FROM THE CHAIR

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” My older daughter’s recent obsession with Leonardo DiCaprio and all things “Titanic” was the catalyst for a long conversation about names, the importance of one’s name and how it affects an individual’s relationship with others. (An aside: the heroine in the movie “Titanic” is “Rose.”) My, how it affects an individual’s relationship with others. My daughter feels an incredible kinship with Leonardo, in part, because his nickname is Leo and she was born in August, falling under the astrological sign of “Leo” the lion. In her middle-school mind, “they were meant to be!” How significant is a name and the perception others develop based on one’s name?

The Executive Board of the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS has pondered the significance of our “name” on several occasions with no change. During the past year I’ve fielded numerous questions from individuals and vendors interested in our group, yet unclear of the SIS’s membership from simply reading or hearing our name. Does “State, Court and County” reflect the diversity of our members’ libraries? Are we excluding potential members because they don’t feel they “fit” the section? Does it really matter what we call ourselves as long as we know who we are? Is a rose by any other name still a rose? Send your ideas to me (gwarren@vsla.edu) and/or share them with members by sending a message to our listserv:

STATECOURTCOUNTYLAWLIB-L

As eloquently expressed by Justice Nicholson at our meeting last year and in previous years, one group very interested in becoming an active part of the American Association of law libraries and our section is law library trustees. This year, for the first time, we will be gathering to organize an informal caucus, fulfilling the initial requirements of Article X., Section 2. of the AALL Bylaws. The bylaws require that a group must function as “an informal caucus for the three years immediately prior to the filing of a written petition, signed by 50 voting members of AALL. Although the membership issues faced by AALL have not been resolved, there is no reason why members of our SIS can not begin meeting and planning to establish an AALL “Trustee Section”, similar to the trustee group sponsored by ALA. This initial informal meeting will be held at the Anaheim Hilton on Saturday, July 11, 1998 at 7:00 p.m., following the SCCLL-SIS sponsored workshop, “Law Librarians and Their Governing Bodies: Strategies for a Successful Working Relationship.” This meeting is open to all members of our section, even those lacking trustees, such as myself. Please join us and support our goal of creating a special forum for law library trustees and recognizing their important contribution to law librarianship!

WHAT?! NO BREAKFAST IN ANAHEIM?

So, you received the official 1998 AALL Annual Meeting Preliminary Program and skimmed the registration form, noting the lack of a “line” to pre-register for the SCCLL Breakfast, Business Meeting and Program. Yes, we are planning a breakfast meeting, which was inadvertently omitted from the Preliminary Program registration form. (It does appear in the meeting index at the back of the Program.)

CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FROM THE CHAIR</td>
<td>Cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COURT LIBRARIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY</td>
<td>Page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCCLL IN ANAHEIM</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCCLL VOLUNTEERING</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW'S SHE GONNA MAKE IT DOWN ON THE BAYOU AFTER SHE'S SEEN AALL?</td>
<td>Page 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCCLL OFFICERS AND BOARD</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep up with SCCLL activities by participating on our Listserv -- STATECOURTCOUNTYLAWLIB-L
Our annual SCCLL meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 1998, featuring a breakfast buffet priced at $17.50. Whooa, that's a lot of money for breakfast, you say?! Well, the cost of the Deluxe Continental buffet includes charges for tax, an 18% gratuity and the following fare:

* Fresh Orange & Grapefruit Juices
* Fresh Sliced Fruit and Fruit Yorguts
* Assorted Cereals with Skim & 2% Milk
* Bagels and Low Cal Cream Cheese
* Blueberry & Bran Muffins & Banana Nut Bread
* Butter & Fruit Preserves
* Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea

The breakfast buffet will run from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00, and yes, the room will be set up in rounds so you don't need to worry about balancing all this delicious food in your lap! You must the room will be set up in rounds so you don't need to worry about balancing all this delicious food in your lap! You must preregister for this event; of course, you may opt out of the breakfast and come to the business meeting at 9:00 a.m. With some help from AALL headquarters, we've made arrangements to facilitate pre-registration and advance payment. Your choices include:

1. Pointing your web browser to AALLNet at:
   http://www.aallnet.org/events/98_home.html
   See the “Registration” heading in the sidebar on the left of the screen, click on “SCCLL...”

