

SR-SIS Annual Report for 2013-2014

Thanks to the efforts of our members, the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section had another productive year. In August 2013, the SR-SIS lobbied AALL Executive Board to formally support the passage of San Antonio's Non-Discrimination Ordinance, which proposed new protections for LGBT residents and visitors. AALL swiftly responded by issuing the letter available at: <http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/Formal-Statements/2013/lt090413.pdf>. On September 5, 2014, the San Antonio voted to enact the nondiscrimination ordinance.

Later that fall, the SR-SIS submitted two agenda items to the AALL Executive Board Meeting. These items called for AALL to amend its the Annual Site Selection Policy to be consistent with its bylaws antidiscrimination provision. This change was adopted and immediately instituted. The second agenda item called on AALL to amend the antidiscrimination provision of its bylaws to make gender identity a protected category. The executive board approved this item and put the proposed amendment up voter approval. 93% of AALL members voted in favor of the amendment.

As in years past, we sponsored a book drive during the AALL Annual Meeting held this year in San Antonio. Working with the Transitions Program of the San Antonio Independent School District, the SR-SIS was able to successfully raise approximately \$1000 and donated 378 books. The Transitions Program, among other services, provides books to homeless students, students in foster care, and at-risk youth.

The SR-SIS sponsored a very engaging panel discussion on San Antonio's journey to update its nondiscrimination ordinance. This program was entitled "Success in the City Council: Thoughts on a Successful Bid for Equality". This panel discussion was moderated by Jane Larrington, the SR-SIS Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues Vice-Chair, and included speakers from the office of the mayor, Equality Texas and the City of San Antonio. A big "thank you" to Charles Pippins, the 2014/2015 SR-SIS Chair, who tirelessly coordinated and organized this event!

This year we again sponsored a Solar Heating Project with Tree, Water & People. This project helps Native American families heat their homes in South Dakota where heating costs often comprise more than 50% of their income. Each \$10 contribution towards this campaign offsets 1 ton of climate-changing CO2 or the equivalent of the average trip for one person to travel to and from the annual meeting. The final deadline to donate for this project was in August 2014, so the SR-SIS is still waiting on the final donation numbers from Trees, Water & People.

The reception for the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues was again a success this year. This event serves both as a fun networking event for our members and also an important fundraiser for the Alan Holoch Memorial Grant. This grant, started in 1991, is designed to assist individuals with travel or registration expenses for the annual meeting. This year the grants recipients were Sara Pic and Kathleen Klepfer. The reception this year raised around \$600 for this fund.

In the early summer of 2014, the SR-SIS created a Standing Committee on Disability Issues to provide an avenue for members to increase awareness and discussion of the various disability issues that arise in law libraries. This new group hit the ground running and offered a poster entitled “10 Tips for Serving Patrons with Mental Illness” and Disability Issues Roundtable at the 2014 Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

At the end of 2013/14 year, the SR-SIS also created a task force on environment sustainability. This year this task force would like to survey AALL membership on their interest in greening future annual meetings and draft a resolution on environmental sustainability for possible adoption by AALL.