

# DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Reflecting on a Year of Growth, Connection, and Service

Here at VAN, we're excited to share a few key updates:

- Expanded Event Calendar with new recordings, Second Tuesday Socials, and guest speakers on lobbying, marketing, and apostille preparation.
- A stronger emphasis on Deed Fraud education on our News page.
- A successful in-person event in Southern Virginia hosted by Jan and Kim, complete with membership and notary-tool giveaways.
- Welcomed a new vendor offering legal coverage and personal estate-planning services - with Special Rates for Members!
- Achieved 30% membership growth in 2025.
- Launched three new committees - and looking for additional Volunteers!

## Wishing You a Peaceful and Joyful Holiday Season

Thank you for being part of the VAN family.

Let's welcome 2026 with purpose, unity, and continued growth. This month, we're opening the door for new committee volunteers — it's your chance to help shape VAN's future while expanding your network, learning new skills, and making a difference in our notary community!

## Happy New Year, Notaries!

Integrity guides us forward.

HAPPY  
*New Year*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF NOTARIES

## TO OUR DEDICATED NOTARY COMMUNITY ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



As we close out another year of service, learning, and growth, the Virginia Association of Notaries extends our heartfelt appreciation to every notary across the Commonwealth. Your commitment to accuracy, professionalism, and integrity continues to strengthen public trust and elevate our profession statewide.

Every day, you show up for your clients – whether it's for a real estate closing, a simple acknowledgment, a complex international document, or a last-minute emergency notarization. Your work matters, and your dedication is the reason Virginia's notary community continues to grow stronger and more respected.

### Throughout this year, we've seen a rise in:

- ★ Active learning and compliance awareness
- ★ Collaboration and peer support
- ★ New notary professionals entering the field
- ★ Stronger community engagement and mentorship

### And as we head into 2026, we want to invite YOU to become even more involved.

👉 Join the Conversation – We Want to Hear From You!

Your voice, your questions, and your experiences help shape the future of our notary community. We encourage all members to take part in discussions, ask questions, and support one another in our official VAN Facebook group.

- 💬 Ask questions
- 💬 Share scenarios and learning moments
- 💬 Seek guidance on tricky notarizations
- 💬 Offer support and insight to fellow notaries
- 💬 Help build a space where every notary feels empowered and informed

**The more we all participate, the stronger and more knowledgeable our community becomes.**

### ★ Looking Ahead to 2026

VAN is excited to bring you:

- 🔹 More compliance education
- 🔹 More live trainings and workshops
- 🔹 More community events
- 🔹 More tools to support your notary business
- 🔹 And yes – more exciting announcements coming soon!

Thank you for being part of the Virginia notary family. Together, we are building a community where every notary is supported, informed, and confident in their role.

Warmly,  
The Virginia Association of Notaries (VAN)



# LEGISLATIVE & POLICY UPDATES



## DAVID BAILEY ASSOCIATES

### Who They Are

David Bailey Associates is one of Virginia's most respected government relations firms, with decades of experience navigating the legislative landscape. Their team is known for maintaining strong relationships with lawmakers, committee chairs, agency leaders, and policy influencers across the Commonwealth.



As VAN's official legislative partner, they serve as our direct line to the Virginia General Assembly—monitoring bills, advocating for notaries, and ensuring our concerns are heard at the highest levels.

Their work ensures that Virginia notaries have representation, visibility, and influence in a rapidly evolving regulatory environment.



### Why Their Work Matters to VAN Members

Notary laws don't just change on paper—they impact your daily work, your business, your income, and your liability.

David Bailey Associates helps safeguard Virginia notaries by:

- Strengthening communication between VAN and legislative committees that review notary law and regulatory changes.
- Advocating for clearer statewide guidance on Remote Online Notarization (RON), including credential analysis, security standards, and compliance expectations.
- Monitoring fee-related legislation, ensuring notary compensation remains fair, modern, and reflective of the professional services we provide.
- Identifying early threats—from proposed restrictions to administrative burdens—before they affect thousands of notaries across the Commonwealth.