2. Calling me at (804) 786-2075 or sending an e-mail to me to request a copy of the registration form.

...AND SPEAKING OF ANAHEIM

This year as the AALL meeting winds down (and Disneyland beckons...) don't miss the splendid educational program from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, July 15th, arranged for SCCLL by Vice-chair/Chair-elect Jean Holcomb. Through a combination of lecture, discussion and an interactive exercise, Dr. Miriam Michael will present "The Art of Employee Recognition." Those attending will leave the program with a "greater understanding of organizational awards and recognition programs that add value and productivity without unrealistic costs." Without a doubt, all members of SCCLL, directors, middle-managers and staff, appreciate recognition for a job done well, but how do this with little or no funds? See you July 15th!

CHECK PAGE 29 OF THE 1998 AALL PRELIMINARY PROGRAM, NEW HORIZONS

You'll see a brief description of the workshop offered by SCCLL in Anaheim, "Law Librarians and Their Governing Bodies: Strategies for a Successful Working Relationship" (W-3). Trustees and law library directors working in teams will identify skills for developing successful relationships and review competencies necessary for effective leadership. Don't miss this unique opportunity to work with your trustee and develop a team approach for library governance.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARY TRUSTEES!

In addition to the workshop described above, SCCLL is sponsoring the first annual "SCCLL SIS Librarians and Trustees Dinner Meeting" on Saturday, July 11, 1998, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Anaheim Hilton. This "no-host" dinner serves as our foundation for building a "Trustee Caucus" within AALL. Because it will require pre-registration, more detailed information about this function is coming your way in May.

USING THE INTERNET TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE?

Michele Finerty, Shirley David and Tim Coggins, members of AALL's Information Technology and Implementation Working Group, are preparing a white paper on the topic "Using the Internet to Improve the Administration of Justice or, Inventing the Courthouse for the 21st Century." Given the opportunity, what would you tell judges and other court personnel about using the Courthouse for the 21st Century? Given the opportunity, what would you tell judges and other court personnel about using the Internet as a vehicle for assisting courts in their mission? Can the Internet help courts achieve and enhance their central values? How? Send your ideas to Michele, Shirley and Tim.

--Gail Warren
State Law Library of Virginia

"There is no security on this earth, there is only opportunity."

COURT LIBRARIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

In early November, fifty law librarians converged on Williamsburg, Virginia for a conference sponsored by the National Center for State Court’s Institute for Court Management. The conference, entitled “Managing Court Libraries in the 21st Century: Changing Realities and Changing Roles for Court Librarians,” was a three-day exploration of the outlook for court libraries — today and in the future. Participants came from all over the continental United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.

The faculty consisted of three experienced court librarians and a technology specialist from the National Center. We were treated to three days filled with thought-provoking discussions, presentations and demonstrations regarding library and court technology and the future of legal information. I was lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the State Justice Institute to attend this program. In the next few paragraphs, I hope to provide a sampling of what we experienced.

An Environmental Scan

Ruth Fraley, Special Administrator for Resources and Planning for the State of New York, led Thursday’s first discussion, an “Environmental Scan” of the status of court libraries. A wide array of topics was presented. Should law librarians be “reclassified” to reflect our use of newer technology? “Computer tech” employees are generally paid on a higher scale than law librarians — should this be the case? New York courts recently issued “Standards of Civility” that provide guidelines for judges, court personnel and lawyers appearing before the court. What effect will ADR and mediation proceedings have on courts and consequently legal research?

