



NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

August 2026

STAY CONNECTED



www.ncnotary.org



[@ncnaorg](https://www.facebook.com/ncnaorg)



info@ncnotary.org



State of the Association: Looking Forward

As I reflect on my term as President of the North Carolina Notary Association (NCNA), I am inspired by our collective dedication to our mission: to Educate, Advocate, and Promote notaries across our state.

Growth & Impact – We are stronger together. Our membership has surged from under 200 to over 600 in just a few short years, solidifying our role as a vital resource for North Carolina notaries. Additionally, our Scholarship Committee has expanded significantly—growing from a single award in 2022 to five additional scholarships today, proving the power of investing in our own community.

Gratitude to Our Team –Our success is built upon the hard work of our leadership, including founder Judy Chapman, Treasurer Jonathan Brown Guerrero, Vice President Monica Jones, Secretary Brenda Hernandez-Malpica, Historian Lindsay White, Notary Instructor Liaison Karen Gordon, and our entire dedicated Board of Directors.

The Road Ahead –Our primary goal for the coming year is to expand our training footprint beyond annual conferences. Following our successful March kick-off session, we are continuing our momentum with expert-led online training series. I encourage all members to visit our website to register for these upcoming learning opportunities.

As you return to your day to day activities, I leave you with this charge: Always be learning. Thank you for the honor of serving as your President.

*Here for you,
President, Belinda B. Bennett*

Thank you FOR BEING A VALUED MEMBER!

NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION



NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

August 2026

STAY CONNECTED



www.ncnotary.org



[@ncnaorg](https://www.facebook.com/ncnaorg)



info@ncnotary.org

Next Stop:

Wilmington NC!

Announcing the NCNA 2027 Annual Conference

Get ready to soak in the coastal charm! We are thrilled to announce that the NCNA 2027 Annual Conference will be hosted in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Whether you're looking to sharpen your knowledge on state notary standards, earn continuing education, or expand your professional network, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Stay tuned in upcoming editions for venue announcements, keynote speaker reveals, and early-bird registration discounts!

Announcements!

- The NCNA will be at the SOS Conference in August. See you there!
- Want to be the next Notary featured in our newsletter Send us an email! historian@ncnotary.org

WORDS FROM OUR LEGISLATIVE ENVOY



Legislative Update: New Federal Business Mileage Rate

Greetings Members,

We are pleased to share an important update regarding travel reimbursements and tax deductions for mobile notary services. **Effective July 1, 2026**, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has increased the optional standard mileage rate for business travel to **76 cents per mile**—up from 72.5 cents earlier this year. As travel forms a core part of many notary practices, we encourage you to update your mileage tracking systems and fee structure calculations accordingly to ensure you accurately reflect this new rate for the second half of the year. We will continue to monitor tax and legislative developments to support your business.

Sincerely,

Your Legislative Envoy, Michele Partee

NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION



NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

August 2026

STAY CONNECTED



www.ncnotary.org



[@ncnaorg](https://www.facebook.com/ncnaorg)



info@ncnotary.org



NORTH CAROLINA

☀️ **Community Spotlight:**
Discover New Hanover County!

☀️ **County Motto**
"Where History Meets the Coast."

🌊 Quick Facts

- County Seat: Wilmington
- Founded: 1729 (one of North Carolina's oldest counties)
- Population: Approximately 240,000 residents
- Region: Southeastern North Carolina
- Known For: Beautiful beaches, historic downtown, the Cape Fear River, and a thriving film industry.



Fun Fact

The USS North Carolina Battleship, permanently docked across the Cape Fear River from downtown Wilmington, served in the Pacific during World War II and is now one of North Carolina's most visited historic attractions.

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT NEW HANOVER COUNTY



Did You Know?

Wilmington is often called "Hollywood East" because hundreds of movies and television shows have been filmed there, including One Tree Hill, Dawson's Creek, The Summer I Turned Pretty, and many feature films.



Places to Explore

If you're visiting Wilmington, consider checking out:

- Historic Downtown Wilmington
- Riverwalk along the Cape Fear River
- Battleship North Carolina
- Airlie Gardens
- Wrightsville Beach
- Carolina Beach
- Fort Fisher State Historic Site & Aquarium



NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

August 2026

STAY CONNECTED



www.ncnotary.org



[@ncnaorg](https://www.facebook.com/ncnaorg)



info@ncnotary.org

BACK TO
SCHOOL!

