrected documents – or buying toner; no cost to ship packages or chase down missed signatures from borrowers; software ensures no signatures are missing and that all documents notarized correctly, reducing the number of errors; to post closing, title companies gain immediate access to signed and notarized documents; closing documents are securely stored in EscrowTab's eVault with restricted access; the tradition of the closing celebration is maintained for the borrower, realtor, and loan office in person to maintain and strengthen relations. Belinda facilitated the Q & A session between Brittany and attendees. Presentation link:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=61b2983c83&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1763009214666581124&th=1877778a37f12484&view=att&disp=inline>

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Crystal reminded the audience to complete the conference survey and include their choice of location for the 2024 Annual Conference. The last drawing was a free 2024 registration package awarded to **Notary Public Kelli Hill**.

The NCNA 21st conference was adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Betaudier, secretary
NCNA 2022-24