In prior years, the trend was that the courts instituted change, followed by the law firms. Today, law firms are taking the lead in technology. Firm libraries are no longer the focal point of firms, the MIS Department is. How quickly will this trend find itself in the courts? Some new courthouses in this country are currently being built without libraries. What does the future hold for court libraries? Governmental issues clearly affect the operations of court libraries. Connecticut court libraries recently underwent a review of their libraries’ accountability issues — when a library discards superseded materials, are you “throwing away” government property?

These and several other issues were brought forward to spark our creative juices. Our small groups were then asked to compile a list of our own of trends that we see developing in the courts and in court libraries. After a brief discussion of these developing trends, we adjourned for lunch.

Technology Overview / Courtroom 21

Thursday afternoon was devoted to technology. Tom Carlson, Internet and Communications Specialist for the National Center for State Courts, began with a sweeping overview of various technology resources available to libraries today. His practical explanations were useful and graphic. Most people are familiar with the Internet being called the “Information Superhighway.” Tom’s explanation of the tools used, like e-mail, listserves, the World Wide Web, etc., is that these tools are “types” of vehicles — “different vehicles, using the same road.” He wisely warned us that people tend to rely on information that they see on a computer screen. With the Internet, however, there are no guarantees.

Tom also discussed CD-ROM technology, which allows faster access to information than paper, and is also cheaper and more easily replicated. CD-ROM writer machines cost approximately $300.00, and it costs as little as $.35 to make a CD. (What are we paying for when purchasing information on CD is the content and editorial material?) He also explained the new DVD technology. Although DVD provides “tons of storage,” with up to 20 gigs of memory, the disc “streams” the information, making it good for playing movies, but very slow for the “random access” we have gotten used to with CD-ROMs!

The group then ventured to the National Center for State Courts “Courtroom 21,” housed at the William and Mary Law School. Prof. Fredric Lederer, Director of the Courtroom 21 program, presented a fascinating display of technology available for use in today’s courtrooms. The name of the project itself is a misnomer of sorts. All the technology in use in this model courtroom is currently available and used in a variety of places.

We were treated to a live discussion with one of Prof. Lederer’s colleagues who was attending a computer seminar in San Diego. The gentleman in San Diego was able to view and interact with Courtroom 21 as we viewed and talked with him in San Diego. This demonstrated the ability for expert witnesses to “testify” at trial from virtually anywhere in the world. The group seemed to enjoy the demonstration, and displayed a great deal of appreciation for the possible applications in the court setting.

After the Courtroom 21 demonstration, Peggy Rogers, Collection Development Librarian at the National Center, hosted a reception for conference participants in the lobby of the National Center. Thursday’s programs had come to an end.

SCCLL NEWS   Page 3
Networking CD-ROMs

Friday’s discussions began with demonstrations by Maureen Well, Deputy Director of Law Libraries for the Connecticut Judicial Branch, and Ruth Fraley on their respective court library networks. Limited space does not allow for a complete listing of their resources. Connecticut's impressive statewide court network houses Connecticut case law and statutes on LOIS (Law Office Information Systems), Shepard’s, LegalTrac, Martindale-Hubbell, and many other standard legal reference tools. All court personnel have access to this system. The New York computer system was impressive as well, once Ruth was able to make the correct connections. (Two calls to the Williamsburg “911” system brought a visit from Williamsburg’s “finest” to liven up the presentation!) New York’s servers offer over 110 titles for research on requiring a full ½ day per week for a librarian to load the CD-ROM updates!

Legal Research on the Internet

The CD-ROM presentation was complemented with a discussion of the use of the Internet in court libraries. Ruth Fraley and Marnie Warner, Law Library Coordinator for the State of Massachusetts, then gave a summary of useful ideas to help manage Internet research. Of course, as discussed earlier, the Internet can be quite overwhelming to the uninitiated researcher. Useful tips included the suggestion to maintain a handwritten web directory on file cards of sites that have been good resources. Annotate the cards and be certain that the addresses are up-to-date. Also, it is important to empty the cache on your web browser to make certain that you are not cluttering your computer with excess waste. When conducting Internet training, it is important to always check all the sites that you plan to present to your class. Never link to anything that you have not already tried prior to the training!

