

STATE, COURT & COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES



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A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

Chair's Message

1993/94 - The Year to Belong & Renew

The Value of Belonging

The phone rings. A law librarian is asking for a copy of the SCCLL County Law Library Standards. I send it out with a cheerful note. A colleague calls to find out if we have a particular CD-ROM and what equipment I have. I call a colleague to ask if his library has a particular book and is it good? Another colleague calls to get a warm fuzzy because she is having a stressful day and needs a sympathetic ear. A librarian from another state calls and asks about an Ohio book to purchase. What do all these situations have in common? The connections have all been made as a result of professional associations - longstanding friendships and connections made at conferences, especially SCCLL. This year encourage a non-member to join SCCLL.

Oxygen & Renewal

When I worked at the University of Akron in the late 60's, I felt a general unrest after a while because I felt I could not keep up with the flow of information and the pace of change. After reading Toffler's *Future Shock* and realizing we were coming into the Information Age, I could put my feelings into perspective. Lately, I have been feeling the same sense of being overwhelmed by the amount of information, pace of change and lack of time to absorb it all. But I wondered why I was still saying yes to doing book reviews, preparing programs, serving on committees, etc.

After hearing Sarah Weddington's keynote speech at this

summer's AALL meeting in Boston, I knew why. It is the same thing that keeps my 85-year old father writing articles for encyclopedias and magazines, giving talks and teaching Sunday School. "OXYGEN". Pretty basic. Professional and civic opportunities renew us and we gain from the recognition and sense of accomplishment.

Just like "showing up". "Showing up" means you have taken the time to attend a local, regional, or national conference. "Showing up" means you have volunteered to serve on an SCCLL Committee. "Showing up" means you are reading professional newsletters and making use of information in them to help your library. All these and other activities provide the intellectual and emotional oxygen to keep you going.

Renew yourself this year. Become involved in SCCLL and AALL or local library activities. Visit another library in your city, call a colleague, write an article, take a "field trip" to a library outside your area, send a colleague a cartoon you like, call your SCCLL chair to share your day!

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Chair's Message continued:

SCCLL On the Move

SCCLL is off and running. Committee assignments have been made and the Committee Chairs are energetically pursuing their charges. I want to thank all the SCCLL members who volunteered for committees and extend the invitation to any others who would like to sign on. There is always a spot for someone with good ideas and a willing heart.

SCCLL Chair,
Anita K. Shew

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Two themes reverberate through this first issue of the new year:

1. like bookends, Anita Shew on the first page and Anne Matthewman on the penultimate emphasize the value of belonging; and
2. what terrific people we are - from award winners Edgar and Ken to multi-achiever Marcia to the speakers, participant, board and committee members who made the Boston meeting so memorable and helped realize Pam's goal of making SCCLL more visible.

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State, Court and County Law Libraries

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Supreme Court Library, Troy, N.Y.

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BOSTON SCCLL PROGRAM

Members met at the Social Law Library in Boston for their annual Section meeting and were distracted from the heat by gracious hosts Edgar Bellefontaine and Maria Sekula and their historic library. The general program began with James McMillan, Director, Court Technology Laboratory, National Center for State Courts giving an overview of the technology required for networking in the courts. SCCLL member Kathy Welker gave a nuts and bolts lesson on her start-up experience of CD-ROM networking in the federal courts. A summary of her presentation is in this newsletter.

After the general program, 16 roundtable discussions were held. Topics were:

Roundtables:

TOPIC

1. Evaluation of CD-ROM legal materials
2. Americans with Disabilities Act
3. Using statistics to reach your Board, Administration, Judges
4. On-line catalogs (OPAC)
5. Collection choices in tough money times
6. Fee-based services
7. Marketing to target groups
8. Recording & controlling library costs
9. CD-ROM user & staff training
10. Making SCCLL standards work in your library
11. Operating a one professional library
12. The politics of chambers' libraries
13. Electronic bulletin boards for SCCLL libraries
14. Cataloging/technical services of non-print materials
15. Trustee/Board Management
16. Budgeting for access, not ownership

The program and roundtables were planned by Vice-Chair Anita Shew and the Education Committee. Boston meeting attendees received a registration packet including all 16 roundtable 1-page outlines and bibliographies. A few

copies of these are left and are available from Maria Sekula at the Social Law Library. Program reviews from some of the roundtables are in this newsletter.

SCCLL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The SCCLL Executive Board comprising incoming and outgoing members met Sunday July 11 in Boston after the general SCCLL meeting and program. The following items were discussed.

- 1992/93 Chair Pam Gregory summarized her year's goal to increase visibility of SCCLL member libraries within the judicial community and within AALL. SCCLL members attended and participated in ABA/JAD meetings, National Conference on State Law Libraries, National Conference of Chief Justices and Court Administrators.
- Charles Dyer was recognized for his work on the Trustees Manual which will be published in the Fall.
- The high cost of the Newsletter and choice of printer was a major topic; possibilities included a generous offer from Hein Co. The Board was awaiting a quote from AALL headquarters before making a decision.
- The Board approved accepting advertising for the Newsletter. The Editors are drafting an advertising and editorial policy.
- Concern was expressed about the Newsletter publication schedule and the Board is looking at modification of the current times.
- The budget was a great concern. Because of the high cost of producing the Newsletter last year, the balance is very low. Projections for next year with lower Newsletter cost were promising.
- Two-year committee appointments were discussed. The Board voted to make only Standards and Statistics 2-year. Other committees may have members who wish to be reappointed to a second year to continue their interest or finish a project.
- 1993/94 Chair Anita Shew announced that she is preparing Section Procedure Manual.

