Scholarships Committee
Annual Report 2013 - 2014

Meeting - July 12, 2014: Summarized past year, overview of scholarship amounts awarded this year; raised and discussed several issues: whether scholarship awards should be more merit based or financial needs based; are there ways to ensure recipients are committed to law library career and AALL (require applicants to be members of AALL?); remove question 26 from application: “Will you be able to attend school if you do not receive aid? (question is confusing); whether scholarships for school should not be sent until after applicant completes a semester of school and provides transcripts or whether the check should be sent to the school and not the recipient; recognized and thanked Hannah Phelps Proctor for her great support during the past years.

Review of applications - began on April 7, 2014, awards made on April 24. Minimum score set, divided scholarships based on scores. Awarded all $5000 from AALL and all $15,000 from LexisNexis Johnson Memorial Scholarship, and $20,000 of the $25,000 from Strait Minority Scholarship; chair wrote letters to all applicants.

March 2014: Chair submitted Committee Action Plan. Conducted survey to determine if and how to change score sheets to better ensure scholarships are awarded to applicants committed to law library career. Survey revealed members wanted to increase the points awarded for AALL membership from 10 to 15 points. Score sheets were changed to increase points for AALL membership to 15 points and 5 points were removed from Letters of Recommendation.

Conference call - November 15, 2013: Members assumed responsibility for following tasks: Publicizing scholarships to our list of ALA Approved library schools (past two years this publicity increased our applicant pool); draft and distribute an email/press release to AALL listservs to 1) educate AALL members about Koslov scholarship; 2) reminder about educational/Strait scholarship; 3) link to online donate to Scholarship fund. Discussed submitting item about the need for donations in Dec. 2013 AALL E-news. Discussed whether the news item should highlight extremely large student debt being incurred by some scholarship applicants. But we decided to just highlight need for donations. Discussed grading of applications and whether we should apply a stricter criteria and make fewer awards but make larger awards. Discussed issue that numerous applicants drop AALL membership soon after being awarded a scholarship or never join AALL.

Meeting - July 13, 2013: Summarized past years activities. Discussed writing an article for Spectrum about the scholarships and the need for donations. This could include information about the high level of debt reported by some scholarship applicants. Discussed fundraising: out of 4700 members in AALL only about 20 people gave to the scholarship committee; whether fundraising should be part of our role as a committee, committee charge does not mention fundraising; will obtain information from Board liaison about the committee’s role in fundraising. We also discussed whether we should award fewer scholarships in a larger dollar amount or award more scholarships in a lower dollar amount.

Michael Hannon,
Chair, Scholarships Committee, 2013-2014