



# Carolina Connection

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina

FALL 2020 Volume 37, Issue 4

Edited by Myra Phillips

Greetings, sister friends! This is certainly not the newsletter article I expected to be writing. Could we have imagined five months ago that we would be no further along in the COVID crisis than we are? It is still all somewhat unbelievable to me. Living day to day with a mask in my purse and another in my car still seems a strange fact of life. And can I just say, I have yet to find a mask that I don't mind wearing and is comfortable?!? I mean, seriously! J

Typically, this issue would be filled with all the exciting details surrounding our November conference. But, you may have already guessed by my use of the word "typically," I don't get to do that. As much as it grieves me to say, the conference we were looking so forward to attending isn't going to take place this year. And believe me when I say this was one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made and I know the other officers feel the same way. Though so many events were being canceled all around us, we were determined to wait and pray, fairly confident things would improve and we would not have to cancel.

So, the first of August, we all traveled back to Ridgecrest to meet with our event coordinator and find out



just exactly what a conference in the middle of a pandemic would look like, with social distancing the order of the day. They were very accommodating and gracious and willing to go above and beyond to help things be as "normal" as possible. And we were optimistic that, though it would be different, it was doable. Then we spent the afternoon walking through each detail, discussing all the possibilities and challenges. I will say we didn't feel quite as optimistic as we prayed and departed, but decided to take a little more time, speak with our pastors and advisory committee members and pray, pray, pray. We sent out a survey and so appreciate all of you who took the time to respond. It was extremely helpful in the decision-making process. After a couple of weeks and much deliberation, we agreed the health and safety of everyone attending was too important to risk. Also, how in the world would we, who only see each other once a year, keep from loving on each other?! I mean really...air hugs just wouldn't be

acceptable! And then if someone got sick? Well, you get the picture.

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So, all that said, the good news is that a really good conference will happen...next year. November 1-3, 2021. Same location, same theme, same keynote speaker, and same breakout session leaders (of those who could commit). Unless, of course God leads the next executive committee in an entirely different direction. And He certainly could. He's God and it's all supposed to be about Him anyway.

You see, the bottom line is this: Regardless of how unsure and different things are to us right now, none of this caught God by surprise. He has been in control every single moment. You all don't need me to tell you this, but sometimes we just need a quiet little reminder amidst the seeming chaos. You may even now have days you get overwhelmed by all that is going on around us; days you wonder if things will ever "get back to normal." Let me encourage you today that nothing will happen in any of our lives that God has not already ordained or will allow for our good and His glory. He is on the throne, sovereign, faithful and in complete control of every aspect of life on earth. He holds the world in His very loving, capable hands and He will carry you and your loved ones through whatever the future holds. He knows what lies ahead and will work all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purposes. So, my friends, until we meet again...

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will show you which path to take. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT)*

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because He lives." Let the words of that precious hymn be your song today. Sit down at the piano or tell Alexa or Siri to play it, and then sing it loud, with conviction and gratitude in your heart!

Blessings,

*Karoline*

## 2020 Executive Committee



Karoline Overby  
*President*  
karolineoverby62@gmail.com  
336-407-8864



Angela Cockerham  
*President Elect*  
acockerham@phbcelkin.com  
336-835-3401



Myra Phillips  
*Second Vice President*  
mytphillips@gmail.com  
336-846-5631



Janette Harris  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
janette@burkemontbaptist.org  
828-437-2357

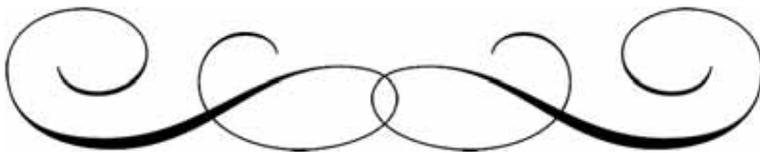
Fellow NCBSA members,

It has been an honor and blessing to serve as your officer for the 2019-2020 year, and it saddens me to inform you that I am unable to complete my term. It has been a difficult decision, and I appreciate the love and support of my fellow officers. I am especially grateful for the guidance and encouragement from Teresa Almond. I am disappointed that we are not able to meet face-to-face this year, but I am already looking forward to seeing all of you at the November 2021 conference.



Sending lots of love your way,

Angela Cockerham

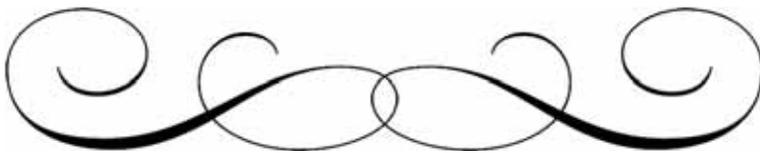


What a complete JOY serving you girls for the past two years! I have learned so much about the NCBSA; old friendships were strengthened and new friendships were made. It is so disappointing to not be seeing (and hugging) all of you in November. Our theme verse has certainly come into play, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." We have had very little, if any, understanding of all the ups and downs of 2020, but the executive committee tried so hard to remain faithful to pray and ask for wisdom and clarity about decisions that had to be made. A great conference was being planned for you in 2020. I believe that God was in the middle of all of those plans and they will be carried out! I would encourage you to stay plugged in to the NCBSA. If you're asked to serve; consider it, or better yet, DO IT! Pay your membership dues! Even though this year's conference is not being held, work still continues, and there are great things coming for you in 2021! Thanks to the sweet ladies I've served with; Rachel Sanders, Teresa Almond, Janette Harris, Angela Cockerham, and Karoline Overby. There's no way I can express the love and respect I have for each of you.