Check out the 2025 Annual Magazine

Their presence ensures we are proactive, not reactive, when it comes to policy changes.



# LEGISLATIVE & POLICY UPDATES



## DAVID BAILEY ASSOCIATES

### Our Shared Goals for 2026 and Beyond

Through this partnership, VAN aims to achieve:

- More consistent statewide training expectations, especially for new and renewing notaries.
- Increased legislative awareness of the notary profession and its critical role in fraud prevention.
- A seat at the table during conversations that shape notary law and state regulations.

With David Bailey Associates at our side, VAN is positioned to amplify the voice of every Virginia notary.

### A Message of Gratitude

We want to take a moment to genuinely thank David Bailey Associates for the incredible work they continue to do on behalf of VAN and every notary in Virginia. Their support goes far beyond simply “monitoring legislation.” They are consistently present, engaged, and looking out for our profession in ways that most people never see.

What we appreciate most is their commitment. They show up at the General Assembly, build relationships, start conversations, and make sure that notaries are included in the discussions that ultimately shape how we work. It’s easy for our profession to be overlooked in the fast pace of policy-making, yet David Bailey Associates ensures that doesn’t happen. They make sure our concerns are heard, our challenges are understood, and our needs are taken seriously.

Their guidance gives VAN the confidence to speak up and advocate for clearer rules, better protections, and more support for notaries across the Commonwealth.

We are truly grateful for their partnership and professionalism. Their work helps strengthen the notary profession, safeguard our members, and ensure that the laws we operate under are fair, modern, and reflective of today’s reality.

On behalf of the entire VAN board and our members, thank you for everything you do. **Your dedication is felt and appreciated more than you know.**

# Ready for 2026? Your Notary Checklist

Your Annual Success Checklists for a Stronger Notary Year  
As we enter 2026, this round-up provides clear, practical checklists to help notaries and notary businesses stay organized, visible, and compliant. Use these lists to strengthen your brand, improve your systems, and expand your services in the year ahead.

## CHECKLIST #1: FOR INDIVIDUAL NOTARIES

### Professional Presence

- Update your notary commission, stamp, and journal
- Refresh your headshot, bio, and professional photo
- Update your email signature and voicemail greeting
- Clean up or optimize your social media profiles

### Skills & Compliance

- Review your state Notary Handbook
- Revisit core notarizations (acknowledgments, jurats, copy certs)
- Complete at least one continuing education course
- Join or stay active in a professional notary association

### Client Communication

- Reduce response time to 30 minutes or less
- Create simple templates for calls, emails, and texts
- Prepare a short "about me" intro for referrals



## CHECKLIST #2: FOR NOTARY BUSINESSES

### Brand & Visibility

- Update your website with 2026 information
- Refresh your Google Business Profile
- Add new photos, updated hours, and current services
- Post weekly on LinkedIn and Google Business

### Operations & Systems

- Review and update pricing for 2026
- Standardize your intake form and confirmation messages
- Create or update invoice/receipt templates
- Set up organized digital folders for client files
- Review shipping policies and turnaround expectations



### Revenue Growth

- Identify five new referral partners
- Create a quarterly outreach schedule
- Join a local business or networking group
- Add a new service (RON, apostille, fingerprinting, field inspections, etc.)

## Simple Legal & IRS Business Reminders

- Make sure your LLC / business registration is active
- Confirm your business address and name are up to date with the state
- Verify your EIN information and update if needed
- Review your tax filing type (Sole Prop, LLC, S-Corp)
- Submit your FinCEN Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) (<https://www.fincen.gov/boi>)
- Organize receipts and business expenses for tax time
- Collect W9s for any contractors you paid
- Prepare 1099-NEC forms if required
- Renew or update your notary bond and E&O insurance
- Make sure your notary journal is ready for the new year
- Check if your county or city requires a business license

## CHECKLIST #3: LOAN SIGNING AGENTS (LSA)

- Update profiles on Snapdocs, SigningOrder, and other portals
- Refill supplies (paper, toner, folders, sticky notes)
- Refresh your closing presentation and professional script
- Follow up regularly with high-volume signing companies
- Take an annual course or skills refresher



