Watch for a special 2010 Convention Wrap-Up edition of NFPA NEWS in November 2011!

Membership Benefit Corner

1-800 Flowers: Thinking of a gift for a birthday or other special occasion? Call 1-800-Flowers to have candy, flowers or other small gifts delivered. Get a 10% discount off an array of gift products including gourmet gift baskets.

Dell Products - Have you heard of our newest benefit DELL Computers. Take an additional 7% on top of generally advertised Dell Products. Go to www.dell.com/paralegals or phone 1800-695-8133.

Resource Center

NFPA continues in its 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.

Tactical Strategies (updates & inquiries on the Strategic Plan)
By Pat Gagnon, RP

Do you know where your association is headed? Not without a strategic plan! If you don’t have a strategic plan, how will you know how to set goals, how they will be achieved and when you’ve accomplished said goal. A strategic plan helps your association define your goals and set timelines. It also helps you establish priorities for your association. A strategic plan will also help you budget and prioritize your association funds. Here are five questions to help you get started on a strategic plan: (1) What is the purpose of our association; (2) What goals should we set for the coming year to fulfill that purpose; (3) What ideas/strategies are needed to accomplish your goals; (4) What steps are needed to bring our ideas to fruition; and (5) How many volunteers will we need and what funds will need to be spent. There is much more that goes into drafting and implementing a strategic plan. However, answering these questions will set you and your association on the path to creating a viable strategic plan that will not only make your association stronger in the present, but catapult it into the future!

Regulation Review

West Virginia Legislature considering Regulation

In January 2010, HB 3302 was introduced in the West Virginia Legislature proposing regulation of the paralegal profession. As stated in its introduction, the "purpose of the bill is to establish the 'Certified Legal Assistant Act'; to define terms; to establish minimum qualifications; to set forth responsibilities of the lawyer and the certified legal assistant; and to provide rule-making authority to the Supreme Court of Appeals in conjunction with the West Virginia State Bar." Following its introduction, the bill was referred to the Judiciary committee. NFPA submitted a response to the proposed bill. However, at the completion of the legislative session, the bill died in committee.
2010 Joint Conference

The Joint Regulation/Leadership/PACE Ambassadors Conference was held in Washington, D.C. the first weekend of June. There were more than 60 registrants and the rooms were filled to capacity. The three conferences offered opportunities for learning and networking and a great time was had by all. Be sure to check out the Joint Conference highlight page on the NFPA website where you can see photos of the events and watch the video interview of NFPA President Georgette M. Lovelace, RP and Tracey L. Young, RP, Vice President and Director of Positions and Issues. If you missed these conferences, most of the materials have been posted to the NFPA website.

Pro Bono Conference - Save the Date!
The 2011 Pro Bono Conference will be held in San Francisco, CA May 21-22. Plans are now underway and we are seeking input for workshop topics. Please send any suggestions to VPPD@paralegals.org.

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Paralegal Core Competency Exam (PCC Exam)

Work continues on the development of the PCC Exam. We have a power point that can be used to talk about the exam. An exam logo has been approved and a brochure finalized. The PCC Exam Committee also created the Job Analysis Task Force (JATF). The JATF was tasked with compiling information for the job analysis portion of exam development, in conjunction with PES staff. The group includes Committee members, educators, lawyers, and paralegals from across the U.S. During the first phase, the JATF compiled a list of educational institutions and then requested information with regard to the various programs. Those educators have supplied pertinent information that is being reviewed with a view towards building a survey to validate said information. After the survey results are collected and analyzed, a subject-matter review will help develop the paralegal practice areas for the exam and the percentage of weight they will carry. The end result of the job analysis will be the core domains of the PCC exam. This process was started at the beginning of August and is expected to take about six months for completion.

NFPA Ethics Survey

The Ethics Board completed its first survey to inquire about ethical issues paralegals continue to face and those which they may be faced with in both the near and distant future. In analyzing the survey results, the Ethics Board has determined that there is a desire and need for more ethics and professional responsibility training. To this end, the Ethics Board is interested in creating webinars on the following topics in which survey respondents expressed the most interest: confidentiality, attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine, nonlawyer legal service providers and conflicts of interest. Thank you to all who took part in the survey!

If you have any questions or concerns of an ethical nature, feel free to contact the NFPA Ethics Board at ethics@list.paralegals.org.