

## NCPLA President's Message

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#### President

John Policastro  
*NC Automobile  
Dealers Association*

#### Vice-President

Amy Fullbright  
*Hunton & Williams*

On April 30, NCPLA hosted a very special evening honoring four gentlemen who exemplify the professionalism and integrity that our association strives to promote. The event, dubbed "A Conversation with Al Adams, Zeb Alley, Sam Johnson and Roger Bone", was the product of a great deal of hard work by our NCPLA Events Committee and primarily Lu-Ann Perryman. The "official release" of an NCPLA DVD with personal interviews of all four gentlemen also highlighted the evening.

Attendees enjoyed the perfect mix of humorous stories, enlightening anecdotes, important "clarifications" of some well-known past events, as well as a tribute for a lost friend. Many thanks to the Farm Bureau for production of the DVD, the League of Municipalities for hosting, and to David Rice for moderating the evening. A very special thanks to the NCPLA events committee and especially to Lu-Ann for her dedication in making this event happen and in the creation of the DVD. (Copies of the DVD can still be obtained by contacting the NCPLA office.)

I think you will agree that we would all be very lucky to accomplish the type of career achieved by these four lobbyists. They share a reputation in our business that truly inspires heartfelt admiration and respect. I also express the sincere appreciation of all NCPLA members to these gentlemen for sharing their experiences with us and providing us with such an extraordinary evening.

As we near the end of another legislative session, I hope that you can all look back on a successful session for you and your clients. This year, as with other recent sessions, has seen its share of challenges and scrutiny toward our profession. I thank the members of NCPLA for their dedication in advancing the ideals of our association and for continuing to persevere through difficult times. Also, as noted in the Legislative Committee report in this newsletter, an Ethics Act amendments bill is likely to be considered before adjournment. Please provide any input or suggestions that you have to Bill Scoggin or to me as soon as possible.

Finally, I look forward to seeing all NCPLA members at our Annual Meeting on October 19 & 20, 2009, at the Brownstone here in Raleigh. The Events Committee is busy at work finalizing the details for the meeting which will include our 3rd Annual Lobster Awards, among other important business and fun. Please make your plans to attend!

Again, I thank you for the honor of serving as NCPLA President and please contact me with any questions or concerns or if I be of any assistance.

John Policastro

# Electronically Notarized Lobbying Filings

Submitted by  
Ozie Stallworth  
Electronic Notarization Analyst and Director  
NC Department of the Secretary of State

RALEIGH, NC. – Lobbyists in North Carolina and the organizations that hire them no longer have to burn shoe leather or lick stamps to make their legally required filing deadlines.

In April, the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State began accepting electronically notarized quarterly filings from lobbyists and their employers, called principals.

The Department's allowing of this form of filing means that lobbyists and principals can also submit their reports electronically without having to make special trips to the Secretary of State's Office or trust that they have mailed their paperwork in time.

"This is a win-win advancement for both the people and businesses of North Carolina," Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall said Friday. "The regulated community can now save themselves time and stress, and just as importantly, everyone who wants to read through these quarterly spending reports can now also get access to that information more quickly and efficiently."

The Department had previously allowed some filings to be made electronically, but quarterly spending reports must carry a notary public seal on them, and until now, that has meant they needed to be submitted on paper.

Secretary Marshall has been an advocate for government to use electronic notarizations where possible to save costs and to help businesses meet their governmental requirements more efficiently. Notaries must complete special coursework approved by the Secretary of State before they can use an electronic seal.

"We have wanted to move this reporting requirement into the modern age for some time," Secretary Marshall said. "But it just took a lot of hard work by the vendors who provide electronic notarization services to get the lobbying documents transferred into an acceptable, secure electronic format."

Secretary Marshall thanked the two vendors who now offer this service to the lobbying community, World Wide Notary and Electronic Document Logistics, for their work to make it happen. She said she hopes other electronic notarization companies will soon look to add the service as well.

Participants in sending their electronically notarized reports included the law firms Rose, Rand and Wallace; Poyner and Spruill; Nelson Mullins; Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein; and Jordan Price Wall Gray Jones and Carlton. Also participating were First Citizens Bank and Catawba County government.

This fully electronic process has been found by 86% of the current eFilers to be more efficient, faster and more convenient than filing paper reports.

This method of filing is secure, eliminates paper from the filing process, allows for faster online access to filed reports and allows reports to be conveniently filed from your office computer.

All you need to get started is;

1. An electronic notary – The Department has scheduled eNotary classes at our Downtown offices in Raleigh for June 18th & 19th. Call Mary Kelly at 919-807-2156 for more details and registration information. Click here for information on "How to become an electronic notary".
2. An electronic notary signature and seal from one of the approved eNotary solution providers below. Click on their respective links to find out more about their electronic lobbyist expense report eFiling services or contact them by phone:  
World Wide Notary , (940) 553-4585 press 1 #301  
Electronic Document Logistics, (919) 341-4101
3. The desire to increase efficiency, reduce paper and go green

We encourage you to investigate this new filing method to see if it is right for you. If you have any questions please call or email Ozie Stallworth, the Electronic Notarization Director for the Department of Secretary of State at 919-807-2295 or ostallworth@sosnc.com.