Here is an updated paragraph tailored for New Hanover County:

As the new school year kicks off, local schools and community organizations across New Hanover County are coming together to host Back-to-School events offering free supplies, backpacks, and essential resources for students and families. These drives are a fantastic way to support local youth and ensure every student across the county starts the year fully equipped for success. Be sure to check with your local school district or community center for upcoming event dates, locations, and ways to donate or get involved!

[College Park Elementary](#)

Kristina was the contact at the front desk, 910-350-2058



[Murrayville Elementary School](#)

Principal Sabra Wright is the contact, 910-790-5067



[Wilmington Early High School](#)

Principal Regina Wooten is the contact, 910-362-7789



[Emma B. Trask Middle School](#)

Treasurer is Pam is the contact, 910-350-2142





NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

August 2026

STAY CONNECTED



www.ncnotary.org



[@ncnaorg](https://www.facebook.com/ncnaorg)



info@ncnotary.org

Featured Notary



Sandra Herrera Rock
Wake County

Meet Sandra Herrera Rock. Sandra has been bringing her notary superpowers to Wake County. Since 2024. She was born and raised in Panama and speaks both Spanish and English. Being a native Spanish speaker has shaped her career in a big way. Sandra has made it a point to put her Spanish to work, whether it's as a notary public or through volunteering. She's had the privilege of giving her time to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and NC Special Olympics. Being able to connect with people in their own language has made that work even more meaningful for her.

After spending years working as a legal assistant, she saw how hard it is for people to get reliable notary services. So, she started Rock Notary and Consulting Services because she wanted to make that part easier. Her background in legal document preparation means she understands exactly how much these documents matter to her clients, and she treats each one with the care it deserves.

Looking ahead Sandra will continue to study notary law to make sure she is staying compliant while providing her clients with the best service possible.

Fun Fact Sandra married her husband in Fort Lauderdale, FL, then flew back to Panama that same night, which happened to be the night of the Panama invasion. A wedding story that's hard to beat.

On behalf of the NCNA, congratulations to Sandra Herrera Rock for the difference she's made in her community and in the notary profession. We look forward to watching her continue to grow.



NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

August 2026

STAY CONNECTED



www.ncnotary.org



[@ncnaorg](https://www.facebook.com/ncnaorg)



info@ncnotary.org



Dr. Jean Brown

This month, we are pleased to feature Dr. Jean Brown, a Notary Public Instructor who has been teaching since 1994.

Which colleges do you teach for?

I currently teach Wake Technical Community College. I have also taught at Durham Technical, Edgecombe, Nash, and Beaufort Community Colleges.

What do you enjoy most about teaching notary education courses?

Seeing students come into class with no knowledge of the notary laws and after taking the course, having knowledge and a better understanding of the notary laws and why we help to serve the public.

If you could give new notaries one piece of advice, what would it be?

Follow the North Carolina notary laws and administrative codes. If you are unsure, contact the Notary Help Desk for assistance. Do not take on bad habits of others. Be an original and follow what you were taught to do.

Looking back on your career, what contribution to notary public education are you most proud of?

Although the contribution may be small, but knowing that in some small way, I see on a much larger scale that I was able to help others become a notary in the state of North Carolina. Therefore, we have Notaries who are trained to help protect and serve the public with the knowledge and skills I was able to in part into them.

Final Thoughts

We appreciate Dr. Brown's years of service and her dedication to helping future North Carolina notaries succeed.



NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING NOTARIES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

August 2026

STAY CONNECTED



www.ncnotary.org



[@ncnaorg](https://www.facebook.com/ncnaorg)



info@ncnotary.org



Unlock Your Potential: Member-Exclusive Trainings

Did you know? As an NCNA member, you get exclusive access to live, high-impact training sessions with industry leaders—plus *full* access to our growing library of event recordings! Continuing your education and expanding your notary expertise has never been easier.

★ *Spotlight Session: “Master the World of Apostilles”*

- Guest Speaker: Tina Jones-Howard (The North Carolina Apostille Queen) in Knightdale, NC.
- Overview: In this interactive virtual workshop, Tina walked members through the ins and outs of international document authentication and the apostille process. Attendees gained actionable insights, step-by-step guidance, and got their burning questions answered during a live Q&A.



Catch Up on Past Member Sessions

Missed a live event? Active members can watch full recordings anytime!

✍️ *Notary Best Practices & Business Growth with Laura Biewer*

- Expert tips and practical guidance to elevate your professionalism, refine document handling, and boost client trust.



🛡️ *Law Enforcement & Fraud Awareness with Captain Kory Flowers*

- Essential strategies for spotting fraudulent identification, securing your notary journal, and keeping your practice protected.



EDUCATE
ADVOCATE
PROMOTE

EDUCATE
ADVOCATE
PROMOTE