## 2026 GOAL FOR EVERY NOTARY

**PROFESSIONALISM + VISIBILITY + ORGANIZATION  
+ CONSISTENT FOLLOW-UP  
= A STRONGER, MORE PROFITABLE, AND FULLY  
PREPARED NOTARY YEAR.**

# Continuing Education for Virginia Notaries



**Notaries in Virginia have the flexibility to perform both traditional and remote online notarizations (RON) — each with its own requirements.**

**The Virginia Association of Notaries partners with and outsources its Notarial and RON training services.**

## **Traditional Notary Basics Live Virtual Class.**

Strengthen your understanding of Virginia's notarial laws and best practices. The Traditional Notary Course covers essential procedures, proper identification, journal requirements, and ethical standards for in-person notarization. Perfect for both new and renewing notaries who want to ensure full compliance.



## **Remote Online Notary (RON) Training**

Stay current with Virginia's evolving digital landscape. The Remote Online Notary (RON) Certification Course provides step-by-step guidance on performing secure, compliant online notarization. Gain confidence using approved platforms while maintaining the same integrity and accuracy required for all notarial acts.



Register for Class: Get the link at [vanotaryassoc.org/training](https://vanotaryassoc.org/training)

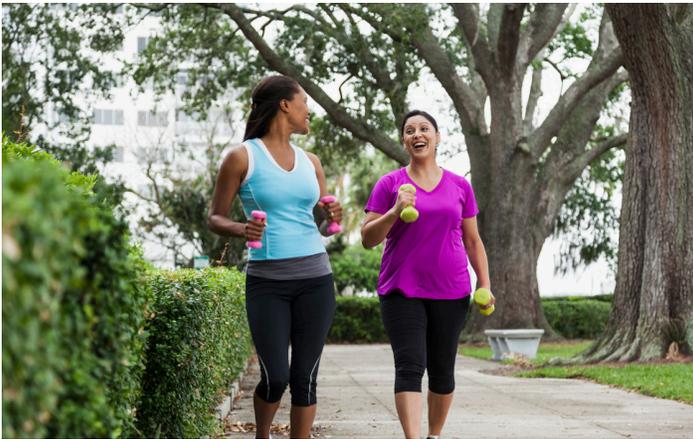
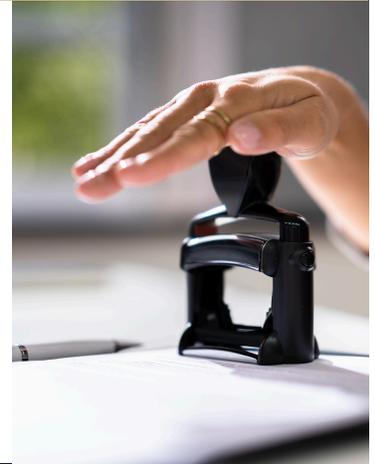
# VAN Is Searching for subject matter experts



## Share Your Knowledge. Strengthen Our Community.

The Virginia Association of Notaries (VAN) is expanding our educational and professional development programs – and we're looking for Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to join us!

If you have specialized experience in any notary-related field, we'd love to hear from you. We're seeking knowledgeable, passionate professionals who can help educate, support, and inspire notaries across the Commonwealth.



### NOTARY TIP OF THE MONTH: TAKE CARE OF THE NOTARY BEHIND THE STAMP.

As we head into 2026, set one small goal that supports both your health and your business –whether it's adding a bit of daily movement, organizing your schedule, or retaking a state-specific notary class to stay confident and compliant. A stronger you means a stronger notary.

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Join us January 2026 for a series of informative and empowering sessions led by industry experts. Each event is designed to help Virginia notaries strengthen their skills, stay compliant, and grow professionally. Check the next page for more info.