# NCPLA Education Committee Update

The NCPLA Education Committee has invited Mr. Steve Long to provide an educational seminar in mid-to-late August. The event will mostly likely be held at the Quorum Center in Raleigh during the lunch hour.

Steve, who is an attorney with Williams Mullen in Raleigh, focuses part of his practice on advising clients on how to form tax-exempt organizations, political organizations, and counsels clients on other issues such as avoidance of prohibited transactions and regulations limiting political or lobbying activities.

Steve's upcoming presentation to NCPLA will involve topics such as how and when

to form a tax-exempt political organization, applicability of the attorney-client privilege to lawyer-lobbyists, and an update with respect to recent developments in the lobbying laws. A formal announcement of the date, time and location of the presentation will be announced once the legislature adjourns.

The Education Committee is also working hard on attracting a speaker for the NCPLA Annual Meeting in October. Please email Doug Heron at [dheron@williamsmullen.com](mailto:dheron@williamsmullen.com) or Paul Meyer at [pmeyer@ncml.org](mailto:pmeyer@ncml.org) with any suggestions or ideas.

Doug Heron & Paul Meyer, NCPLA Education Committee Co-Chairs

## Joanne Stevens

Many of our members are aware our colleague and friend, Joanne Stevens, has not been with us at the Legislative Building since early May. After experiencing a loss of vision in her right eye and several visits with her doctors, her neurosurgeon gave her the diagnosis on May 8th, a large aneurysm at the base of the brain. The pressure of the aneurysm on her optic nerve had resulted in the loss of vision that she was experiencing. It was a true blessing that she was given a warning sign.

On June 11th, Joanne underwent surgery at WakeMed to remove the aneurysm. With the wonderful support of prayers from so many friends and family, and a very skilled team of surgeons, doctors and nurses, and the entire team of health care providers. Joanne's surgery and recovery in ICU was successful.



With Joanne's hard work and determination, she was discharged from the Rehab Center on July 8th. Joanne continues to work hard with the support of her husband and family through outpatient rehab. Her doctors are expecting her to make a full recovery and she is anxious to get back into her work and back around such wonderful friends.

Joanne, Tommy and their family would like to express their sincere appreciation to each of you for your prayers, thoughts and support during the past two months. Through your prayers and the Lord's protection each day, they have had a successful journey. Again, they thank you for all the cards, kind words of support and prayers. During hard times one can feel the support of wonderful souls.

**NCPLA 2009 Annual Meeting**  
**October 19 - 20**

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The NCPLA Legislative Committee continues to monitor both the aftermath of the ethics investigation this session, as well as the various proposals to amend the Ethics Act and related statutes.

We are expecting an “Ethics Act Amendments” bill to be considered before the adjournment of the session. An early draft is being developed by legislative staff and the NCPLA Legislative Committee is reviewing the various proposals. If you have any suggestions or proposals for items in the Ethics Act, lobbying laws or campaign finance law, please contact Bill Scoggin.

Minor changes, particularly to the mechanics of filing, are most likely to be successful, as opposed to any major policy item. Bill will try to work with you to have your suggestions included, or at least considered. Comments and suggestions from NCPLA members are always most welcome by the Legislative Committee, so please do not hesitate to contact Bill.

Bill Scoggin, Legislative Committee Co-Chair

## GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD — THE ANSWERS

In last quarter’s Newsletter, we offered a chance to test your knowledge of NCPLA Board members. Here is the test, this time with the correct answers.

- A. Earned three varsity letters in high school.
- B. At one time, held top secret security clearance.
- C. Had the lower third of their colon removed while still in high school.
- D. Was run over by a car at age three.
- E. Once attempted a mountain hike in New Hampshire in February, and discovered it snows a lot there at that time of year.
- F. Attended small arms training at Camp Perry, Ohio, which boasts the world’s largest outdoor firing range.
- G. Got into a fight on the school bus at age ten, and was banned from riding for a month.
- H. Claims to have been so good in their youth that there is “nothing noteworthy” to use in this column.
- I. Was a lowly bartender in college, and now holds the rank of Commodore.

### ANSWERS

1. Susan Valauri	<b>F</b>	6. Joe Stewart	<b>C</b>
2. Lu-Ann C. Perryman	<b>I</b>	7. Ken Melton	<b>B</b>
3. Paul Stock	<b>A</b>	8. Christie Barbee	<b>D</b>
4. Kathy Hawkins	<b>G</b>	9. Lori Ann Harris	<b>H</b>
5. Henry Lancaster	<b>E</b>		

### NCPLA Contact Information

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# Plans For Annual Meeting Underway

The NCPLA Events Committee is in the process of finalizing plans for the 2009 NCPLA Annual Meeting. This year, we will meet at the Holiday Inn Brownstone in Raleigh on Monday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 20.

The agenda for this year's meeting will follow the structure of our past annual meetings, with a golf tournament on Monday, followed by the Annual Meet-

ing Dinner and Lobster Awards that evening. Tuesday morning will include breakfast, an educational session, and the Association's business meeting.

Please watch for further announcements and mark your calendar now for October 19 & 20.

Lu-Ann Coe-Perryman, Events Committee Co-Chair

## 2009-2010 NCPLA Board of Directors

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