

"Light the Fire Within"



"Light the Fire Within" - the theme of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. This awe-inspiring event took place just a few short months ago. Were you moved by the nightly stories of the ath-

letes? Did you wonder where they developed their intense desire for their sport? Many faced incredible challenges, both physically and mentally, just to arrive at the Games. It was the "Fire" within, that gave them the passion to get there.

Each year, we ask paralegal students to write essays on why they have chosen to be a paralegal. Their ideas are fresh and enthusiastic, and in this issue, you have the chance to read the top four essays from this year's scholarship program. I pose the same question to you - "Why have you chosen the paralegal career?" Is it your commitment, desire, and passion to be a paralegal?

Being a member in NCPA is evidence that you have decided your career is important enough to belong to a professional association that promotes and develops our profession. You know it is important to meet your peers and share ideas. You wish to foster your own personal development by learning what is occurring within your profession, but outside your specific position. You seek to further your education and skill set. You have made a commitment.

On March 14, 2002, NCPA adopted a Mission Statement (printed elsewhere in this issue). The Mission Statement sets forth the Association's primary goals in a clear and concise manner. This is a great tool of knowledge for our members and non-members alike, to easily understand the purpose

of NCPA. It also serves as a road map for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors in fulfilling their duties to you, the members. I would like to extend a special thank you to Chairperson Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS, First Vice President Anita Watts Wing, and Treasurer Brenda J. Mareski, CLA for their commitment to NCPA in drafting this document and presenting it to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. NCPA has the commitment.

Whether you are an experienced paralegal or one that has recently entered the field, you work with the law. It can be exhausting trying to keep up with this ever changing body. Some things remain constant, but you have discovered that change is inevitable. You may have initiated that change by accepting a position in a new area of law, or just by accepting a new paralegal position. You seek to be challenged by your work. You have the desire.

NCPA underwent a change this past spring with the election of new officers and directors. I was re-elected for a second term and appreciate the support you have shown to me. The current officers, directors, and committee chairs were introduced to you earlier, in the spring edition of the AMICUS, and they are listed at the end of this publication. You will notice that some have stayed on in the same position, while others have accepted a new responsibility, and still others have decided to become actively involved in our association for the very first time. NCPA has the desire.

It is with pleasure that I announce Teresa Nichols Smith is our current Senior Editor. Teresa chaired the Annual Seminar Committee and the Job Bank Committee last year. She did an outstanding job, along with Angela S. Elliott, CLA, in organizing the Annual Meeting and Seminar held in New Bern. In addition to this change, I am happy to report that Jamie L. Fuller, Se-

nior Editor last year, continues her desire to stay active to NCPA. Jamie will be working hard behind the scenes (and screens) by accepting the post of Technology Chair. NCPA has the passion.

NCPA officers, directors, and committee chairs, those listed in the back of this issue and those that have served in prior years, have unearthed their commitment, desire and passion towards the paralegal profession. As an officer, and individually as a member, I thank each and every one.

We have all faced mental challenges as a paralegal, and while this career may not be as physical as an athletic event, you have most likely faced the inevitable dilemma of needing to be in two places at the same time and juggling two or more tasks simultaneously. You have the commitment. You have the desire. You have the passion. Now,

"Light the Fire Within YOU!"

On November 10, 2001 the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, by unanimous vote, moved to donate the net profits from the 2001 Mid-Year Seminar to the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund. NCPA is proud to report that a donation of \$1,598.16 was made to the fund which will provide educational assistance for the children and spouses of those killed or permanently disabled as a result of September 11th. NCPA wishes to thank all the volunteers, those in attendance, the exhibitors, and the sponsors of the Mid-Year Seminar for the seminar's success.