"CATCH THE WAVE" NCARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1952–2025

NCARD District VI Welcomes you to the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds

District VI Committee

Honorable Robin M. Phillips, Northampton County – Chair
Honorable Tammy Brunner, Wake County – Vice Chair/Legislative Rep.
Honorable Brandi S. Brinson, Franklin County – Conference Host
Honorable Lisa Stith Wilson County – Treasurer/Conference Treasurer
Honorable Aisha Windross, Edgecombe County
Honorable Kathy M. Taylor, Granville County
Honorable Christie Avens, Halifax County
Honorable Craig Olive, Johnston County
Honorable Sandra Davis, Nash County
Honorable Cassandra Neal, Vance County
Honorable Yvonne Alston, Warren County
Honorable Tina Arnder, Wayne County

Conference Venue

73rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE N.C. ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERS OF DEEDS

> September 13–16, 2025 Beaufort Hotel 2440 Lennoxville Rd Beaufort, NC 28516

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Time	Event	Location
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Conference Registration	Lobby
4:15 PM – 4:45 PM	Board Vans/Shuttle for Dinner Cruise	In front of hotel
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Dinner Cruise or	Downtown Beaufort
	Welcome Dinner	Hotel/Ballroom

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Time	Event	Location
9:00 AM	Golf	Beaufort Country Club
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Conference Registration	Lobby
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Committee & District Meetings 2:00 PM – Elections Committee (if necessary) 3:00 PM – Legislative/Executive Committee	Shackleford Room
6:30 PM	Sunday Funday – Game Night, Dinner	Ballroom/Pavilion/Lawn
	(Casual Beach Wear)	

Monday, September 15, 2025

Time	Event	Location
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast (ticket required)	34° North
		Restaurant
		(Hotel
		Restaurant)
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Late Registration	Lobby
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Vendor's Exhibits Open	Pre-Function
		Area
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	General Session	Ballroom
	Presiding: Honorable Amy J. Shook, President – Watauga County	
	Invocation: Honorable Robin M. Phillips – Northampton County	
	Pledge of Allegiance: Honorable Christie Avens – Halifax County	
	Committee Reports:	
	Elections: Honorable Drew Reisinger – Buncombe County	
	Announcement of Candidates for Office	
	(Each Candidate is allowed 5 minutes to speak)	
	By-Laws & Resolutions	
	First Reading: Honorable Kandance H. Bullock – Columbus County	
	Resolutions of Honor or Memorial	
	First Reading: Honorable Krista M. Lowe – Chair - Randolph County	
	Honorable Danny R. Hester – Vice Chair - Lincoln County	
	Education:	
	Honorable Brandi S. Brinson – Co-Chair – Franklin County	

	Honorable Lisa Stith – Co-Chair – Wilson County Historian Report: Honorable Matthew S. Willis – Harnett County	
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Legislative Update: Honorable Crystal D. Gilliard Honorable Wayne L. Rash NCARD Lobbyist	Ballroom
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	The Case for Register of Deeds to be an Elected Office Prof. Charles Szypszak – UNC School of Government	Ballroom
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Break with Vendors	Pre-Function Area
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Luncheon (ticket required) Certifications, Vendor Recognition Honorable Miranda Roupe, Chair – Alleghany County Honorable Betsy Harnage, Vice Chair – Cleveland County Honorable Kathy M. Taylor – Granville County	Ballroom
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	Problem Solving Through System Analysis Professor Emily Roscoe – UNC School of Information & Library Science	Ballroom
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Announcements – District VI, Group Picture	
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Break with Vendors	Pre-Function Area
6:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Dinner (ticket required) An Evening with The Embers (Beach Casual)	Outdoor Pavilion

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Time	Event	Location
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast (ticket required)	34° North Restaurant (Hotel Restaurant)
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Vendors Exhibits Open	Pre-Function Area
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Business Session	Ballroom
	Presiding:	
	Honorable Amy J. Shook – President –	
	Watauga County	
	Invocation:	
	Honorable Robin M. Phillips – Northampton	
	County	
	Pledge of Allegiance:	
	Honorable Christie Avens – Halifax County	
	Minutes:	
	Honorable Stephanie Norman– Burke County	
	Honorable Michael Horne – Davidson County	

	Treasurer's Report: Honorable Stephanie Norman – Burke County	
	Finance Committee Report: Honorable Brandon Hooker – Stokes County	
	By-Laws & Resolutions Second Reading: Honorable Kandance H. Bullock – Columbus County	
	Resolutions of Honor or Memorial Second Reading: Honorable Krista M. Lowe – Chair – Randolph County Honorable Danny R. Hester – Vice Chair – Lincoln County	
	Other Committee Reports Election of Officers: Honorable Drew Reisinger – Buncombe County	
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Break with Vendors	Pre-Function Area
10:00 AM – 11:30	Every Choice Has a Consequence	Ballroom
AM	Chuck Gallagher	Bulliooni
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	State Departments: (not a panel)	Ballroom
12:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch (ticket required)	Ballroom
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Breakout Sessions	Ballroom
	Chuck Gallagher -	
	Assumed Names - Sharon Walker (EDPNC)	
	Two groups, 45 min each	
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Outgoing & Incoming Presidents' Reception	Upstairs Veranda
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Annual Awards & Installation Banquet (ticket required)	Ballroom



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Honorable Amy Shook

Welcome to the beautiful, charming, coastal town of Beaufort, NC - "America's Favorite Town" - for our 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds. Beaufort is known for its historic downtown, picturesque waterfront views, coastal cuisine, cultural events, natural beauty and Southern hospitality.

