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ParalegalPERSPECTIVES

PAR outlines 2009-2010 term goals

The newly-appointed board of directors of the Paralegal Association of Rochester is hard at work setting goals and planning exciting events for the 2009-2010 term.

PAR's new Web site was designed and installed last year by D4 LLC. Since its inception, board members have been very diligent in keeping it up to date. The site includes a gallery of photos from recent luncheon seminars and the annual meeting in May, as well as a list of upcoming events.

The site is a great tool as we work to accomplish our goal of increasing membership and corporate sponsorships this year. Potential members can find the criteria for becoming voting, student or affiliate members and fill out the membership application online at <http://rochesterparalegal.org>.

The site also includes a corporate sponsorship section, which explains the benefits of sponsoring PAR at the gold, silver or bronze level.

We're hoping the Web site and awareness of our seminars, luncheons and events will get more paralegals excited about PAR and increase membership.

We already have one exciting seminar planned for this year, and are working on a November CLE. With the help of PAR Secretary Melanie Lavacca, a paralegal at Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, we have scheduled the Hon. John C. Ninfo II for an Oct. 9 luncheon seminar. Judge Ninfo will discuss credit card debt and checkbook management. Given the current economic situation, it should be a very informative seminar.

We also are working with Thomson Reuters on a CLE luncheon in November. Possible topics include new technology tools for paralegals and/or a new document assembly product just launched in New York. We always welcome additional suggestions for CLE topics.

Our holiday luncheon once again will take place this December. Board members are in the process of choosing the location as well as the charity to benefit from this year's donations. Additional luncheon seminars are planned for 2010, with suggestions for topics



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ranging from environmental law, immigration law and the use of investigators.

A major event in the works for 2010 is a casino night. We are working with the events manager at a location in Webster along with a "dealer" to pin down an exact date. The event will assist VLSP and PAR and will be open to the legal community — paralegals, attorneys —and our vendors. It also will be open to family members aged 21 or older. It is gambling, after all, even if it is with play money!

Another new goal brought up at the summer board meeting was for members to become more involved in the VLSP Paralegal *Pro Bono* opportunities. Melanie proposed that at least one board member attend a *pro bono* clinic once a month. So far, I assisted at the Wills Clinic at AIDS Rochester on July 22, and Melanie assisted at the Family Law Clinic at the VLSP offices Aug. 19. Attending a *pro bono* clinic and being able to assist someone in need of legal services is a very rewarding experience.

Finally, the board is working very hard to make this year's Kick-Off Dinner and Fifth Annual Chinese Auction a great success. It's a wonderful event for socializing and networking with other Rochester area paralegals. Aside from that, it's just plain fun!

Auction items this year include a \$100 Wegmans gift certificate from Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, a necklace and ring set from Jemabat Jewelry, two complimentary tickets to Garth Fagan Dance, a \$100 gift certificate to Del Monte Spa from Web Title, a gift basket with a gift certificate to Virtu from Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP, gift certificates for Tops, Cheesecake Factory, 5 Guys Pizza, the Frog Pond and more. With a delicious buffet and a fantastic assortment of donated items, you won't want to miss this event!

The 2009-2010 PAR Board of Directors has set a number of goals for the term and everyone is working diligently to ensure those goals are met. What are you waiting for? Come join us!

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