



The Notary Newsletter



The Department of the
NC Secretary of State

January, 2023



Happy New Year, Notaries!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with fun, food, festivities and REST!

The Notary Division had a great 2022, and we have YOU to thank for it!

I appreciate all of the questions and feedback we regularly receive from you about our notary communications channels. We are working hard to continuously improve them to make sure you all have access to accurate notarial information.

The good news is we have even MORE things planned for this year: notary chats, notary instructor calls, work on Remote Electronic Notarization (REN) rules, additions to the notary section of the website, and more educational notary videos. I also want to personally invite you to attend the FOURTH annual electronic mortgage conference in October at the Grandover Hotel in Greensboro. Registration will be open in the spring.

I love turning the page to a New Year. That's because a New Year is like a blank slate or journal ready to take in all of our new ideas and promises. All

you need is your smart device to "virtually" write your own story. Your goals. Your vision. Your hopes and dreams for your own professional and personal lives. It's up to us to make improvements, to grow, to learn more and become a better version of ourselves.

Our office is committed to helping you along your notarial journey - whether you are a novice or have been a commissioned notary for years. We are here to answer your questions, share information, and provide you with all the tools needed to be an outstanding North Carolina Notary Public. Thank you for taking this role seriously as you serve on the front line of fraud and forgery attempts. Your work does not go unnoticed by our office.

Looking forward to seeing you all in person in 2023 at notary chats in your area!

Elaine J. Marshall

If you have any questions for us, please reach out to the Department at notary@sosnc.gov. We are always happy to help.



Thank you to Fayetteville Technical Community College President Dr. Larry Keen (left) and the college staff, notary instructors and attendees for hosting our Notary Chat last month.







Notary Chats

with
Secretary Marshall
& Ozie

Notary Chat: Wilmington, NC
Tuesday, January 24
WILMINGTON, you are up next!

Secretary Elaine Marshall and Ozie Stallworth (Director of Electronic Notarization and Enforcement) are bringing the fourth NOTARY CHAT to the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Although these *in-person* events are **FREE**, registration is required due to space constraints.

The next one will be held on **Tuesday, January 24 at 5:30pm at the University of North Carolina Wilmington**. Thank you to UNCW for allowing us to use your space.

Click here to register for this event:

[North Carolina Secretary of State Event Registration Event Registration \(sosnc.gov\)](http://sosnc.gov)

And....Mark Your Calendars!
Notary Chat: Charlotte, NC
Tuesday, February 21
5:30pm
(Registration opens next month)



EVN Is Back and REN Is On The Way

With the signing of House Bill 776 into law, Emergency Video Notarization (EVN) is restored until the end of June while work on Remote Electronic Notarization (REN) rules are underway. In the meantime, here is what you need to know now:

- **Emergency Video Notarizations** have resumed as a stop-gap measure to allow video notarizations while permanent REN procedures are being put in place. *EVN expires on June 30, 2023 at 12:01am.*
- There are new or increased fees that notaries public across the state can charge now. The maximum fee that can be charged per principal signature is now \$10 for acknowledgments, jurats, and verifications or proofs. For oaths or affirmations without a signature, the maximum fee is now \$10 per person, except for the identity of a principal or subscribing witness. The fee for electronic notarizations under G.S. 10B-188 is \$15.
- For any notarial act under 10B, actual mileage at the federal mileage rate can be charged if the travel reimbursement is agreed to by the principal in writing prior to travel. (The State of NC uses the federal mileage rate of 62.5 cents per mile.)
- The new Remote Electronic Notarization fee will be \$25 per principal signature when REN becomes effective.

There are a lot of things that the Secretary of State's Office will have to work out over the coming months to get ready for REN. We are asking for your patience as we navigate this new law, and we are excited about the new

opportunities that REN will open up for our notaries and our state.

Here is a link to EVN resources available on our website: [North Carolina Secretary of State Notary Emergency Video Notarization \(sosnc.gov\)](https://sosnc.gov)

If you have any questions for us, please reach out to the Department at notary@sosnc.gov. We are always happy to help.