Please join me in thanking the members of District VI, Conference Coordinator Hon. Brandi S. Brinson, and our Executive Director Tonya Miller for their hard work and dedication in preparing for this conference to ensure it is successful, informative, educational and fun!

As my year as President comes to end, I say "Thank You" NCARD for entrusting me to lead this great organization. I started this journey in 2019 when I became Historian and have enjoyed serving the association in the different capacities leading to my Presidential year. It has been a huge time commitment and a lot of hard work, but I count it an honor and joy to serve this association. One highlight for me has been traveling across our beautiful state to visit some of your offices and attend your district meetings.

While we've faced many challenges this year from Hurricane Helene to possibly the busiest, craziest legislative session in NCARD history, we have overcome these challenges and continue to move forward. We said farewell to a number of retirees and welcomed new Registers, were provided a number of educational opportunities, and saw some of our legislative goals met.

I would like to thank our Executive Officers, Legislative Co-Chairs, Committee Chairs, District Chairs and members of our association for helping to make this year successful. A special thanks to Professor Chuck Szypszak at the UNC School of Government who has worked with us for 20 years, giving advice, assistance and providing leadership to members of NCARD.

I hope you enjoy the next several days in Beaufort as you take part in the many activities and sessions offered during our conference. Be sure to visit our vendors and thank them for their continued support of NCARD, network with fellow Registers and in your spare time, take advantage of nearby beaches, enjoy scenic waterfront walks, indulge in some fresh seafood, and take in the history and heritage of this beautiful town. I am glad you are here to "Catch the Wave" with us!

Warmest regards,

Amy J. Shook
NCARD President 2024-2025



NCARD 73rd Annual Conference Strategic Long Range Planning Committee Report

Committee Members:

Hon. Lynn H. Lewis, Pamlico County, Chair	Hon. Milissa F. Pipkin, Montgomery County
Hon. Brandon A. Hooker, Stokes County, Vice Chair	Hon. William Britton, Moore County
Hon. Scott H. Hines, Alexander County	Hon. Sharon L. Willoughby, Pender County
Hon. Drew Reisinger, Buncombe County	Hon. Lisa P. Nichols, Pitt County
Hon. Stephanie A. Newman, Burke County	Hon. L. Page Pratt, III, Scotland County
Hon. Wayne L. Rash, Caldwell County	Hon. Tammy L. Brunner, Wake County
Hon. Michael E. Horne, Davidson County	Hon. Amy J. Shook, Watauga County
Hon. Kimberly J. Griffin, Martin County	Chuck Szypszak, UNC SOG Advisor

The Strategic Long-Range Planning Committee met via Zoom on July 14, 2025, to discuss goals for the upcoming NCARD year. After much discussion, the following goals are being presented to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds for consideration.

2025-2026

- 1. <u>Technology Utilization</u> Study and encourage application of technology and other means of preventing fraud and otherwise increasing reliability and efficiency while maintaining the basic features of the state's real estate recording and transactional system.
- 2. <u>New Registers</u> Encourage the collaboration of various NCARD committees to develop a "Welcome to the Office" transition program with training opportunities, FAQ's, mentorships and other options for new Registers.
- 3. <u>Vital Records Improvements</u> Ensure that NCARD continues to advocate for improvement in NCOVR services by having NCARD representatives participate in regular meetings with NCOVR leadership, while stressing the importance of our Association's input. Consider communications that support budget decisions that enable NCOVR to provide access to vital records in the public interest
- 4. <u>Unity and Cohesiveness</u> Work to promote unity and cohesiveness, in a nonpartisan way, within our Association in order to strengthen it and our ability to serve our counties and constituents.
- 5. <u>Communication and Transparency</u> Enhance communications and transparency among members and with NCARD leadership about the Association, its activities and how its members can work together to accomplish the Association's goals.

*Pursuant to the NCARD Constitution and By-Laws 8.11.2

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

2024-2025 REPORT TO NCARD 73rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEAUFORT, NC

Committee Members:

Chair: Honorable Miranda H. Roupe, Alleghany County Vice-Chair: Honorable Betsy Harnage, Cleveland County

Secretary/SOG Advisor: Charmain Cale, UNC School of Government (Ex-Officio)

Terri Ward, Davidson County

Honorable Brandi Brinson, Franklin County (Ex-Officio)

Stacy C Moore, Certified Assistant Register of Deeds, Haywood County

Honorable Lee King, Henderson County

Honorable Jacqueline S. Frierson, Perquimans County

Honorable Jennifer Helms, Stanly County

Honorable Brandon S. Hooker, Stokes (Ex-Officio)

Honorable Amy Shook, Watauga (NCARD President, Ex-Officio)

Honorable Lisa Stith, Wilson County, (Ex-Officio)

The Certification Committee met several times during the year by zoom and in person. The meetings consisted of reviewing the guidelines, questions with applications, courses and continuing education applications.

The Certification Committee received _38_ applications for certification. We have _19__ applicants for Deputy certifications; _11_ applicants for Assistant certifications; 13 applicants for designation change; 7 applicants for Certified Register of Deeds; 1 applicant for recertification.

