NABE News, October 7, 2011

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear NABE Colleagues,

Where did September go? I blinked and October showed up! Fall has just begun so it seems odd to encourage you to think about the middle of winter, but with the fantastic program planned for the 2012 NABE Midyear Meeting in New Orleans, January 31-February 2, it's never too early to start planning your trip to the Big Easy. As you know, the Midyear Meeting provides an opportunity of learning, sharing, and networking with your bar executive colleagues! Registration has just opened at http://www.ambar.org/midyear. To see the agenda that Program Committee Chair Helen McDonald and her committee have put together, visit https://m360.nabenet.org/ViewEvent.aspx?id=28662&instance=0

I also want to encourage any NABE member who has not paid his/her dues to do so right away. If you had not paid your dues by September 21, you should have received a postcard reminding you that time is running out. Did you know that those who have not paid their dues will not be found in a search of our new member database at http://www.nabenet.org? And although you may join online at any time and be added to the electronic database, you won't be in the *2012 Membership Directory*, to be distributed to all members in November, if you don't sign up *now!* Worst of all, you will be dropped from the general members listserv and any section or forum listservs on which you have been previously included. Visit the website or contact Haley Swilling at haley.swilling@americanbar.org for help with renewing your general and section memberships.

I encourage all NABE members to update their membership profiles on our website by adding photos and other information that will be help foster further networking among our membership.

Time also is running out to register for the Communications Section Workshop (Nashville, October 18-12) and Governmental Relations Section Workshop (Des Moines, November 7-9). Register for both at http://www.nabenet.org. Click on the Events tab for the respective event to see session descriptions, hotel information, fees and deadlines.

With this issue of *NABE News*, we are starting a new feature focused upon trends we are hearing from around the country. Let me know if you've noticed anything of note in bar or association management and leadership, and we'll pass it along for all our members' benefit. Write to me at dcolliersmith@cobar.org.

As I mentioned in the September *NABE News*, draft minutes of governance meetings (two board meetings and one membership meeting) have been posted on our website. The board will meet again in Annapolis, November 10-12. If you have any issues that you would like the board to address, please contact me at dcolliersmith@cobar.org by October 14. The agenda will be posted by October 27 and I invite your questions and comments on the items scheduled for board discussion and action.

There's a lot more to read in the rest of *NABE News*, including a message on behalf of President-elect Yvonne McGhee regarding Program Committee appointment requests, and a report from NABE's delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, William Weisenberg. With your input, there'll be even more to share in future issues. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Dana

Dana J. Collier Smith, NABE President
Assistant Executive Director
Colorado Bar Association

NABE MEETINGS

Live From Nashville!

Like a singer-songwriter fine-tuning the lyrics to a hit-in-the-making, the planners of the NABE 2012 Communications Section Workshop, led by the staff of the Tennessee Bar Association, are putting the finishing touches on a great conference. Set for October 18-21, in Nashville, TN, the workshop will feature general sessions, break outs, and plenty of time for harmonizing with fellow public relations and communications professionals. Register by October 11 to ensure you're on the registration list. For more information on the conference and reservations at the Doubletree, visit https://m360.nabenet.org/ViewEvent.aspx?ID=28658&instance=0.

Iowa Caucus

Not "that" Iowa Caucus, but just as exciting! Members of the NABE Governmental Relations Section will gather in Des Moines, November 7-9, for the annual State Legislative Workshop. Hosted this year by the Iowa State Bar Association, the workshop will boast national and local speakers with their fingers on the pulse of the nation's legislatures. If you want to know what's happening in the statehouse and how it will affect the courthouse, be there! To register for the workshop, to obtain information about reservations at the Hyatt Place Hotel, and to read about the agenda, visit https://m360.nabenet.org/ViewEvent.aspx?id=28659&instance=0.

