

Officers



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President's Note

I first want to thank all those that prayed for our officers and our 2024 conference. Based on your evaluations, everyone who attended really enjoyed it. I know I did! It was so refreshing to be with other Ministry Assistants who experience the same kind of issues and obstacles that I do. I find comfort in knowing that I am not alone in my struggles.

In reading your evaluations I also discovered that you enjoyed our General Sessions as much as I did. Ashley did an awesome job preparing our hearts for worship (even with her sickness). She has such a sweet spirit about her and a desire to glorify God in all that she does.

Additionally, Pastor Joel was an amazing keynote speaker! I love how he reminded us that even the great man of God, Elijah, went through that desert of disillusionment that we often encounter.

In those times of feeling burned out or dried up we must remember that God will see us through to that OASIS. He will restore us, but we have to be willing to look to Him to do that work in us. We CANNOT do it ourselves. I was recently reading a devotion on trading weakness

for strength, and it said it perfectly: "Give Him what you have – your exhaustion, your crazy schedule, your pain – and watch as the Lord invigorates you, transforming you from the inside out."

Thank you, Lord!

This year's conference is November 3 – 5 at the Caraway Conference Center.

Please pray that your Executive Committee is able to plan a conference that God is proud of...one that brings Him glory while also encouraging His saints.

We have already started planning and realize there are some tough decisions that have to be made. Please understand that we have to do what is best for our organization. We pray for your grace and understanding as we make these decisions.

I hope you know how much you are LOVED!

- Rachel Sanders, NCBMA President



@QUICK RECAP

Breakout Review

by Alicia Ashley

We had a wonderful slate of breakout sessions and leaders at our 2024 conference. There was something for everyone with classes designed to help us be more effective in our jobs and ministries, others to help us rest our souls, and some just for fun!

The DIY classes with Becky Hansley were a big hit, as well as the sessions taught by Kevin Buzzard. We received lots of great suggestions for future breakouts in your evaluations, and hope to implement some of them next year.

Please be in prayer for the Executive Team as we work to put together a group of classes and leaders that will be a blessing and help to you all in 2025.

Evaluations

by Angela Cockerham

We are so grateful that you had a chance to attend the Oasis conference. We have read your evaluations and appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve your conference experience. Many of you had great suggestions for breakout leaders and keynote speakers. We ask that you pray for us as we plan and make decisions for the upcoming conference at Caraway.

Here are a few of your comments:

-Wonderful conference this year! The coffee bar was great to have, really enjoyed the keynote. Truly got fed from the Word.

-Breakout session length good – not too long, not too short. First timer mentor wonderful idea. In registration info, provide more suggested dress code info.

-Love the idea of a pastor speaking (I love preaching though). Some facilitators did not control the class, allowed participants to take unnecessary time to elaborate and did not take control.

-Great conference. Joel has been a wonderful speaker this week. Would love to see more technical classes, loved the music on Tuesday night. Great idea.



THANK YOU

for



Recap of Conference Collections

We want to say “Thank You” to the NCBMA members for their generosity in 2024! Even though the attendance in November was lower, the giving spirit was still evident. The amounts that were collected, at the annual conference, are as follows:

- Betty Walker Fund: \$60.00
- Love Offering (Praise Band): \$315.00
- Missions Offering (Camp Caswell): \$540.00
- Raffle Tickets: \$760.00

Betty Walker Endowment Fund

About the Fund...

The Betty Walker Endowment Fund, established in November 1997 by past presidents of the North Carolina Baptist Ministry Assistants, will provide funds for the organization forever. The current balance of this fund is \$12,805.55. Two checks a year, from the accrued interest, are received and deposited into the checking account. The officers of the NCBMA determine when any withdrawals are made from the endowment fund and how the money will be used. Contributions can be made to this fund at any time. Checks should be made payable to Provision Financial Resources at 201 Convention Drive, Cary NC 27511. Please designate, on the memo line, “Betty F. Walker Endowment Fund.” For more information about this endowment fund, please contact Susan Kimball or Lori Williams 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 lives on.

Conference T-Shirts

We will be offering t-shirts again this year. They will only be available by pre-order. They will not be available for sale at the conference. Available in sizes S-XXL. Short sleeve: \$20. Long Sleeve \$25. Watch for details in future newsletters.



Conference Cost Update

You have probably already noticed the increase in the cost of this year's conference. It is becoming more and more expensive to have a quality conference. Since we were last at Caraway they have had a 20% price increase. Please know that raising the price was something we wrestled with but ultimately had no choice. However, we don't want this increase to be the reason someone cannot attend, especially those new to our organization and retirees. Please reach out to Rachel for info on partial conference scholarships.

2025 Conference November 3-5 | Caraway Cost: \$325

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.



2025 Conference Registration

November 3 - 5, 2025, Caraway Conference Center



Cost:

Double Occupancy: \$325

Includes NCBMA membership (\$30), conference fee and materials, lodging and meals at the conference

Private Room: Additional \$85

If you don't have a roommate and do not want a private room, we will assign a roommate to you.

Commuter: \$175

Includes NCBMA membership (\$30), conference fee and materials, and meals at the conference

Membership Only: \$30

If you are unable to attend this year's conference, we encourage you to send in your membership dues. This will retain your active membership status and help with administrative costs.

Register Early!

\$50 deposit is due at registration.

Installments are accepted.

Final payment is due by August 31.

Refunds for cancellations

Excluding \$30 membership fee:

Before July 31: 100%

August 1 - 31: 60%

No refund after August 31.

Registration Form

Name _____ Date _____

Place of employment _____ Position _____ Association _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Email (required) _____

Roommate _____ Private Room? _____

Physical Needs _____ Food Allergies _____

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

Conference t-shirt (optional):

Short Sleeve S - XXXL: \$20 Size _____ Long Sleeve S - XXXL: \$25 Size _____

Please make checks payable to NCBMA and mail to:

ATTN: Gayle Gestrich

703 Vernon Dr.

Jacksonville, NC 28540

Total Amount Due: _____

Total Enclosed: _____