

Proceedings of the Members' Open Forum

Conducted at the 95th Annual Meeting
of the American Association of Law Libraries
Held in Orlando, Florida
Wednesday Afternoon
July 24, 2002

¶1 **President Barbara A. Bintliff** (University of Colorado School of Law Library, Boulder, Colorado): All right. Let's begin our Members' Open Forum. May I remind you that the Open Forum provides members with an opportunity to raise questions and discuss issues without following the requirements imposed by parliamentary procedures. Actions may not be taken during the Open Forum. However, issues may be raised and referred to the President for further action. I call upon Cornell Winston, who has agreed to moderate today's Open Forum.

¶2 **Mr. Cornell H. Winston** (Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, Los Angeles, California): Thank you, Barbara. Our Open Forum is now open. I would ask that you please use the microphones located in the center of the room and include your name and institution at the beginning. Mr. Folmsbee.

¶3 **Mr. Mark Folmsbee** (Washburn University School of Law Library): I mean no disrespect by my informal attire. It's just very hot outside and I couldn't figure out a way to do my exercise and still come to the meeting.

¶4 A brief observation. I think our closing banquet can be a kind of defining moment for members. It's something to look upon with great satisfaction and great pleasure. It's important that we get as many coming to that closing banquet as possible. And I don't mean to assign or blame anyone for not being able to work toward that. But over the years, I think I have seen what I suspect would be verified, a dip in those attending. And any tricks of the trade that we could employ to change the scheduling or do what it takes to increase that, I think would be a very valuable end result. As a former archivist for the Association many years ago, I used to see the photographs of the very early closing banquets and they are just wonderful. I would hope that we could return to that.

¶5 With regard to the only other issue I wanted to raise, again, I mean no harm to anyone, it's just that I think we have to remind ourselves to refocus from time-to-time. I know our members and committees and Association are working really hard as a labor of love to do all this stuff. The only thing I want to poke at is scheduling. To the extent we can, the SISs really do need to have different time slots for their business meetings so we can be players and participants in more than one. And I sort of sense this going around, there was a little more conflict than normal if you wanted to attend multiple business meetings. So I would just urge a kind of refining in our scheduling. Every once in a while I think you have to do that to get as many meetings spread out so we can attend as many as possible to be real players in the AALL game. That's all.

¶6 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you. Are there others?

¶7 **Unidentified Speaker:** One of my colleagues who could not attend asked that I emphasize that the scheduling date this late into July is a real problem for some academics. We have first-year students coming on the twelfth of August, two weeks from the time we get back. Scheduling way late in July is just very hard for us to handle at all. We had to cut the number we bring by 50%.

¶8 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you. Are there others?

¶9 **Ms. Merle Slyhoff** (University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania): I realize that there are issues facing the Association and librarianship that are more pressing than this. But I would strongly urge that in consideration of Mr. Zemke's program on generations, that we redo our badges in the future to have the first name in bold dark letters. I mean, I know that there's a serious issue related to cost or something, but I think it also is an impediment to networking when you can't see the name of the person you're speaking with.

¶10 **Mr. C. Winston:** I will step off the moderator's chair for a minute to say that as one who cannot see well, getting closer just gets you a good feeling. So . . . (Laughter) Is there another comment?

¶11 **Ms. Alison Alifano** (Sullivan & Cromwell, New York, New York): Regarding the scheduling. But you send all your summer associates to us. So it's very difficult for the private law librarians also to attend in multiples during the summer. I will just say that for what it's worth.

¶12 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you. Are there others? We needn't be shy.

¶13 **Ms. Maria E. Protti** (Deputy City Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco, California): The thought just occurred to me that there may be a way to identify ourselves when we are not speaking on behalf of our employer. There may be occasion to do so. So possibly, we can develop a way of saying when we are speaking individually as opposed to our employing libraries.

¶14 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you. Mr. Saint-Onge.

¶15 **Mr. Michael Saint-Onge** (LexisNexis, Los Angeles, California): I am from LexisNexis and I'm about to avail myself of that suggestion. I'm wearing my librarian hat and not my LexisNexis hat. I have a question for the members of the Executive Board about the law book pricing survey that we just accomplished. We had a very informative program about the study this meeting, but my question is—and I think it's a question of a lot of us—what is next? What do we do with the results? It was informative, but it seems to me like there should be some next steps, of understanding the results of the study and making some recommendations. I just want to make sure that there are plans to follow up on that.

¶16 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you, Mike. Are there others? Are there others? Going once. Going twice. What, you guys need to go back to your hotel and primp for the banquet tonight?

¶17 **Unidentified Speaker:** We need naps. (Laughter)

¶18 **Mr. C. Winston:** Oh, we need naps. The "Elder Association of Law Libraries." I know. I'll be there soon, if not already there. If there are no others, then this Open Forum is concluded. Thank you very much. (Applause)