



# The Notary Newsletter



The Department of the  
NC Secretary of State

May, 2023

**Join Us!** For the 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

## eMortgage Closing

CONFERENCE



Ken Sykes  
Conference Chair

October 24<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
Greensboro, NC  
Grandover Resort & Spa



Elaine F. Marshall  
NC Secretary of State

Presented by the Department of the NC Secretary of State

Click [here](#) to register for the conference

Click [here](#) to view Save The Date video

### **Registration is FINALLY open!**

It's time to register for the Fourth Annual eMortgage conference!

Join us at the Grandover Hotel & Spa in Greensboro on October 24 and 25, 2023.

We have a tentative agenda up on our registration page, but it will be updated as we add more speakers and information.

We encourage everyone to make their hotel reservations at the Grandover as our room block will sell out quickly. Our office has negotiated a great rate of



\$229 per night. Here's the link to make your hotel reservations: [Grandover Resort & Spa, a Wyndham Grand Hotel - Reservations - Room Availability \(synxis.com\)](#)

We are bringing the fun to the conference too by hosting a "playdate" on *October 23* for those who want to enjoy all of the amenities that the Grandover has to offer.

If you have any questions, email us at [ateconf@sosnc.gov](mailto:ateconf@sosnc.gov).

See you in Greensboro!

*Elaine J. Marshall*

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*If you have any questions for us, please reach out to the Department at [notary@sosnc.gov](mailto:notary@sosnc.gov). We are always happy to help.*

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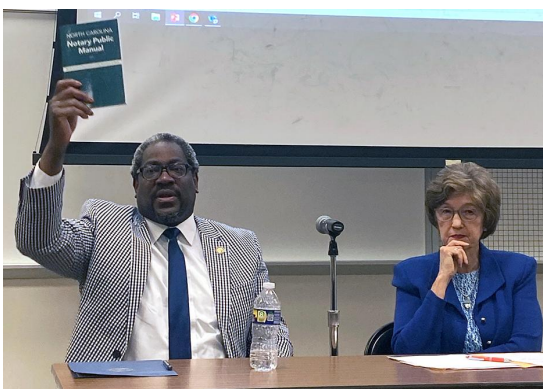
### ***Notary Chat: Durham, NC***

Thank you to the staff at Durham Technical Community College for hosting our SIXTH Notary Chat last month. And a big thank you to everyone who joined us in Durham and brought their great questions.  
We really appreciate you!





Ozie Stallworth and Secretary Marshall are joined by Durham County Register of Deeds Sharon Davis and DTCC President John B. Buxton







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## ***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. The General Assembly is considering another extension until permanent rules are adopted for REN, which will happen after the deadline expires.*
- 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 current federal mileage rate can be charged if the travel reimbursement is agreed to by the principal in writing prior to travel. Always lookup the federal mileage rate to ensure you are charging the accurate fees.
- 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](mailto:notary@sosnc.gov). We are always happy to help.*

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## Fast Five Q&A

***Q: From our FB Group: Will Remote Electronic Notarization (REN) automatically begin on July 1 when Electronic Video Notarization (EVN) expires on June 30, 2023?***

No, REN **will not** begin on July 1st, and there's nothing automatic about it. Although you may have heard July 1, 2023 as a "Go-Live" date, that is NOT what the statute actually says. July 1st is the date by which the Secretary of State "shall begin rulemaking to implement" REN, and "no temporary or permanent rule shall become effective prior to July 1, 2023."

So, one might wonder, when will North Carolina notaries be able to conduct remote electronic notarizations?

Drafting rules is labor intensive and time consuming. Besides creating new rules focused on REN, some existing Notary and E-Notary rules also must be revised so they are consistent with the upcoming REN rules. All rules must be adopted in accordance with the very deliberative notice-and-comment



provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, and must meet the standards established by an independent body, the North Carolina Rules Review Commission. The Secretary of State started work last Summer. Comments to inform rulemaking are being collected now. Click [here](#) for further information.

Once rules are finally adopted, REN launch preparation begins. Platforms and third party vendors must apply, be screened and licensed, and then contract with North Carolina notaries. The Notary Manual must be revised to incorporate all the changes to the law and rules. Forms must be prepared to make it easier for applicants to provide essential information. All notary training must be updated and community colleges engaged so North Carolina notaries may learn how the changes apply to them, and be trained, tested and authorized to conduct remote electronic notarizations. We will also have to coordinate with the Registers of Deeds so that notaries receive the proper commission. All these tasks must be completed before the first REN can be conducted.

*So, when will North Carolina notaries be able to use REN?*

The short answer is we don't yet know. But, just given the mandatory time lines that have to be met before we can adopt rules to even start the program, we expect it will be a year or more before the RENA is up and running.

There is little need for those planning to implement REN to wait for RENA to be fully effective when the tools of IPEN and EVN can be utilized today to perform notarial acts.