I would like to personally thank the committee for all their hard work and dedication in keeping this a professional program.

Respectfully submitted this on the 8th day of September 2025.

Miranda H. Roupe, Chair Alleghany County

Betsy Harnage, Vice-Chair Cleveland County



NCARD 73rd Annual Conference Education Committee Report

Hon. Brandi S. Brinson, Co-Chair, Franklin County

Professor Chuck Szypszak, UNC SOG Advisor

Hon. Carolyn L. Garris, Beaufort County

Hon. Wayne L. Rash, Caldwell County

Hon. Kelly C. Funderburk, Davie County

Hon. Sherri C. Rogers, Haywood County Hon. Melissa F. Pipkin, Montgomery County Hon. Brandon S. Hooker, Stokes County

Hon. Crystal D. Gilliard, Union County

Hon. Lisa Stith, Co-Chair, Wilson County

Hon. Scott H. Hines, Alexander County

Hon. Drew Reisinger, Buncombe County

Hon. Betsy S. Harnage, Cleveland County

Hon. Matthew S. Willis, Harnett County

Hon. Renee L. Holland, Iredell County

Hon. L. Page Pratt, Scotland County

Hon. Gene P. Boger, Tyrrell County

Hon. Amy J. Shook, Watauga County

The Education Committee has had a successful year thus far. The Basic Register of Deeds School was held in November 2024 at UNC School of Government, with 49 attendees and 100% passing rate for the second year in a row!! Also, at the School of Government there was an Elected Register of Deeds School held in January 2025. Professor Szypszak was very pleased with the number of high-test scores and good reflection papers!!

The Legislative Conference was held March 23-25, 2025, at Marriott Raleigh Crabtree Valley. There were 134 registered attendees, 92 of which were Registers, and 13 vendors in attendance. For the first time in several years, we were able to tour the Legislative building and try to meet with some of our representatives! Our speakers and sponsors came through for us again to help make the conference a success. Save the date for next year's Legislative/Educational Conference that will be held March 22 – 24, 2026 in the same location.

The spring workshops were a little different this year. We had four in-person workshops and two virtual workshops with a total of 412 attendees. This is something we will continue to try to provide, however it may be done a little differently until we can find a way that works best.

The Education Committee is continuing to try to provide additional educational opportunities for our association. On May 28, 2025, we held a virtual class regarding Torrens in which we had 113 in attendance. Special thanks to Carteret County Assistant, Iona Whitehurst and retired Register of Deeds, Elaine Whitaker, experts in dealing with Torrens, for leading the discussion. Professor Charles Szypszak held a seminar regarding ethics on August 18-19, 2025, with 25 attendees. We hope to provide another seminar on ethics or maybe another topic again soon.

If you have any questions and/or suggestions for the Education Committee, please feel free to reach out to us. We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual conference!

Respectfully, Brandi S. Brinson Lisa Stith **Education Committee Co-chairs**



Land Records Management Advisory and Indexing Committee

Land Records Management Advisory and Indexing Committee are working on updating the Internal Procedures Manuel. Our goal is to update some of the outdated examples, such as Assumed Business Name, and to add any additional document indexing information to notebook, as necessary. As a committee we decided to assume a small working group for this project. The working group will report to entire committee as the project evolves. We met on September 2^{nd} to discuss updates to sections I - IV.

The working group members currently are:

Honorable Sherri Rogers- Haywood County, Honorable Lynn Lewis- Pamlico County, Honorable Lee King- Henderson County and Honorable Aric Wilhelm-Yadkin County.

Respectfully Submitted, Sherri C. Rogers- Co-Chair



CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS AND RÉSOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Report for the 73rd Annual NCARD Conference

Committee Members:

Honorable Kandance H. Bullock, Columbus County

Honorable Lee King, Henderson County

Honorable Danny R. Hester, Lincoln County

Honorable Fredrick Smith, Mecklenburg County

Honorable Omega K. Jarman, Onslow County

Honorable Krista M. Lowe, Randolph County

Honorable Tammy L. Brunner, Wake County

The Constitution/By-Laws and Resolutions Committee has received two resolutions for your approval. Resolution #1 was submitted by District VII to express support for the western counties that were affected by Hurricane Helene. Resolution #2 was submitted by Honorable Amy J. Shook, the President of North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds, and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. This resolution will create an Annual Conference Support Committee. The committee's duties will be to give support and guidance to the hosting District of the Annual Conference. This committee will work with the host District; however, it will not take over the responsibilities that come with hosting an Annual Conference.