**06**  
JAN

**DERRICK SPRUILL - THE  
WEIGHT OF THE STAMP**

**13**  
JAN

**SECOND TUESDAY SOCIAL  
HOSTED BY ROSE HALL**

**20**  
JAN

**JEN NEITZEL - 5 POINT  
MARKETING FOR NOTARIES**

**25**  
JAN

**FABIOLA MENDOZA ON PROPER  
NOTARIZATION FOR THE  
APOSTILLE FACILITATION**

Your Trusted Resource for Virginia Notaries

[VANOTARYASSOC.ORG](https://vanotaryassoc.org)

E-mail: [membership@vanotaryassoc.org](mailto:membership@vanotaryassoc.org)  
Address: 5810 Kingstowne Center Dr Suite 120 PMB-181  
Alexandria, VA 22315

# SCHEDULE OF WEBINARS

As we begin 2026, VAN is proud to present a new lineup of educational and professional development sessions for Virginia notaries. In this edition, you'll find important updates, event announcements, and resources to help you stay compliant, confident, and connected within our notary community.

## Join VAN and Guest Host Derrick Spruill!



A Virginia Notary Public, book author, and podcaster.

His presentation: **"The Weight of the Stamp,"** marking the first in his 14-part guest appearance series.



JANUARY 06, 2026 | TUESDAY, 7:00 PM EST

VANOTARYASSOC.ORG

## Join VAN and Guest Host Jen Neitzel!



Author of **"On the Move"**, Jen will be hosting "5-Point Marketing for Mobile Notaries" –

An inspiring session designed to help you grow your notary business with confidence and strategy.

JANUARY 20, 2026 | THURSDAY, 6:00 PM

VANOTARYASSOC.ORG



## SECOND TUESDAY SOCIAL

1/13/26  
7:00 PM



Guest Host:  
**ROSE HALL**

• CONNECT • NETWORK • LEARN

## JOIN US LIVE Sunday!

January 25, 2025 @ 2:00 PM EST



Guest Speaker:  
**Fabiola Mendoza**  
VAN's Marketing Chair

### Meet Fabiola Mendoza!

Founder of Elite Documents and an experienced Virginia and Washington D.C. Notary and Apostille Facilitator.

Fabiola specializes in proper notarization and document preparation for international use.

**"Proper Notarization for the Apostille Certificate,"** hosted by the Virginia Association of Notaries (VAN) –

Where Fabiola shares practical tips to ensure every notarization meets state and international standards for apostille certification.

Be sure to check our calendar page [17](https://vanotaryassoc.org/calendar) to register for upcoming events:

<https://vanotaryassoc.org/calendar>

# What's Happening in Virginia



## The Commonwealth of Virginia Welcomes Its New Governor, Abigail Spanberger!



### News

With Governor-elect Abigail Spanberger stepping into leadership, Virginia is entering an exciting new chapter. Fresh leadership brings fresh opportunities—and we're thrilled about what's ahead for notaries across the Commonwealth of Virginia!

At VAN, we will be working closely with our dedicated lobbyist team to ensure that notaries' voices are heard and that we continue to advocate for policies that support our profession. We look forward to collaborating with Governor Spanberger's administration to enhance notary services and strengthen the notarial practices in Virginia.



# WHY THE CODE OF VIRGINIA MATTERS FOR EVERY NOTARY PUBLIC

**The Code of Virginia is the rulebook for notaries—it tells us what we can and cannot do.**



CODE OF VIRGINIA  
Sections of the Code of Virginia  
Pertaining to Notaries Public

## A Reminder From Your Virginia Notary Community

Every day, notaries across the Commonwealth carry out acts that impact people's lives—closing on homes, finalizing business agreements, certifying vital documents, and helping Virginians stay compliant with local and international requirements. But behind every stamp and signature lies the foundation that makes our authority possible:

## The Code of Virginia, Sections Pertaining to Notaries Public, published by the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

This 24-page publication, last updated on May 12, 2021, is the official rulebook for Virginia notaries. It outlines our powers, our limitations, and our responsibilities as public officials.

Whether you are newly commissioned or a long-standing notary serving your community for years, this document is one resource you should never overlook.



## Where to Find It

You can access the full publication directly on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website, under the Notary Division. It is free, publicly available, and essential reading for anyone holding a commission.

Bookmark it. Save it. Revisit it often. Compliance begins with knowing the rules.

