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STATE, COURT & COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES



Volume 18, Number 3 Spring, 1992

A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

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Chair's Message

You soon will be receiving your registration packets for the AALL annual meeting in San Francisco in July. I want to take advantage of having you as a captive audience to encourage you to plan to go. I know that this is an especially difficult financial year for you, as very few public entities have not been the target of budget cuts. To help you justify—if you must—the expense of the convention, you should know that the State, Court and County program will last the better part of Sunday, July 19th. We will have our standard morning schedule of a short breakfast business meeting followed by a fantastic program being developed by your Vice-Chair, Pam Gregory and the Education Committee (Jean Holcomb, Chair). We then will adjourn the full SCCLL Section, which will enable you to take your buffet lunch to break out rooms. Four roundtables for state, county, membership/subscription, and federal law librarians are being attempted this year. This will give you an added couple of hours to meet with colleagues from around the country who share the unique concerns and problems of the kinds of libraries you run. Your board of Directors hopes that this schedule will provide you with an enhanced opportunity to network. (Payment for both the breakfast and the buffet lunches will be addressed on the AALL registration form; usually you don't need to pay for dinner that day because of the heavy appetizers available at the opening reception.)

There will be more programs than normal this year during the rest of the convention which have been designed with our members in mind. You should have no trouble convincing your authority person that you will be a better law librarian after attending the 1992 Annual Meeting. Remember that there are travel grants available to assist you with your budgeting. AALL, the Chapters, and your own state library association all have funds which can be tapped for attending continuing education forums.

I have been reading the minutes of last fall's meeting of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. It was described by Wayne Kelley, Superintendent of Documents, as a "group grope" in defining both short and long term visions

for electronic dissemination of Federal information through the Depository Library Program. The Council (SCCLL member Kay Schlueter of the Texas State Law Library is a member) spent two days in October discussing options and priorities for G.P.O. as it moves into the era of electronic delivery of information. It has occurred to me that our SIS should be more involved in offering solutions to the questions raised by the Depository Council. Our libraries are the ones that the public expects to have government information. Our smaller county law libraries will be more able to provide access to the wealth of federal legal information *when space and cost are no longer issues*. I wonder if I am crazy to even make the suggestion that such a Utopia will ever become an actuality! I believe the Depository Council, specifically Kay, would benefit from hearing of your concerns.

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Message from the Editors

The State, Court, County Law Libraries have had an active year. This issue is full of committee reports that will keep you up to date on what is happening in your SIS.

The next issue of the newsletter will be the last prior to our San Francisco meeting. It is **very important** that articles and news items reach us by **May 1st**. Proposed By-law changes must be in your hands by June 1st. That means that we must have the newsletter to Hein as early in May as possible. We plan to stick to this deadline and will be unable to be as flexible as we were for this issue.

If your article is more than a few paragraphs, it helps us tremendously if you send your article to us on disk. Either size is fine and we are able to translate from most word processing programs. Call us if you have questions.

We encourage our members to volunteer for the Newsletter Committee for next year. We have enjoyed editing your newsletter, and more importantly have enjoyed having had the opportunity to work with our committee members and contributors.

*Regina Smith
& Kathy Coon*

(Chair's Message continued)

Please take time to study the SCCLL Committee descriptions which are in this issue, and volunteer for a couple—maybe you will get your first choice. The accomplishments and progress of our Section each year are directly related to how pro-active the Committees are. You can help determine who your elected leadership will be (in both the Section and AALL), what programs our Section will present for the annual meeting, what standards the various types of libraries should have, and other meaningful activities and responses. Actively working with a Committee enables you to get to know Section members whom you may not be familiar with.

The same encouragement also goes to volunteering for AALL Committee work. I have frequently heard how difficult it is for AALL Presidents-elect to balance their Committee appointments. It is surprising how few people actually volunteer. You will find that this is the best way of finding out how your organization functions, and again to influence the direction of your professional association.

Ballots will be sent out soon for elections to SCCLL office. I commend the Nominations Committee for presenting such a full and well qualified slate this year. And I thank the candidates for agreeing to become more involved in their SIS!

