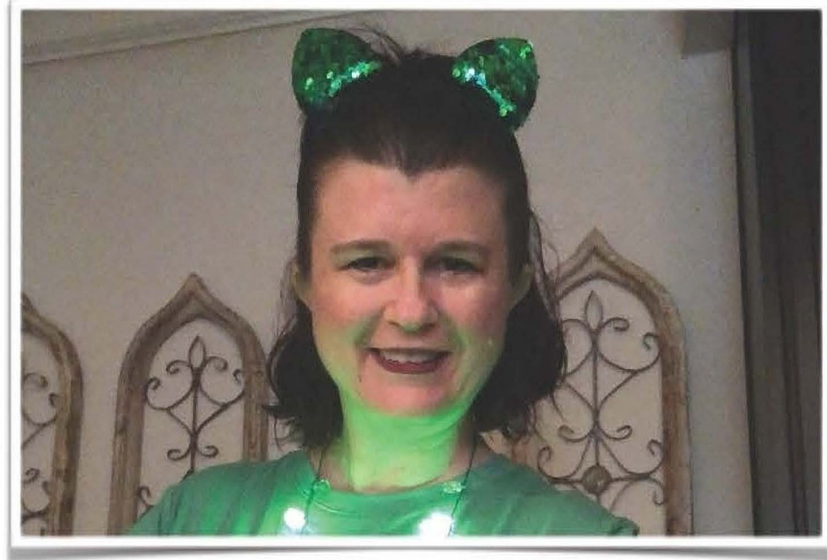


Photo of me during quarantine. It was a selfie, nobody was there to see it, there were no St. Patrick's Day parties to go to in order to wear it, but I did it just to try to maintain some sense of normalcy. What are you doing to cope during these difficult times?



Alison E. "Ali" Foster, NCCP

2020-2021 Acting President's Message

"Surrender to what it is. Let go of what it was. Have faith in what will be."

—Sonia Ricotti

First, a warm welcome from the Metrolina Paralegal Association for the 2020-2021 year. Whether you are a first-time member, long-time member, patron member, prospective member, or general advocate for the paralegal community at large, we are glad you are here.

Looking Cautiously, but Optimistically and Adaptively, Forward to the 2020-2021 MPA Fiscal Year

As we navigate through this COVID-19 ever-changing world, the MPA Acting Board is optimistic about the upcoming year and will be busy brainstorming alternative, adaptive, yet still fun and educational opportunities for our members. If you have any suggestions, we are always open to, and available for, any input (metrolinaparalegal@gmail.com).

Personal Thank You to the 2020-2021 Acting Board

I would be remiss without personally thanking Candace Russell, Shafia Rangoonwala, Jack Randolph, Marianne Morrison, Cathie Stenmark, Tim Chamness, Tiffany Miller, and Curpre Bowers for their commitment to serving on the MPA Acting Executive Board for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, especially while we navigate these uncharted waters. Your dedication to our profession and this association is a main source of inspiration to me

both in our work with the MPA and in our work in the paralegal profession in general.

Are you interested in volunteering on the MPA Board during this 2020-2021 year?

We currently have openings in the Treasurer and Parliamentarian officer positions, but everyone is able to nominate themselves or someone else for any position on the Board as we will hold our elections as soon as it is feasible.

About Your Acting President

I am currently a Paralegal and Legal Coordinator at Belk, Inc., and am proud to have been a part of the Belk legal department when it was awarded the 2018 Outstanding In-House Law Department at the Charlotte Business Journal's Seventh Annual Corporate Counsel Awards. Prior to joining Belk in April of 2017, I was a senior paralegal at Snyder's-Lance, Inc. ("S-L") for almost four years, and prior to S-L, I worked in various levels of paralegal positions at Driven Brands, Inc. for a little over 8 years.

I have recently served as NALA Liaison for the MPA in 2019*, as well as acting Secretary from October 2018 through the end of the 2019 fiscal year, and as 1st VP of Membership for the 2020* year. I have also served as the NALA Liaison for the MPA in 2007* and 2008* and as Treasurer of the NCPA in 2007* and as the Association & Articles Editor in 2006* and 2007*.

When not in quarantine under a world-wide pandemic, I enjoy spending my free time with my family, including my nephew and niece, reading Egyptian and World War II historical fiction, and traveling solo across the country and internationally. Currently during my free time, I enjoy riding my first bike since I was a teenager, lying in my camping hammock in the shade, and listening to my favorite true crime podcasts, including my favorite "True Crime Obsessed."

I look forward to serving our members over the upcoming year and thank you for your interest in the MPA.

Yours truly,

Ali Foster, NCCP

*Indicates ending year of the cross-calendar membership year