Resource Management / Using Statistics Effectively

The discussions then turned to how the court librarian can best utilize the resources available and be an effective and affirmative part of the court management team. A discussion of budgets and the use of statistics was presented to help demonstrate the librarian’s importance in the court structure. It was suggested that statistics are an effective way to evaluate and prove your library’s value to the organization. Describe in a brief periodic (annual, quarterly, etc.) report what a “typical” week is like for your library and its staff. Whom do you serve? What projects were assigned and completed? Take a five-day sample period where everything is counted, then gather the numbers and present them in the report. It is important to remember, however, that if the numbers cannot be related to everyday life, they will be ignored! Don’t just use the statistics, but incorporate court and societal trends to bring realism to your report.

The Role of the Court Librarian

The conference ended with Saturday morning’s discussion of the role of the court librarian. Where did we, the participants, see our role in the future? Several insightful discussions arose from this simple question, proving that the program was truly a success. One insightful prediction was that the court librarian’s role should be likened to that of a “stage manager,” setting the stage for the information, able to juggle emergencies in the audience and on the “stage,” and be an overall jack-of-all-trades! Sounds very similar to what we experience now!

--- Anne Morrison, Circuit Court for Prince George’s County Law Library

SCCLL NEWS is published four times each year in the fall, winter, spring, and summer by the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.

The views expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of SCCLL.

Submissions dates for the 1998-99 issue will be announced when selection of the Newsletter Committee is complete.

Due to production difficulties, Vol.24 of SCCLL News contained only two issues, Fall and Spring. The article by Anne Morrison above was originally submitted for the Winter issue.
SCCLL Events in Anaheim

The AALL Preliminary Program included a partial listing of SCCLL activities. This is an up-to-date list of a variety of SCCLL events and some of the programs coordinated/presented by SCCLL-SIS members. Read through the Anaheim program descriptions and you'll discover there are many more SCCLL members serving as panel members or presenting programs sponsored by other groups!

Friday, July 10, 1998

2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Hilton (room TBA)
SCCLL Executive Board Strategic Planning Session
All members of the Executive Board and Strategic Planning Committee should plan to attend.

Saturday, July 11, 1998

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Hilton (room TBA)
Workshop W3 “Law Librarians and Their Governing Bodies: Strategies for a Successful Working Relationship”
Coordinated by Regina L. Smith, see page 29 of the AALL Preliminary Program.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Hilton (room TBA)
SCCLL Librarians and Trustees Reception and Dinner
Read more about this in the Chair’s message - Pre-Registration required.

Sunday, July 12, 1998

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Anaheim Convention Center
Attorney General Law Librarians Roundtable Meeting and Luncheon
Coordinated by Georgiana G. Welford. Pre-registration required, see AALL Preliminary Program registration form.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Program B3, coordinated by Kathy Carlson
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Program B3, coordinated by Kathy Carlson
“Brightening the New Horizon: Use of Humor as a Management Tool”
Program B7, coordinated by Betsy Sandison
“Meeting Halfway on the Horizon: Mediation”

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Hilton (room TBA)
SCCLL Executive Board and Committees (1997/98 and 1998/99) All outgoing and incoming committee chairs and committee members should plan to attend.

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Program F5, presented by John Pedini
“In Their Own Words: Videotaping and Oral History”
Program F6, coordinated and moderated by Barbara Golden
“AALL/Matthew Bender Call for Papers Program”

11:00 a.m. - noon
Program G2, coordinated by Joe Stephens
“The No-Help-At-All Line: Getting the Technical Support You Need”

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Program H1, coordinated and moderated by Cathy Lemann
“Origin of a Species: Electronic Services Librarian”
Program H5, coordinated and moderated by Scott Burgh
“CD-ROM: Lasting or Transitional Format?”