Nawlins, NABE-style

Like a good gumbo, the NABE 2012 Midyear Meeting, January 31-February 2, will be a mélange of textures and flavors with a bit of spice thrown in to delight the palate. One part plenary session, six parts breakout sessions, 3 parts sponsor breaks, 2 parts evening receptions. Sprinkle liberally with local bar, state bar and specialty bar executives and stir well. Turn up the heat and in a couple of days, that's a *goooooood meetin', y'all*. Register now to obtain the best hotel selection (the New Orleans Marriott is the headquarters for NABE meetings) and to save $50 on your registration by beating the early bird deadline of December 9. To see the program preview and to link to meeting registration, visit https://m360.nabenet.org/ViewEvent.aspx?id=28662&instance=0, or register directly at http://www.ambar.org/midyear. Be sure to select the NABE/NCBP/NCBF registration online option or printable form.

NOTE: The Information and Technology Workshop announced in September for January 31, 2012, has been cancelled. Watch NABE News and the IT Section listserv for updates from the section.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The NABE Sponsorship Committee has been working overtime to garner sponsors for the 2012 Midyear Meeting. They've even reached out to you for your ideas and referrals. Please keep them coming. Every sponsorship dollar collected helps NABE to provide quality programming at a reasonable cost. The 2010-11 Sponsorship Committee wishes to congratulate Alexa Giacomini, Director of Marketing and Membership at the Illinois State Bar Association, who won a $100 Visa gift card by submitting potential sponsors last year. Submit sponsor recommendations to 2011-12

Sponsorship Committee Chair Brant Bittner, Executive Director of the Orange County (FL) Bar, by April 20, 2012, to be eligible to win this year. Please contact Brant at brantb@ocbanet.org.

MEMBER COMINGS, GOINGS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Starting with this issue, *NABE News* will list individuals who are new to our number and bid farewell to those retiring or moving on to other career areas.

Dianne O'Steen, executive director of the Atlanta Bar Association and past president of NABE, has announced her retirement in June 2012.

It has also been announced that Denny Ramey, executive director of the Ohio State Bar Association, will retire on July 1, 2013.

Doug Lattimer, assistant executive director of the Kansas Bar Association, has left the bar to move to Omaha, in support of a career opportunity afforded his wife.

Kimberly Vann, communications coordinator with the ABA Division for Bar Services, has taken the position of Associate Director of Education and Communications with the Illinois Nurses Association. Those wishing to send regards to Kim are invited to contact her at kvann@illinoisnurses.com.

Since June 1, 2011, the following new members have joined NABE:

Susan Brennan	State Bar of Texas	Marketing & Outreach Manager
Kathleen Bridge	Rhode Island Bar Association	Communications Coordinator
Nancy Brizendine	Virginia State Bar	Publications
Lisha Brosseau	New Hampshire Bar Association	Editorial Assistant
Mary Carr	Fayette County Bar Association, KY	Executive Director
David Chavez	State Bar of New Mexico	Director of Finance
Erin Cleghorn	North Carolina Bar Association	Director of Membership & Marketing
H. Yvonne Coleman	Cook County Bar Association, IL	Executive Director
Victoria Connor	York County Bar Association PA	CEO
Paula Coulter	Columbus Bar Association	Director
Elizabeth Daino	New Orleans Bar Association	Lawyer Referral Service Coordinator
Jenna Dayton	New Haven County Bar	Program Manager
Tracey DeMarea	Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Assn	Director of Membership and Communications
Jessica Emch	Ohio State Bar Association	Committee and Section Manager
Gerard (Gerry) Ford	Minnesota State Bar Association	Marketing Director
Danielle Hall	Kansas Bar Association	Publications Administrator

