

# APOSTILLE CHRONICLES

Winter 2024 Issue

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Happy 2024! Welcome to the inaugural edition of APOSTILLE CHRONICLES, proudly sponsored by the Lawrence Institute for Notaries (LIN).

This quarterly newsletter is dedicated to exploring the realms of apostilles and notarizations. You can anticipate engaging content including interviews, government updates, event schedules, articles, and much more. This month's interview is with Selecia Young-Jones of Jacksonville, FL. It includes her background and her accomplishments. Each edition will spotlight a member of our notary apostille community. It could be YOU! Our contributors are composed of a panel of experts hailing from various corners of the country, spanning from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Montana, Washington and California.

We value and welcome your feedback and suggestions for future newsletters. Please reach out to us by clicking on [2024Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:2024Newsletter@gmail.com). Kindly allow us sufficient time to respond.

For now, relax and immerse yourself in the richness of the first issue of APOSTILLE CHRONICLES. - Judi

## MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS

LaVern Bentz - Contributor, FL  
Debbie Best-Schneidmill - Editor-in-Chief, MD  
Patricia Bridges - Coordinator, IL  
Dolores Fickenscher - Event Advisor, PA  
Melissa Garner - Graphic Designer, FL  
Shelly Gause - Event Advisor, MD  
Judi Lawrence - Founder/Contributor, PA  
Teresa Shafer - Admin. Coordinator, VA  
Bill Soroka - Contributor, NBB, WA  
Kristi Strouf-Barnett - Contributor, MT  
Kristen Weiss - Contributor, CA



# Notary Business Builder (NBB) by Bill Soroka

Notary entrepreneurs creatively solve lots of problems. Sometimes that's about the traditional services you provide under the notary umbrella, but sometimes it's about identifying a need and innovating a solution beyond the scope of your services. Think of the notarial journals, software, social media graphic templates, courses, and books some of your peers have created over the years. At Notary Business Builder (NBB), an advanced learning community featuring eleven of the industry's top trainers and minds, we're elevating the support we can provide to these creative entrepreneurs with our new Innovator's Spotlight -- a marketplace that features the multi-faceted endeavors of the NBB community. Look for release in February 2024.

You're more than "just a notary." At NBB, we're supporting all of who you are and what you bring to the world. [www.NotaryCoach.com/nbb](http://www.NotaryCoach.com/nbb)

Bill Soroka is a four-time best selling author and founder of [Notary Coach](http://www.NotaryCoach.com), home of Notary Business Builder, and the Certified Notary Trust Delivery Agent programs.

Our trained professional notaries are the best in the world. When you need a notary, think [Gotary!](http://www.Gotary.com)

## In The Spotlight Selecia Young-Jones

Listen to Selecia's interview here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Ukjvsyj3-md5Sbl1U9ZL5yIqWNnpDc58lxAgDd5sze2TjM1ga4Z8l26GABGoKLNk.mxy1fum60frfD5Wa>

Passcode: NPSK2=s.



# Courier Corner

*Apostille Direct USA*



**For the Love  
of Couriers  
February 15  
@ 4 p.m. EST**

## Things I Have Learned

*by Patricia Bridges*

Training is especially important for learning Apostille. Why? Knowledge, processes, networking with likeminded students and knowing where and how to research for your clients is powerful. Social media should not be where we get our information to confidently serve our customers. The Apostille process is an education within itself. With new rules that change how international documents are handled, non-Hague countries joining the membership to become Hague, training, copious note-taking, and study halls will lead you to a successful path. You will be in demand and viewed by your clients as a knowledgeable professional.

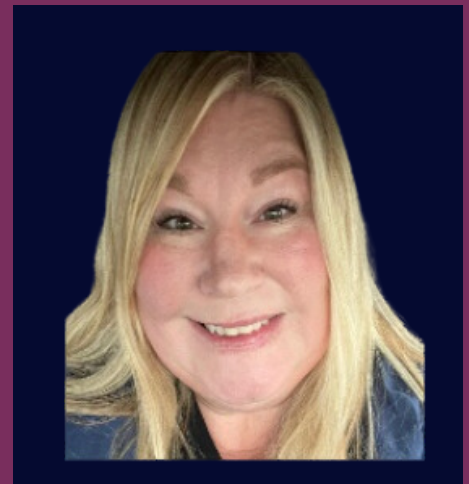
# MEET THOSE WHO KNOW



Kristen Weiss, the solopreneur of San Diego Notary Signing Agent who proudly serves California's finest city, San Diego, is a dedicated Certified Notary Signing Agent, Mobile Notary Public and Apostille Facilitation Agent. She has been a commissioned notary for over 20 years and launched her notary business full-time in 2020. Kristen specializes in offering a diverse array of services by providing efficient, accessible, and reliable mobile notary services in San Diego County and apostille facilitation services nationwide.

She stays updated on California's latest laws, ensuring her clients are always well-informed and in great hands! As an NNA Ambassador® on behalf of the National Notary Association since 2023, she's excited to collaborate with other notaries across the nation. She completed an intensive 10-week entrepreneurial program on behalf of the Better Business Bureau becoming a BBB Empowered Small Business Owner Alumni in November 2023. Kristen is honored to be a committee member for the Apostille Chronicles.