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m., Hilton (room TBA)
SCCLL Buffet Breakfast, Pre-registration required!
Use the AALLNET online registration form or contact Gayle Warren.
8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Break
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. SCCLL Business Meeting
9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Break
10:00 a.m. - noon SCCLL Educational Program

“The Art of Employee Recognition,” presented by Dr. Miriam Michael. Through a variety of formats, Dr. Michael will provide members a greater understanding of organizational awards and recognition programs that add value and productivity without unrealistic costs. This program is not just for library directors, but for anyone who works with others—all law librarians, including directors, middle-managers, front-line staff and even, volunteers, appreciate recognition for a job well done!
Your Section Needs You!

While SCCLL has never published a recruitment poster to solicit volunteers in the way the Armed Services did during the enlistment drives earlier in this century, there's no question that getting volunteers to "join up" will be critical to the success of our Section's efforts during the year ahead.

Each spring as the Section's year comes to a close, the incoming Chair offers an invitation to the membership to participate in the workings of the group as a committee member.

Consider yourself invited!

We will not be able to guarantee that signing up will give you an opportunity to see the world as the classic Navy recruiting posters promised. We can assure you that you will have an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people, and have fun in the process.

The business of our SIS is carried out entirely by volunteers who commit their time and energy for the benefit of our member libraries. The year ahead promises many opportunities. To join in the excitement, indicate your first and second choices on the form below. Please return the completed form by mail, fax or email as soon as possible. I will appoint all committee chairs before the AALL Annual Meeting in Anaheim.

Committee Opportunities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Publicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bylaws</td>
<td>Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>Strategic Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Trustee Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Nominations</td>
</tr>
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Name: ________________________________

Library: ______________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________

Type of Library: ___________________________

Telephone: (___) ______ FAX (___) ______

Email: _________________________________

Return this form to:

Jean Holcomb  
King County Law Library  
W621 County Courthouse  
5163rd Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Voice: (206)296-0940 FAX: (206)205-0513  
Email:kcll@wln.com
HOW'S SHE GONNA MAKE IT DOWN ON THE BAYOU AFTER SHE'S SEEN AALL?

Most librarians would be proud to announce to their family and friends that they had been asked to run for the presidency of a professional association. Nevertheless, back around Christmastime in 1995 when I reluctantly agreed to be placed on the slate for the Louisiana Library Association election by a desperate nominating committee, I was embarrassed to admit that I was not familiar with the role of the executive, president, or any other officer of a professional association. I had neither a long nor illustrious history in LLA. None of those folks know who I am, I smiled brightly. That’s just the problem, "retorted my pal Betty Kern. "They won’t know what they’re getting. By some fluke, you’ll probably win." Such compassion!

That water has long since flowed down the Mississippi, and I have only a month left to serve in what has been a surprisingly eventful and rewarding term as president of the Louisiana Library Association. Fortunately, I was accompanied in this adventure by another AALL member, Charlene Cain of the LSU Law Library, who has turned in a stellar performance as secretary. Thus having reached the end of my career as a library association politician, I am ready to assume my new position as tiresome pontificator and offerer of unwanted advice on any subject remotely connected to professional association activity. Since this is my maiden publication in this new genre, my observations will probably fall closer to the truth than those presented later in my career, when I have developed an ability to blather on endlessly without any reference to reality.

First, I should explain that my reluctance to become involved in state library association affairs was based not only upon concerns about the time and effort that would be required, but upon what might be a difficult adjustment from the rarified air of AALL to the more down-to-earth attitudes of colleagues in Shreveport, Monroe, and New Iberia, Louisiana. I feared that I would drive everyone to distraction by constantly saying things like: "Well, the way we do it in AALL is [fill in the blank]." My suspicions that the institutional culture and traditions of LLA are different from AALL's and were soon born out. The membership of LLA is only 1,600, and like that of other state associations, it comprises librarians and support staff from academic, school, public, and special libraries, as well as very substantial numbers of public library trustees. Large numbers of members work and live in very small towns and rural areas where resources and salaries are meager. For most libraries, the only opportunity to attend American Library Association conferences occurs when the site is New Orleans.

