

# SCCLL NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

## 2010-2011 REPORT

### **Jennifer Dalglish, Chair/Editor 2008-present**

Charley Dyer

John Barden

Laura Frost

Mari Cheney

Executive Board Liaison: Open

### **Charge**

Continue publication of content rich, electronic only, newsletter (“SCCLL News”) three times a year.

Through efforts of the Newsletter Committee members, solicit and write newsworthy articles, event news, and stories for each issue according to themes. Highlight new roles and innovative "best practices" among membership libraries.

### **Report**

The Newsletter Committee published three issues of *SCCLL News* this year. Kim Ostitis, stepped in as Guest Editor while I was on leave and did an excellent job producing our first themed newsletter of the year. On April 27, 2010 the Editors, Kim and I, met with the incoming President, Kathy Carlson, to discuss the newsletter plans for the 2010-2011 year. The major thread of discussion was to encourage a larger and more diverse section of members to write articles. We decided to add a published, thematic element to each issue in an effort to achieve this effect. Kim had done a themed issue in the past that worked well and produced an abundance of articles. The themes chosen were “Perspectives on the Profession”, “Technology” and “Research & Marketing”.

The thematic issue idea worked nicely for the first issue of the year. I have had a much more difficult time finding authors/articles for thematic articles in the subsequent two issues. I believe that the thematic issues have had the reverse effect of our original intention because we have received less articles than usual, less members have contributed, “Member News” has been hard to come by, and no pictures have been submitted. I recommend that thematic issues be discontinued in the future unless or until somebody has a better plan of action to make them work. My suggestion would be to line up authors/articles, first, and then group them by theme rather than coming up with themes and trying to find authors/articles. Another idea would be to hold a writing contest for members.

This year also saw the end to a long-time featured article, “Charley’s Corner”. Charles Dyer, author of “Charley’s Corner”, wrote a retrospective article that was very well-written and well-received. Adding a regular feature from the Self-Represented Litigants Network might prove to be a great addition in the future. No major changes were made to the Look and Feel of the newsletter. The little blue boxes signifying the end of an article were discontinued and we were unable to get any pictures for “The View from Your Library” (I believe that feature should continue, though, if photos are procured). Retaining the “Member News” section, as well as advertisements and announcements, on The Back Page is a good idea only insofar as Newsletter Committee members are able to solicit and receive information. Photos are desperately needed from members to add to the overall quality of the newsletter. Adding a new feature, such as an ethical question “What Would You Do” has also been discussed and the Newsletter Committee believes it would be a welcome addition.

The Newsletter Committee has done an excellent job working together this year. As in recent years, every member of the Committee has had a hand in editing the rough draft of the newsletter prior to publication. Committee members offered suggestions, comments, picture ideas and grammatical/spelling/spacing edits. When we came up short with thematical content, Committee members stepped up to the plate and got to writing! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charley, John, Laura, Mari and Kathy Carlson, as well as all of the authors and other contributors, for the great work they’ve put into this newsletter. I would also like to give a heartfelt shout out to Kate Fitz, Webmaster Extraordinaire, who never ceases to amaze me with the lightening speed responses to my emails and posting the newsletters to the website!

The Newsletter Editor position becoming a renewable three-year term position beginning with the fall 2011 issue has also been discussed and the Committee believes it might enhance interest and participation. I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank Kim Ositis for reprising her role as Editor for two (!) issues. After three years as Editor, this will likely be my last Newsletter Committee Report. I look forward to announcing my successor and writing many articles for the newsletter in the future!

Jennifer

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