Shawn Holahan	Louisiana State Bar Association	Practice Management Counsel
Karen Holub	State Bar of Arizona	Art Director
Kathryn Holub	Maine State Bar Association	Communications Director
Mary Horowitz	North Carolina Bar Association	Dir., Public Service & Pro Bono Activities
Mariann Hyland	Oregon State Bar	Director of Diversity and Inclusion
Catherine Malvern	Waterloo Law Association, ON	Library Manager / Executive Director
Laura Marcello	Massachusetts Bar Association	Membership and Marketing Manager
Jeff Markway	The Missouri Bar	MIS Director
Larry Martin	State Bar of Wisconsin	Member Services Department Director
Kylie Moran	South Carolina Bar	Public Relations Coordinator
Maxne Morrow	Baltimore County Bar Association	Administrative Assistant
John Nicoletta	New York State Bar Association	MIS Director
Courtnie Norris	Fairfax County Bar Association	Executive Director
Liz Novak	Monroe Cnty Bar Assn and Fndn, NY	Communications & Membership Manager
Claude Provencher	Law Association of Quebec	Chief Executive Officer
Jack Rives	American Bar Association	Executive Director
Dana Robb	Association for Women Lawyers	Administrator
Rachel Ruocco	Baltimore County Bar Association	LRIS Director
Teresa Schiller	New York State Bar Association	Director, Law Practice Management
Marilyn Shaw	The Virginia Bar Association	Communications Coordinator
Jamie Shiverdecker	Cincinnati Bar Association	Dir., Lawyer Referral Svc./Project Mgr.
Marcia Smith	Columbus Bar Association	Director of Member Services
Julie Strandlie	American Association of Law Libraries	Director, Government Relations
W. Patrick Tandy	Maryland State Bar Assn	Director of Communications
Robbin Watson	Oklahoma Bar Association	IT Manager
Meg Wickham	Kansas Bar Association	Member Services Director

2012-13 PROGRAM COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

NABE President-Elect Yvonne McGhee, Executive Director of the Virginia Bar Association, will shortly make appointments for next year's Program Committee. The Program Committee is principally responsible for planning and producing the Annual and Midyear Meetings and appointments are for three-year terms. The committee meets in September and March each year and travel expenses for these two meetings are reimbursed. The committee also meets at Annual and Midyear meetings. If you are interested in serving on the Program Committee, please contact Yvonne at yvonnemcghee@vba.org. The appointment process for other NABE committees will be announced in spring of 2012.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SURVEY – Executive Directors ONLY

The NABE Compensation and Benefits Survey was distributed to NABE chief staff executives last month. The final date to respond is Friday, October 14. If you have not responded, please contact Haley Swilling at haley.swilling@americanbar.org for the link.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING

A very BIG bank has been quietly sending letters to associations who have the bank's affinity program, informing the bars that the bank is modifying or cancelling their affinity partnerships. That will put an end to those bars' receipt of royalties on their members' card purchases and, what's worse, will eliminate distribution of those funds to legal services entities to which many bars direct their royalties. Seems the BIG bank and others of similar size have reduced these partnerships because they just don't make enough money for the banks and, in an economy where banking is contracting, banks are focusing even harder on the profit generators. Some have suggested contacting local or regional banks to determine if they will enter into affinity programs with local and state bars. If you have had luck with an arrangement with another bank, share your story with *NABE News* readers by sending a message to Dana Collier Smith at dcolliersmith@cobar.org.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Tick tock, tick tock! This is the final extension for NABE members to renew their dues. After October 10, non-renewing members will be removed from the member lists, including all electronic lists of the organization (general membership, sections, forums, CSE, and Small Bars). This really will be your last issue of *NABE News!*

If you have not renewed your membership for the 2011-12 year, please do so now in order to remain on the active member roles. Visit http://www.nabenet.org and click on the *Join or Renew* tab shown at the top of the homepage. With our new website, membership renewal has been automated, resulting in a process that is more efficient and much greener than ever before. For specific instructions, see **HOW TO PAY NABE DUES** in last month's NABE News at http://www.nabenet.org/associations/12434/files/NABE-NEWS-Sept%208%202011.pdf

If you need assistance with your login/password, renewal or activation process, please contact Haley Swilling at haley.swilling@americanbar.org. Also contact Haley if you are not sure about your membership status.

