

Strategic Planning Highlighted at November Meeting

ALL President Catherine Lemann presided over her first Executive Board meeting November 5-7, 2009, at the Union League Club in Chicago.

In attendance at the meeting were: Vice President Joyce Manna Janto; Past President James E. Duggan; Secretary Ruth J. Hill; Treasurer David Mao; and Executive Board members Carol Bredemeyer, Christine Graesser, Marcus Hochstetler, Janet McKinney, Jean Wenger, and Sally Wise. Joining the board were: Council of Chapter Presidents Chair Sarah Mauldin; Special Interest Section Council Chair Dennis Sears; and newly appointed Vendor Liaison Marian Parker. AALL staff members present at the meeting were: Executive Director Kate Hagan; Director of Finance and Administration Paula Davidson; Director of Meetings Pam Reisinger; Director of the Government Relations Office Mary Alice Baish; and Executive Assistant to the Executive Director Kim Rundle.

Strategic Planning Retreat

Under the direction of consultant Marcia Holston, the board spent a day in a strategic planning retreat. This provided an opportunity for input from board members on implementation of the Strategic Directions Action Plan in the areas of leadership, education, and advocacy. The retreat included review of the key findings of the members' survey and issues considered during the spring board retreat.

Jean Wenger, chair of the Strategic Directions Committee, gave an overview of the committee's report and outlined the timetable for completing the new strategic plan. Maintaining the goals of the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan—leadership, education, and advocacy—the board worked on identifying specific objectives for the new 2010-2013 Strategic Plan. Objectives included recruitment and retention of membership, vendor relations, education on multidisciplinary topics, and the authentication of legal information. The Strategic Directions Committee will continue to work on identifying specific objectives to accomplish the goals of the

strategic plan. Joining in the discussion were headquarters staff: Julia O'Donnell, director of membership, marketing, and communications; Celeste Smith, director of education; and Christopher Siwa, director of technology.

Board Meeting

The formal board meeting began with a presentation by Lisa A. Stegink, the Association's legal counsel. Stegink spoke on the fiduciary duties and responsibilities of board members to the Association. She discussed conflict of interest, anti-trust laws, confidentiality rules, and loyalty to the Association.

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 following:

- Minutes of the July 23-24, 2009, Executive Board meeting
- Chicago as the site of the 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference
- Austin as the site of the 2017 Annual Meeting and Conference
- Nominations Committee procedures
- AALL new awards implementation procedures
- Addendum to AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee charge
- Executive Board 2009-2010 Strategic Directions Action Plan

Information Items

The board received updates and information on the following: 2009 Annual Meeting and Conference Year-End Report; the preliminary FY 2008-2009 Year-End Report; FY 2008-2009 Investment Funds Report; the Fall Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report; Copyright Committee Report on Creative Commons Licenses; Membership Dues Structure Preliminary Report; Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation (ELIAC) Committee Report; AALLNET redesign project update; Statement from AALL to the American Bar Association Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar on Review Standards; AALL new membership marketing plan; and

AALL Comments to the Federal Trade Commission.

Reports

The board agenda also included reports by the president, vice president, treasurer, executive director, director of government relations, director of meetings, vendor liaison, Special Interest Section Council chair, and Chapter Council chair discussing their various activities. Of special note, Treasurer David Mao reported that the Association's fiscal policies have kept AALL in solid financial condition in spite of the economic downturn.

New Headquarters Location

After more than 40 years at 53 W. Jackson Boulevard in Chicago, AALL Headquarters has moved to 105 W. Adams Street. The new office, though smaller, makes more efficient use of space, and is bright and open, with views of Lake Michigan. A highlight of the board meeting was a reception at the new headquarters during which board members and several local law librarians had an opportunity to tour the new space and meet with headquarters staff. The next time you are in Chicago, make an appointment to visit your new headquarters.

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

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by Ruth J. Hill

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