

NABE-News

OF BAR EXECUTIVES

Thursday, August 18, 2005

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CALENDAR

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**NABE Program
Committee Meeting**
Sept. 9 & 10, 2005
New Orleans, LA

**NABE Communications
Section Workshop**
Sept. 28–Oct. 1, 2005
Orlando, FL

**Scholarship Application
Process Begins
for Midyear Meeting**
Oct. 24, 2005

Board of Directors Meeting
Nov. 4 & 5, 2005
Napa, CA

**NABE Governmental
Relations Section Workshop**
Nov. 7–9, 2005
Austin, TX

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP AND MID-YEAR PREVIEW

We had a record attendance, outstanding programming and wonderful social events at the annual meeting in Chicago earlier this month. Special thanks to the Program Committee under John Norwine's leadership; the Sponsorship Committee, which produced a new record amount of vendor support for our organization with Sam Clinch at the helm; the Membership Committee led by Sandy Cousins, which provided a welcoming experience for some 25 first time attendees; and our first-rate DBS staff who support NABE and its work under the tutelage of Jill Werner.

Those of you who missed the meeting missed an excellent educational and networking opportunity, and I hope many of you are making plans now to attend the mid-year meeting of NABE in New Orleans in February 2006, where we will begin our programming on professionalism. Our Professionalism Task Force led by Chuck Turner and Susan Jacobs is making plans for an opening plenary session devoted to professionalism in the work and world of the bar executive, and Keith Norman and the 2005–2006 Program Committee are developing great ideas for the balance of our mid-year program. There will be something inspirational and helpful for every one of our members who attends, regardless of your responsibilities at your state, local or specialty bar association.

Needless to say, New Orleans also offers many interesting sights and sounds, along with probably the best food anywhere in the country, for your leisure time during the meeting. Loretta Topey, Executive Director of the Louisiana State Bar headquartered in New Orleans, is a new member of the Program Committee, and she has already shared some great suggestions for our Wednesday evening party. We will also have a list of great restaurants for your use on other evenings. Come and enjoy!

REVIEW OF NABE COMMUNICATIONS AND AWARDS

As a result of actions taken at the board of directors meetings in Chicago, we have appointed two special committees to review and make recommendations to the board about our vehicles for communicating with our members, including the NABE Website, and the awards we give each year.

With the growth in the number of our communications, all of which are now electronic, we need to determine whether there is overlap or duplication which could be eliminated; and the Website Committee had already planned a redesign of our Website to make it easier to navigate and maintain. The study group is chaired by Immediate Past President Anne Fritz and includes representatives of the Communications Section; Toby Brown, Chair of the Website Committee; and other volunteers. They will take a look at all our existing communications vehicles and make recommendations to the board in November.

Similarly, we now have many awards, including some which seem not to be used with any frequency, and there is a need to review the criteria for those awards which are viable. Janet Sosin of the Illinois State Bar Association will chair a committee to review this picture and recommend what we need to do in this area.

If you have suggestions or thoughts about either of these matters, please communicate them to the appropriate chair.

NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

At its Saturday meeting in Chicago, the board also authorized creation of a new IT Section after hearing about the need for such a group within NABE from Toby Brown, who will take the lead in organizing the section. There are many people working in the IT field at bar associations around the country who are not now members of NABE. While technology has been one focus of the Administration and Finance Section, it was thought that there should be a place where technology folks can interact with each other about the nuances and details of their work, plan some programming to meet their needs, and develop capacities for communicating about their issues to the rest of the bar executive world.

If you or other members of your staff who may not now be NABE members would be interested in joining the new section, please contact Jill Werner at the DBS.

LAST CALL FOR COMMUNICATIONS SECTION WORKSHOP

The dates for this fall's Communications Section Workshop are noted in the margin on page 1. The last day for early registration is Sept. 7, but the room block will be released on August 26. This is always a premier event for our communications professionals, and I encourage anyone who works in this field to make plans to attend.

COMPENSATION SURVEY

The biennial compensation survey results are in the mail to all those bars which participated in the survey, and I am sure it will prove useful during the coming year in preparing your salary recommendations and making the case for the resources with which to fund them. Our thanks to George Brown and the other members of the Survey Committee for their work in producing and distributing the survey, and to the State Bar of Texas for its assistance in compiling the results and producing the report.

Executive directors of bars that did not participate can obtain a copy from Jill Werner at DBS; the board has fixed the cost at \$100 for those who did not complete the survey.

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NABE-NEWS

This electronic publication has become a principal means of communicating with our members. Each of our past three presidents has used *NABE-News* to communicate on a regular basis about news of our members and their bar associations, important dates, actions of the board of directors, and other items of interest. Anne Fritz took the publication to a completely new level last year in terms of both format and content, and you will note we are borrowing the template she designed for the format.

While I have not committed to produce the publication every week, I do intend to do so as frequently as the accumulation of news and other items justifies. My thanks in advance to all our NABE members; section, forum and committee chairs; and the DBS staff for keeping me supplied with items you would like to have brought to the attention of all our members through *NABE-News*.

It is an honor to serve as your president this year, and I look forward to working with all of you to make NABE an even more effective and useful enterprise.