Dear GD-SIS members,

As we prepare this issue of Jurisdocs, the country is in the midst of the longest government shutdown in American history. For those of us in the government documents community, these events have highlighted the continued importance of depositories as well as the weaknesses of the current system for ensuring continuous access to government information. Happily, at this time, Stacy Fowler and Peggy Jarrett have contributed messages that greet the New Year with characteristic optimism, giving us many reasons to look forward to the coming year and to our next meeting. Ed Hart has compiled another installment in what is quickly becoming a series of bibliographies on recently deceased statesmen. Finally, I would like to welcome Rena Seidler, who will be taking over editorial duties from Stacy this year.

Here’s wishing you all a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kunkel
As we start off a new year surrounded by the turmoil coming out of Washington, it is helpful to remind ourselves what part we can play in keeping the flow of government information going. We can help by doing what we as government information professionals do best – pointing people to the sources they want and need. Whether it is by connecting citizens to relevant resources or facilitating the means for suggesting solutions through local legislators, I know we will all be ready when questions come our way.

And speaking of Washington, the gear-up for AALL 2019 is now in full swing. Registration will soon be up and housing options are now available. Programs have been chosen and meetings have been scheduled. If you aren’t getting a chance to present at AALL, there are many ways you can still be an active participant. Consider volunteering for a committee, running for a GD-SIS board position, or planning a contribution to the poster session.

In the way of announcements, I am sad to say that Erik Beck, formerly of the University of Colorado Boulder Law Library, has taken a position outside the world of law libraries. This will be a huge loss to our community, but we wish him all the best as he embarks on this new career path. With the move, Erik felt it necessary to step down as the GD-SIS webmaster. If anyone is interested in filling this important position, please let either Pat Behles or me know.

Additionally, be on the lookout for forthcoming information about our annual breakfast/business meeting, which will return to Tuesday morning at this year’s meeting. In light of the continuing absence of sponsorship and in order to better plan the menu, you will be asked to register for the breakfast when you fill out your AALL Registration Form; there will also be a nominal fee this year to offset some of the costs. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to email me.

I hope to see many of you in DC.
From the Advocacy Committee: Looking Ahead to the 116th Congress

For my New Year’s resolutions, both personal and professional, I’ll admit that I often resolve not to have resolutions. One reason could be that when it is so very dark and gloomy, it is hard to resolve to do anything other than drink more coffee. But a better reason, and one that may apply to a few of us, is that January isn’t a time of gearing up at our workplaces. For me, July (state fiscal year) and September (academic year) are the times for looking ahead.

This New Year, however, is different. The 116th Congress convenes in January. The Democrats took the House and Republicans kept the Senate. Key leadership positions are changing, and new members of Congress are younger and more diverse. 2019 will be different. Now is a great time to make a resolution – to get more involved in law library advocacy, to commit reading the monthly Washington eBulletin, or to act when we need to raise our collective voice in support, or against, a particular piece of legislation.

My resolution is to sign up for the AALL Day on the Hill: Advocacy Leadership Training and Lobby Day, which will be Friday, July 12, 2019, the day before the Annual Meeting starts. I hope you’ll seriously consider participating! It’s a great opportunity and will definitely be worth our time and effort. We’ll be supported (note that “training” comes before “lobby” in the title). We’ll make valuable connections. And we’ll show our support for AALL’s public policy agenda by showing up in person. And it will be fun.
To get up to speed right now, take a look at AALL’s Public Policy Priorities for the 116th Congress. The focus is on access to justice, balance in copyright law, greater access to government information, openness in government, and protection of privacy. Of most interest to the GD-SIS is this:

Access to government information is essential to a strong democracy. Legal and government information must be authentic, complete, discoverable, and preserved for permanent public access. AALL supports:

- Adequate funding for agencies that support the lifecycle of government information, including the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Archives and Records Administration
- A strong, centrally-coordinated Federal Depository Library Program
- Increased access to federal court information through PACER
- Efforts to provide access to government data in open and machine-readable formats

Another great way to get going on your resolutions is to learn more about what the new Congress means for law libraries. Watch, or review, the recent advocacy training given by Emily Feltren, AALL’s Director of Government Relations. The half-hour recording of The ABCs of Advocacy: Law Librarians in the 116th Congress is available on AALL 2GO, and has all sorts of useful information. It’s worth your time.

Finally, you may be wondering about the fate of the FDLP Modernization Act, H.R. 5305. As of this writing, in mid-December, 2018, passage, even in the House, is unlikely. What does this mean? It means that although we made a lot of progress – and that progress will have long term positive effects – we need to get ready to work on new legislation in the 116th Congress. The two sponsors of H.R. 5305 are retiring and both the committee chair and ranking member will change. A new bill will need new sponsors.

All of us owe a debt of gratitude to Emily Feltren for her work with the House Committee on House Administration, with the American Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries, and with all of us. Special thanks to all of you who reviewed and commented on the versions of the bill, and spoke up about the need for a strong and stable FDLP. Even though it is dark and rainy here in Seattle, I remain optimistic and ready to make some resolutions for 2018.

Happy New Year everyone, and here’s to the 116th Congress!
George Herbert Walker Bush — Freshman Legislator

Edward Hart
Assistant Dean for Law Library and Associate Professor
UNT | Dallas College of Law

Congressman Bush served two terms in the U.S. Congress, 90th and 91st Congress from 1967 to 1971. His congressional district covered parts of Houston, for which he was the first Republican elected to represent that city in Congress. During his career as a legislator, he introduced sixteen bills, none of which made it past the House of Representatives. Regardless of his success introducing legislation, he was an active Congressman and was noted for voting for the Civil Rights Act of 1968, even though it was unpopular in his District. He was supportive of President Nixon, who encouraged Bush to run for the Senate in 1970. Instead seeking reelection, Bush lost to Lloyd Bentsen, ending his career as a legislator.


H.R. 7738. To prohibit political influence with respect to appointments, promotions, assignments, transfers, and designations in the postal field service, to revise the laws governing the appointment of postmasters and rural carriers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8835. To charter a National Home Ownership Foundation, and for other purposes.


H.R. 6850. For the relief of Maj. Clyde Nichols (retired).

H.R. 8432. To amend the Submerged Lands Act to establish the coastline of certain States as being, for the purposes of that act, the coastline as it existed at the time of entrance into the Union.
Bills Sponsored - 91st Congress – 1969-1970 (cont’d)

**H.R. 18498.** To authorize the establishment of the Big Thicket National Park in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 13682.** To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act.

**H.R. 16021.** To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, to provide financial assistance for the construction of waste treatment facilities, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 16022.** To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

**H.R. 11902.** To promote public health and welfare by expanding, improving and better coordinating the family planning services and population research activities of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 17824.** To amend existing Federal disaster assistance legislation, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 15691.** To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for special project grants for the provision of family planning services and related research, training, and technical assistance.

**H.R. 17578.** To supply the manpower needs of the Armed Forces of the United States through a voluntary system of enlistments, to further improve, upgrade, and strengthen the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 16370.** To amend title 38 of the United States Code to increase the rates and income limitations relating to payment of pension and parents' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 14308.** To redesignate the Department of the Interior as the Department of Resources, Environment, and Population, and to transfer to such Department certain programs and functions currently being carried out by other Federal departments and agencies.
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