

NFPA NEWS

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Upcoming Events

October 29-November 1, 2009

NFPA® Annual Convention
Come to Oregon, Be a Paralegal Pioneer
Hosted by the Oregon Paralegal Association
Red Lion Hotel on the River
Portland, OR

March 26-27, 2010

NFPA Tech Institute™
Doubletree San Jose, CA

Scholarship & Awards to be presented at Annual Convention

NFPA/Thomson Reuters Scholarships
Association Pro Bono Award
Individual Pro Bono Award
Local Outstanding Leader Award
NFPA Paralegal of the Year Award
PACE® Ambassador Award
PACE® Scholarship
The Hon. William R. Robie Award

NFPA®-Member Driven for 35 Years

It's that time of year again-time for the NFPA elections. The positions up for election this year are Treasurer, VP and Director of Profession Development, VP and Director of Membership, VP & Director of Marketing and all five Region Directors. The officer positions are for two year terms and the Region Director positions are one year terms. NFPA is member-driven. That means the *members* determine the policy of NFPA, and the Board of Directors implement that policy. Voting membership rests in the Federation's voting member associations. Each association gets one vote, and the voting responsibility is vested in the individuals assigned by that association (its Primary and Secondary Representatives to NFPA) to represent it at the annual meeting and throughout the year. Each association votes for all officer positions, and then for Region Director for the Region in which that association resides. Voting membership has the responsibility to determine the *best* person for each elected position, nominate that person and then cast its vote accordingly.



Convention Corner

With the 2009 Annual Convention only a few months away there is plenty to think about. Whether you have already registered or are considering registering there are a number of things to get excited about. For the most updated information check out the website at www.paralegals.org or get regular updates on Twitter, www.twitter.com/NFPAconvention. Visit the 2009 Convention blog 2009NFPAconvention.blogspot.com/ and view photos from last year's convention, post your association's journey or stay up to date on what is going on with the convention.

Tactical Strategies (updates & inquiries on the Strategic Plan)

"Responsive to member needs" is one of NFPA's core values. In a recent Association Management conference call strategic planning for local associations was discussed. Local associations were told about the importance of knowing what their members need from their association. This is also true for NFPA. NFPA needs to know what it can do to be responsive to local association issues and individual paralegal needs. For associations - What topics do local leaders need to learn more about? What expertise do you have that you can share with other associations to help make them stronger? What does your local association do particularly well? For individual paralegals - How do you participate in your local association and NFPA activities? What would you change about your local association? Why? How can NFPA help make you a better paralegal? What topics would you like to know more about?

Please send your comments to pgagnon@goodwin.com.

Legislation

Montana recently approved legislation which provides for paralegal fees and sets forth a definition of paralegal. The law takes effect on October 1, 2009. A link to that legislation can be found on the NFPA website under Regulation by State. Do you have information about proposed legislation which affects the paralegal profession? If so, please contact your local paralegal association and send an e-mail to VPPI@paralegals.org.

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