

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REAFFIRMS VALUE OF MID-YEAR MEETING

The New Jersey State Bar Association Board of Trustees, acting on a report submitted by the Meeting Arrangements and Program Committee (MAP Committee), reaffirmed its support for continuing the NJSBA Mid-Year Meeting. The matter was referred to the MAP Committee after the NJSBA General Council passed a Resolution in October 2013 calling on the Board to report on the cost of recent Mid-Year Meetings, membership attendance at the meetings, alternate locations for future meetings and also that the Board poll the membership regarding meeting locations.

The MAP Committee submitted a number of findings that were endorsed by the Board of Trustees, including:

1. Recent Mid-Year Meetings have been very successful and have generated significant profit.
2. Dues revenue has not been used to pay for the annual event, instead registration fees and sponsorships have covered the cost of the meetings.
3. For the period 2003 to 2013 average net profit for Mid-Year Meetings has been \$12,477, and total cumulative net profit was \$137,252. Notably, this period included two years, 2008 and 2009 when attendance suffered due to the economic crisis, and 2010 when some members boycotted the Scottsdale event due to the passage by the Arizona legislature of punitive immigration legislation.
4. During the 2003-2013 period average total cost for NJSBA officers was \$14,604, and for staff \$12,259.
5. In 2012 the NJSBA surveyed over 15,000 members regarding an alternative fall or spring "seasonal retreat", within driving distance of New Jersey. Only 4% of members responded. The concept was offered to sections and the Young Lawyers Division and never gained support.
6. The Mid-Year Meeting has evolved into a self-sustaining event that offers valuable benefits, including CLE programming, the development of networking and business relationships, and social events.
7. Mid-Year Meeting destinations should include any location that will be of interest to members, keeping in mind ease, cost and length of travel, as well as the availability of cultural, educational and other activities.