

Changes for AALL Approved at Board Meeting

While the frost wasn't quite yet on the pumpkin, the autumn winds of "change" were blowing as the Executive Board met for its fall meeting October 23-25, 2008, in Oak Brook, Illinois. The site of the meeting on the beautiful campus of "Hamburger University," the McDonald's Corporation training facility, provided a serene setting for the work of the board. In addition to the formal board meetings, other activities included a Finance and Budget Committee meeting, orientation for new board members, and the board retreat.

In attendance at the fall board meeting were: President James E. Duggan, Vice President Catherine Lemann, Past President Ann Fessenden, Secretary Ruth J. Hill, Treasurer David Mao, and Board Members Carol Bredemeyer, Christine Graesser, Janice Henderson, Jean Wenger, Cornell Winston, and Sally Wise. Also in attendance were Council of Chapter Presidents Chair Jennifer Murray and Special Interest Section (SIS) Council Chair Ron Wheeler. AALL staff members present included Director of the Government Relations Office Mary Alice Baish, Executive Director Kate Hagan, Director of Finance and Administration Paula Davidson, Director of Meetings Pam Reisinger, Director of Membership Marketing and Communications Julia O'Donnell, Director of Education Celeste Smith, and Executive Assistant to the Executive Director Kim Rundle.

Prior to the start of the formal board meetings, new board members had an opportunity to participate in an orientation session. During this session, new board members received information on Association finances, the advocacy work of the Government Relations Office, Association education and leadership training programs, the procedures for making chapter visits,

and the process of site selection for the Annual Meetings. The session concluded with a presentation by Sue Carlson, representing the Association's legal counsel, on the fiduciary duties and responsibilities of board members to the Association.

Retreat Discussions

The facilitator for this year's retreat was Maureen Sullivan, a library consultant and former facilitator for the Association of Research Libraries. The focus of the retreat discussions was the board's role and responsibilities in strategic planning. Jean Wenger, chair of the Strategic Directions Committee, gave an overview of the committee's report. Sullivan guided the board members through a section-by-section review of the Strategic Directions Committee Report. This

provided an opportunity for input from board members on implementation of the strategic action plan in the areas of leadership, education, and advocacy.

Action Items

The board had a full list of action items on the agenda. Action items are agenda items for which a vote of the board is required. The board approved the minutes of the July 10-11, 2008, Executive Board Meeting, the Strategic Directions Committee's action plan for 2008-2009 in furtherance of the current Strategic Directions (2005-2010), the creation of a library-vendor relations representative position, creation of a Membership Marketing and Communications Department at AALL Headquarters, and a name change for the Washington Affairs Office to the Government Relations Office.

Other action items approved and adopted by the board included the following: development of an AALL online live learning center; funding requests from the representative to the Legal Marketing Association and Government Relations Committee; continuation of the Annual Meeting

one-day program registration fee waiver for non-AALL member speakers at SIS programs for another year; preference to individuals applying for grants from the Research and Publication Committee; and, for a one-year period, SIS-sponsored programs will be included in the online program evaluation system with a charge to the SIS of \$80 per evaluated session.

Consent Items

Three consent items were on the agenda. Consent items are considered agreed to by the board simply by their submission and presence on the agenda. Consent items approved were:

- Approval of amendment of the employee vacation policy to require at least five consecutive days of vacation for employees who handle the Association's finances
- Approval of the minutes of the April 15, 2008, special meeting of the Executive Committee
- Approval of the committee charge of the Administration Committee.

Reports

The board agenda also included reports by the president, vice president, treasurer, Government Relations Office director, executive director, SIS Council chair, and Chapter Council chair discussing their various activities.

Of special note was the information shared by Director of the Government Relations Office Baish, who reported on the replacement of GPO Access with a Federal Digital System in early 2009 and the efforts to support funding for the Law Library of Congress as a line item in the presidential budget.

If you have questions about any of these matters, please feel free to contact me or any Executive Board member. ■



by Ruth J. Hill

Ruth J. Hill (rhill@sulc.edu) is director of library services and associate professor of law at Southern University Law Center Oliver B. Spellman Law Library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.