REPORT OF THE NABE DELEGATE TO THE ABA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ABA Delegate Report
William K. Weisenberg, NABE Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates

The ABA House of Delegates convened in Toronto, Canada on August 8-9, 2011 to consider reports and recommendations from ABA committees, sections, state bar associations, and task forces. Among the reports considered, the following are highlighted for you. The entire record of the proceedings can be found at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/leadership/2011_annual_house_mtg_docs.html and click on Daily Journal.

Resolution No. 10B – Approved, as amended, a proposal that law schools, law firms, CLE providers, and others concerned with professional development provide the knowledge, skills and values that are required of the successful modern lawyer. This Resolution recognizes the importance of preparing law students and new lawyers to be "practice ready" in the new era of law practice.

Resolution No. 107 – Approved the Report from the Standing Committee on Judicial Independence urging states to establish clearly articulated procedures for judicial disqualification determinations and prompt review by another judge or tribunal of denials of requests to disqualify a judge. This Resolution was supported by the ABA Judicial Division and several ABA sections and state bar associations. Adoption was urged by the Conferences of Chief Justices as a useful tool for state judiciaries as they consider disqualification practices and procedures.

Resolution No. 108 – Approved this proposal affirming the principle of civility as a foundation for democracy and the rule of law and urges lawyers, ABA member entities and other bar association to take meaningful steps to enhance the constructive role of lawyers in promoting more civil and deliberate public discourse. I think we would all agree that the polarization of our political parties and the tone of public debate are causing a significant erosion of public trust and confidence in our political process and has reached a point where incivility and mean spiritedness is more pervasive. As one who has spent almost all of my professional life (42 years as a lawyer) in and around the legislative and political system, it is most disconcerting to see the impact of this environment on our next generation. Civility and collegiality need to become the norm for the public to see rather than the nastiness and bickering flooding our communication mediums.

Resolution No. 110B – Rejected by a vote of 154-298, this proposal recommended approval of the Uniform Collaboration Law Rules/Act promulgated by the National Commission on Uniform State Laws.

Resolution No. 111B – Approved a revised Resolutions pertaining to reporting of employment data with regard to law school graduates.

Resolution 122 – Postponed indefinitely a proposal from the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants recommending the adoption of ABA Standards for Language Access in Courts. The matter was postponed to provide the Standing Committee and the Conference of Chief Justices additional time to continue work on the proposal.

Resolution No. 302 – Approved this proposal from the Task Force on the Preservation of the Justice System urging state bar associations and others to document the impact of funding cutbacks to the state courts, to publicize the effect of these cutbacks, and to create coalitions to address and respond to the ramifications of funding shortages to their justice system. This task force was created by ABA immediate past-president Steve Zack and is continuing under the leadership of ABA president Bill Robinson. The task force is chaired by David Boies and Ted Olson. Mary McQueen, president of the National Center for State Courts and I serve as co-vice chairs charged with facilitating the implementation of the Task Force recommendations. I am pleased to be reporting on this important matter at the November, 2011 meeting of the NABE Government Relations Section. This is a most important matter as our courts are facing a funding crisis and justice is in effect be rationed. In addition, access to our courts is impacted when employees are furloughed, hours and days of operation curtailed and civil jury trials delayed and/or suspended. We should have a very interesting conversation in Des Moines.

The capsule above of certain items addressed at the House of Delegates is meant only to whet the appetite of NABE colleagues. Looking at the Daily Journal will be helpful. And, please do not forget to contact me directly if you have any questions. You can reach me at wweisenberg@ohiobar.org, (614) 487-4414 or (800) 282-6556. If you are in a crunch for time, my cell is (614)582-7570.

It is my honor and privilege to be your delegate.