In 2007, AALL President-Elect Ann Fessenden formed a Special Committee on Involving All Our Members (IAOM). Committee members were Chris Graesser and Catherine Lemann, co-chairs; members Evelyn Campbell, Susan Goldner, Claudia Jalowka, Jennifer S. Murray, Terry Psarras, Roseanne Shea; David Mao, Board Liaison; and Kate Hagan, Staff Liaison.

AALL leadership had become concerned about a low level of involvement in AALL activities by members, especially those of SCCLL-SIS, PLL-SIS, and other segments such as younger members, newer librarians and the technical services sector.

Most notably, PLL is the largest sector in numbers, but has a relatively low level of AALL committee participation and even lower representation on the AALL Executive Board. The early 1990s saw a spate of AALL Presidents from PLL (three in four years); since then, no firm or corporate librarian has been elected, and few even serve on the Executive Board.

Contrary to the belief of some in other sectors, this has not been a matter of academic dominance leading to others being overlooked. For instance, the numbers show a low level of participation by private and other sectors at the Chapter level, which only decreases as we look at the volunteer levels for SISs, committees and the Executive Board. This has created a smaller pool from which leaders can be recruited.

The IAOM was charged to examine barriers to participation, investigate how other associations encourage participation, develop materials, look at the Annual Meeting and other possible ways to include members, and generally suggest methods to increase engagement by more members.

The committee interviewed stakeholders, reviewed data collected in AALL’s member survey, reviewed publications and Web sites with information on membership within associations, and looked for member issues in other associations.

The committee created a “Members Briefing” for *AALL Spectrum*. “Get Involved” included information about the committee volunteer process, links to resources to convince your employer of the value of membership, and information on the benefits received by members. “Get Involved” is available on AALLNET.

A final report was submitted to for the July 2008 Executive Board meeting. A few highlights from the report include: ideas for educational programming outside the Annual Meeting, encouraging the Executive Board to meet employers when doing Chapter visits, expansion of the mentoring system beyond the Annual Meeting, and creation of a “Get Involved” page on AALLNET.

Catherine Lemann and Christine Graesser, Co-Chairs
2007-08