It is highly likely that those who implement REN will also incorporate IPEN and that both will be employed to service remote as well as in person customers. Click [here](#) for information on becoming an electronic notary.

***Q: From our email: I lost my notary stamp and filed a police report. Do I need to send in the police report to you all? I don't plan to renew my commission.***

If you decide to resign your notary commission, just send our office a written notice saying you plan to do so. Also, mention in the letter about your stamp being missing and attach a copy of the police report.

***Q: From our FB Group: Is attendance to a notary chat a requirement to renew my notary commission?***

Not at all. Secretary Marshall and Ozie are hosting these chats around the state to give our notaries an opportunity to ask their notarial questions. We want these events to be fun, but informative.

Attendance is NOT required, but we are thankful to the scores of notaries who have come out to support them.

***Q: From our FB Group: I am currently a notary looking to take an eNotary class to get ready for REN. Can I go to any community college to take the course?***

You may enroll in any eNotary class at any community college in the state of

North Carolina. Remember, we anticipate that REN will go live sometime in 2024 so the eNotary courses will not include any instruction on REN until the rules have been adopted.

***Q: From our FB Group: I have a parent who is taking their child out the of the country with permission from the other parent. They need me to notarize the form. Where do I find the form?***

You don't. As a notary, it is not your job to provide documents for the principal to sign. You also are not allowed to provide legal advice. Your only job is to notarize the signature on the form .

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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](mailto:notarynews@sosnc.gov).

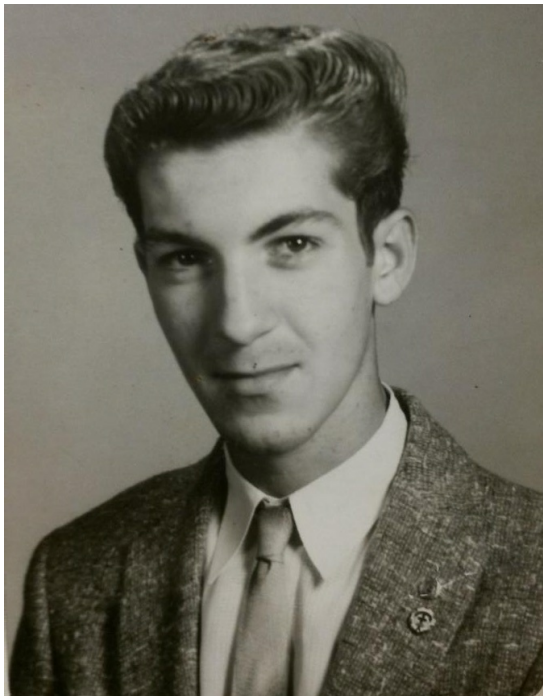
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## Get To "Know" Our Notaries!

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](mailto:notarynews@sosnc.gov).



**Lewis Patton**  
Mecklenburg County

*He has been a  
commissioned notary*



**Jeanette Sturdivant**  
Guilford County

*She has been a  
commissioned notary*



*for more than 45 years.*

Lewis is a retired chemist from Rohm & Haas with 32 years of service.



**Birtena King**  
Harnett County

*She has been a notary for almost three years*

Birtena is a native of New Haven, CT. One of her favorite hobbies is community service. She says she loves going to the nursing home to provide assistance.

*since 1998.*

Jeanette retired from NC A&T State University in 2021. She loves high school, college and the NFL football season.



**Rev. Glencie Rhedrick**  
Mecklenburg County

*Rev. Rhedrick has been a notary since 2015*





## NC Notary Facebook Group

Have you joined our notary Facebook group yet?

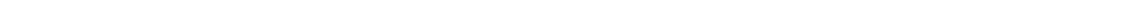
***The North Carolina Notary Network***

Well, what are you waiting for? More than 16,465 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!







## *Let's Get Out There This Summer!*

Memorial Day (May 29th) marks the unofficial start of summer AND the time many of us kick off our own personal travel season.

That means busy highways, busy airports and busy bus & train stations.

We are always being told to "pack our patience", but what can you do to prevent meltdowns (big and small)? Here are a few tips to keep you sane during traveling:

- If possible, travel at less popular times
- Check in for your flight online before you get to the airport
- Check "entry" requirements of your destination ahead of time if you are traveling internationally
- If you are planning to take a carry on bag, research the height and weight requirements from your airline



- Pack healthy snacks and water for long car rides (eating too many Little Debbie oatmeal creme pies might not be a good idea)
- Research popular audible books, children's games and podcasts for your entertainment
- Dress for cool plane & train rides or hot car rides
- Pack for a delay or cancelled flight in case you can't get to your checked bag and find that the airport is your new temporary home
- Don't forget your device chargers
- Be kind. It still goes a long way to getting the help you need.



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