

The Notary news



The North Carolina Department of
The Secretary of State, Elaine F. Marshall



WELCOME, NC NOTARIES!

Welcome to our first newsletter designed especially for YOU ~ our state's notaries public. The services you provide our state are critical to all kinds of transactions. Personal appearance before a notary is the most trusted form of identity verification in the world. You do it with integrity and accuracy. Those are the same values we operate under at the NC Secretary of State's

Office. We are glad to be on the journey with you and to partner with you on this new endeavor. We believe this is important to all of you in the industry as you noted in the latest survey.

This newsletter belongs to you and we invite you to assist us with newsletter content by sharing with us what's important and helpful for you to perform your notarial duties.

Please send in your tips, practice ideas, and questions for us at notarynews@sosnc.gov.

Remember that our office is here to be your partner in performing your notarial acts.



Fast Five Q&A

Q: How long is my commission term?

Five years

Q: When and how do I renew my commission term?

A notary cannot apply for reappointment earlier than 10 weeks before his/her commission expires. Unless you are an attorney, you must take the online test and pass with a score of at least 80%.

After successfully passing the exam, you will need to complete the notary public renewal application, have it notarized and submit it along with a non-refundable fee of \$50 to the Secretary of State. Once you receive your Oath Notification letter, you will need to take your oath of office at the Register of Deeds office in the county of your residence.

Q: What are some examples of forms of identification that notaries are NOT allowed to accept?

Social Security card, US passport card, credit card, active duty military ID, paper temporary driver's license, and Matricular Consular card.

Q: What are the four items included within the border of your notary seal?

You need to be sure that the following items are on any seal you will use to notarize:

The notary's name

The words "Notary Public"

The county of commission

Either NC, N.C. or North Carolina

Q: If a North Carolina voter asks a notary to notarize his/her absentee voter application, and it has already been signed by two witnesses, do they need a notary to sign the certificate as well?

No. North Carolina's absentee voter application and certificate is required to be witnessed *either* by two witnesses or by one notary.

Remember that it is the voter's responsibility – not the notary's – to send the absentee ballot to the Board of Elections.

Do you have a question you'd like us to answer for the **Fast Five**? Let us know. We are here to be a resource to you. Email us your question at notarynews@sosnc.gov.



Why Notaries Matter

The office of the notary public is an important one. You already know that,

but we want to take this time and remind you why.

There are 156,873 notaries and 1,584 eNotaries in our state. Every single notary is on the front line of defense against document fraud and attempts at forgery. Your job is also to serve the North Carolina public as an impartial witness to the execution of important documents while verifying identities. It's an honor to be a notary. Don't ever forget that. Whether you are a new notary or a veteran notary, your role is crucial to the economic engine of our state.

Remember: what you do is significant. Every day, crucial documents like contracts, adoption papers, advance medical directives and mortgage documents, among others, are being notarized in all 100 North Carolina counties by notaries like you. Notaries hold a valued position of trust and are relied on to ensure that documents in the public record can be reliably used in transactions.

"Notarized documents enjoy unparalleled acceptance and trust in business transactions, public filings and in judicial proceedings based on the integrity and high moral character of our State's notaries public and their full and strict compliance with our robust notary laws," says Ozie H. Stallworth, Director, Electronic Notarization and Notary Enforcement at the North Carolina Department of Secretary of State.

This important office is needed now more than ever in the changing face of the way we conduct business and legal transactions in the 21st Century. Your friends, family, co-workers and even people you have never met are counting on you to work to reduce the incidences of fraud and protect them from people looking to gain financial benefits from fraudulent activities. That's why we need you to take this office seriously, and we appreciate you for this commitment.

If you have questions or need to be pointed to resources to help you with your notarial duties, feel free to reach out to our office.



FIND A NOTARY

As you know, one of the questions on the survey that was emailed to notaries around the state last month was “If you have not registered for the *Find A Notary* database, then would you share with us why you are not registered?”

It turns out that 59% of you said you were not even aware that there was a FIND A NOTARY database on the Secretary of State’s website. We want to be sure that you know how to go about adding your own information in the database if you would like it to be accessible to the public. We have a big state, so we would love to have more notary options for North Carolinians looking for your services.

We also respect those of you who answered that you would rather not open up your services to the public. This is purely a voluntary and free offering.

If you have questions, please feel free to send an email to notary@sosnc.gov.

Attached is the link for the step-by-step instructions video on how to add your name to the database:





NC Notary Profile

Our notaries are doing great things everywhere in North Carolina, and we want to spread the news! That's why we want to feature you and your service to our state.

Each month, we will highlight a notary and share some of the things you do to make your job effective.

If you would like to be featured, send us your name, email address, your city, and a story you would like to share with your fellow notaries.

Or send us a noteworthy story about another notary, or even a retired notary who mentored you and what the most valuable pieces of advice were at notarynews@sosnc.gov.

NC Notary Facebook Group

We are excited to announce that the NC Secretary of State's Office has launched a new Facebook group called *The North Carolina Notary Network*.

The purpose of the group is to connect notaries across the state as well as to share information and answer questions you may have.

Click [here](#) to join today!



NORTH CAROLINA BARBECUE EASTERN VS WESTERN

If you're a native North Carolinian or a barbecue connoisseur that has moved here recently, then you already know that there's a difference between Eastern and Western North Carolina barbecue. We North Carolinians love our pulled pork, there's no doubt about that. But how we fix it, is where family feuds across the state begin. Most people know that two words – and ingredients for that matter – separate the two styles of barbecue: VINEGAR-based or TOMATO-based.

We learned a little bit about barbecue by visiting the “Story of Barbeque in N.C.” exhibit found inside the City of Raleigh Museum in downtown Raleigh.

People who serve Eastern-NC style barbecue use pork from the whole hog. But it's the sauce that gets tongues wagging. The sauce in Eastern-NC style barbecue can be made of vinegar, red & black pepper, water, and salt.

But let's not forget that sauce tastes awfully good on other meats too, like chicken and beef.

Western-NC (also called Lexington style) style barbecue only uses pork from the shoulder of a pig. Their “red” sauce typically includes vinegar, ketchup or a tomato component, and sugar, making it sweeter and giving it a much

redder color than its Eastern counterpart.

Both sides think their way of preparing barbecue is the best way, and we are smart enough not to argue which is better. Your preferred taste customarily depends upon where you are from or where you live. Whether you like Eastern or Western Style, one thing's for sure: barbecue is a popular and time-honored delicacy among North Carolinians. We love to pair it with sweet tea, coleslaw, cornbread or hushpuppies, and of course sweet treats like banana pudding, bread pudding or cobbler.

According to the NC Pork Council, pork in our state has a \$9 billion annual impact on our economy. Now that's good eating!

Which do you think is best, Eastern or Western? Send us your vote (Eastern or Western) at notarynews@sosnc.gov, and we'll share the results of this *non-scientific* poll in the next newsletter!

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