The following are the two resolutions that were submitted to the Constitution/By-Laws and Resolutions Committee for the 73^{'d} Annual Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Kandance H. Bullock Chair Constitution/By-Laws and Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2024, after listening to the needs of the Registers in the hosting Districts of our Annual Conference, NCARD President Amy J. Shook, formed an Ad Hoc Committee to research the possibility of creating an Annual Conference Support Committee, a committee that will assist the district host with the Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2025, the Ad Hoc Committee, which consisted of voting members from each of the eight districts in the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds, discussed the needs of the districts in planning and hosting an Annual Conference and voted to create the Annual Conference Support Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NCARD President Amy J. Shook, along with the Ad Hoc Committee presents to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds a resolution that will add a committee to the NCARD Constitution/By-Laws, the committee will be called Annual Conference Support Committee. Please note that this will change the numbers throughout Article VIII of the Constitution/By-Laws. The committee insert will read as follows:

8.2 <u>Annual Conference Support Committee</u>

- 8.2.1 The Annual Conference Support Committee has nine Voting Members of the Association; one Register from each district and the President of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds. Six members shall have tenure and be experienced in hosting previous year's Annual Conferences and two members shall be from districts hosting future Annual Conferences. NCARD Executive Director will also serve on the committee as an Ex-Officio Member. The Conference Coordinator for the host district shall not serve on the Annual Conference Support Committee.
- 8.2.2 The Annual Conference Support Committee will give support and guidance to the hosting District of the Annual Conference. The committee will meet with the host district and they shall offer expertise and assistance with the planning and functions of the Annual Conference. The Committee shall do this by working with and supporting the host district, along with the Association's Executive Director. The Committee will help by offering and assisting in implementing ideas on topics, sessions, and/or speakers and being present to help carry out the functions and duties at the NCARD Annual Conference.
- 8.2.3 The Annual Conference Support Committee shall not take over responsibilities of the Host District nor the Conference Coordinator. All parties involved with the Annual Conference shall follow the Annual Conference Guidelines for NCARD, which can be found on the NCARD Website under the Member/Registers of Deeds Tab. It shall be the duty of the Annual Conference Support Committee to periodically review the Annual Conference Guidelines and to consider the need for updates and changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there also needs to be additional changes to 9.1.1 and 9.1.3.

9.1.1 An Annual Conference will be held to elect officers, consider changes to the Constitution/By-Laws, and address organizational, legislative, and educational matters of interest to the Association, with an

agenda to be set by the President with the advice of the Executive Committee and host district. The Annual Conference will begin as close as possible to the third Sunday in September of each year and extend as long as

- 9.1.2 deemed advisable by the Executive Committee. Each of the eight districts will take turns hosting the Annual Conference on a rotating basis every eight years and will elect a conference coordinator and treasurer for the conference they host. It shall remain the responsibility of the host district to determine a location for the Annual Conference within, but not limited to their district. It is advised that the district host get prior approval from the district they are hosting in, if the host site is out of their district. An Annual Conference Guidelines Document can be found on the NCARD Website under the Members/Registers of Deeds Tab.
- 9.1.3 Each Annual Conference coordinator <u>and district host</u> will work with the <u>Annual Conference</u> <u>Support Committee</u>, Executive Committee, Executive Director, and committee chairs in planning the conference agenda. The Annual Conference coordinator will be an Ex- Officio (Non-Voting) member of the Executive Committee.

This 7^t day of May 2025

Amy J. Shook President North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds Chair, Ad Hoc Committee

Expressing Support and Solidarity with the Western Counties of North Carolina Affected by Hurricane Helene

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall in the western counties of North Carolina, causing widespread devastation, loss of life, and immeasurable hardship for the residents of those communities; and

WHEREAS the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene impacted families, businesses, and essential services, leaving many to endure great loss and face the challenges of rebuilding their lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, District VII of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds, representing 9 eastern counties of North Carolina, deeply understands the toll that hurricanes and natural disasters take on communities, as we have faced similar adversities year after year: and

WHEREAS the resilience, strength, and determination displayed by the people of the western counties in the aftermath of this disaster serve as an inspiration to us all, demonstrating the unwavering spirit of North Carolinians in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS the Registers of Deeds in the western counties have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and resilience, working diligently to restore operations, assist their communities, and ensure the continuity of vital records despite the immense challenges posed by this disaster; and

WHERAS, we acknowledge and appreciate the tireless efforts of local leaders, emergency responders, volunteers, and citizens who have come together to support one another, restore their communities, and work toward recovery; and

WHEREAS it is our heartfelt desire to extend our unwavering support, encouragement, and solidarity to our fellow North Carolinians as they navigate the road to rebuilding and renewal; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that District VII of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds formally expresses its deepest sympathy and concern for the residents of the western counties affected by Hurricane Helene, and we commend and admire the unwavering dedication, resilience, and perseverance of the Registers of Deeds in the western counties, recognizing their vital contributions in maintaining order and assisting in the recovery of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand together with our western counterparts, offering our unwavering support, encouragement, and any assistance within *ow* capacity *Io* aid in the rebuilding and recovery of their communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution is made part of the minutes of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds held in Beaufort, North Carolina, September 2025.

Adopted this 8th day of April 2025. Lisa P. Nichols, Chair District VII North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERS Of Deeds

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

73rd NCARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On behalf of the Special Recognition - Awards Committee, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the following Registers who have won their elections since last year's annual conference and have joined the association:

Honorable Tara G. Eudy, Anson County
Honorable Dana Varnam, Brunswick County
Honorable Ashley Jennings, Camden County
Honorable Angela Sigmon Henson, Catawba County
Honorable Joshua D. Kohr, Craven County
Honorable Andra S. Brewington, Cumberland County
Honorable Natalie R. Twiddy, Currituck County
Honorable Jonathan L. Fletcher, Gaston County
Honorable La'Tia Lewter Wynn, Hertford County
Honorable Penny Newbern, Pasquotank County
Honorable Tina Arnder, Wayne County

