

President's Message  
By Teresa Grooms

At our last open forum meeting, we discussed regulation of the paralegal profession. I was asked to provide our members with more information on what is happening across the country with regard to regulation of paralegals. I would like to start with pending legislation in North Carolina. An alliance (The Alliance for Paralegal Professional Standards "APPS") was formed between local paralegal associations, attorney paralegal educators, freelance paralegals, the Legal Assistants Division of the North Carolina Bar Association and the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers. They agreed that North Carolina paralegals needed to establish a recognized, professional standard to: 1) identify the profession; 2) enhance the professional status of the profession; and 3) create a unified, regulatory voice for North Carolina paralegals. The Paralegal Professional Act, with commentary, is provided in this newsletter. If you would like to keep up with the progress of this bill, you can visit <http://www.apps-nc.org/status.html>.

I have also provided a copy of NFPA's response to the North Carolina bill.