In Christ Alone,

Myra Phillips



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**When we recently asked our computer gurus JR and Kay Tatum about purchasing a Publisher program for use by our 2nd Vice and Executive Committee, we were overwhelmed that they not only offered to donate the program but a laptop as well. What a Blessing!! It will be owned by the Secretaries Association but be passed down from year to year as committee members change. Thanks again to JR and Kay Tatum of Performance Dimensions, Inc.**





Thanks to the nominating committee; Lori Matthews, Teresa Almond, and Becky Johnson for their work to provide these ladies for your consideration as officers for the 2021 year.

**2nd Vice President: Cortrisha Aycock**

I was born in Buchanan County, Virginia, on September 20, (can't remember the year!) I have been the proud wife of Tommy Aycock for 56 years, and the blessed mother of two wonderful Christian children, Reginald Aycock, and Cotrenia Aycock Salter. I have two beautiful granddaughters, ages 20 and 17, and one handsome grandson, Tommy II, age 19.



Richmond Professional Institute, College of the Albemarle, and Court Reporting Academy of Virginia claim me as one of their Alumni. I am the retired owner and operator of Southside Court Reporting Services in Southside, Virginia, and past owner of Harbour Tea House and Gift Shop in Elizabeth City, NC.

Freedom Baptist Ministries in Elizabeth City, NC recognizes me as a Charter Member, where I currently serve as Treasurer/Bookkeeper, and teach a Young Adult Sunday School Class.

I am humbled to say with gratitude that I am a forgiven sinner and serve a Mighty, Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

**First Vice President: Cathy Hawkins**

I was born Catherine Ann Hawkins but have been Cathy since day one. I was saved during Vacation Bible School at age 9. I grew up in a Christian home with loving parents and one younger brother. I have grown twin daughters and 8 grandchildren. My family is one of the greatest pleasures of my life. I worked in the secular world for 20 years and then was blessed with the privilege of becoming a Ministry Assistant at Hudson First Baptist Church where I worked for 18 years. I have now been retired for 3 years and love it. I have always loved NCBSA and look forward to serving as an officer again.





**Vote for  
2020-2021  
Officers**

Since the 2020 NCBSA Conference has been cancelled, business meeting documents and an absentee ballot will be emailed to all **2020 NCBSA members** in early November. **Membership dues must be received by October 31, 2020, in order to participate in the officer elections.**

**Registration**

We would like to say thank you to each one who sent in Registration or Membership dues for this year.

Even though we will not be able to have our annual conference this year, we can apply your deposit less the \$30 dues to our 2021 conference fee for next year. If you would prefer, a refund can be issued less your \$30 dues. Please email your request to [janette@burkemontbaptist.org](mailto:janette@burkemontbaptist.org).

Your membership dues of \$30 help cover the administrative costs of our organization. If you haven't mailed in your \$30 membership dues for this year, they must be received by Oct 31, so that you may cast your vote for our new officers.

**REMIT TO: Janette Harris  
Burkemont Baptist Church  
4668 Burkemont Avenue  
Morganton, NC 28655**

Janette

A graphic with the words "FIRST TIMERS" in white, uppercase letters on an orange, ribbon-like banner.

**FIRST TIMERS**

Whether you were just finding out about NCBSA or you've known about us and were just now planning to attend our annual conference, we were looking forward to having you join us for the first time this year! We hope this little set back will not discourage you from attending next year. We can't wait to see how the Lord is going to work in and through each of your lives during that time. If we can pray for you or answer any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

We look forward to seeing you next year!!

Janette



**AMAZON Gift Card Drawing**

All NCBSA members who send in their 2020 membership dues by October 31, 2020, will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card.

**NAMA Conference Voucher Drawing**

The National Association of Ministry Assistants (NAMA) has given NCBSA a \$50 voucher for the 2021 NAMA Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. All current NCBSA members (including officers) are eligible to win. The drawing will be held in early November.

Angela

*This is being delivered via email to reduce our budget cost. It is also available on our website, [www.ncbaptistsecretaries.net](http://www.ncbaptistsecretaries.net). If you know anyone else who would like to receive our newsletter, please forward this to them. Also, contact Myra Phillips at [ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com](mailto:ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com) with their name and email and she will get them added to our mailings. Many Thanks!*



**NCBaptistSecretaries@gmail.com**