We would also like to congratulate our retirees:

Honorable Gregory L. Eudy, Anson County
Honorable Brenda M. Clemmons, Brunswick County
Honorable Tammie Krauss, Camden County
Honorable Donna Spencer, Catawba County
Honorable Michelle L. Toth, Craven County
Honorable J. Lee Warren, Jr., Cumberland County
Honorable Denise A. Hall, Currituck County

Honorable Susan Lockridge, Gaston County Honorable Melanie H. Storey, Hertford County Honorable Clementine White, Pasquotank County Honorable Constance Corum, Wayne County

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the following retired Registers that we lost since last year's annual conference:

Honorable Nuel K. Martin, Alexander County (02-10-2025) Honorable Ila N. Penny, Columbus County (03-04-2025) Honorable Pat Reel, McDowell County (03-13-2025)

The committee members completed the selection process of recipients for the "SHINING STAR AWARDS" and the "CHARLES MOORE AWARD" and we would like to thank each district for submitting their nominations for these awards. The awards will be presented at the NCARD Annual Conference on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Resolutions to honor or memorialize were presented to the Special Recognition - Awards Committee for approval and will be presented at the NCARD Annual Conference on Monday, September 15, 2025.

A special thank you is extended to the following members of the Special Recognition - Awards Committee for their involvement in the selection process of the award recipients as well as the approval process for memorial and retirement resolutions:

Honorable Deaett Roten, Ashe County
Honorable Beverly T. Parks, Bladen County
Honorable Kathy M. Taylor, Granville County
Honorable Matthew S. Willis, Harnett County
Honorable Renee L. Holland, Iredell County
Honorable Craig Olive, Johnston County
Honorable Treva Jenkins, Lenoir County
Honorable Danny R. Hester, Lincoln County, Vice-Chair
Honorable Kimberly J. Griffin, Martin County
Honorable Lydia Tilley Effler, McDowell County
Honorable Omega K. Jarman, Onslow County
Honorable Krista M. Lowe, Randolph County, Chair
Honorable Kimberly M. Roberts, Richmond County
Honorable Rachel Thomas, Rutherford County
Honorable Jennifer Helms, Stanly County

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista M. Lowe

Krista M. Lowe, Chair

Special Recognition - Awards Committee

Memorial Resolution of the

Honorable Patricia "Pat" Reel

WHEREAS, Patricia "Pat" Reel, of Marion, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2025, at Fletcher Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, surrounded by her loving family; and

WHEREAS, Pat Reel was born on December 3, 1947, in Gulf County, Florida, to the late Harbert Smith and Lillie Taylor Smith, and throughout her life exemplified grace, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, Pat served with distinction as the Register of Deeds for McDowell County from 1996 to 2008, leaving a lasting impact on her community and on the office, she so honorably held; and

WHEREAS, Pat furthered her legacy of leadership by serving as President of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds from 2004 to 2005, guiding the organization with wisdom, humility, and a collaborative spirit that endeared her to her peers across the state; and

WHEREAS, beyond her professional accomplishments, Pat was a devoted wife, mother, and friend, who passionately served her community through her involvement with the First United Methodist Church of Marion, the Foothills Theater, and the McDowell Arts Council Association; and

WHEREAS, Pat's life was marked by tireless volunteerism and civic engagement, including her service as a Boy Scout volunteer, team mom for her son's baseball teams, supporter of her daughter's involvement in the Brownies and Girl Scouts, and longtime volunteer with the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, Pat Reel will be remembered for her boundless energy, joyful spirit, deep love for her family, and her enduring contributions to McDowell County and the Register of Deeds community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds does hereby recognize and honor the life and legacy of Patricia "Pat" Reel, expressing heartfelt condolences to her family and eternal gratitude for her service and dedication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be included in the official proceedings of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds and District I.

Adopted this 30th day of July 2025.

Beth C. Landreth

Transylvania County Register of Deeds

Beth C. Landreth

District I, Chair

North Carolina Association of Register of Deeds

RESOLUTION HONORING

GREGORY L. EUDY

WHEREAS, District III of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the Honorable Gregory L. Eudy, former Register of Deeds of Anson County, for his service, leadership, and professionalism during his time of public service; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Greg Eudy was appointed Register of Deeds in 2018, then ran for office and was elected in 2020, was sworn in on December 7, 2020, and served until December 2024; and

WHEREAS, Greg was an active member of District III and the NC Association of Registers of Deeds having attended many meetings and conferences across the state and serving in such roles as past Vice Chair of District III and serving on such committees as Elections and Strategic Long-Range Planning; and

WHEREAS, Greg was a colleague who could always be counted on to show up and be present. He was humble and willing to learn, ready to lend a helping hand wherever needed, and always had a good story to tell about hunting, his dogs, or playing his guitar. Greg now enjoys spending time on his farm with his wife, Dawn; and

WHEREAS, To Anson County citizens, Greg exemplified professionalism and dedication and was a steady hand during uncertain times like Covid-19 and the Anson County technology breach. Greg also worked diligently during his time in office to go from "old school" manual inputs to implementing new technology to the office such as eRecording documents and maps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that District III does hereby extend to the Honorable Greg Eudy their sincerest appreciation and gratitude for his service to the citizens of Anson County, the members of District III, and to the North Carolina Association of Register of Deeds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be made a part of the minutes of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds in Beaufort, North Carolina

This the 17 day of June, 2025.