## Why Every Notary Should Read It

While experience is valuable, our authority comes from statute—not habit, not tradition, and not personal preference. The Code of Virginia ensures that every notarial act performed across the state is:

- Uniform
- Legally valid
- Professionally executed
- Protective of the public and the signer

Understanding the law helps notaries avoid mistakes, maintain compliance, protect their commission, and serve clients with confidence.

As we move into a new year of growth, opportunity, and professional development, make it a priority to revisit the very document that empowers your work. Staying informed isn't just best practice—**it's how we protect our clients, our communities, and our profession.**

[HTTPS://LAW.LIS.VIRGINIA.GOV/VACODE/](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/)



Guidelines

[View Guidelines](#)

**A quick refresher every Virginia notary should read.**

## The "Important Guidelines for Virginia Notaries"

The "Important Guidelines for Virginia Notaries" is a brief yet powerful two-page resource published by the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, designed to reinforce the daily responsibilities every notary must uphold. In just a few pages, it highlights some of the most critical expectations of your commission—proper identification practices, the legal requirement for personal appearance, when and how to use appropriate notarial certificates, avoiding conflicts of interest, and understanding the situations where a notary must refuse a request.

It also reminds notaries of the real consequences of improper notarization, including legal liability and potential revocation of commission, making it an essential refresher for both new and seasoned notaries. Also, don't forget to check out this quick two-page guideline to keep your notarial knowledge sharp and compliant:

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR VIRGINIA NOTARIES](#)

# NOTARY NEWS ROUNDUP:

## WHAT'S MAKING HEADLINES NATIONWIDE



### BREAKING NEWS

#### **NOTARY FRAUD WATCH: THE SCOTTSDALE ARIZONA A CASE EVERY NOTARY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT (11/11/2025)**

Fraud is evolving faster than ever — and notaries are now standing on the front lines of preventing some of the most sophisticated schemes. A recent real-estate fraud case out of Scottsdale, Arizona, is a perfect reminder of why our role matters and why diligence is non-negotiable.

This story made national news when two women were arrested for attempting to sell a home they didn't even own.

The level of planning, the forged documents, and the boldness of the attempt shocked both investigators and real-estate professionals. For us, it's not just a headline — it's a teachable moment.

#### **THE RECENT SCOTTSDALE CASE IS MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER HEADLINE — IT'S A POWERFUL REMINDER OF WHY NOTARIES PLAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PREVENTING FRAUD.**

Two suspects, Rachel Cassette and Leslie Greer, tried to sell a vacant, paid-off home by impersonating the real owners. They moved quickly, changed the locks, controlled access to the property, and pushed for a fast cash sale.

#### **WHAT MADE THE SCAM BELIEVABLE?**

A fraudulent notary certificate attached to the forged deed.

The document looked official at first glance, but something was off. Real estate investor John Rowan noticed the suspicious handwriting, the rushed timeline, and the unusual behavior from the "sellers." Instead of brushing off those concerns, he took action. Rowan contacted the real homeowner — who had no idea his home was being "sold" — and then alerted Scottsdale Police. Officers stepped in before any money changed hands, preventing what could have been a devastating financial loss.

This situation shows how quickly fraud can escalate and how easily forged notarizations can be used to give criminals an air of legitimacy.



## WHY THIS MATTERS TO US AS NOTARIES

**You may think:** This wasn't a notarization gone wrong — it was a forged deed. And that's exactly the point.

Fraudsters rely on documents that look legitimate, and they often try to obtain notarizations to make their paperwork harder to question. **A notarized forged deed can devastate a homeowner and turn a simple scam into years of legal battles.**

**We may be the only person in the process who slows things down and says, "Something isn't right here."**

- That's why our work matters.
- That's why our training matters.
- And that's why staying alert is part of our responsibility to the public.

## FRAUD PREVENTION TIPS FOR NOTARIES

- ✓ Look closely at every ID. Check expiration dates, photo match, holograms, and anything that feels off.
- ✓ Review the document. Make sure names, dates, and property details match the ID and the people involved.
- ✓ Slow down if the signer is rushing you. Urgency is one of the biggest red flags in fraud cases.
- ✓ Keep a detailed notary journal. Good records can protect you if the document is ever questioned.
- ✓ Trust your instinct. If something doesn't make sense, you are fully allowed to refuse the notarization.



