



## **NABE NEWS**

**January 4, 2008**

It's here. 2008 is upon us. I have a confession to make. I actually stole a day just before Christmas and spent it by myself, doing what I wanted to do just for ME. It was wonderfully refreshing (after I forgave myself for lying to friends who wanted me to go out to a party with them). That's my New Year's advice to each of you. Treat yourself as well as you treat your family and friends. Do something nice just for YOU!

While you're thinking of things to do for yourself, be sure you include registering for the MidYear Meeting in Los Angeles and CSE/BLI in Chicago (links are further down in this email)...that will serve you and your bar association well.

I look forward to seeing y'all soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized name followed by a horizontal line.

### **PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS COMING YOUR WAY....**

This past year the NABE Board of Directors updated the Policy Manual to bring it in line with current practices. As a result of those changes, the NABE bylaws needed to be updated to conform with the policies. Most of the bylaw amendments are of a housekeeping nature, but there are two amendments that are new sections so we wanted to specifically bring them to your attention.

The first is the addition of a "Virtual Membership" category. This is designed to provide access to NABE resources by staff of bar associations with fewer than 1,000 members and significantly limited budgets. Quite often these bar executives are unable to attend the Annual and MidYear meetings but could and should still benefit from NABE's many offerings. This new membership category is a way to bring these small bar execs into the NABE family.

The second bylaw amendment of note establishes term limits for those serving on the NABE Board. Although there is little doubt NABE has benefited from the longtime service of its leaders, one of the Board's goals is to foster leadership opportunities within the organization. To encourage a greater number of NABE members to run for seats on the Board, either as an officer or as a director, the Board feels it is important to ensure there is turnover in these leadership positions.

All of the proposed bylaw amendments will be presented to the membership for a vote at the MidYear business meeting in Los Angeles. In the meantime, the Board welcomes comments on these amendments and encourages you to contact me at [evelyn.sullivan@lancasterbar.org](mailto:evelyn.sullivan@lancasterbar.org) to express those comments.

**ABA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**-- REPORT FROM NABE DELEGATE BILL WEISENBERG**

Following up on my report in the November 6, 2007 NABE News, here is some additional information on items scheduled to be considered by the ABA House of Delegates when it convenes on February 11, 2008.

Report 10A, submitted by the New York State Bar Association, urges states to develop long-term care programs such as the “Compact for Long-Term Care” as a reasonable and fair solution to long-term care financing for older adults and the disabled. This may cause debate on the issue of “germaneness” as some have raised the question as to whether or not this is appropriate for the ABA to address as policy.

Report 10B, submitted by the New York County Lawyers Association, recommends adoption of Protocols for Judges in the Settlement and Trial of Cases Involving Unrepresented Litigants in Housing Court. The entire issue of self-represented litigants, a matter nationwide, will no doubt be addressed in this discussion.

Report 102B, urging state and local bar associations to work with state and local pro bono, lawyer referral and legal aid programs to establish programs for representation of victims of identity theft.

Report 105B, recommending an amendment to Rule 3.8 of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct to identify prosecutors’ obligations when they know of new evidence establishing a reasonable likelihood that a convicted defendant did not commit the offense of which he/she was convicted.

Report No. 112, recommending adoption of the Model Rule on Conditional Admission to Practice Law. Some will remember that this was withdrawn from the August, 2007 House of Delegates agenda. Those with concerns should communicate with the Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs and Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, two of the sponsors of this proposal.

For those interested in viewing reports that will be considered by the House of Delegates in February, 2008, please go to the House of Delegates website at [www.abanet.org/leadership/2008/midyear](http://www.abanet.org/leadership/2008/midyear) or contact Richard Collins in the Division for Policy Administration. Or, contact me directly at (614) 487-4414, [wweisenberg@ohiobar.org](mailto:wweisenberg@ohiobar.org). Finally, if you are interested in having your governing body communicate with your ABA delegates on matters to be considered by the House, please contact me and I will forward to you an example of how the OSBA Board of Governors communicates with its delegates.

## **MEETING REMINDERS!**

Get off to a good start in 2008 by checking out the links to the MidYear Meeting, CSE Retreat and BLI on the NABE web site for program and registration information:

[www.abanet.org/midyear/2008/docs/903342\\_NABE.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/midyear/2008/docs/903342_NABE.pdf) . **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER!!!!**

[www.abanet.org/nabe/events/meetings.html](http://www.abanet.org/nabe/events/meetings.html). NABE's Chief Staff Executive Committee has provided a fabulous opportunity with an "opening night" session with Chicago's Second City improv group. Registration forms and case studies should be sent to Aminah Bhatti in the Division for Bar Services; she is your point person for the program, and is available at 312/988-5349, [bhattia@staff.abanet.org](mailto:bhattia@staff.abanet.org) to answer questions related to the Retreat.

[www.abanet.org/barserv/bli/reginstructions.html](http://www.abanet.org/barserv/bli/reginstructions.html) . Make sure your officers are aware of this excellent training opportunity.