Frugality is an enduring principle in the Louisiana Library Association. Consequently, the mention of raising dues or conference registration fees a few dollars is tantamount to declaring war. The association's dues schedule is constructed so that the more a librarian makes, the more she pays ($25 to $65). Many members pay their own dues, and employers who do pay have scarce dues allotments to spread among their staffs. Trustees, whose dues are paid primarily by their public library system, are charged only $20. The philosophy is that if higher dues are charged, membership will drop. Consequently, funds for traveling on the work of the Association are severely limited. The 16 members of the executive board—eight officers and eight section chairs—drive to the quarterly meetings spaced in towns around the state to try to be fair to everyone. Each person pays for his or her own lunch, and few people request mileage reimbursement. Only a few committees meet face to face at any time other than the March annual conference. A Lion's share of the conference planning and on site work is carried out by members in the host city.

Perhaps the most obvious difference between AALL and LLA is the level of staff support. Until about eight years ago, AALL had a single employee, a librarian designated "Executive Director," who managed the Baton Rouge office, provided assistance to the Board and the conference committee, disseminated the quarterly LLA Bulletin and other communications, and maintained an active relationship with AALL and other state associations. At that point, apparently because of concerns about finances and differences among Board members about the role of the executive director, that position was eliminated. A non-librarian "office manager," who would perform duties of a more clerical nature for a very modest salary, was hired. During my year as president-elect, the incumbent president, a wonderful public librarian from the middle of the state, and I would often talk about the difficulty of trying to lead an association without effective support. We were concerned not only about the Association to carry on beneficial activities because of a serious lack of communication. Yet, we perceived many members had very low expectations for LLA and seemed not to realize that we should be doing more for them in terms of providing information, continuing education opportunities, and advocacy. The President and I wished we could do something to improve the situation without causing serious dissension among the membership and the elected leadership.
As the saying goes, "Be careful what you wish for." About a month after I took office, the fateful phone call came. Our office manager was submitting her resignation for medical and personal reasons. Thus began a new adventure for our Executive Committee—our two vice-presidents, past president, secretary, parliamentarian, and 1—2 public, I school, I academic, and two law librarians. Now that I look back, I can't believe how fortunate I was that this little group bonded immediately. At our first meeting we enthusiastically agreed that we had to find a way to re-establish the position of executive director. We resolved to hire a librarian possessing an M.L.S., and our job description would include involvement with other professional associations, legislative advocacy, and public relations and well as support for the Board, sections and committees. We took our proposal to the entire Board, and everyone bought into our plan—adopting a budget that might require our going into our reserves for the short term in order to support the executive director.

The fall quarter was not fun. The Executive Committee was occupied with everything relating to describing and advertising our new position. A succession of part-time, temporary clerical assistants got out essential mailings under the guidance of a retired past-president who graciously stepped in to hold the office together. As luck would have it, our March annual conference had a few years before been scheduled for Shreveport—about as far from my office in New Orleans as you can get. The Shreveport medical librarian who had agreed to chair the conference long before the excitement of the executive director situation began, stalwartly and good-naturedly kept his troops moving while his busy-body President nattered at him from 300 miles away. For the rest of my days I shall owe this young man any favor he requests.

Another very bright spot in the year was LLA’s progress toward communicating more effectively with members. Our enthusiastic young Automation and Technology Committee chair worked closely with a computer expert at LSU whom we contracted with to develop and maintain our web site and to set up listservs for both our entire membership and various association entities. As the Shreveport Conference took shape, our web wizards posted all the information about the program and local arrangements that our members would need to know.