## FINAL THOUGHTS

The Scottsdale case shows how quickly fraud can happen and how easily a forged document can look "real." **This is exactly why notaries must slow down, verify everything, and refuse to stamp anything that doesn't feel right.**

**It's also a reminder that notary mistakes today can lead to criminal charges.**

In some states — like Texas beginning September 2025 — notarizing without the signer present can be a Class A misdemeanor, and if it involves real-estate documents, it can even become a felony.

**That's how serious our work is**

When we follow the rules, check IDs properly, and trust our instincts, we protect the public and protect ourselves. One careful notary can stop an entire fraud — just like the one in Scottsdale.

**Stay alert. Stay professional. And remember: your seal carries real responsibility.**

## MORE IN NOTARY NEWS:

### PENNSYLVANIA — 11/28/2025 NOTARY CHARGED IN \$5,500 THEFT SCHEME

A Hadley, PA notary, Ronald Scofield, has been charged with stealing more than \$5,500 from 21 residents. Scofield accepted money for vehicle titles, registrations, and tax payments — but never submitted the paperwork to PennDOT. Victims were left without legal titles, plates, or registrations.

He is now facing charges of:

- Felony theft by failure to make required disposition of funds
- Multiple Notary Act violations

This case is a reminder that notaries handling state paperwork or fees must follow strict procedures and protect the public's trust at all times.



### CALIFORNIA — 9/23/2025, SAN FRANCISCO NOTARY FINED OVER \$600,000 FOR UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRATION SERVICES

A San Francisco notary, Leonard Lacayo, was fined more than \$600,000 after repeatedly offering immigration-related legal services, despite multiple warnings and court orders. California prosecutors charged him for acting as an unlicensed immigration consultant—an area where notaries are strictly prohibited from offering advice

#### **This case is a critical reminder:**

Notaries are not attorneys, and offering legal advice—even with good intentions—can lead to extreme penalties.

### **FINAL NOTE: INTEGRITY MATTERS**

At the end of the day, a notary's work is built on trust. Every signature we witness and every document we handle carries someone's future—whether it's a home, a business, a vehicle, or their identity.

Integrity isn't just a professional expectation; it's the foundation of our entire role. When we stay honest, follow the law, and act with care, we protect the public and uphold the honor of our commission. Good morals aren't extra—they're essential to being a notary.

# DID YOU KNOW



## A Notary Seal Alone Isn't Enough!

Notaries across the Commonwealth are often surprised to learn that a notary stamp by itself does not make a notarization valid. A document that is stamped without a complete notarial certificate—whether an acknowledgment, jurat, or copy certification—is automatically invalid and will be rejected by courts, agencies, and apostille offices.

Every notarization in Virginia must include:

- A complete notarial certificate
- Correct venue (Commonwealth of Virginia, City/County of \_\_\_)
- The signer's name
- The notary's full signature
- The notary's printed name, registration number, and commission expiration
- A clear, legible notary seal



### Real Example:

A client brings a letter and asks you to "just stamp it."

You stamp it.

No certificate, no wording, no venue, no signature.

### Outcome:

- ✗ The notarization is invalid & incomplete
- ✗ The document will be rejected
- ✗ You risk a complaint or disciplinary action

### Correct Process:

Attach the proper certificate, complete it fully, then sign and seal. Now the document is valid, compliant, and apostille-ready.

### Final Reminder

**Before you sign and seal, always ask yourself:**

**"Where is the notarial certificate?"  
If it's missing, incomplete, or incorrect—stop and attach the proper form before proceeding.**

- ✦ **Protect your commission.**
- ✦ **Protect your signer.**
- ✦ **Protect the integrity of your notarization.**

# BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER —

## JOIN THE VAN FINANCE COMMITTEE!

### WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

You don't have to be a CPA to make an impact — just someone with solid financial awareness, strong analytical thinking, and a genuine heart for service. If you thrive in a team environment, enjoy problem-solving, and want to help shape the direction of our association, this is truly your seat at the table.