Kristi Strouf-Barnett is located in Sidney, Montana. She was born with a heart to serve, and believes that being a notary public is her calling. She is a full-time remote online notary and Montana's reigning Notary of the Year. Kristi takes great pride in being your solution to properly notarizing your documents through remote online notarization, no matter who you are or where you are.



Montana was the second state to take on Remote Online Notarization (RON). From that point forward, Kristi was excited to learn all she could, then and now, and to grow professionally and personally. She has a lot to share about RON, Remote Ink-Signed Notarization (RIN), and biometrics.

*Be sure to check out our future editions to learn more about Those Who Know*



## **Welcome to Toastmasters International and Notary Masters Club**

**Greetings from Toastmasters International and Notary Masters Club. For those unfamiliar with Toastmasters, I'll explain a little about the organization and how it benefits us as Notaries in interacting with the public.**

**Have you ever wondered how those speakers who get on stage in front of a large audience get their confidence? Chances are they are Toastmasters club members. Toastmasters helps individuals learn to be confident speakers and listeners, which is important in our work. The ability to communicate with and understand the needs of our clients regarding the documents they are signing is a key element to success.**

**Notary Masters is a Notary specific club designed for that purpose. We do not teach Notary classes; however, we do have unique sections of our meetings that are specific to the Notary trade. Our Tip of the Day provides some inside tidbits that can help a Notary conduct daily business. Our Dear Notary section allows members and guests to ask a specific question about a signing or document, and our esteemed panel of Notaries (Judi Lawrence, Bill Soroka, Laura Biewer, Matt Miller, and others) will try to provide the best answer. Our Table Topics section is usually driven by the Theme of the meeting and teaches you how to think and answer off-the-cuff questions to help spark your speaking ability.**

**There are 11 different "Pathways" you can explore in Toastmasters, designed to help achieve whatever professional goal you are trying to obtain. Some of the Pathways offered by Toastmasters are Presentation Mastery, Dynamic Leadership, Leadership Development, and Engaging Humor. The Toastmasters dues are very reasonable (\$60 every 6 months - that's 30 cents a day). I don't believe you can find a cheaper education than that anywhere.**

**Currently, the Notary Masters Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am PT, 10:30 am MT, 11:30 am CT, and 12:30 pm ET. Because we have members from all over the United States, we meet on Zoom. We encourage everyone who has time free to come and see what we are about and maybe join and grow with us. We have approximately 30 members now and our ranks are swelling. Also, by joining our club, you have an opportunity to network with other Notaries around the country and establish connections to build your business even further.**

**The link to our website is: [www.notarymasters.org](http://www.notarymasters.org).**

**LaVern Bentz**

# Upcoming Events

## FEBRUARY

15th - T.A.I.T. Special Edition: For the Love of Couriers (virtual)

28th - Notary Study Hall; RI Dept. of State Business Service Division, RI

## MARCH

15th & 16th - Pacific Northwest Meet & Mingle; Michelle Cline and Karen Tollefson, WA

22nd - Arizona Fingerprinting Class; Acme Live Scan and Notary, AZ

23rd - Arizona Notary Networking Event; Jeff Clark and the Family Notary Team, AZ

## MAY

13th thru 15th - NNA Conference 2024; NNA, Orlando, FL

17th thru 19th - Michigan Notary Consortium 2024; Dashika Hill and her Team, MI

## JULY

13th - Southern California Networking Event; Acme Live Scan and Notary, CA

## AUGUST

15th & 16th - Montana Notary Conference; Lori Hamm & the Montana Notary Team

## SEPTEMBER

6th thru 9th - Level UP Cruise; Sign Here and There Notary

## OCTOBER

18th thru 20th - Philly Social 2024; Judi Lawrence, Lawrence Institute for Notaries

# Meet the Contributors

**LaVern Bentz – Contributor, FL**  
*NCFMNS@outlook.com*

**Debbie Best-Schneidmill – Editor-in-Chief, MD**  
*dbest@signatureandseal.com*

**Patricia Bridges – Coordinator, IL**  
*admin@bridgesnotaryservices.com*

**Dolores Fickenscher – Event Advisor, PA**  
*quillnotaryllc@gmail.com*

**Melissa Garner – Graphic Designer, FL**  
*mknotarysvcs@gmail.com*

**Shelly Gause – Event Advisor, MD**  
*sgause@jetsignaturenotary.com*

**Judi Lawrence – Founder/Contributor, PA**  
*judi@lawrenceinstituteformotaries.com*

**Teresa Shafer – Admin. Coordinator, VA**  
*teresa@mnbs2u.com*

**Bill Soroka – Contributor, NBB, WA**  
*bill@notarycoach.com*

**Kristi Strouf-Barnett – Contributor, MT**  
*mondaknotary@gmail.com*

**Kristen Weiss – Contributor, CA**  
*kweiss@sandiegonsa.com*