Fast Five Q&A

Q: Can we notarize a document written in Spanish?

Notaries are prohibited from completing notarial certificates written in a foreign language. If you are presented with a non-English language certificate, you must refuse to notarize the document.

Q: From our email: How do you redact an entry in a notary journal? One of our notaries started filling out the information in her journal, and the principal changed his mind and decided he did not want his document notarized. The notary had already written his personal information in her journal. Should she use a black sharpie and mark through his information?

We know things happen and people change their minds. We get it. However, you do not need to redact anything. Just use the notes section of your journal to write that the notarial act was abandoned based on the circumstances.

Q: From our FB Group: A fellow notary/co-worker was asked to notarize a signature of a person who wasn't present. I told her that wasn't the right thing to do. She disagrees. Who is right?

You may NOT notarize the signature of a person who is not in your presence. Do not allow a signer - or anyone else for that matter - to talk you into notarizing a document when a principal is not in your presence at the time the notarial act is performed.

Q: From our FB Group: Can I notarize a pistol fee permit for a family member?

We get this question regularly. As a notary, your role is to serve as an impartial witness to the signing of important documents. Therefore, you may not notarize any document in which you have a financial or beneficial interest.

You may notarize the document as long as you do not have any interest in the transaction because notaries are not prohibited from notarizing for family members.

However, it is generally a best practice to not notarize for immediate family members to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

Q: What is the definition of a credible witness?

An individual who is personally known to the notary and to whom all of the following also apply:

- a. The notary believes the individual to be honest and reliable for the purpose of confirming to the notary the identity of another individual.
- b. The notary believes the individual is not a party to or beneficiary of the transaction.

Do you have a question that you'd like us to answer for the **Fast Five**? Please send in your tips, practice ideas, and questions for us at notarynews@sosnc.gov.

Get To "Know" Our Notaries!

Notaries, we know you are doing great things all over North Carolina, and we want everyone else to know it too. Every month, we will feature our notaries (as long as we have submissions). We want to feature YOU!

We'll make it super easy. Just send us a picture of yourself, along with your name, where you are from, the number of years (or months) you have been a commissioned notary, and one fun fact that you want us to know about you.

Email us at notarynews@sosnc.gov.





A. Regina Tilghman
Mecklenburg County

*Regina has been a
commissioned notary
for over 20 years*

She has worked with the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System for 27 years. Regina has worked in the school cafeteria as a Food Service Manager for 23 years.



Lorraine Nesbit
Mecklenburg County

*She has been a
commissioned notary
since 2017*

Lorraine is a Marvel Comic enthusiast. She says, "All the comics, all the movies, all things MARVEL!!!".



C. Carlton Dalton



"Santa John"

Duncan

Richmond County

*Carlton has been a notary
for 10 years*

He's worked as a funeral attendant at Perry & Spencer Funeral Home for 29 years.

Palinkas

The Notary Instructor

*Santa John has been a
notary since 2014*

Hi, I am Santa John the Notary Instructor! I work at 3 colleges teaching Notary classes. I am also a Real Estate Broker and auctioneer owner of Classic Claus, LLC - the largest Santa company in the Carolinas - and Red Suit Realty & Auction! I believe and live sharing my experiences from the North Pole and Real Estate to create firm foundations for Notary Candidates.



NC Notary Facebook Group

Have you joined our notary Facebook group yet?
The North Carolina Notary Network

Well, what are you waiting for? More than 14,508 notaries around the state are in the group. If you haven't joined yet, click the link and come on in!

The purpose of the group is to connect NC notaries as well as to give notaries an opportunity to share information, tips and ideas with one another.

When answering questions for fellow notaries, we encourage sharing page numbers, statutes or even pictures of citations from the *2016 NC Notary Public Manual*.

Click [here](#) to join today!



Setting Goals For 2023

WRITE them down

Separate personal and professional goals

Set goals that you can measure

Find a sustainable way to track them and a reasonable

timeline

Stay in the moment

Solicit a friend or accountability partner for help or keep them
to yourself if that's a better plan for you

Don't beat yourself up WHEN you stumble

Reward your small wins

Keep going!

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