

2011 Chapter President & Member Workshop



San Diego Chapter President Connie LeFevre and Past President Mike McVeigh share lessons learned on keeping chapters strong after the 2011 Chapter Workshop in Phoenix, Arizona. Photos by Jeff Campbell.



Nearly 40 Members, representing 2/3 of NDTA's Chapters, were on hand for the annual Chapter Workshop, exchanging ideas and best practices to help keep NDTA Strong at the local level.

Following are notes from topics covered at the 2011 NDTA Chapter & Member Workshop held during the Forum, by NDTA Chair, Chapter Support & Membership Development, Lt Col Donna Johnson, USAF (Ret.), with status updates from HQ in parenthesis.

NDTA HQs Update – NDTA VP, Membership, Mark Victorson, gave an overall NDTA update on behalf of NDTA President LTG Ken Wykle, USA (Ret.), including possible date changes for the annual recruiting drive, and requested input on the two-fer concept. Many members thought the two-fer program was a good idea (It's back!).

Awards Program – Southeastern Region President Dale Cozart went over the awards program rewrite. Member suggestions included font & size standardization, input limits depending on award, and an identified acronym list (Rewrite will be ready in time for 2012 awards).

Tax Exempt Status – Mark reviewed an information paper recently reviewed by a tax attorney. It's up to each individual chapter to determine if it's in the best interest of chapters to become tax exempt. Members shared that for smaller chapters it sometimes isn't necessary, but for larger chapters and those hosting golf tournaments, it's vital so contributors can write off their sponsorship (The paper is now available online in the Chapter Toolkit.).

Virtual Chapter – NDTA Executive Assistant Sharon Lo passed out an information paper on the idea of a Virtual NDTA Chapter to grow NDTA's online presence and give more opportunities to At-Large Members who aren't near an active NDTA Chapter (AMU students are brainstorming and have submitted several ideas, send your feedback to Sharon by the end of November).

Education & Training – Washington, D.C. Chapter Board Member Irvin Varkonyi briefed the group on education ideas and training suggestions, including student chapters, scholarship ideas, and tying education credit and training into Forum offerings (A-35ers are breathing new life into student chapters at the University of Maryland, and the California and Maine Maritime Academies. We will continue to look into certification programs for a Forum Training Day).

Chapter Presidents' Alaska Forum promotion ideas

- Travel cost analysis (stop high-cost perception)
- Visit Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to tie in work environment
- Combine other canceled conferences/training into Forum to draw people and organizations
- Outdoor tours i.e. chartered fishing

Chapter Presidents would like to see

- More A-35 involvement / offerings
- Enhanced communications to see what speakers & activities other chapters are having
- Expanded speakers bureau, with tips on attracting speakers to chapter meeting and increasing member participation when they come