

Officers



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President's Note

First, let me say "Thank You!" Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your president. It's not a position I take lightly, and you can be assured every decision and plan that is made will all be for the glory of God. As we (your executive committee) navigate through this year, we ask for your prayers and your encouragement.

As I think back to our last conference, I am still blown away by what I saw God do. Leading up to the conference many of us faced challenges. For some of us those challenges made us doubtful, anxious, and question if we should be there. However, based on your evaluations many who were in attendance were able to lay those challenges at the feet of Jesus. Many of us were actually able to Relax, Refresh, and Renew. There were some that were not able to attend because of their challenges. When news of this was heard, I witnessed many of you stopping and praying for those situations. I saw a body of likeminded believers come together for the good of the organization and to the glory of God. That is so exciting!

When I first started coming to our conferences, I saw it as an opportunity to learn skills to

help me in my position as church secretary. That was my primary reason for attending, but over the years that has changed. With the internet and everything being at our fingertips, in-person training isn't as necessary as it used to be. That being said, I still look forward to attending our conferences, but it's for more personal reasons. I love knowing that there are secretaries and ministry assistants that face the same challenges I do. I love that I have met friends from all across the state that will pray for me and my family/church. I love the fact that I know I can call on so many of you when things aren't going as planned.

If you haven't been attending our conferences, you are missing out. It's such a blessing to be a part of such an awesome family. That's how I see each of you. Not as a secretary, not as a ministry assistant, but as my family.

I hope you know how much you are LOVED!

Rachel Sanders
 NCBMA President

2023 Conference Recap

Breakout Review

by Kay Passante

At Caraway 2023, our guest speaker, Lori Jarvis, brought bits of wisdom and encouragement to us on how to “Relax, Refresh, and Renew” while breakout sessions provided blessings to everyone through Spiritual Enrichment, Professional Development, Personal Effectiveness, and the bonus time. Each year attendees can choose from powerful, encouraging, and even life-changing sessions with trusted leaders who have insight on the everyday ministry in which we serve.

Spiritual Enrichment Session leaders were Phyllis Foy, Karen Scoggins, Bob Foy, Susan Marshall, and Mack Jarvis. Professional Development Session leaders were Davis Blount, and Whitney Goulding and Liz Tablazon. Personal Effectiveness Session leaders were Renea Henderson, Kim Setzer, Becky Hansley, Bob and Phyllis Foy and our increasingly popular “Girl Talk” hosted by some of our own Ministry Assistants.

The Bonus Time Session offered One on One consultations with NC State Convention Compensation & Benefit Services Representative David Blount. There was also an option to shop with Teresa Almond who donated a portion of the proceeds toward our Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Child mission offering. Thank you to each one who provided a “door prize” which is our time of celebrating each other’s commitment to ministry.

Additionally, we had the opportunity to donate to the Betty Walker Fund, which benefits the NC Baptist Ministry Assistants Association. Great fun was had by all who participated in a raffle for a beautiful hand-pieced quilt by Mary Bentley, a spa gift basket, a handmade piece of pottery by Matthew Kelly and a week stay on Oak Island (Which I was blessed to win a year ago.)



Evaluations

By Amy Parce

We are so grateful that you had a chance to Relax, Refresh, and Renew last year. We have read all your evaluations and really appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve this year’s conference. We want to assure you that we take the evaluations seriously. Our desire is that the annual conference will be a time of refreshment and renewal for you.

Many of you made great suggestions for keynote speakers and breakout leaders. As your officers, we are praying and seeking God’s guidance for this year’s conference. Please keep us in prayer as we make decisions on the theme, speakers, and leaders.



THANK YOU!

We want to say “thank you” to everyone who made donations to the NCBMA in 2023!

Because of your generosity, during the annual conference in November we collected:

- Betty Walker Fund: \$220.00
- Samaritans Purse – OCC Shoeboxes (Shipping Cost): \$811.00
- Raffle: \$1,130.00

The Betty Walker Fund

About the Fund...

