

NFPA 2010 ANNUAL CONVENTION

By Carie Tarte, NFPA Primary



From October 6th to the 10th, Louise Reese, Laurie Noyes, RP® and I attended the NFPA Annual Convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. I wanted to send out a quick report about some of the events at the Convention.

Region V

On Friday, October 8, we attended our region meeting with representatives from paralegal associations in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Our Region Director, Cheryl Corning, stepped down to assume a new position on the NFPA Board as Secretary and Director of Operations. We now have a new Region V Director, Beth Bialis, who is a Litigation Paralegal Coordinator for HodgsonRuss in Buffalo, New York.



Beth Bialis, Region V Director

Policy Meeting/Resolutions

The policy meeting was held Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10. At the policy meeting, the following three resolutions were passed:

Resolution 10-1

NFPA shall now permit member associations to designate up to four (4) voting board members to receive e-mail announcements from the Leaders2 listserv. Previously, only the Primary, Secondary and President were receiving e-mail communications from NFPA on this listserv.



Resolution 10-02

An exception was granted to the prior resolution limiting contracts with vendors, allowing NFPA to enter into a 10-year contract with PES in order to continue to develop the PCC (Paralegal CORE Competency) exam.

Resolution 10-4

An Ad Hoc committee was created to explore and research whether or not actions or steps should be taken to attempt to change the Department of Labor's determination that paralegals are non-exempt versus exempt employees. The chair of this committee will be looking for up to four individuals from each region to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please e-mail me at ctarte@sheehyvt.com.

Awards

There was a special awards luncheon on Saturday, October 9th. The Oregon Paralegal Association received many accolades and awards, including Association of the Year.

Other award recipients included:

NFPA Thomson Reuters Scholarship 1st Place \$3,000 winner: Melissa Solomon
NFPA Thomson Reuters Scholarship 2nd Place \$2,000 winner: Jessica Giraldo

Association Pro Bono Award:	Oregon Paralegal Association
Individual Pro Bono Award:	Teresa Scharf, Paralegal Association of Ohio
Outstanding Local Leadership:	Wayne Akin, Oregon Paralegal Association
NFPA Paralegal of the Year:	Michele Davis, CP, Oregon Paralegal Association
PACE Ambassador Award:	Natalie Nelson Sander, RP®, Oregon Paralegal Association
PACE Scholarship:	Sharie Walerstein, Capital District Paralegal Association
William R. Robie Award:	Diane Thompson, CP, RP®

Upcoming Conventions

The next convention will be held near the Mall of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 13-16, 2011. In 2012, the Annual Convention will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, September 27-30. Mark your calendars now for 2013, because the Annual Convention will be held almost in our backyard in Hartford, Connecticut, October 3-6. If you are truly an advance planner, the 2014 Annual Convention is being held in Dallas, Texas.