Kelly C Funderburk

Davie County Register of Deeds NCARD District III Chair

RESOLUTION HONORING

BRENDA M. CLEMMONS

WHEREAS, Brenda M. Clemmons began working in the Brunswick County Register of Deeds Office as a Deputy and advancing to an assistant within 14 years. In 2008, after being away from the office for a period of time she filed and won the election of Brunswick County Register of Deeds Office and was sworn in December 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Brenda has served on NCARD Committees, such as Automation Technology, Legislative, Special Recognition, Strategic Long-Range Planning, and Vital Records. She has served District V as Legislative Representative since 2017, serving in that capacity with passion and due diligence on behalf of our Association, being very instrumental in assisting with several Legislative issues that came before us, she also received the 2021 NCARD Shining Star Award; and

WHEREAS, Brenda has been married to Alan Dale Clemmons for 47 years; she has a daughter, Allison Dawn who is married to Brandon Stephen Wilkins, and a son, Alan Dale Clemmons, II, and three wonderful grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of District V of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wish to express its appreciation and acknowledge Brenda M. Clemmons for her distinguished career as Brunswick County Register of Deeds, and for her commitment, dedication, and loyalty not only to Brunswick County but to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds and to District V. We hereby express our appreciation for her service and wish her continued success in her retirement and future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution be made part of the minutes of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds.

Kandance H. Bullock

Columbus County Register of Deeds

North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds

District V Chair

This the 13th day of November 2024

RESOLUTION HONORING

J. LEE WARREN, JR.

WHEREAS, District V of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Honorable J. LEE WARREN, JR., Register of Deeds of Cumberland County, who has distinguished himself in office by his wisdom, leadership, loyalty, and dedication to Cumberland County, District V, and to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, Lee was appointed to complete a term and was sworn in as Cumberland County Register of Deeds on May 28, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Lee has served the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds as Historian, Secretary, Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, President Elect and the 2012-2013 President. Lee has also served on numerous committees within the Association, served as Vice Chair of District V, as well as hosting several workshops and was a major instrument in hosting the 2006 NCARD Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, Lee was the recipient of the Eunice Ayers Award and Outstanding Register of Deeds in 2013 and also received the Shining Star Award in 2022, with a major accomplishment and proud moment when he completed the task of visiting all 100 counties during his Presidency in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Lee has decided to retire after 21 years as Cumberland County Register of Deeds, 11 years as Cumberland County Commissioner from 1992-2003 and spend more time with his loving family, which consists of his beautiful wife, Sue, 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that District V does hereby extend to J. LEE WARREN, JR. congratulations on his long tenure and distinguished service to the people of Cumberland County, District V, and the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds; and wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement with his family and friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds and District V.

Kandance H. Bullock Chair, District V

North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds

This the 13th day of November 2024

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR

Michelle L. Toth Craven County Register of Deeds

WHEREAS, Michelle L. Toth has dedicated 21 years of exemplary service to the citizens of Craven County, beginning her career on October 8, 2003, as a Deputy Register of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, through her commitment and outstanding work, Michelle L. Toth was promoted to Assistant Register of Deeds on November 2, 2009, where she continued to serve the community with excellence; and

WHEREAS, Michelle L. Toth was appointed as Register of Deeds on July 1, 2023, where she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and unwavering service to the office and the citizens of Craven County; and

WHEREAS, Michelle L. Toth's service as Register of Deeds concluded on December 2, 2024, after a distinguished career marked by professionalism, dedication, and tireless efforts to maintain the integrity of public records in Craven County; and

WHEREAS, District VII of the North Carolina Register of Deeds Association wishes to recognize Michelle L. Toth's significant contributions to the office and extend its deepest appreciation for her service, leadership, and commitment to the people of Craven County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that District VII of the North Carolina Register of Deeds Association expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Michelle L. Toth for her 21 years of dedicated service, and further acknowledges her invaluable contributions to the Craven County Register of Deeds office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is made part of the minutes of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds held in Beaufort, North Carolina, September 2025.

Adopted this 8th day of April 2025.

Lisa P. Nichols Chair, District VII

North Carolina Register of Deeds Association

WHEREAS, District VII of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Honorable Tammie Krauss, Register of Deeds for Camden County, who has distinguished herself in the office by her wisdom, leadership, loyalty and dedication to Camden County, District VIII, and to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, Tammie began work in the Pasquotank County Register of Deeds office in May of 2006 as a Deputy Register of Deeds. She started working as a Deputy Register of Deeds in the Camden County Register of Deeds office in August of 2014. She was sworn in as Register of Deeds in January of 2015; and WHEREAS, Tammie is a certified Register of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, Tammie has improved her office by changing software vendors so that they were able to scan and index all vital records. She has had the old index books scanned and that information is available for the public to view. She participates in e-recording and e-records all documents with the exception of plats; and

WHEREAS, Tammie spends her spare time volunteering for services needed in her local community. She has delivered Meals on Wheels, served two terms as an ombudsman for the Adult Care Home Advisory Community, and volunteered at the Food Bank for several years. She currently volunteers for The Collie Rescue of the Carolinas in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she checks new applicants to make sure their past or previous pets receive proper health care; and

WHEREAS, Tammie was fortunate to be able to assist her elderly parents, who were having health issues, in their time of need, before losing them both. She and her husband just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. They have one son who lives in Rockvillee, Maryland and is doing cancer research at the University of Maryland's Biomedical Research Facility. She has no grandchildren, but has two precious pups; and

WHEREAS, Tammie's hobbies include cooking, walking trails, yoga classes, gardening and lots of puppy time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that District VII does hereby extend to Tammie Krauss congratulations on her dedicated services to Camden County, District VII and the Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is made part of the minutes of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds.

