

Automatome

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From the Chair - Tom Steele

Again this year we have a really dynamite program put together by Sue Roach. Information about the program is in another section of this issue of *Automatome*. The **business meeting** is currently scheduled for **Sunday, July 6 at 7:30 a.m. to 8:30**. Check your programs in Washington after you register for the meeting room.

Most newsletter messages from the chair tend to be upbeat and light. The rest of this one however, by necessity, must be somewhat grim. While membership in this Section has grown dramatically over the past five years, and our programs have been among the ones most heavily attended, there has been little participation by the membership in the business of the Section. Typically, three or four people have done most of the work. Attendance at business meetings has been sparse, averaging around six or seven attendees per year.

I would like to encourage anyone interested in automation to become a contributing member of this section. I constantly hear AALL members state that they often feel that they are left out or that a small group runs the organization. This Section can provide anyone with those feelings and with something to contribute a real opportunity to make an impact. Give it a shot, please. We need people to work on the newsletter, to design and run programs, and to work on the constitution and by-laws. Contact me at (919) 761-5440 or call Byron Cooper (313) 961-5444, Pat Rempel (403) 432-3371, or Sue Roach (202) 325-9565.

Minutes of the Last Meeting - Byron Cooper

The annual meeting of the SIS was held on July 7, 1985, at the New York Hilton in New York City. In the absence of Thomas Steele, section chairperson, Pat Rempel, vice-chair, chair elect, presided.

Byron Cooper, secretary-treasurer, reported that as of June 29, 1984, the balance in the treasury was \$2,557.33. After receipt of the section's share of member dues (\$807.50), payment of expenses for the 1984 convention program (\$21.24) and publication of *Automatome* (\$155.36); the section's **balance was \$3,188.23** as of June 30, 1985.

The **term of office for officers** was discussed. (Presently they serve two year terms. Thus a person serves two years as Vice-chair, chair-elect; and then two years as chair, making for four years in the two offices. -ed. note.) Ms. Roach proposed changing this to a one year term for each office. Ms. Rempel proposed publishing this in the newsletter and having the vote taken at the next annual meeting.

The group agreed that the section will propose topics for the 1986 program in Washington. Ms. Roach and Mr. Cooper agreed to attend the program planning meeting at the New York convention at which time they would present the ideas of the section.

From the Acting Editors - Sue Roach and Linda Proudfoot

The SIS's **annual meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday morning, July 6**, starting at **7:30 a.m.** at the Sheraton Washington, the convention hotel. Check your convention package for the room number. **Breakfast will be served.** Cost of the breakfast will be borne by the SIS. Several items will be carried over as "old business" from last year's meeting in New York, including the terms of office for officers. We would like to see you there.

We would like to see you at our **program** too. It's scheduled for Monday afternoon, **July 7, from 2:35 to 3:55.** Room number will be announced in the convention package. The title is **"The use of Project Planning Microcomputer Software in Library Administration."** The speakers are David Brunell, executive director, Bibliographic Center for Research; and Ed Kazlauskas, associate professor of the University of Southern California and senior partner, Pacific Information, Inc. On Wednesday, David will also be demonstrating software at the microcomputer lab, which will give you another chance to discuss it with him first hand.

Linda Proudfoot, of the Joint Bank-Fund Library here in Washington, volunteered the services of her Macintosh to get this newsletter out to you. By the way, Linda's library is one of the ones scheduled for library tours on Tuesday during convention. It is highly automated, with in-house data bases and networking.

As Tom Steele indicated in his column, the SIS is in desperate straits. If it is not to go out of existence from inertia, we need your help. One way to be involved would be to contribute to this newsletter. If we had more news, we would publish more often. If you have anything you think the members of the SIS would be interested in, call Sue (202) 325-9565 or write her at the Navy JAG Library; Code 64.31, Sue Roach; 200 Stovall Street; Alexandria, Va. 22332-2400.

By Laws Change: The old business to be covered at the SIS meeting in Washington includes a change to the by-laws. Specifically the membership is to vote on changing the terms of office for officers from two years to one. This will allow more people to have a chance to serve.

Presently, the first sentence of Article V. sect. 2 of the by-laws reads:

The election of officers shall occur **once every two years** at the annual convention of the association.

The proposed change will have it read:

The election of officers shall occur **every year** at the annual convention of the association.

Nominations: Do you have anyone you would like to nominate for office: Would you like to serve yourself. (Don't be shy! **If you'd like to serve, say so.**) If you have suggestions, get in touch with Byron Cooper, Univ. of Detroit Law Library) at (313) 961-5444 or Sue Roach, Navy JAG Law Library (202) 325-9565.

The Wake Forest School of Law, the Harvard Law School, and the Massachusetts Commission for Public Counsel Services have joined forces this year to produce a series of interactive computer-video simulated trials. There are four trials designed to teach and demonstrate trial practice skills. Each trial is recorded on a laser disk.

The user participates in the trial by serving as defense counsel. He pits his skills against an experienced prosecutor and judge. Objections can be registered at any point by pressing a key on the computer keyboard. Once entered, the objection is either overruled or sustained according to the applicable law. If the objection is overruled, the user is guided through a tutorial on that point of law or trial tactic. The trial resumes once the tutorial, which may consist of computer text, a video demonstration, or a combination of the two, has been completed.

In the past, attorneys have had to practice their trial advocacy skills in the courtroom on actual clients. This new interactive computer video format provides the opportunity to improve trial advocacy skills in a self-paced non-threatening environment. For more information call Tom Steele (919) 761-5440.

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