*Judy Meadows,
State Law Library of Montana*

State Court and County Law Libraries 1991/92 Officers

CHAIR

*Judy Meadows,
State Law Library of Montana*

VICE-CHAIR, CHAIR ELECT

*Pamela Gregory,
Circuit Court Library
for Prince George's County*

SECRETARY, TREASURER

*Frank Herch, (1989-1992)
Clark County Law Library*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

*Charles Dyer, (1990-1993)
San Diego Law Library*

*Brenda Woodruff-Kelley, (1989-1992)
Toledo Law Association Law Library*

*Regina Smith, (1991-1994)
Jenkins Memorial Law Library*

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

*Joel Fishman
Allegheny County Law Library*

Education Committee

By Jean Holcomb, Norfolk Law Library

Have you called or written Karen Bradley, Clayne Calhoun, Kathy Carlson, Sue Dyer, Betsy Knauff, Tim Lewis or me to share with us your idea for a program at the 1993 Boston meeting? We plan to begin polishing our draft proposals by early May. We need to hear your suggestions soon!

Pam Gregory shares information about the Sunday, July 19 SIS meeting panel elsewhere in this issue. The final component of the SIS meeting will feature break out discussion groups similar to those held at the end of the Minneapolis meeting. Let us know what topics you wish to discuss. Don't be shy volunteering to lead a group either!

SCCLL NOMINATIONS, 1992-93
Candidates for Vice Chair/Chair Elect

J. TERRY HEMMING, *Circuit Librarian*
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Education:

BA, MLS, Brigham Young University

Former Positions:

Circulation Librarian, Brigham Young University Law Library, 1978-1982; Acquisitions Librarian, Brigham Young University Law Library, 1973-1978; Cataloger, Brigham Young University Law Library, 1972-1973.

Activities:

American Association of Law Libraries--Committee on Relations with Publishers and Dealers, 1977-79; Education Committee, 1980-81; SCCLL, 1982-present; SCCLL-Secretary-Treasurer, 1984-85; Chair, Statistics Committee, 1985-86; Executive Board, 1986-89; Chair, Bylaws Committee, 1989-90; CoALL, 1982-present; CoALL-Secretary, 1985-86.

Statement

The American Association of Law Libraries is made up of principally three types of law librarians: academic, private and government. Our purpose in the association is to represent our states, courts or counties. I feel that our SIS needs to strengthen itself along those three lines to better support the activities of the libraries. Better communication within the SIS is needed to identify common problems and develop solutions for those problems. Funding is paramount for most libraries. The SIS needs a stronger representation in the Association. The Chair should be coordinating that representation. Continuing education is vital for the sustained growth and development of the librarians in our SIS.

I would be pleased to work as your Vice Chair/Chair Elect in furthering the goals and needs of our special interest section. I am honored by the nomination.

* * *

ANITA K. SHEW, *Director*
Butler County Law Library Association

Education:

MSLS Case Western University, 1967; BA College of Wooster, 1966.

Former Positions:

Assistant Law Librarian, University of Akron Law School Library.

Activities:

OHIONET: Board of Trustees member, secretary 1990-93; American Association of Law Libraries, Chairman, Nominating Committee, 1985; Chairman, Legal Information to the Public Committee, 1983-84; State, Court, County Law Libraries Section, Executive Board Member, 1985-88; SCCLL Newsletter Editor, 1980-82; SCCLL Program Chairman, 1985. Member: Reader Services SIS, Technical Services SIS. Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries: ORALL President, 1985-86; Distinguished Law Librarian Award, 1983; Chairman-Nominating, Legislation, Public Services Committees; Secretary, 1968; ORALL Newsletter Editor, 1990-present. Board of Advisors member, Legal Reference Services Quarterly. Speaker: AALL, ORALL, Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio Library Association.

Publications:

"SCCLL helps law librarians combat hard times." Washington Legal Times, 1982. Editor, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography and Guide, 1982. 1981 Ohio Survey of Ohio Legal Resources Report, Book Reviewer for Legal Information Alert.

Statement

My overall goal for SCCLL is to make our SIS the first source for state, court and county librarians to get answers to questions and concerns that face our unique types of libraries. Directed goals include the following:

- 1) An expanded SCCLL Newsletter will feature articles that help problem-solve funding, personnel, collection, governance, and technology questions.
- 2) In-depth conference programs and regional workshops will cover issues that are not part of the AALL or chapter agenda.
- 3) Special projects like the Trustees Manual already in progress, regular comparative salary data, and annotated appellate, supreme court and county standards will focus on being responsive to service and operation needs of our members.
- 4) SCCLL can serve as a clearinghouse for sharing acquisition policies, job descriptions, patron policies, and others.
- 5) SCCLL will be an effective voice in conveying input to vendors/publishers and strengthening liaisons with professional constituent groups.

With over 15 different types of libraries in SCCLL and sizes ranging from the smallest to the country's largest, the challenge of responding to needs of our 508 members in this complex information age will take the effort of all SCCLL members working with the leadership to fulfill these goals as identified at our strategic planning meeting in New Orleans.