Jacqueline S. Frierson, District VIII Chair

WHEREAS, District VIII of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Honorable Denise A. Hall, Register of Deeds for Currituck County, who has distinguished herself in the office by her wisdom, leadership, loyalty and dedication to Currituck County, District VIII, and to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, Denise became working in the Currituck County Register of Deeds office, as Register, in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Denise is a certified Register of Deeds and has made sure that all of her staff are certified and maintain their certification; and

WHEREAS, Denise has improved her office by automating records and having them available online. She has also instituted e-recording; and

WHEREAS, Denise has served as District Chair and as Legislative Representative; and

WHEREAS, Denise is married to Mike. She and Mike have been married for 35 years. They have an amazing daughter, Kelsey. Most recently they welcomed a very special addition, a granddaughter, Olivia; and

WHEREAS, Denise's hobbies include breeding and showing dogs in conformation. Last year, she was very proud to have one of her dogs win an award at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that District VIII does hereby extend to Denise A. Hall congratulations on her dedicated services to Currituck County, District VIII and the Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is made part of the minutes of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds.

Jacqueline S. Frierson, District VIII Chair NC Association of Registers of Deeds

WHEREAS, District VIII of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Honorable Melanie H. Storey, Register of Deeds for Hertford County, who has distinguished herself in the office by her wisdom, leadership, loyalty and dedication to Hertford County, District VIII, and to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, Melanie was elected Register of Deeds of Hertford County in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Melanie earned her Advanced Certified Register of Deeds Certificate in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Melanie has improved her office by implementing the following: new policies and procedures; electronic notary public oath process; eRecording documents; Electronic Birth/Death Registration; Get Certificate Now (on-line Vital Records Requests); Real Estate/Map Preservation with all documents digitized and available online; marriage preservation; property fraud detection alert system; and

WHEREAS, Melanie has served as District Secretary and has also served on numerous committees including Certification, Special Recognition, Election, Education, Website and Vital Records; and

WHEREAS, Melanie is a member of Winton Baptist Church where she has served as Assistant Director for WMU, served on the Hospitality Committee, Rules and Bylaws Committee, and Nominating Committee; and

WHEREAS, Melanie has served as a Board Member and Secretary for the Winton Historical Association; Vice Chair of the Hertford County Community Advisory Committee; Co-Chair of the Hertford County Employee Advisory Committee; as a member of the Complete Count Census Committee; as a Member of the Albemarle Regional Library Strategic Planning Committee; and a Member of the Vidant Hospital Director's Council; and WHEREAS, Melanie is married to Jerry Storey and they have one fur baby; and

WHEREAS, Melanie's hobbies include gardening, traveling and camping; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that District VIII does hereby extend to Melanie H. Storey. Hall congratulations on her dedicated services to Hertford County, District VIII and the Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is made part of the minutes of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds.

Tacqueline S. Frierson, District VIII Chair NC Association of Registers of Deeds

WHEREAS, District VIII of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Honorable Clementine White, Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, who has distinguished herself in the office by her wisdom, leadership, loyalty and dedication to Pasquotank County, District VIIII, and to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, Clementine began working in the Pasquotank County Register of Deeds Office in July of 1996 as a Clerk and later as Deputy Register of Deeds, under the leadership of Mrs. Dollie J. Summerour, former Register of Deeds. She was promoted to Assistant Register of Deeds under former Register of Deeds, Joyce W. Pritchard. She was appointed Register of Deeds on June 3, 2019, upon the retirement of Joyce W. Pritchard. She was later elected Register of Deeds on December 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Clementine is a certified Register of Deeds having been certified in January of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Clementine has improved her office by implementing E-Notary, GetCertificateNow (GCN) aka Order Vital Records Online, back indexing from 1990-1997, Fraud Alert Notification Service and Thank a Veteran Program. She also enjoyed decorating the office for each holiday; and

WHEREAS, Clementine was on the Special Recognition Committee and was also District VIII Secretary; and

WHEREAS, Clementine would like to thank her daughter, Tasha White, her son, Dontwain White, her sisters, Jacquline Floyd, Connie Henderson, Marilyn White, Ann White, Diane White and Geraldine White, her six grandchildren, her eight great-grandchildren, for always supporting her; and

WHEREAS, Clementine loves to travel with her siblings and also spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that District VIII does hereby extend to Clementine White congratulations on her dedicated services to Pasquotank County, District VIII and the Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is made part of the minutes of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds.

