

Legal Information Services to the Public SIS Annual Report 2016-2017

The Executive Board of the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP-SIS) for 2015-2016 were Leslie Greenwood, Past Chair; Nicole Dyszlewski, Chair, Heather Simmons Vice Chair/Chair Elect and Sarah Lamdan, Secretary Treasurer.

Grants - The 2017 Kathy Garner Grant for attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting was divided between three recipients: Jessica Almeida, Catherine Palsgraaf, and Stefanie Pearlman.

Business Meeting: The LISP-SIS Business Meeting and Breakfast was held on Tuesday, July 18, at 7:30 AM. Prior to the meeting I collected committee updates and presented a summary, which was discussed at the business meeting. Members voted to formally adopt a new policy which was being piloted for the last two years to self-curate content for the Annual Meeting submissions sponsored by LISP through the Education Committee. Changes to the bylaws were approved allowing for online annual meetings. The possibility of conducting the next LISP Business Meeting by electronic teleconference was discussed. Other approved changes to the bylaws were about the non-discrimination language and the nominations process.

Education Initiatives:

In the Spring, the LISP Education Committee joined with GLL-SIS, RIPS-SIS, and SR-SIS to produce a “Five Topics in Five Days” online discussion on the theme of “Critical Conversation on Social Justice.” This yearly event was successful and well-attended.

At the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting, LISP independently sponsored an educational program, Texas-Sized Access to Justice: A Conversation with Trish McAllister. Our Exhibit Hall poster highlighted issues related to law library reference services to the public, as well as other LISP programs and activities at the conference.

LISP also participated in the annual meeting’s GLL/LISP/SR Joint Roundtable on Law Library Services to Prisoners & Public Patrons. LISP members co-presented at this event.

In a collaboration with RIPS Patron Services Committee, members of LISP are co-writing 2 white papers. One white paper, on self-care, will be the first publication published by AALL using the new white paper template. It is currently scheduled to be published in Winter 2018. LISP sponsored a poster session on the white paper project at the annual meeting titled “Legal Ease: A Collaborative Self-Care White Paper.”

Public Library Toolkits: Having learned at the 2016 Annual Meeting leadership training that copyright protection is important for all AALL-produced materials, the Toolkit committee sought copyright waivers from all authors of the toolkits and negotiated a form with AALL for instances where the toolkit is part of a larger site or effort to which we are linking.

AALL Annual Meeting:

LISP sponsored an unofficial off-site get together at the AALL Annual Meeting which drew a small but faithful crowd.

Communication:

In the Winter of 2017 the LISP leadership conducted a survey of LISP members with regard to communication and programming. The results were presented, along with a breakdown of membership trends and budget information, at the annual meeting and were posted on the LISP list for those unable to attend the meeting in person.

2017 led to important website changes. A small team of volunteers led by Brian Huffman evaluated our website and made recommendations about content and our webmaster, Pam Crawford, made their recommendations a reality. Also, Pam complied with the new branding guidelines from AALL and updated our site.

LISP started a new Twitter account and created a form linked to our site which allows members to send us news stories and web articles to tweet on the LISP account. We continued our negotiations to start a blog and Heather Simmons will be working on this in the year to come. We will likely be partnering with other SISs.

Treasurer's Report: (from Sarah Lamdan)

Our budget continues to be steadily robust. As of September 30, 2016, our balance was \$10,764.43. We anticipate spending money to reimburse recipients of the two grants, and expenses related to the Annual Meeting, and the receipt of revenue from dues over the summer.

Finally, I would like to express tremendous gratitude to all volunteers. The list is too long to include but this year has been very busy and as an SIS we have been very engaged. Thank you all who helped us move forward with LISP business this year!

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole P. Dyszlewski
Chair, 2016-2017