

STAY SAFE + HEALTHY,  
 NC NOTARIES!



July 4th ~ Independence Day is Sunday!

For many of us, this upcoming long weekend will be an opportunity to take a much-needed break. That could mean traveling to the beach, or cooking hamburgers and shrimp shish kabobs on the grill or binge watching your favorite TV shows with some yummy local take-out. Self-care is extremely important, especially after what we all have been through over the last 15 months. So take some time for fun.

But it's also the Day we commemorate our Declaration of Independence from England 245 years ago. As a nation, our freedom is one of the many things we are thankful for. Let's honor that.

Another thing that I personally am thankful for are my beautiful plants. I love gardening, and I have heard that many of you notaries have green thumbs too.

In last July's newsletter, I gave you all a tour of my garden, and first introduced you to some plants that I called "Cone-Zilla".

When I bought them, the tag identified them as cone flowers. I was expecting plants with flowers no more than 24 inches tall. I was surprised to grow shoulder-high flowers the first season, and now flowers that are taller than I am.

The wet winter caused 2021 to be the most "flower-ful" spring I can recall (there has to be some reward for the difficult year we just experienced).

Unfortunately, one of my two "Zillas" did not make it over the winter, but the photo shows the other one has been more productive than ever.

Let us know how we can continue to be helpful to you in performing your notarial acts. As we celebrate the Fourth of July weekend, continue to stay safe and healthy, and grateful for our freedom.

*Elaine F. 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.



**eNotary Classes Available at  
 Community Colleges**

Notaries, many of you have inquired about opportunities to become electronic notaries. Here's a list of the educational institutions in North Carolina currently offering eNotary classes:

- |                     |                     |                   |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| AB Tech CC          | Coastal Carolina CC | Lenoir CC         |
| Alamance CC         | Craven CC           | Mitchell CC       |
| Beaufort CC         | Davidson County CC  | Pitt CC           |
| Blue Ridge CC       | Fayetteville CC     | Rockingham CC     |
| Brunswick CC        | Forsyth Tech CC     | Rowan Cabarrus CC |
| Cape Fear CC        | Gaston CC           | Sandhills CC      |
| Catawba Valley CC   | Guilford CC         | Southwest CC      |
| Central Carolina CC | Haywood CC          | Surry CC          |
| Central Piedmont CC | Johnston Tech CC    | Wake Tech CC      |



### Fast Five Q & A

**Q: Question from Facebook: I work at an automotive dealership in Chapel Hill. We have a POA that automatically prints the county of the customer. Can our office notary strike through any incorrect county and write by hand the correct county?**

The answer is yes. The notary in your office has the responsibility to ensure that all of the information in the notary certificate is correct including the venue that indicates the state and county where the notification took place.

**Q: When and how do I renew my commission term?**

A notary cannot apply for reappointment earlier than 10 weeks before his/her commission expires. Unless you are an attorney, you must take the online test and pass with a score of at least 80%.

After successfully passing the exam, you will need to complete the notary public renewal application, have it notarized and submit it along with a non-refundable fee of \$50 to our office.

Once you receive your Oath Notification letter, you will need to take your oath of office at the Register of Deeds in the county of your residence.

**Q: I don't work for a bank or corporation. Am I allowed to notarize documents for people for free?**

Yes you may. Some of our notaries provide free services for churches, hospitals, nursing homes, or just because. You do not have to charge for your notarial services.

**Q: From our email account: Can I legally notarize a document for my sister-in-law?**

Ooh, we get this question a lot. The answer is it depends. Signatures can be notarized by family members if the notary's name is NOT mentioned in the document and the notary will NOT benefit in any way at the time of notarization or in the future.

So if you are notarizing a signature for your sister-in-law, make sure that you are not a beneficiary of the document you are notarizing for her.

**Q: Another popular question: To notarize a car title in our state, does the buyer's name have to be on it?**

The answer is absolutely YES. Thank you for asking because we get asked this question a lot.

Do NOT notarize a blank DMV vehicle title document. If the buyer's name is not listed on the title, it will be considered an open or blank title and DMV officials will file a complaint against the notary who notarized the document.

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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).



### COVID-19 + Notaries

**Sunset for Emergency Video Notarizations Has Been Extended:**

The sunset date for conducting emergency video notarizations is now December 31, 2021.

**Register of Deeds Offices:**

Notaries must contact the Register of Deeds Office in their county of residence about their hours of operation during the coronavirus pandemic. Some of these offices are accepting walk-ins while others are requiring appointments.



## 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 8,834 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 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!



## Natural Home Remedies For Cleaning

We all have chores, but very few of us actually love doing them. But since we all want a clean house, there's no way around getting them done.

We found 15 natural home remedies from [homestolove.com](http://homestolove.com) to help you keep your space clean, fresh and as chemical-free as possible. Click on the link to read more:

<https://www.homestolove.com.au/15-natural-cleaning-remedies-10636>

### Baking Soda For Oven Cleaning:

A paste of baking soda and water cleans ovens without the chemicals or the hassle of the self-cleaning cycle. Just make a past on the bottom of the oven, leave for a few hours and wipe off for a shiny, chemical-free oven.

### Clean The Garbage Disposal:

Pour 1/2 cup of baking soda in and then 1 cup of distilled white vinegar and let sit for 10 minutes before running the water and the disposal.

### Clean The Dishwasher:

Fill a dishwasher safe bowl or jar with two cups of vinegar and set on the top rack of the dishwasher. Run through a hot cycle with no other dishes in the dishwasher to clean and remove the musty odor.

### Clean The Stove Vent Fan:

To get rid of the sticky cooking residue that builds up in your range hood, clean the stove vent fan with boiling water and baking soda.



## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MEMORIAL DAY?

AARP quiz featured in our May newsletter. See the correct answers below:

On Memorial Day, U.S. flags are to be flown at half-staff until:

- A. 10 a.m.
- B. Noon - CORRECT
- C. 4 p.m.

D. Sunset

When was Memorial Day moved from May 30 to the last Monday in May?

- A. 1925
- B. 1946
- C. 1971 - CORRECT
- D. 1980

Which of these memorials to the fallen was the first to be established on Washington's National Mall?

- A. National World II Memorial
- B. Vietnam Veterans Memorial - CORRECT
- C. Korean War Veterans Memorial
- D. Vietnam Women's Memorial

Which of these major sporting events traditionally takes place every Memorial Day weekend?

- A. Indianapolis 500 - CORRECT
- B. Belmont Stakes
- C. U.S. Open Tennis Championships
- D. NBA Finals

Which woman served as a battlefield nurse during the Civil War, earning the nickname "Angel of the Battlefield," and founded the American Red Cross in 1881?

- A. Dorothea Dix
- B. Clara Barton - CORRECT
- C. Cornelia Hancock
- D. Louisa May Alcott



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