It was a happy day indeed in late January when our new executive director’s picture and biography were posted on our web site. Our executive committee, which had served as search committee, felt extremely lucky to receive the acceptance of Christy Chandler, a 27-year-old public librarian, who had earned her M.L.S. only a few years ago. Her enthusiasm, creativity, and initiative had convinced us to be audacious in our choice. Our fellow members have greeted Christy warmly, and no threats to impeach the officers have been heard. She is literally and figuratively cleaning the cobwebs out of our office, bringing our computer capability up-to-speed, reporting and responding regularly to the Board, and planning like a house aflame.

Our Shreveport Conference was a success. The three all-conference speakers whom I had gotten to select were all such delights to be with that they made up for all the problems of the year. Betty Kern and Georgia Chadwick, my fellow staff members and SCCLL members who were staying with me, joined me in entertaining our three illustrious sisters: Ann Symons, the president-elect of ALA; D. Yvonne Chandler, U. of North Texas Library and Information Science professor and AALL activist; and Diane Roberts, southern literary scholar and National Public Radio commentator. These three vivacious, committed women excited everyone who heard them speak—Ann on intellectual freedom, Yvonne on recruitment for a diverse profession, and Diane on southern writing. Don't miss any opportunity that arises to get to know them and hear them speak.

At the beginning of this little piece I promised observations on my LLA presidential experience as compared to my AALL experience. The LLA year has caused me to marvel at the impressiveness of AALL as a professional organization. I have always said that I wish more members of the legal community could witness AALL in action—all the way from our Executive Board meetings to the hard work of our many committees to the superb quality of our annual meeting. I am sure that I shall never have the pleasure of knowing and working with a smarter, more committed, and more collegial group of people than all my fellow AALL members. AALL is run in an extremely efficient and professional manner by our executive staff in Chicago. Just try to keep an association going for a good part of a year with an almost non-existent headquarters staff, and you will appreciate the incredible amount of work that they perform and the benefits that they bring to us. AALL is also extremely fortunate to have such a strong financial base from which to operate. It is very difficult to operate when the cost of offering a service or implementing a good plan prevents you from moving forward.

The past year has certainly made me more aware of how fortunate we as law librarians are to be a part of the library community that has extraordinary opportunities for professional growth and development. Compared to many other kinds of librarians, we as a group have good salaries and relatively good support for participating in AALL, its chapters, and its SIS’s. We have an incredible support group among our colleagues and the communications technology to take advantage of it through our listservs and web sites. Our government affairs activities on both the national and state levels have made our profession a powerful voice in the information policy scene.

Just as Charlene Cain and I both learned a great deal from our year in LLA office, I think our AALL experience enabled us to bring something to our in-state colleagues. We had both observed AALL in operation over the years and therefore knew how a first class professional association supports its leadership and serves its members. That gave us the will to want to make LLA find better ways to do those things, albeit on a much smaller scale. I know that my experience on two AALL executive director
search committees helped me a great deal during LLAs hiring process. As a veteran of many AALL Executive Board training sessions and long-range planning sessions, I had been taught the proper roll of an association board and the way it gets things done. I had been exposed to good program planning procedures and excellent financial reports. Perhaps it can be said that I never appreciated how good AALL is until I had to apply all that it had taught me in another setting.

My final comment on my two presidential experiences may seem trite, but it is true nevertheless. What made both experiences memorable and rewarding were the wonderful people whom I met, or got to know better and appreciate more. It was good for me to learn far more about Louisiana libraries and librarians. I can now confess that I expected to run into a lot of provincial, unimaginative people who might resent having a former AALL president intruding into their association. I was very wrong about that. The Louisiana librarians and trustees whom I am now privileged to know better care very much about literacy, intellectual freedom, serving the disadvantaged, promoting diversity in our profession, and convincing elected officials that libraries need more support. As a native Marylander, I am proud to be a Louisiana librarian among colleagues who care very much about the people whom they serve. I learned far more from them than they did from me.

--Carol Billings
Law Library of Louisiana

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**1997-98 SCCLL Officers and Board**

**CHAIR**
Gail Warren
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