The Betty Walker Endowment Fund, established in November 1997 by the past presidents of the North Carolina Baptist Ministry Assistants, will provide funds for the organization forever. Once the fund reached the goal of \$5,000 the interest is disbursed in two ways: 95% to the NCBMA through the Resource Development and Promotion Team of the Baptist State Convention of NC; and 5% to the Endowment Fund. The officers of the NCBMA direct how the money is used. Contributions can be made to the fund at any time. Make checks payable to Provision Financial Resources of NC Baptists, Inc, 201 Convention Drive, Cary NC 27511. Please designate, on the memo line, “Betty F. Walker Endowment Fund.” For more information on giving to this fund, please contact Susan Kimball at (800) 521-7334.

About Betty...

Betty F. Walker, a former Administrative Assistant at First Baptist Church, Burlington, was the founder and first president of the North Carolina Baptist Secretaries Association. She served on the Planning Committee that led to the formation of the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries and served as the second President of that organization. Betty was a teacher and trainer for Baptist secretaries for many years. Betty, along with others, dreamed of a professional organization for Baptist secretaries for many years. Following the birth of the state and national organizations, Betty gave much of her life to these organizations. The North Carolina Baptist Ministry Assistants exists because of the dream and vision of Betty Walker. Through this endowment fund, which bears her name, that dream will be realized.

Looking Ahead

2024 Conference

November 11-13 | Fort Caswell

Cost: \$265 per person

Please be in prayer for us as we strive to make this conference an experience of spiritual, professional, and personal enrichment along with lots of fun and fellowship for all. Come to Caraway and enjoy God’s beauty! If you have been before you know that the NCBMA Conference is a way to make new friends as well as reconnect with old ones, be encouraged, learn how to better minister to others, and more.

Registration form is located on the last page of this newsletter.



Plus One Challenge



Many of you have been a part of our organization for some time. You remember when attendance was 200+. Wouldn't it be awesome to see that again? It's doable, but not without everyone's help. This year we are encouraging everyone to take the Plus 1 Challenge. Will you commit to finding one person to encourage to join NCBMA and attend our conference in November? According to our Constitution this person can be "current or retired ministry assistants, secretaries, office volunteers and other office staff". If each of us will do this, the attendance for our 2024 conference will double! Think about...pray about...then go get 'em!

Conference T Shirts

Since so many of you were interested in conference t-shirts last year, we decided to offer them this year. They will only be available by pre-order. They will not be available for sale at the conference. Available in sizes S-XXXL. Short Sleeve: \$20. Long Sleeve: \$25. Watch for details in future newsletters.



2024 Conference Registration

November 11-13, 2024 | Fort Caswell



Cost:

\$265 -Includes NCBMA membership (\$30), conference fee and materials, lodging, and meals

Private Room: \$350. If you do not have a roommate and do not want a private room, we can assign a roommate to you.

Commuter: \$175-Includes NCBMA Membership, conference fee and materials, Monday dinner, Tuesday breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Wednesday breakfast.

Register early!

\$50 deposit is due at registration.

Installments are accepted.

Final payment is due by August 31.

Make checks payable to NCBMA and mail to:

Attn: Gayle Gestrich

703 Vernon Dr.

Jacksonville, NC 28540

Refunds for cancellations

Excluding \$30 membership fee:

Before July 31: 100%

August 1-31: 60%

After August 31: No refund

Registration Form

Name _____ Date _____

Place of employment _____ Position _____ Association _____

Mailing Address (work) _____
Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Email (Required) _____

Roommate(s) _____ Need Private Room _____

Physical Needs _____

Food Allergies _____

First time attending conference? _____ Would you serve as a mentor to a first-timer? _____

Conference logo t-shirt:

Pricing: Short Sleeve: S-XXXL \$20 Size _____

Long Sleeve S-XXL: \$25 Size _____

This is being delivered via email to reduce our budget cost. It is also available on our website at ncbaptistsecretaries.com. If you know anyone else who would like to receive our newsletter, please forward this to them. Also, contact Amy Parce at NCBMA@gmail.com with their name and email to have them added to our list. Thank you!