

Proceedings of the Members' Open Forum

Conducted at the 94th Annual Meeting of the
American Association of Law Libraries
Held in Minneapolis, Minnesota
Wednesday Afternoon
July 18, 2001

¶1 **President Robert L. Oakley** (Georgetown University Law Center, Edward Bennett Williams Library, Washington, D.C.): May I remind you that the Open Forum provides members with an opportunity to raise questions and discuss issues without following the requirements of normal parliamentary procedure. Action may not be taken during the Open Forum. However, issues may be raised and referred to the president for further action. The Open Forum will go for approximately thirty minutes unless we wrap up earlier. I call now upon Darcy Kirk, who has agreed to moderate today's Open Forum.

¶2 **Ms. Darcy Kirk** (University of Connecticut School of Law Library, Hartford, Connecticut): Good afternoon. The Open Forum will now begin. The agenda said there would be a fifteen-minute break, but we're going to go right into it; so I would ask people who have issues to raise or questions to ask to come to one of the three mikes placed around the room.

¶3 **Ms. Merle J. Slyhoff** (University of Pennsylvania Law School, Biddle Law Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania): I applaud AALL's support of privacy issues, but in light of that position, I'm dismayed at this year's exhibit hall. At the booths of at least two vendors you could go up and get anyone's Social Security number. I realize it's a monetary issue, and probably one that is extremely difficult to monitor, but if there could be some type of control or guidelines as to who is allowed to exhibit, I think it would bode us well.

¶4 **Ms. D. Kirk**: Thank you. Any comments or additional discussion of Merle's comments? Any other comments for the Open Forum? We don't have any burning issues this year? Going once . . .

¶5 **Ms. Carol Bredemeyer** (Northern Kentucky University, Salmon P. Chase College of Law Library, Highland Heights, Kentucky): Since audio technology seems to be going more from audiocassettes to CD, I'm wondering if we've explored the idea of having CDs available, either instead of or in addition to the tapes traditionally used to record the educational programs. Most new cars now come with CD players only, and it might be something for the Association to explore.

¶6 **Mr. Frank L. Drake** (Arnstein & Lehr, Chicago, Illinois): Just a small suggestion. This year, especially in the exhibit area, the acoustics were quite fine, and all through the hall you could hear announcements very well, which I don't believe was the case in some of the other cities where we've been. If we used this capa-

bility to have a brief announcement—for example, “The Plenary Session is beginning at such and such a time and in so and so room”—it might not tear people away from the exhibits, but it could increase attendance at the educational programs.

¶17 **Mr. Mark E. Estes** (Holme Roberts & Owen LLP, Denver, Colorado): For far too long we have been relying upon the stock market and the kind gestures of others, rather than our own commitment to the Association. It has been many years since we have raised the dues by more than the cost of living. I call upon the Executive Board to propose a plan for an effective and meaningful dues increase in the very short-term. Thank you.

¶18 **Ms. Ann Puckett** (University of Georgia Law School Law Library, Athens, Georgia): I seem to remember, in the dim reaches of history, that there used to be a resolution of appreciation for our Local Arrangements and Program committees presented each year at the General Business Meeting. I don't know when that dropped off, but I would like to see it added to the agenda of the second session of each year's business meeting. It seems to me very appropriate that it be a part of our official record. And therefore, I would like to propose a resolution of appreciation to those two committees because this has been an extraordinarily good meeting.

¶19 **Ms. D. Kirk**: Thank you, Anne. Anyone else? Tom?

¶10 **Mr. Thomas H. Reynolds** (University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall Law Library, Berkeley, California): I would really like to commend and support Mark Estes's remarks on the importance of facing a dues increase. This Association fell into very serious trouble in the early '90s because the Board lacked the will to bring a dues increase to the attention of the membership, and it forced, eventually, a fairly strong dues increase. I was told when I took over the *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* to make a modest increase every year because you will never be thanked for not having imposed a subscription increase for the last ten years when you suddenly must make a big increase. I think it's really important that the Board consider this.

¶11 **Ms. D. Kirk**: Thank you.

¶12 **Ms. Lourie Russell** (Katten Muchin Zavis, Washington, D.C.): I feel very sad about the gap in my tee-shirt collection caused by the lack of shirts this year. I had like fifteen years worth of AALL tee-shirts. (Laughter)

¶13 **Ms. D. Kirk**: Anyone else? Any other comments? Okay. I guess this part of the meeting has ended. Thank you very much.