

## 2011 NFPA CONVENTION AGENDA ITEM BALLOT

	Approve	Oppose
<p><b>1</b> <b>Change Nomination Procedure of ABA Approval Commission Representative as set out in 92-M5(B)(2) to be consistent with Section 12.1 of the Bylaws and ABA practice. The current procedures contain outdated portions as stated, thus the need to amend NFPA's policy. (The elected Representative serves a 3 year term)</b></p> <p>This is a timing issue between the appointment of the representative by the ABA Approval Commission in August and NFPA's election at its Annual Convention later in the Fall, which is generally held in October. NFPA has no representative on the ABA Approval Commission from August to October during the election year for our representative. Approval of this Bylaw Resolution would make the nomination process more consistent with the ABA's requirements for representatives on the Commission and insure that NFPA has representation at all times.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Approve</b></p>		
<p><b>2</b> <b>Amend NFPA CLE Recognition Credits. This amendment would allow individuals who participate in the updating of the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam™ ("PACE") and the Paralegal CORE Competency Exam™ ("PCCE") additional CLE credit. (Currently individuals are awarded a total of 4 credit hours under the PACE CLE Guidelines for self study, irregardless of how many hours may have been spent on the project.)</b></p> <p>Anyone who has ever presented a CLE or written CLE programs knows you spend an exorbitant amount of time researching, drafting and revising before you finalize your materials. Some work at a faster pace than others....you might be able to prepare the materials in 2 hours and it might take the person next to you 6 hours. That doesn't mean the 6 hour material is better, nor does it mean that the material is more comprehensive, it just means we all work at our own pace. Participating in the development process of the Certification programs is a casualty of promoting the professionalism and upgrading paralegal education. It is possible that someone could fulfill their entire obligation for CLE by merely participating in the updating of the NFPA Certification exams and study guides and not have any requirement for other CLE. The downside is that not approving this amendment may limit the pool of writers, however it is a large pool.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Oppose</b></p>		
<p><b>3</b> <b>Temporary Reallocation of PACE Exam Profits. This topic authorizes the suspension of further payments to Foundation for the Advancement of the Paralegal Profession ("FAPP") of net profits from the administration of the PACE® exam until such time as the negative PACE® equity shall reach a positive balance. (FAPP was the result of the desire of the member Associations of NFPA to create a repository for the proceeds from PACE to be administered by an independent organization, rather than NFPA. Since PACE was developed to advance the profession the Associations wanted the proceeds to benefit the entire profession, not just 1 organization. NFPA retains the proceeds to the extent that reimbursement of expenses incurred for the development and administration of the exam. FAPP is to retain all proceeds to promote and advance the professional and educational standards of the professionals. To accomplish this mission, the Foundation is to develop programs to promote higher professional standards; increase competency by sponsoring and conducting educational classes and seminars; sponsor publications relating to the profession; and to serve as a resource for public and private sectors interested in the profession. The Board consists of 3 paralegals; a paralegal educator; an attorney; an expert in non-profit corp finances; and a consumer advocate)</b></p> <p>The membership voted to devote additional funds to the development and implementation of the Core Pace Exam in additional to the outstanding financial loss on the original PACE. A temporary suspension of the profit sharing with FAPP would escalate getting the program into the black and improve NFPA's overall financial outlook.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Approve</b></p>		
<p><b>4</b> <b>Duplicate of No 3</b></p>		
<p><b>5</b> <b>Financial Audit. Change the requirement for an audit of NFPA's finances, by one or more auditors, from every two years to every three years, with a financial review of the records all other years.</b></p> <p>NFPA has conducted bi-annual audits pursuant to the Bylaws and bi-annual financial reviews for many years. NFPA's auditors have found no significant issues in NFPA's bookkeeping methods, including the bookkeeping controls in place by NFPA's management company. The auditors for 2011 agreed that doing a full audit could be completed every three (3) years, with full financial review in non-audit years. <b>Recommendation: Approve</b></p>		

