



NABE NEWS

June 4, 2008

I hope you're planning to be in NYC for our Annual Meeting in August. There are many reasons I'd like to see you there. I'd really like to have the opportunity to thank you personally for giving me this wonderful experience of serving as NABE's president ... and for supporting me and the organization as we went through some growth spasms during the year. I encourage you to be there to welcome Rod Wegener as your new president and celebrate with him as he begins his leadership year. ...But most of all it is because of the focus of the programming, and the opportunities we all will have, to get our teeth into some critically important issues facing all our bar associations.

Change is the theme for NY's programming. It won't eliminate special sessions to appeal to our specialized responsibilities, but it will be a recurring theme that will serve all of us well as we work to keep our bars relevant, growing and successful. Arthur Brooks will open the meeting with a discussion of what is impacting associations now and in the foreseeable future. His experience with a vast array of organizations and academic perspectives provides a solid backdrop to start the conversation. He will go into further detail during a breakout session which follows the opening plenary. Later in the day, Paul Gilbert will present a session narrowing the focus to bar associations and, in particular, young lawyers... He will be our speaker for our wrap-up plenary on Thursday afternoon – and will leave you with something concrete to take home to help you make the most of your role as a leader and manager of change. Paul's experience is specific to lawyers and the legal profession. He is a lawyer who has spent the last seven years working with LAWYERS and LAW FIRMS around the world, helping them learn to be proactive rather than reactive to changes in the profession – and he also knows change from the insider's perspective, having been part of the Law Society of England and Wales board which drafted massive changes to professional regulations that were submitted to Parliament (and adopted).

I guess it's true confession time. When I stood before you almost a year ago and gave my "inaugural address", I said that I had no presidential initiatives to put forward for the year. My statement was – and I still stand by this – "this isn't MY year, it's OUR year." I do believe this. But I also quietly promised myself that I would do everything I could to assure that NABE provide whatever possible to maximize our success in our jobs and that the organization help us grow to be the best we can be. I firmly believe that the NYC programming will be an important step along that path.

NABE BOARD POSITIONS

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Zoe Lyle (Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis) to the Board, filling the vacant position for Treasurer. Zoe comes to us with a fresh perspective and LOTS of experience!

Congratulations, also to election winners: Vice President, Carrie Witt (New Haven County Bar Association); Secretary, Jane Schoenicke (Nebraska State Bar Association); Local Bar Delegate, Yvonne McGhee (Fairfax County Bar Association); State Bar Delegate, Linda Oligschlaeger (The Missouri Bar); Delegate-at-Large, David Blaner (Allegheny County Bar Association).

Carrie's election to the position of Vice President opens a vacancy for a local bar delegate after the Annual Meeting 8/7/08. If you are an employee of a local bar, please consider service in this capacity. The Board will appoint a member to serve in that capacity at the meeting on 8/9/08. Rod Wegener has asked that you let Craig Johnson know of your interest (JohnsonC@staff.abanet.org).

ABA COMMISSION ON WOMEN EVENTS

Following are links to several events sponsored by the ABA Commission on Women. If you're planning to be in NYC, check out the information....

18th Annual Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards Luncheon at Annual Meeting - <http://www.abanet.org/women/awards.html> .

Day of Equality (also at Annual Meeting) - <http://www.abanet.org/women/dayofequality.html>.