

STATE, COURT & COUNTY



LAW LIBRARIES

Volume 17, Number 1

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The SCCLL meeting was a huge success with over 120 members in attendance. Although we missed David Badertscher and Ruth Fraley, Judge Joseph Weis's presentation was well-received and breakout sessions, which replaced Ruth's speech, were a hit with those who attended. Judge Weis's speech was not available in print format, however, it is available in cassette format from the Mobiltape Co. [advertisement listed on pp. 17-18 of the August 1990 issue of the AALL Newsletter]. Summaries of the breakout sessions can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I expect to have four issues published this year under the co-editorship of Kathy Coon, Maria Sekula and Regina Smith. Publication will take place in December, March, June and September.

Some people are not sure if they are currently members of the Section. The Section officers receive a mailing list of current members from AALL headquarters. Having reviewed the list, and the listing in the 1990 AALL Membership Directory, it is apparent that not everyone has paid his or her Section dues. Please contact AALL to pay your SCCLL SIS Section dues.

Committee Chair assignments have been made for the 1990-91 year. The list is included in this issue of the Newsletter. Anyone who is interested in serving on a Committee, please contact the Committee Chair. I would especially like newer members of the Section to participate in these Committees. We need some "new faces" to assist us "old-timers" in contributing to the activities of the Section! Don't be bashful, volunteer.

We have submitted two programs to AALL for sponsorship next year. Ruth Funabiki and Judy Meadows have submitted "Who's Guarding the Nest" with speaker Clifford Stoll, author of the Cuckoo's Egg, on the vulnerability of national computer networks, and what law librarians can do to protect on-line information. Edgar Bellefontaine and Regina Smith have submitted "Funding Opportunities for Law Libraries" dealing with fund raising campaigns and fee-based services that have been successful in their libraries. Judy Meadows is still organizing our own meeting topics.

There was a problem with the typesetting of the brochures to be printed by AALL for our SCCLL. They should be completed shortly and available within the next month.

Marcia Koslov has agreed to be Chair of our Long Range Planning committee. We need to assess our goals and objectives against AALL's in order to determine our priorities. Please contact Marcia or any of the officers of

this section with your thoughts on this matter.

Pam Gregory has submitted a proposal for an AALL Funded Project to computerize our membership survey through the University of Maryland. The funding which is in the form of a loan from AALL, will be repaid by the sale of the report to individual members. We are hoping for the approval by the AALL Executive Board to this request. If approved, this project would start in January 1991, and the results would be available in New Orleans at the Annual Meeting.

I am working with SilverPlatter to obtain a group discount rate for its CD-ROM products. If you have any interest in obtaining these products, please let me know, in order to see if a discount program can be arranged.

Hope we have a great year!

JOEL FISHMAN,
Allegheny County Law Library

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

The substance of this newsletter will only be as good as what you send us. The purpose of this publication is to keep our members informed of section activities and, most importantly, to share information and ideas about our libraries with each other. This is the ideal forum to get to know each other better. Following are just a few examples of the types of information we hope you will send us to share with your SCCLL colleagues:

- New fee based services offered
- Fund raising ideas and experiences (successes and failures)
- Friends of the library activities
- Software application reviews "tips"
- Space planning techniques used in your library
- Tips for dealing with the public and problem patrons
- Automatory library equipment recommendations
- Use of CD-ROM in your library

The "new look" of our newsletter is the result of desktop publishing courtesy of Maria Sekula. The newsletter will be published four times this year. Please send all submissions in a typed paper scannable format or on a floppy disc that is compatible with WordPerfect, WordStar, or in an ASCII format to Regina Smith, Jenkins Memorial Law Library, Suite 1220, 841 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. The deadline for the next newsletter is January 2, 1991.

We look forward to receiving your articles.

STATE COURT COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES OFFICERS, 1991

CHAIR *Joel Fishman,*
Allegheny County Law Library

VICE-CHAIR, CHAIR ELECT
Judy Meadows,
Montana State Law Library

SECRETARY, TREASURER
Frank Herch,
Clark County Law Library

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
Charles Dyer,
San Diego Law Library
Brenda Woodruff,
Toledo Law Association Law Library
Ann Fessenden,
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals,
88th Circuit Library

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
David Badertscher,
NY State Supreme Court Library

1990-91 SCCLL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Newsletter Co-editors:
Kathy Coon, Jenkins Memorial Law Library
Maria Sekula, Social Law Library
Regina Smith, Jenkins Memorial Law Library

Committee on Alternative Sources of Funding:
Edgar J. Bellellontaine, Esq., Social Law Library

Committee on Nominations:
Carol Meyer, Cincinnati Law Library Association

Committee on Statistics:
Pamela Gregory, Circuit Court Library for Prince George's County, MD

Committee on Standards:
Sandy Marz, Washoe County Law Library

Committee on Strategic Planning:
Marcia Koslov, Wisconsin State Law Library

NOMINATIONS FOR 1991-92 SCCLL OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is working on the slate of candidates for 1991-92. If you want to submit your name or the name of another member for possible office, you can send it to Carol Meyer, Cincinnati Law Library, 601 Courthouse, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

COMMITTEE ON COMPUTER ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY

The Committee is preparing a short survey on library automation systems and CD-ROM products and vendors used among the membership.

COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

The Committee is currently reviewing the past questionnaire to prepare for a 1991 survey. If anyone has any suggestions concerning the makeup of the questionnaire, please contact Pamela Gregory, Chair, Circuit Court Library for Prince George's County, Court House Box 580, 14735 Main St. Rm. 118, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

AALL ANNUAL SCCLL MEETING ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

MICROFORM USE IN SCCLL LIBRARIES

Frederic S. Barnm

Association of the Bar of the City of New York
Law Library

Only three brave members chose to participate in a discussion of microform use in SCCLL libraries. We reviewed our libraries' commitments to this thoroughly tested medium and agreed that microform storage will likely survive and continue to compare with the newer technologies. In both collection development and hardware, the microform industry has satisfied the reasonable expectations of librarians and remains a proven means of space saving, cost effective storage for long runs of serial material.

The key to increased patron acceptance of microform is affordable, high quality reader printers. Companies like Minolta and 3M continue to offer a variety of competitive machines. Each year brings new advances that erode the natural tendency to shy away from using microform. We concluded that microform will continue to serve a useful storage purpose despite remarkable advances in optical technology.

If standards are meaningful in selecting a storage medium we must recognize that archival film (Silver Haloid) has been tested and proven durable for generations. Experience can not yet guarantee the integrity of information stored for long periods of time in magnetic form.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carol D. Billings
Law Library of Louisiana

The lively discussion of public relations techniques in the law library focussed on ways to publicize the library's services, on making the library the place to learn legal research skills and on fundraising efforts.

To keep our primary users aware of the value of the law library, sending out regular acquisitions lists and newsletters to judges and law members was recommended. Annual reports and budget request documents are also excellent vehicles for tooting the library's horn and boasting about staff accomplishments. Making sure that our supervising judges or board know of any favorable publicity which the library receives is essential.

Perhaps the most talked-about topic considered by the group was the importance of promoting the library through education in legal research. All group members have experienced substantial increases in usage by paralegal students and paralegals. A "don't fight 'em, but join 'em" approach was suggested whereby tours, orientation sessions and offers of meeting space would be provided for these groups. Legal Research courses taught by librarians for bar members were enthusiastically recommended. Arrangements with state bars to offer such courses for continuing legal education credit are an excellent possibility. Various libraries have invited publishers representatives to participate in "question and answer" sessions and have made up packets of "how-to-use" materials for patrons. Research workshops for public librarians have also been used successfully by some law libraries.

Outreach efforts to many different groups are very effective ways to promote the law library. Law firm associates, paralegal associations, legal secretaries, county and public librarians, high school teachers, and prisoners are all logical recipients of informational sessions and packets. One member of our discussion group reported on her fascinating experience spending a day in a prison to inform the prisoners of her library's services and policies.

In order to have the advantage of discretionary income, group members have tried various fundraising strategies. Encouraging attorneys to donate unneeded sets of books, which can be sold, can yield generous profits for buying new books. Some libraries had successfully started "adopt-a-subscription" programs. "Fiends of the library" organizations can serve a dual purpose of raising funds via dues and special activities along with focusing attention on the library's services and needs.

REFERENCE SERVICES

Carol Meyer
Cincinnati Law Library Association

Joel Fishman called to ask me to help with a Roundtable Discussion during our SCCLL Annual Meeting. I told him I would help - but make it easy. During the morning meeting we broke into groups and our group had about 20 various court librarians. Most of them were first timers to SCCLL and we discussed our patrons and how hard it is to know exactly what they come to the library for. We talked about the "Columbus Method: Find it and Land on it." We suggested asking lots of questions and trying to find the answer they are seeking. I asked what questions and what materials were shared in one's community. A visit to other law libraries in your area can help. Also invite other law librarians to your own library so they can meet staff and see your collection. Encourage new "summer" or "fall" associates to have special tours of your collection.

We talked about problem patrons. We also talked about Professional Literature. Must reading is: the AALL Newsletter, Legal Reference Services Quarterly, American Bar Association Journal, Record of the New York Bar, Regional Newsletters and also Boardroom Reports. It's hard to keep up with all of the literature. But, meeting with others during the year and sharing ideas and reference questions can help. It is also important to look at the new titles coming in to your library.

All of this sharing made for an interesting roundtable, and our group felt that this type of format would be beneficial at future meetings.

