

NFPA's Strategic Plan

The NFPA board and various delegates from local organizations met in New Orleans on January 30 to use the information collected from NFPA's membership survey to update their strategic plan, which was last revised over five years ago. Paul Meyer of Tecker & Associates provided guidance and assistance. Anita Haworth, Immediate Past President and Board Advisor, Beth King, Strategic Planning Committee Chair, and Georgette Lovelace, President, described the meeting as "very productive."

NFPA's future plans are important. As a national leader in the paralegal field, their actions are likely to impact and shape our profession. Further, since the VPO pays NFPA \$25 per year¹ for each of our voting members, the beliefs of the majority of the VPO membership should align with the national long-term goals.

Many of you may recall the NFPA membership survey that was circulated to you via e-mail several months ago. NFPA reported that they had a response rate from individuals from member associations of about 20 percent. Members reported that in order to advance their careers, they wanted more information on technology and e-discovery as well as more opportunities for education, including online CLE. Members also wanted NFPA to continue to improve communication with members, other associations, and paralegals in states where no NFPA presence exists. Regulation was supported by a large number of respondents.

After computation of the membership survey results and much hard work at the New Orleans strategic planning meeting, the following proposed goals and objectives have been proposed:

Goal Area: Financial Security

Goal Statement: Achieve financial security.

Objectives:

- Increase revenue.
- Develop efficiencies to control expenses.
- Increase financial viability of PACE.

Goal Area: Professional Development

Goal Statement: Achieve individual excellence in the paralegal profession.

Objectives:

- Increase educational opportunities.
- Increase individual responsibility for professional development and education.
- Increase access to technological resources.

¹ A lesser amount is paid to NFPA for non-voting members.

Goal Area: Regulation

Goal Statement: Regulation standards for the paralegal profession are achieved through the advocacy efforts of NFPA.

Objectives:

- Increase regulation efforts through strategic alliances.
- Increase member associations' support of NFPA's position on regulation of the profession.
- Increase participation and awareness of NFPA and its members regarding legislative issues affecting the paralegal profession.

Goal Area: Transparency in Communication

Goal Statement: The organization is more transparent through the free flow of information between NFPA leadership, local association leadership and the membership.

Objectives:

- Increase use of NFPA's website for exchanging information.
- Increase member feedback through interactive discussions.
- Increase use of alternative methods/channels of communication to foster member dialogue.

Goal Area: Membership

Goal Statement: To achieve a larger, more inclusive membership.

Objectives:

- Increase opportunities for interaction between members through effective uses of technology.
- Increase membership in key market areas.
- Improve "the member experience."

Before the strategic plan can be adopted and implemented, it must be approved by the local organizations. As Primary Representative, I will be casting a vote on the VPO's behalf. If you want to support or oppose the proposed goals and objectives of the NFPA Strategic Plan, please email me at hmoreau@pfclaw.com or contact me at (802) 658-2311.