

NABE-News

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CALENDAR

from www.nabenet.org

- May 18-19, 2007
NABE Board Meeting
North Myrtle Beach, S.C.
- June 29-30, 2007
Small Bar Conference
St. Louis, MO
- Aug. 6-7, 2007
Administration/IT Workshop
San Francisco, CA
- Aug. 8-9, 2007
NABE Annual Meeting
San Francisco, CA
- Oct. 10-13, 2007
Communications Section Workshop
Philadelphia, PA
- Nov. 14-16, 2007
Governmental Relations Section Workshop
Raleigh, NC
- Feb. 5-7, 2008
NABE Midyear Meeting
Los Angeles, CA
- March 13-15, 2008
Bar Leadership Institute
Chicago, IL

HEAD NOTES

- Activity is not necessarily an accomplishment.
- Poor planning on your part does not necessarily constitute an emergency for me!
- Whenever possible: Personalize, Customize and Empathize.
- Work hard to bring out the best in others.

GREETINGS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

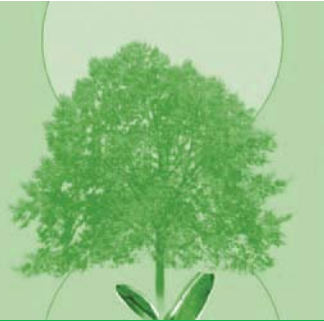
This issue comes to you from Beijing. Let it never be said that the NCBA didn't go to the other side of the world to offer CLE to its members. Somebody had to go.....

ELECTIONS

Ballots were mailed on April 16, and must be returned by May 15. Why haven't you sent yours in already?

RICE-A-RONI

Forget rice-a-roni, serving as a buddy for a first-time attendee will be the REAL San Francisco treat. If you are planning on attending the annual meeting and would like to be a buddy, the Membership Committee would love to pair you up with a First Timer. If you are interested, please e-mail Membership Committee Chair Whitney von Haam at whitney@ncbar.org and indicate your interest in participating. More details will be provided about the program.



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THINK ABOUT IT

The following article is brought to you courtesy of the NABE Professionalism Task Force and member Wanda Claiborne, Director of Meetings and Bar Liaison for the Maryland State Bar Association. (Thank you Wanda!)

A few years ago, the movie “Toy Story” was released. One of the main characters, Buzz Lightyear, used to say, as he was about to blast-off, “To infinity and beyond.” My challenge to all of us is to adopt the thought “To Professionalism and Beyond.” Buzz exhibited true conviction and a sense of empowerment when he declared he was going to the next level - what about you and me?

In recent years, businesses, professionals, and well just about everybody has added the catch phrase “professionalism” to their business cards, flyers, commercials and the like. “Come to Scott’s Auto Shop, where we offer professional service,” “The legal team of Brown, Brown and Green, offering professionalism every step of the way.”

The concern, at least for me, has become what does it really mean? Is professionalism giving courteous service to your clients, members or customers? Perhaps it means that you will do everything in a timely and efficient manner. Yet another thought, maybe it says to the world, that we appear to be doing and saying the right things.

I believe that too often we have become more concerned with how we present or appear to people that we have stopped being concerned about how we are. I am convinced that a true professional is not just respectful to his/her employees and co-workers when others are watching but that they are also respectful on days where there is no one else around to keep tabs. Young children have a tendency to do things when parents are not watching that they would never attempt when they are. We should not be guilty of the same alteration in behavior.

When members call, does it really matter whether they are the President, Committee Chair or Jane Johnson, the member? Although, our priorities (may) need to be different for each, the way that we interact with them, the service we impart, the level of respect or courtesy that we provide must be the same. I will take it a step further, if we are respectful and courteous then that should necessarily flow into everything we do. It should give us the very foundation for true “professionalism.”

I am of the mind that disrespecting your colleagues, for example, is a line that you never, ever cross. Although you may curse as part of your day to day conversation, is it appropriate to curse at an employee or co-worker? I have run into so many managers and executives who consider themselves a consummate professional but totally disrespect those who work for and with them. Doing the right thing seems only important when dealing with the “higher ups” or clients/members.

My fear is that the more the word “professionalism” is tossed around like a frisbee, the more we will lose focus on what is important. The author, Robert Fulghum penned the book “All I

(continued)

If you have an announcement that you would like to see included in the NABE-News, please contact Allan Head, President, NABE, at ahead@nbar.org or call him at (919) 677-0561, ext. 300.



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Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten.” Its very basic ideology promotes fundamental lessons learned like, “Play Fair.” If we just took a back seat to all that we hear about professionalism and what it means, and treated everyone fairly, and the proverbial “do unto to others as we would have them do unto to us,” governed everything we did - would we not be on the right road?

The true professional cannot be found in convoluted descriptions. I’m convinced that the true Professional is the person who is respectful and respected. Everything else falls into place if you have that. Sure a true professional still makes mistakes. Everyday, I wonder if I could have done something differently. One day, I finally realized that when all is said and done, none of us can be perfect but, like Buzz Lightyear, we can still aim for the stars.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE AND IT SECTIONS PLAN JOINT WORKSHOP FOR SAN FRANCISCO

You do not want to miss this incredible program that will begin with a welcome cocktail reception on Monday, August 6. On Tuesday, August 7, there will be a plenary program focusing on strategic IT. The plenary will be followed by three breakout sessions. Breakout programs will include:

- ♦ Using SharePoint to Build a Collaborative Bar
- ♦ Can They Hear You Now? Communicating With Your Members in a Constantly Changing Environment
- ♦ Project Management
- ♦ An Accident Waiting to Happen: Creating Human Resource Policies and Procedures in the Technological Age
- ♦ Budgeting for IT
- ♦ Finance, Finance, Finance: Show me the Money!

Some of these programs are “advanced geek” for the true IT specialist, while others are crossover programs that will be appealing to both IT and A&F folks. Even the A&F professional who knows no IT will find programs of interest.

This program will build on and be a great compliment to the spectacular program being planned for the NABE Annual Meeting being held August 8-9.

There will be many new and different exhibitors available to talk to and to show you new and exciting products and services. But, you can not see most of these exhibitors at the NABE Annual Meeting. You will have to join us for the Joint Workshop to take advantage of all of this excitement!

Detailed program descriptions will be available soon! Don’t wait; you can register for the Joint Workshop through the same registration process as for the NABE Annual Meeting.

C U in San Francisco!



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ANNOUNCING

- Trudy Levindofske is the newly named Orange County (CA) Executive Director replacing Donna Fouste.
- After nine years of service to the Nashville Bar Association, Susan Sowards is soon to be the new Executive Director of the Jacksonville Bar Association.
- Paula Littlewood has been promoted effective May 1st from AED to Executive Director of the Washington State Bar Association replacing Jan Michels who retired at the end of April.
- And another promotion, Karen Hutchins, formerly AED for the Arkansas Bar, is to be the new Executive Director replacing Don Hollingsworth who retires with parades and fireworks on July 4th.

Congratulations Trudy, Susan, Paula and Karen!

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of NABE. Please share your concerns and/or suggestions with me at ahead@ncbar.org.

Allan Head

"It is only through the power of association that those of any calling exercise due influence in their communities."

Elihu Root