#### **Commitment:**

- 8–10 hours per month
- 100% virtual — collaborate from anywhere in Virginia.

You'll be joining a group of driven, supportive professionals who are committed to elevating the notary profession through service, transparency, and community. Your voice matters here, and your contributions will help strengthen VAN for every member across the Commonwealth.

INTERESTED?

Send Your CV & Portfolio to:  
[vanotaryassoc@gmail.com](mailto:vanotaryassoc@gmail.com)



# Preferred Vendors of the Virginia Association of Notaries



## Advertising & Sponsorship Opportunities

VAN welcomes partnerships with companies and professionals who serve the notary community.

As a Preferred Vendor or Advertiser, you'll gain visibility across:

The VAN Newsletter (monthly and special editions)

Our official website and member portal  
Events, webinars, and trainings throughout the year  
Whether you offer notary tools, legal services, insurance, training, or technology,

VAN provides tailored opportunities to reach thousands of active Virginia notaries.

Interested in Advertising or Partnership?

Contact us for current rates, sponsorship packages, and upcoming feature opportunities.

### Contact Us

[vanpr@vanotaryassoc.org](mailto:vanpr@vanotaryassoc.org)



Your Trusted Partner for Notary Supplies & Tools

Acorn provides high-quality notary seals, journals, and office supplies tailored to meet Virginia's official requirements. Known for their reliability and exceptional customer service, Acorn is a go-to resource for notaries who value quality, compliance, and convenience.

### Why Notaries Love Acorn:

- Fast and reliable service for Virginia notaries
- Durable seals and personalized notary tools
- VAN members receive preferred pricing and special promotions

Learn more at: [www.acornsales.com](http://www.acornsales.com) Use code: **VAN2024**

## Protecting You and Your Notary Business



### LegalShield

Protecting You and Your Notary Business

LegalShield provides affordable legal protection and identity theft services for notaries and business owners. From contract reviews to business consultations, their plans help you stay protected and confident in your professional decisions.

### Why Notaries Trust LegalShield:

24/7 access to licensed attorneys for advice and guidance

Identity theft protection and business legal coverage

Exclusive discounts for VAN members

Learn more at:

<https://www.shieldbenefits.com/vaassocnotaries/enrollment>

## Set Your Notary Goals for 2026

As we step into a new year, now is the perfect moment to pause, reflect, and map out where you want your notary journey to go. The notary industry is evolving quickly—new tools, new opportunities, and new expectations. So ask yourself: What are your notary goals for 2026? Here are a few powerful directions to consider as you grow in confidence, professionalism, and compliance:

### ✦ Automate Your Calendar Booking

Streamline your workflow with online scheduling tools. Automated booking, confirmations, and reminders can save hours each week and create a smoother experience for clients.

### ✦ Build or Refresh Your Website

A clean, professional website builds trust and increases visibility. Even a simple one-page site can help clients understand who you are and how you serve.

### ✦ Strengthen Your Brand Identity

Your brand is your signature. From your logo to your colors to how you communicate—show up consistently and confidently in 2026.

### ✦ Identify Your Expertise

What do you want to be known for?

General notarizations, mobile notary work, real estate signings, estate planning, apostille facilitation, niche document categories—define your lane and own it.

### ✦ Retake a State-Specific Notary Class

Notary laws, certificates, and practices continue to evolve. A refresher course boosts your compliance, confidence, and credibility.

### ✦ Stay Fully Compliant

Proper certificates, correct ID checks, accurate documentation—compliance protects your commission and preserves public trust. Make it a non-negotiable priority.

### Take a moment to reflect:

- What are YOUR notary goals for 2026?
- Write them down, make a plan, and let's step into the new year stronger, healthier, and more prepared than ever.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year, Wishing you a safe and prosperous 2026!



**Fabiola Mendoza**  
**Board Member & Marketing Chair**  
**Virginia Association of Notaries**  
[marketing@vanotaryassoc.org](mailto:marketing@vanotaryassoc.org)

