Chapter Report: Southwestern Association of Law Libraries

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SNELLA donated seed money to the regional AALL conference planned for 2007 in Toronto.

Discussions continue regarding adoption of an ADA policy and creation of a membership category for institutions.


New officers for 2005–06 were installed at the annual dinner in June: Susan Davis, President; Louise Tucker, Vice President/President-Elect; Maggie Hobden, Secretary; Theresa Baylock, Treasurer; Nancy Marcove and Rebecca Engsberg, Members-at-Large. Roseanne Shea is the new chair of the Publicity Committee.

Officers for 2004–05 were Hilary T. Frye, President; Susan Davis, Vice President/President-Elect; Janet Zigadto, Secretary; Theresa Baylock, Treasurer; Caroline Benoit and Rebecca Engsberg, Members-at-Large. Steve Mirsky was chair of the Publicity Committee.

Hilary T. Frye, President
2004–05

Southwestern Association of Law Libraries

The membership of the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries converged in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the forty-seventh annual meeting on March 31–April 2, 2005, to discover and discuss issues and the latest innovations in the legal information profession for the twenty-first century. The theme was “Big Ideas Come from Little Rock.” The staff of the University of Arkansas Little Rock/Pulaski County Law Library hosted the preconference program, “Basic Legal Research for the Non-Law Librarian,” which broke attendance records for outside-Texas meeting locations. Successful marketing of the preconference to the Arkansas library community, including the Arkansas Documents Consortium, resulted in thirty-one registered attendees from public, college, and university libraries.

One hundred four members registered for the meeting, including eight students from graduate library education programs across the SWALL region. The program included excellent speakers on topics ranging from technology to continuing legal education to Internet security to romance in the library. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Lavenski Smith from the U.S. Court of Appeals Eighth Circuit, while the plenary speaker was Commissioner Herman L. Totten of the National Commission on Library and Information Science. Victoria K. Trotta, AALL president and SWALL member, reported on AALL business as well as plans for the San Antonio Annual Meeting. She also led a roundtable discussion about careers in law librarianship and professional association activity. The program included the unique, first annual “One Book, One Conference,” in which attendees read and then discussed How I Fell in Love with a Librarian and Lived to Tell About It, a book that addresses the survival of libraries in the twenty-first century.
The opening dinner for the meeting was held at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center Library. Conference attendees had full access to all of the exhibits, movies, and displays of the library. It truly is a presidential library for the twenty-first century. The integration of information technology and innovation with traditional museum displays of presidential memorabilia is unique and creative.

The Grants Committee, chaired by Monika Szakasits, awarded $2250 in grants to three recipients to attend the SWALL annual meeting and two $750 grants to SWALL members to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in San Antonio. In addition, the chapter honored Jon S. Schultz, former director of the University of Houston Law Center, by awarding him a lifetime membership in SWALL.

The officers for 2005–06 are Yvonne J. Chandler, President; Barbara Fullerton, Vice President/President-Elect; Caren Luckie, Treasurer; and Peggy Martindale, Secretary.

Susan T. Phillips, President
2004–05

Virginia Association of Law Libraries

Thanks to the able leadership of 2004–05 President Cathy Palombi and the tireless efforts of the VALL Executive Board, committee chairs, and dedicated members, VALL enjoyed yet another productive year.

VALL’s 2004 annual meeting was held November 4–5 at the University of Virginia Law Library. The theme for the event was Expanding Access/Protecting Privacy. A highlight of the meeting was the address of VALL’s 2004 chapter VIP, Kathy Mays, Director of Judicial Planning, Supreme Court of Virginia. Not only did members have an opportunity to learn about Virginia’s implementation of the Interactive Community Assistance Network (ICAN), but they also saw firsthand the impact that the Chapter VIP Program can have on fostering lasting relationships. The two-day event was filled with excellent programming. AALL Treasurer and VALL member Joyce Manna Janto’s presentation “When Did You First Realize Your E-mail Was Not Private?” left the audience wide-eyed and full of questions. Paul Barron led a whirlwind exploration of “Legal Research on the Internet.” Finally, Glen O. Robinson, David and Mary Harrison Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law, offered a fascinating examination of “‘Information Wants to Be Free’ and Other Slogans for the Internet Age.”

More than forty VALL members gathered in the Richmond offices of Hunton & Williams, LLP, on February 18, 2005, for the Winter Quarter Meeting. Dr. Margaret Bradley, a business psychologist, led VALL members through a series of “Workplace Big Five” exercises designed to enhance each individual’s understanding of his or her preferred work style.

The Spring Quarter Meeting was held on May 13, 2005, at Regent University School of Law. Long-time VALL member Barbie Selby, who recently began a term as chair of the Depository Library Council, presented a program titled “Government Information in the 21st Century: What Happened to the ‘P’ in GPO?” Gail Zwirner moderated a lively discussion of issues raised by the Virginia