



CALENDAR

SUMMER BOARD MEETING
Conference Call
July 23, 2011

ANNUAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 13-16, 2011
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

PRO BONO CONFERENCE
October 14, 2011
Minneapolis, MN



PRO BONO CONFERENCE

Don't miss **NFPA**'s annual **Pro Bono Conference** which will be held on **Friday, October 14, 2011** in conjunction with the Annual Convention in Minneapolis, MN.

Eric T. Cooperstein will be the featured **Ethics** speaker. He has a solo practice devoted to ethics consulting and representation, including defending lawyers against ethics complaints, providing advice and expert opinions and representing lawyers in fee disputes and law firm break-ups. He is a frequent lecturer and writer on legal ethics (www.lawyerist.com/author/ericcooperstein).

Eric will discuss real-life ethical predicaments that may and do arise for both the paralegal coordinator and the paralegal volunteer. Topics include the pro bono coordinator's ethical responsibilities to the pro bono organization, what to do if offered any form of compensation, what to do if assigned a task beyond your training, what to do if you overhear another volunteer giving legal advice, and more.

COMPUTER BASED PCC EXAM COMING IN NOVEMBER 2011!

The official roll out of the **Paralegal CORE Competency Exam (PCCE)** as a computer based exam is on schedule for November 2011. Online registration will be reopened in the early fall and the exam fee at that time will be \$215. Interested candidates can find the eligibility criteria in the [Candidate Handbook](#) on the NFPA website.

Exam specifications along with an outline of testable information is included in the handbook as Appendix A. We have begun work on a PCCE Study Guide and anticipate having it available by early to mid-August. Any questions about the PCCE can be directed to PCCE@paralegals.org

JOINT CONFERENCE

We want to thank NFPA Coordinators Lisa Vessels, CP, FRP (Regulation), Kristine Farmer, MS, RP (Leadership) and K. Paezle' Harris, RP, CP (PACE) for their efforts in the success of the 2011 Joint Conference. A special thanks to our hosts, the Cleveland Association of Paralegals and to all our speakers and vendors. Surveys have been received and are being considered in the planning for the next Joint Conference.



NFPA RESOURCE CENTER

NFPA continues in our efforts to offer a wide-ranging array of resources. Be sure to check the new page on the NFPA website under the Positions and Issues tab, *Paralegals as Profit Centers*. This page provides links and articles regarding the cost effectiveness of the utilization of paralegals.

IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER OF NFPA

Membership in NFPA affords a variety of benefits from companies such as Dell, Liberty Mutual, Hertz and Bank of America. For a complete list of benefits, visit the NFPA website at www.paralegals.org. Take advantage of these exclusive member benefits today!

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REGION ROUND-UP

In early April, RMPA hosted **Region II's Spring Meeting**. They did a great job of generating excitement leading up to the event. There was a social event Friday evening, April 1st, for local RMPA members and also those who arrived early from out of town. **Mianne Besser** and **Diane Carns**, along with **Nora Ablutz**, provided an excellent venue, interesting CLE, lots of goodies and more food than we could possibly eat! Nora also arranged for several delegates to attend via Skype and Mianne transcribed much of the program for the remote attendees. Since RMPA is her home association, **Debbie Hindin-King** gave a short presentation on the *Strategic Plan* and how to create one for local associations. Lots of ideas were exchanged and we plan to follow up with everyone at our meeting during Convention. **Valerie A. Dolan**, Pa.C.P., was recently appointed **Region IV Director**. **MAP** will be celebrating Paralegal Day on June 9, 2011. **NCAPA** will be holding its Semi-Annual Education Conference on June 11, 2011. **PAP** will be celebrating Paralegal Week during the week of July 25, 2011 and will be holding its Annual Education Conference on October 7, 2011. **NCAPA** will be celebrating Paralegal Week during the week of October 2, 2011. The **Region III Meeting** was held on April 8-9, 2011 in South Bend, Indiana, hosted by the Michiana Paralegal Association. During the Region III Meeting, we conducted a breakout session where we discussed "Strategic Planning for Associations". The topics covered were: financial stability, membership, marketing, professional development, student membership, and vendor support. The attendees had great discussion and a summary of the discussion was then distributed to all the Region III Associations.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Strategically Speaking...we heard you. The Strategic Planning Committee conducted a membership survey in the Fall of 2010. And the results are in. We heard your concerns and we are acting accordingly. The Strategic Planning Committee is committed to our core purpose "to advance the paralegal profession" and core values as we are guided to brainstorm additional ways to respond to your concerns quickly and efficiently. Choosing the goal based methodology has enabled us to "hit the ground running" with a plan of action. We have been working diligently on:

- Making the website more user friendly. If you haven't checked it out recently, you should do so and let us know what you think about the enhancements.
- We are creating more networking opportunities within the individual paralegal associations and inviting other association members and non-members to participate in an effort to be more inclusive.
- We have successfully launched the pilot test of the Paralegal CORE Competency (PCC) Exam which is scheduled for June 11, 2011. (To find more information about this, please visit the website)
- We are working feverishly to employ ways to have a stronger presence at colleges and to promote the PCC and PACE exams. These are just some of the responses that we are working on so far. So, as you can see, we are listening and we value your input.

REGULATION REVIEW

FLORIDA

After a lot of hard work and effort, SB 1612, Regulation of the Paralegal Profession, died in Civil Justice Committee. The legislation was referred to committee on March 14, 2011. On May 7, 2011, it was indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2011/1149>

CONNECTICUT

Legislation was introduced in Connecticut, HB 6477 - An Act Concerning the Unauthorized Practice of Law by Notaries Public and the Outsourcing of the Drafting, Review or Analysis of Legal Documents. It was referred to Joint Committee on Judiciary on 2/24/11 and a public hearing was held on 4/8/11. At the request of the Connecticut Alliance of Paralegal Associations, NFPA prepared a [response](#) to this proposed regulation which can be found on the Connecticut General Assembly website under Public Hearing Testimony. HB 6477 died in committee.