6	<p><b>Trademark Use. Change in Policy to require NFPA to follow the International Trademark Association ("INTA") guidelines for consistent use of trademarks and service marks in print materials and on the NFPA® website.</b></p> <p>Change in policy would allow us to be consistent in all publications and notices giving us a more professional appearance. <b>Recommendation: Approve only if</b> all existing printed materials are used and cost of change is incurred on new printed materials only. Should go into effect immediately upon approval on website, Reporter and any other media generated.</p>		
7	<p><b>Return VP and Director of Marketing from Board Member to Coordinator Position. Would propose eliminate the position of Vice-President and Director of Marketing created in 2008, and return that office to a Coordinator position reporting to the Bard Advisor rather than the VP and Director of Membership..</b></p> <p>By restoring the position of Vice President and Director of Marketing to the position of Marketing Coordinator, it reduces the size of the Board of Directors, reduce expenses for travel, eliminates a complete section of the budget, which applies to the goal of Financial Stability; while keeping marketing focused on increasing the visibility of NFPA. <b>Recommendation: Approve</b></p>		
8	<p><b>Submission of Proposed Budget to Delegates. This Resolution would require the NFPA Treasurer to submit the initial draft budget to the delegates five months prior to the annual convention.</b></p> <p>The draft budget that the NFPA Treasurer would submit, in the proposed amount of time would not be accurate or reflect the true budget, is an additional burden on the Treasurer, creates extra work for all those receiving it to review and comment on a document that is neither accurate or useful in any manner and would create a distraction for those who are volunteering their time and efforts. Such time could be better spent doing the real business of their Associations. This is why we have a budget committee with a representative from each Region. Any concerns could be addressed through our representative, Lisha Stone (Greater Lexington P.A.) <b>Recommendation: Oppose</b></p>		
9	<p><b>Require PACE Funds Separate Accounting. This amendment would create a spreadsheet that is separate from the annual NFPA Budget and accounts for all of the funds associated with Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam™ ("PACE") outside of the NFPA Budget and Commentary.</b></p> <p>The person submitting this doesn't believe many of the delegates have the training to understand how to read the financial reports. There is a budget meeting held every year very early on Saturday morning to train delegates and answer any questions. If the delegate doesn't know how to read the report they have the opportunity to learn. This proposal would be over burdensome to both the Treasurer and the Delegates. <b>Recommendation: Oppose</b></p>		
10	<p><b>Require PCCE Funds Separate Accounting. This amendment is very like the prior only would create the same type of spreadsheet associated with Paralegal CORE Competency Exam™ ("PCCE") outside of the NFPA Budget and Commentary.</b></p> <p>Again it is over burdensome to both the Treasurer and the Delegates <b>Recommendation: Oppose</b></p>		
11	<p><b>Budget Monitoring and Modification. Adds provisions to monitor and modify the approved budget under Section 14.10. Requires the NFPA Treasurer to review the NFPA budget on a Quarterly basis and report to the Board of Directors.</b></p> <p>The Managing Director reviews the monthly financial reports (which includes the budget), but the Treasurer reviews it – literally line by line. It is then presented to the entire board with any comments/changes that have to be made. The board discusses it – sometimes in great detail. Then it is posted to the website for all to review. That is not to say that the Treasurer approved 85% of the expenditures before they are made, all travel is pre-approved by the Treasurer, etc. The other 15% contains smaller items that the Managing Director handles and the Treasurer reviews the deposits, and check details (invoices paid) on a weekly basis. This agenda item is redundant in that there are more comprehensive procedures already in place. <b>Recommendation: Oppose</b></p>		

12	<p><b>Allow Local Association Non-Voting Member Privilege. This topic will allow a retired paralegal or a non-voting member of a local association, the right to serve as a Coordinator, or member of an NFPA Standing or Special committee.</b></p> <p>In many local associations, voting members have rights that non-voting members do not. Bylaws of local associations would most likely have to be amended and membership fees possibly reassessed. Membership has its privileges, non-voting members should not be afforded the ability to serve as a Chair of NFPA. <b>Recommendation: Oppose</b></p>		
13	<p><b>Selection of Charity for Annual Convention. NFPA has chosen the National Breast Cancer Foundation as the charity for the past 3 years. This amendment would give the local Convention organizers the first opportunity to chose a charity should they not chose a charity, then NFPA would have the ability to selection one.</b></p> <p>Breast Cancer is something that effects every person's life in one way or another, so support is widespread among the Convention attendees. A local charity selected by the Host Association may not generate as much interest from those traveling in from other states and participation may be less. <b>Recommendation: Oppose</b></p>		

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 Signature of **Voting Member of IPA**

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 Printed Name of Voting Member of IPA

PLEASE RETURN YOUR SIGNED BALLOT TO Edna M. Wallace, RP® at [emw@whzlaw.com](mailto:emw@whzlaw.com) or fax to 317-638-5533 attn: Edna  
 Feel free to add any comments and/or suggestions. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.

You may also mail to: Edna M. Wallace, RP, 151 N. Delaware St., Ste 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Deadline: October 3, 2011