Jacqueline S. Frierson, District VIII Chair NC Association of Registers of Deeds

WHEREAS, District II of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to recognize and honor the distinguished service, unwavering dedication, and transformative leadership of the Honorable Donna Spencer, former Register of Deeds of Catawba County; and

WHEREAS, Donna Spencer was born and raised in Elk Park, North Carolina, graduating from Avery County High School in 1984. She earned degrees in Clerical Science from Mayland Technical Community College and Paralegal Technology from Central Piedmont Community College, launching a career marked by excellence, ethics, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Donna served as a legal secretary, paralegal, and business owner before assuming office as Register of Deeds in Catawba County, where she worked tirelessly for 20 years to modernize and elevate the office to the highest standards of service and integrity; and

WHEREAS, when Donna took office, the Register of Deeds lacked even basic technology such as a fax machine. Through years of budget-conscious planning and relentless effort-including working 60 to 65 hours a week during her first decade in office while raising young triplet boys-she brought the office into the 21st century, implementing innovations such as credit card acceptance with no fees, electronic filing systems, online access to vital records and real estate documents, access to the Clerk of Court's AOC computer, and the "Thank You for Your Service" program honoring veterans; and

WHEREAS, Donna was the first in her office to become NCARD certified, and within her first year in office, she began a preservation initiative that ultimately restored and digitized records dating back to the founding of Catawba County. Her work ensured that birth, death, marriage, notary, military, and land records were preserved and made accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, Donna's leadership extended beyond her county. She served as Secretary and Treasurer of District II, chaired and co-chaired the Vital Records Committee, and contributed to numerous NCARD committees and subcommittees, including the Strategic Long-Range Planning, Automation Technology, and Land Records Management Advisory Committees. She was instrumental in revising the Minimum Standards for Indexing Real Property Instruments and creating the PDF-linked Real Property Internal Index Procedures Manual in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Donna's advocacy led to improved communication between NCARD and NCOVR, including organizing the first meeting with the Secretary of DHHS to address turnaround times, resulting in additional staffing. She was honored with the 2013 Shining Star Award for her outstanding contributions; and

WHEREAS, Donna's civic engagement includes leadership roles in the Catawba County Republican Women and the Catawba County Republican Party, service to Highland United Methodist Church, participation in local education and leadership programs, and a lifelong commitment to empowering others through mentorship and public service; and

WHEREAS, Donna has stated, "Making my family, the citizens, and the office/NCARD my priority was my reward," a sentiment that reflects the heart of her service and the values she upheld throughout her career; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, with deep gratitude and admiration, recognize Donna Spencer for her years of service, her outstanding leadership, and her unwavering commitment to her profession, her community, and her family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Register of Deeds.

Miranda H. Roupe, District II, Chair NC Association of Registers of Deeds

This the 6th day of August 2025.

WHEREAS, District II of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds wishes to recognize and honor the distinguished service, unwavering dedication, and transformative leadership of the Honorable Susan Lockridge, former Register of Deeds of Gaston County; and

WHEREAS, she began her career with the Gaston County Register of Deeds office in 1986 and faithfully served the citizens of Gaston County for over three decades, including 20 years as Register of Deeds until her retirement in 2024, and;

WHEREAS, during her tenure, she helped guide the office through decades of change, including the historic implementation of statewide electronic vital records access, significantly improving access to birth and death records across North Carolina, and;

WHEREAS, she has been an active and esteemed member of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds, serving in many leadership roles including Historian, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, and President, as well as chairing and contributing to various committees such as Legislative and Vital Records, and;

WHEREAS, she achieved numerous professional certifications through the NCARD and UNC School of Government, including Certified Deputy, Certified Assistant, and Certified Register of Deeds, and was a member of the inaugural Ethics class by Charles Szypszak, and;

WHEREAS, she has actively participated in IACEROT, now IGO, for over 20 years, continuing her education and earning Advanced Continuing Education Awards, and;

WHEREAS, Susan Lockridge's leadership and service have been recognized with many honors including Outstanding Register of Deeds, the Eunice Ayers Award, the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, and local recognition from peers such as the "Women in Leadership" award, celebrating her collaborative spirit and commitment to excellence, and;

WHEREAS, beyond her professional accomplishments, she is a devoted wife to Sam Lockridge, loving mother to Sam Meek IV and Spencer, and proud grandmother to Caylin, Camdyn, Porter, and Marley Rae, and;

WHEREAS, she has also served her community through years of active involvement with St. John's Lutheran Church, serving in roles such as Vice President, President, Council Member, Youth Advisor, and contributor to ministries such as Vacation Bible School, Wild Women Group and the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and;

WHEREAS, she dedicated 7 years as Treasurer for the Gaston County Republican Women and was recognized for her contributions by the North Carolina Federation of Republican Women; and:

WHEREAS, in her personal time, she finds joy and creativity in gardening, knitting, and crafting-hobbies that reflect her nurturing spirit and artistic flair; and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, with deep gratitude and admiration, recognize Susan Lockridge for her decades of service, her outstanding leadership, and her unwavering commitment to her profession, her community, and her family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the 73rd Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Register of Deeds.

Miranda H. Roupe, District II, Chair NC Association of Registers of Deeds

This the 6th day of August 2025.

N.C. ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERS OF DEEDS 2024-2025 Executive Committee

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Watauga County

PRESIDENT-ELECT Lynn H. Lewis Pamlico County

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DISTRICT VII CHAIR Lisa P. Nichols Pitt County

DISTRICT VIII CHAIR Jacqueline S. FriersonPerquimans County

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CONFERENCE COORDINATOR Brandi S. Brinson

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