Message from NACPI President
Anna Huddleston-Aycock

As the North American Consumer Protection Investigators (NACPI) enters its 32nd year, it has evolved into a highly recognized international association in consumer affairs. At our annual conferences, we provide educational training on techniques for investigating, managing, and litigating consumer fraud cases. We continue to provide informative seminars on important consumer fraud topics, consumer education programs, and learn about new consumer legislation. A favorite for our members is the members-only roundtable sessions where members share and seek information concerning current investigations.

This past year’s conference in New Orleans was a great success. Members received training on hot topics such as foreclosure scams, pyramid schemes, and cross border fraud. The daily networking opportunities were enjoyed by all. NACPI was represented by consumer protection agencies from all over the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. It is our goal to expand our attendance and membership into Mexico before our 2009 conference in Miami. If you are not yet a member, please see our membership page for information on joining. The training and networking experience is truly invaluable.

The Conference Facilitation Committee, led by Vice President Wil Slaughter and CFC Vice-Chair Nicole Savage, is already busy planning next year’s conference in Miami, Florida. The theme will be “tools, tricks, and trends.” We will explore the “tools” used to commit fraud, the “tricks” used, and “trends” of individual or groups who commit the fraud. If you or your agency would like to recommend a speaker or topic for next year’s conference (as it relates to our theme), or maybe your agency would like to present a case study, please email me at ahuuddles@pinellascounty.org or Wil Slaughter at wil.slaughter@fairfaxcounty.gov
Recently, the results of the national 2007 Consumer Complaint Survey Report were released. On behalf of NACPI, our very own Bob Harris was instrumental in partnering with the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA) to provide these results. We believe that this survey will help educate consumers on current trends in consumer fraud. In addition, it is an opportunity for consumer agencies across the country to see what types of complaints are prevalent in their respective areas. You can check out the report at http://www.consumerfed.org/pdfs/07_complaint_report.pdf

We hope that you will continue to check our website for updated conference information. In addition, if you are already a member, do not forget to utilize our members only section to share and seek information on current cases. Also, there is a contact information section for members from all over the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. Please take full advantage of your membership. Our webmaster Forrest Joyner continues to do an excellent job with updating our site and sending out email blasts as requested and needed.

As your new President, thank you for entrusting your organization to me and your board members. I know that I have big shoes to fill. Our Past President, Nicole Savage, has been instrumental in the success of NACPI. We are excited that she has decided to continue to assist the organization as CFC Vice-Chair for the upcoming conference and will continue her work on our newsletter. Her knowledge and experience is invaluable as we begin to plan our 2009 conference.

NACPI is successful because of the participation of its members and support of our sponsors. For that, I thank you all. If you would like to be more active in the organization, would like to recommend speakers, sponsors, or possible new members, please contact me. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me as well. I look forward to hearing from you.

Join us next year for “cool” speakers and “hot” topics. See you all in Miami!

Anna Huddleston-Aycock