

AALL Legal Information Services to the Public SIS

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2015

Present: Brian Huffman, Leslie Greenwood, Catherine McGuire, Valerie Carullo (Bloomberg BNA), Heather Simmons, Artie Berns, Michael Saint-Onge, Sara Galligan, Pauline Afuso, Sue Luddington, Pam Morgan, Joan Bellestri, Janine Liebert, Joel Fishman

The meeting began at 7:01, chaired by Brian Huffman, 2014-15 Chair.

1. Introduction and Welcome

Thanks to LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, and Wolters Kluwer for their sponsorship of the Business Meeting breakfast.

2. Approval of Minutes

Both the 2013 Business Meeting minutes and the 2014 Business Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

3. Announcement of New Officers

Brian Huffman introduced the incoming officers for LISP. The Vice/Chair is Nicole Dyszlewski, and the Secretary/Treasurer is Christine Timko. Leslie Greenwood is the incoming Chair.

4. Kathy Garner Scholarship and Grant Report

The Grant Committee, consisting of five members of LISP were: Janet Ann Hedin (Chair), Dr. Joel Fishman, Stefanie Pearlman, Nancy Lynn Strohmeyer, and Jane Underwood. The committee awarded two grants this year. This year's recipients were Pauline Afuso, County Law Librarian, Washington County Law Library in Stillwater, Minnesota; and Artie W. Burns, recent graduate of School of Library & Information Science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

5. Treasurer's Report – Pauline Afuso

As of May 31, 2015, LISP had \$12,270.87 in its account. Expected outgoing payments are: payments on one Annual Meeting grant; costs related to the LISP-Sponsored program, including speaker costs, room, equipment, and recording expenses; other reimbursements relating to AALL. Expected incoming revenue includes dues from memberships. Revenue and expenses are reported to the SIS quarterly, so the next report will cover June-August 2015 and is expected in September.

6. Updates and News

- a. LISP sponsored a program this year. Catherine McGuire is moderating a panel entitled, "Communicating with Everyone: Clear Writing and Expression." Additionally, LISP, along with the GLL-SIS and the SR-SIS co-sponsored the "Joint Roundtable on Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners". Sara Galligan and Joan Bellestri were going to speak on the work they did on the SCCLL Special Committee on Best Access to Justice Practices.
- b. Pauline reminded people to visit the LISP display in the AALL Activities area. This year, we planned an interactive display. Leslie sent a message out to the members, asking them to send them their stories regarding funding issues, and we took their collected submissions to create the LISP display. The stories and display will be archived on a website and will be released after the conference so that those who couldn't attend (because of lack of funding) can see what others have contributed.

7. Discussion of Proposed Name Change and Outcome

- a. History:

- i. During last year's conference at a session discussing the White Paper on *Law Libraries and Access to Justice*, Heather suggested that in order to bring more awareness to Access to Justice, we could use LISP as a means of connecting those who are interested in access to justice. She also suggested changing LISP's name to Access to Justice SIS. Heather submitted this idea in writing to the LISP Executive Board and Brian Huffman sent the suggestion to the membership seeking comments.
 - ii. After some comments to the list, the Board discussed the issue of name change. AALL suggested doing a preliminary count to see if enough members of the SIS were interested in changing the name. The Board decided to put out a vote to see if the name of the SIS should be changed, and if a third (91) of the membership voted (either yes or no), then we would look further into the issue. Accordingly, the Executive Board put out question to the membership: Should the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP) change its name? A total of 52 people answered the poll, 28 said yes, 24 said no. Since the number of votes was well below the one third needed to show some sort of interest to discuss the name change further, the topic was tabled.
 - b. Meeting discussion:
 - i. There was comment about the arbitrariness of the Executive Board saying that at least a third of the membership had to be involved in the preliminary vote for there to be more discussion on a name change.
 - ii. There are strong feelings for and against changing the name of LISP to Access to Justice. There is more agreement that a name other than LISP could work for this SIS.
 - c. Outcome:
 - i. Members Heather, Artie, and Brian agreed to be on a committee to discuss alternative names. Heather also suggested that Sarah Mauldin would be interested on serving this committee
 - ii. If there is a name change, we need to work with our Bylaws Committee as well as AALL's Bylaws Committee in order to implement the name change.
- 8. Joint LISP/SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships (JCPBP) update (Janine Liebert)
 - a. Members of the committee attended the Equal Justice Conference, and made connections.
 - b. The Committee is still looking for other ways to get more awareness about pro bono partnerships with libraries. Some ideas:
 - i. Putting information about the Joint Committee on the LISP website
 - ii. Taking advantage of the AALL VIP program and bringing someone in
 - iii. Create a program for next year
- 9. Update from Outreach and External Relations Committee – Catherine McGuire
 - a. Catherine provided more information about the LISP-sponsored program that would be happening on Monday afternoon. The three speakers that she brought in have done the program in the past, and it was a big success. She encourages everyone to attend.
 - b. Catherine volunteered to chair this committee again in the upcoming year.
- 10. Updates to Public Library Toolkit – Leslie Greenwood/Heather Simmons
 - a. We now have a Public Library Toolkit for every state. Yay! Kudos to Heather Simmons and everyone else who worked to get this project completed. Future endeavors include trying to find a way to keep the toolkits up to date.
 - b. While there was some talk of trying to create a template of some sorts so that states that want to update their list of resources would have some guidance, logistically, this was not feasible.

- c. The next task will be to promote the toolkits.
11. Discussion of Priorities and New Initiatives
- a. The priorities for 2015-2016
 - i. Coming to a consensus on the name change issue
 - ii. Update the current web page by
 - 1. Bringing back old content that was not brought over when the new page went up
 - 2. Coordinate the web activities (current page, upcoming page where we'll host the loss of funding stories members sent in)
 - iii. VIP Project – perhaps we will sponsor a VIP next year, since the meeting will be in Chicago, and there are options to bring in guests from the ABA or ALA to the conference
 - iv. Public Library Toolkits – now that they are completed, how will they be maintained?
 - v. Should we do a program for next year?
12. Follow Up Steps
- a. Members volunteered to be a part of various committees:
 - i. Name Change: Brian, Heather, and Artie volunteered. Sarah Mauldin was also suggested to be a member of this committee.
 - ii. Web development projects: Pauline will work on getting the stuff from the LISP table on to a web site (we already have a name staked out on Weebly) and will work with Pam Crawford to coordinate the LISP web presence.
 - iii. Janet Hedin said she would like to continue on as chair of the grants committee; similarly, Catherine McGuire said she would continue to chair the Outreach Committee. Heather Simmons and Sue Luddington will continue to work to promote the Public Library Toolkits
13. “Passing the Gavel” to new Chair
- Brian passed the gavel to Leslie, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pauline Afuso
LISP 2014/15 Secretary/Treasurer
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