



NABE NEWS

April 4, 2007

IT'S A WHOLE LOT CHEAPER THAN PSYCHOTHERAPY....

I recently returned from Chicago – Chief Staff Exec Retreat and BLI. I've been attending for many years, and go through the same mental wrestling match each time. Why am I doing this? I have so much I need to do at the office. My President-Elect really doesn't need me to sit with him/her in Chicago... You all know the drill.

Then I go. ...and I remember WHY ...and I promise myself I will never try to talk myself out of it again.

Many thanks to Helen McDonald and the CSE Committee for planning a superb Retreat. We benefited from a thoughtful (and thought-provoking) discussion of the Executive Director's role in cultural change, and gleaned some really helpful pointers about how to communicate more clearly and how NOT to hire crazies and crooks. But for me, the best part is always the open, honest discussions we have about how we can tweak the gears a little bit to allow us to operate more smoothly and effectively. It's always great to have the reassurance that nothing we are facing is uncharted territory!

BLI was the best I've ever seen it. I am firmly convinced that, no matter how many times I listen to Michael Sheehan, I will ALWAYS learn something from him. This year's program began with a Senior Lecturer from Harvard University talking to us about moral leadership. This really raised the bar (no pun intended) and made it very clear that the purpose of this year's program was not simply to provide recipes for the "golden project du jour". The breakout sessions were equally stimulating and instructive. Kudos to this year's BLI planners.

Just when we think we can settle back into the office routine, the next round of registration forms pop up. Annual Meeting in NYC is August 5 -7. Once again, NABE is absorbing \$100 of the cost for each of us to attend this meeting – we think it's that important that we budget a subsidy for this meeting to offset the registration fee imposed by ITS. If the cost is keeping you from registering, remember – it's a whole lot cheaper than psychotherapy (and you LEARN good "stuff" in addition to feeling better) ...and there are scholarships available (see below).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. J. ...", is centered below the text.

NABE ELECTIONS ON THE HORIZON....

Election materials will be reaching your inbox very shortly ... This year, for the first time, we are conducting our elections electronically. Please watch your "Inbox" for the ballot and instructions.

THERE'S STILL A LITTLE TIME....

Jan Wade, Scholarship Committee Chair

Our NYC Annual meeting is really only 4 months away... If you think your budget is too strapped to attend, there's a ray of sunshine... There are 6 scholarships available (registration fee is waived and a \$500 travel stipend) – priority is given to first-time attendees, or those who have not received a scholarship within the last 3 years. For more information, contact Jan Wade (director@kanecountybar.org) before May 1 for application forms.

AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED...

Linda Oligschlaeger, Sponsorship Committee Chair

The Sponsorship Committee is about to start our engines again in search of sponsors for the NY meeting. In order to keep the cost of attending NABE meetings as low as possible, I'd appreciate any leads for companies who would benefit by reaching out to bar association executives from all over the country. It's certainly a great opportunity for the vendors as well as NABE members who are interested in learning more about products and services to benefit your members. The Sponsorship Committee will take your leads and make the contacts. Thanks.

ON THE ADMIN & FINANCE HORIZON...

Colleen McManus, A&F Section Chair

The A&F Section is busy planning another workshop for the Tuesday prior to the 2009 Mid-Year meeting. These workshops, which have been offered every two years for the past several years, have offered more great programming tailored to those working in the areas of administration, finance, management, human resources, IT, and web services. Members with any ideas of what they might like to see offered in our 2009 workshop can contact Lynda Tanner at the State Bar of Wisconsin at ltanner@wisbar.org. We welcome all thoughts and suggestions, and we encourage people to mark their calendars and plan to join us for another wonderful and informative workshop!

The A&F Section is also working with the Scholarship Committee to establish a scholarship fund to assist section members to participate in NABE meetings. More information will be provided to members once the details are finalized, but we are gratified that our section is able to offer this benefit to deserving members.

SMALL BAR CONFERENCE – SACRAMENTO – JUNE 27–28...

Yvonne McGhee, Conference Chair

Budget too strained to fit in the NYC Annual Meeting? Wearing too many hats to be able to spare enough time out of the office to get to a full-blown meeting? NABE's Small Bar Conference is your salvation! Geared primarily toward bars with small budgets and little staff, this is your opportunity to share best practices, tips, information and case studies to facilitate a highly successful Bar, board and professional career. This year's special feature is Association Expert Bob Harris. Bob will be on site offering one-on-one consults to our attendees on Friday! Topics on the agenda range from strategic planning to technology, ethics, finance and event planning....

Scholarships are available to first time attendees. Deadline for scholarships: May 15, 2008.

Want more info? Email Tondanisha Nevels at NevelsT@staff.abanet.org or Yvonne McGhee at ymcghee@fairfaxbar.org .

OVERCOMING PRESIDENTIAL WRITER'S BLOCK

Mark Mathewson, Communication Section Chair

Is the president's column a source of recurring angst at your bar? If so, do yourself a favor and read Joyce Hastings' article, "Writing President's Columns: What Editors Would Like to Tell Their New Presidents," in the March 2008 issue of *Communicators Talk*, the Communications Section newsletter. Better yet, send a copy to your president.

Joyce, communications director for the State Bar of Wisconsin, offers presidents a long list of practical tips for generating column ideas, working effectively with bar communications staff, and producing high-quality copy. (Example: "Identify a peer reviewer or two to give you honest feedback before submitting your articles*pick people who are not afraid to tell you what you need to hear.")

To view the article, go to the NABE Web site, visit the Communications Section and follow the links to the newsletter archive and the March '08 issue. Then join the section and get each quarter's *Communicators Talk* delivered to your e-mail inbox.

DON'T FORGET...

If you're interested in being considered by the NABE Board to fill the vacancy as NABE Treasurer, please contact me with a statement of your interest and a summary of your involvement with NABE by 4/15. Send the info to evelyn.sullivan@lancasterbar.org . The appointment will be made during our May Board meeting.