As paralegals, we are more than aware of how quickly and, sometimes, unexpectedly things change in the legal field. From the law to the expectations of our employers and everything in between, the evolution is constant. It could be a full time job just to stay ahead of the curve. Where do we fit in time to stay abreast of the changes and, even more importantly, what are our best resources?

It is still a struggle to find the quickest and most practical ways to make it work.

I know many of you are sitting at your desk during lunch, eating a frozen meal that is slowly losing whatever appetizing qualities it once had. This “down time” is a great opportunity to learn a new skill or hone one you already have. Webinars/tutorials are awesome for this.

Many of the computer programs we use have online training with webinars. For instance, I use TABS, LawToolBox and Lexis Advance, all of which have online tutorials. Most of us use some form of Adobe Acrobat and, luckily, there are plenty of short online tutorials to help us learn the more quirkier quirks of Acrobat. I use Acrobat DC. Its tutorials can be found at: https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/tutorials.html. Tutorials for Acrobat 10 can be found here: http://www.adobe.com/support/acrobat/gettingstarted/.

Another great option are podcasts – I love podcasts. If you are a commuter, either by car or public transportation, you probably already have your earbuds at the ready or favorite music streaming app queued up. This time on the road is great opportunity for skill advancement. Grammar Girl is a great podcast. Language, both written and spoken, is such an important part of what we do and this podcast offers short and sweet lessons in grammar and word usage. The Paralegal Voice is a paralegal specific podcast offering tips and career information.

And just for fun, Welcome to Night Vale is a laugh-out-loud funny podcast. Stuff You Should Know offers a variety of podcasts and most of the hosts are entertaining and knowledgeable.

Podcasts and webinars are great tools for fitting in a little learning whenever you can. They offer a topics for everyone and are in a format that makes it easy to steal a minute here and a minute there for skill advancement.

By Tanya J. Patterson, editorial@paralegals.org
Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officers of NFPA!

NFPA held elections in conjunction with the 2015 Policy Meeting.

The following people were elected by the delegates to serve NFPA:

- Vice President and Director of Profession Development - Allen Mihecoby, RP, CLAS
- Vice President and Director of Membership - Yvonne DeAntoneo
- Vice President and Director of Marketing - Lisa Lynch, CRP
- Treasurer & Director of Finance - MaryAnn Ivie, RP
- Education Coordinator - Beth King, RP
- Region I Director - Tom Holmes, RP
- Region II Director - Mianne Besser
- Region III Director - Barbara O'Shaughnessy, FRP
- Region IV Director - Donna Huntermark, RP, Pa.C.P.
- Region V Director - Josie Estes

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Do you have an idea for an article??

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Tanya Patterson, NFPA Editorial Coordinator
tanyap@paralegals.org