

Law Librarian's Society of Washington, D.C.
Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
Baker Botts, LLP, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Board Members

In Attendance:

Elizabeth Ann Blake, Assistant Treasurer
Matthew Braun, Corresponding Secretary
Christine Ciambella, President
Cameron Gowan, Immediate Past Pres.
William Grady, Recording Secretary
Mary Ann Keeling, Board Member
Edward O'Rourke, Board Member
Emily Phillips, Treasurer
Sara Sampson, Vice President

Absent:

Jennifer McMahan, Board Member

Proceedings

Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Approval of Minutes

The prior meeting Minutes were approved via email prior to the meeting.

Program Change:

The main Agenda item for this meeting was to be training in the operation of the LLSDC website conducted by Emily Carr. However, Emily Carr was sick and could not attend. The President said that she will send out pdfs of training materials for the website to the SIS and Committee Chairs who did not attend the Board Meeting. The President also mentioned that Emily Carr wants to make changes to the website to remove obsolete items and wondered if she needed Board approval. C. Ciambella told her she didn't need Board approval to make changes.

Board Liaison Update:

The Board members reported on their various committee liaisons by email before the meeting in expectation that there would be web training. This is a summary of those responses:

President, C. Ciambella, reported on:

Education Committee: reported that it had sent out a survey to gauge interest in different types of programs. The results will help them focus their attention this year.

Website Committee: Emily Carr, webmaster, will provide training for the board, SIS presidents, and committee and focus group chairs on Sept. 14.

Membership Committee: the monthly report from Frances Brillantine submitted names of 11 potential new members

Jennifer McMahan reported on:

Legislative SIS: Richard Palmer didn't give me any news to report, but he's planning to attend the meeting to get training on the Web site, so he should be able to report any news himself.

Scholarships and Grants: No news

Federal Librarians SIS: On September 9th, the group met at the DOJ New York Avenue Library for a post-AALL recap and brown bag discussion. About 9 librarians attended and had a good conversation about AALL in Denver and proposals by the group for the annual meeting next year. The SIS is planning an administrative law program in October to be held at the Federal Reserve Board Library.

Matthew Braun reported on:

Elections Committee: (chair: Mike Gentile): One suggestion given by the committee is that when a honorary or lifetime member is up for election, we have a short biography (a sentence or two) about the person available for voters to view (on the LLSDC website)

Law Library Lights: (editor: Ripple Weistling): Another call for articles went out on Monday, September 13, for the Fall 2010 issue of Lights (articles due on Monday, September 20):
Fall 2010 Theme: Training and Teaching This issue will focus on library teaching and training programs, formal and informal.

Nominations Committee: I will hopefully have details on who will be on the Nominations Committee.

Edward O'Rourke reported on:

PLL: (from Margaret Bartlett) - Yes, we had our first meeting of the year on Wednesday and worked on planning several programs for the first half of the year. On October 20th, Integrated Management Services is going to give a vendor presentation at Pepper Hamilton on their services (vendor negotiation, etc). We are also working on a program on public records databases, one on patent searching and a tour of either the Supreme Court or Senate libraries.

Publications: Nothing to report.

Job Seekers (formerly Laid off Librarians): Nothing to report.

Mary Ann Keeling reported on:

Mentoring Committee: Co-chair Jeffrey Bird reported an organizational meeting for 2010-11 is pending so no news to relay.

Placement Committee: Chair Dawn Sobol has nothing organizationally to report but did note that LLSDC job listing website is getting more postings!

Foreign & Int'l Law SIS: Co-chair Jason Hawkins (other chair: Herb Somers) indicated that since it is the start of the academic year, the SIS has nothing planned for September or October. However, the group would “like to offer more than one research session like [they] did last year.” He also requested ideas for programming.

Official Reports:

Treasurer Report: no report for this month.

Emily Phillips asked if there was a template for an LLSDC invoice. Matthew Braun said no, but he can prepare a draft invoice

Corresponding Secretary Report:

Matthew Braun discussed his leads for ads for **Lights**. Sara Sampson suggested giving sponsors of meetings a free ad in **Lights** to “prime the pump.”

Membership Committee:

C. Ciambella presented a list of 11 proposed new members. A motion was made to approve all but two to the classes of membership they applied for. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. As to the other two, the President mentioned this:

An issue was brought to the Board’s attention from the Membership Committee. C. Ciambella reported that two members requested regular membership though not currently employed in a law library because each had worked in a law library within the past 7 years, which per the Bylaws, is permissible.

The question was raised, should this be changed? Bill Grady said that there was a reason for the Bylaws language and he thought it related to persons who were retired but not yet proposed for life membership.

After discussion, the Board agreed we should approve these two members for regular membership because it was felt that they meet the criteria of the Bylaws, although their situation is not that for which the Bylaw was written. The Board then approved these two additional persons for regular membership.

The Board decided not to address this loophole until it becomes a significant issue.

New Business:

Sara Sampson mentioned that the Legal Research Training Focus Group needed a new committee chair to replace Cindy Carlson. A suggestion was made to contact Abigail Ross.

In regard to the Nominations Committee, C. Ciambella said that we should think of persons who know many people to put on this committee. Send a list of names for the committee members to Matthew Braun. The committee needs another chair, but could ask the rest of last year's committee if they would be interested in being this year's chair.

Pam Lipscomb reported that there were dueling potential sponsors for the Holiday Party. West had asked to sponsor it, but Trak Legal has been the traditional sponsor. Sara Sampson suggested that perhaps a free ad in Lights could be used to equalize the potential contributions toward the party since one potential sponsor offered less than the other.

C. Ciambella reported that a member has requested that the Board consider running an ad in the National Law Journal about remembering the value of law libraries and law librarians aimed at law firms (which might be laying off librarians and/or closing libraries.)

The Board discussed this idea and did not support the idea but agreed to look into the cost of the ad before making a final decision.

C. Ciambella also brought up a topic of using the listserv to solicit copies from digital only sources on Interlibrary Loan. She mentioned that she had been emailing some requestors and suggesting to them that they were soliciting violations of copyright. She asked what the Board's thoughts were on this topic.

B. Grady mentioned that he thought there would be no liability for LLSDC just for sponsoring the listserv on which the requests were made and that he did not favor censoring the listserv.

S. Sampson suggested an article in **Lights** about copyright, licensing issues in Interlibrary Loan within LLSDC, or possibly to handle this as an educational program. There was discussion of requesting Roger Skalback to lead the discussion. M. Braun suggested that we might invite Lollie Gassaway up to speak to us on this issue since she is a librarian and copyright expert.

The consensus of the Board was to mention it in **Lights** and have a program, one which would deal with real life scenarios of copyright, per suggestion of M. Keeling and E. Phillips who suggested a university had already done such a website.

Announcements:

The next Board meeting is set for October 12. The meeting is planned to be at Baker Botts again.

Adjournment:

The meeting came to an end at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Grady