

**Proceedings of the 96th Annual Meeting  
of the American Association of Law Libraries  
Held in Seattle, Washington**

**July 12–16, 2003**

**Monday, July 14, 2003**

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**Monday Afternoon—Session One  
July 14, 2003**

[The first session of the General Business Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries was called to order at 2:40 P.M. at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Hall 4C, with Carol Avery Nicholson, President, presiding.]

**Call to Order**

¶1 **President Carol Avery Nicholson** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Law Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina): Good afternoon. The first session of the 2003 General Business Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries will come to order.

¶2 As of July 13, 2003, we had 1858 paid registrants for the 2003 Annual Meeting. Our Bylaws, Article V, Section 3, stipulate that “a quorum for a business meeting of the Association shall consist of fifty members registered at that meeting.” The Chair observes that there is a quorum.

### **Introductions**

¶3 The Chair would like to introduce those present at the head table. To my right is Parliamentarian Mary L. Randolph, President-Elect Janis Johnston, Treasurer Anne Matthewman, Secretary Cathy Lemann, and Executive Director Susan Fox.

### **Adoption of the Standing Rules**

¶4 The Rules of Conduct for AALL General Business Meetings appear on page nine of your Annual Meeting program. If there is no objection, in the interest of managing the agenda, the following rules for debate will be followed. No member may speak for more than three minutes. The Chair will limit discussion to no more than ten minutes on any one agenda item, except for the proposed Bylaws amendments when thirty minutes discussion will be allowed. The Chair will announce when the time is completed. If members wish to extend discussion beyond the allowed time, a motion to extend discussion must be passed by a two-thirds majority.

¶5 If the Chair hears no objections, these rules will be adopted for this meeting. Hearing no objection, these rules are adopted for the 2003 Business Meeting, session one on Monday and session two on Wednesday.

### **Adoption of the Agenda for Both Sessions**

¶6 For information in planning the agenda, are there any resolutions that will be introduced during today’s meeting? If anyone has a resolution to introduce, please provide the Secretary with three copies of it now. These resolutions will be added at the end of this session of the Business Meeting under new business. If you want to introduce a resolution for the second session of the Business Meeting, please provide the Secretary with three copies in advance of that meeting.

¶7 Copies of today’s agenda and a preliminary version of Wednesday’s agenda are available in the back of the meeting room. The session today will be recessed no later than 4:00 P.M. Are there any changes or additions to the agenda for either today or for Wednesday? Hearing none, the agendas are adopted as printed.

### **Approval of the Minutes from the 2002 Business Meeting**

¶8 The minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting were published in the Fall 2002 issue of *Law Library Journal*, Volume 94, Number 4. No corrections have been received.

Without objection the Chair declares the minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting approved as published.

### **Report on Elections**

¶9 The Chair is pleased to call our Secretary, Catherine Lemann, to the podium for a report on the 2003 election results.

¶10 **Ms. Catherine Lemann** (Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana): Thank you, Madam President. The ballots for the election of the 2003–2004 officers and board members were mailed to all voting members on March 7, 2003, returned by April 4, 2003, and tabulated on April 7, 2003. This schedule is consistent with the AALL Bylaws. The candidates receiving the highest majority of legally cast votes for the Executive Board were Victoria Trotta, President-Elect; and Kathy Carlson and Merle Slyhoff, members of the Executive Board.

¶11 Continuing on the board will be Janis Johnston, President; Carol Nicholson, Past President; Anne Matthewman, Treasurer; Catherine Lemann, Secretary; and James Duggan, Anne Fessenden, Nina Platt, and Al Podboy, members of the Executive Board.

¶12 A total of 1739 ballots were returned on time, and six were invalidated. An itemized list of the election results has been submitted with this report and is available from the Executive Director upon request.

¶13 **President Nicholson:** Thank you. The Chair declares the following persons duly elected by the membership and asks them to stand and be recognized: Victoria Trotta, President-Elect; and Kathy Carlson and Merle Slyhoff, members of the Executive Board.

¶14 If there are no objections, the Secretary will destroy the ballots of the 2003 election.

¶15 **Mr. Mark Estes** (Holme Roberts & Owen, Denver, Colorado): Madam President, have the envelopes been destroyed?

¶16 **President Nicholson:** The envelopes? Have the envelopes been destroyed? [The Secretary nods in assent.]

¶17 **President Nicholson:** Yes, they have.

¶18 **Mr. M. Estes:** Then I have no objection.

¶19 **President Nicholson:** Thank you. Since there are no objections, the Secretary will destroy the ballots of the 2003 election.

### **Memorials**

¶20 We have been informed of the deaths of several members and friends of our Association during the past year. They are Helen Marie Burns, Lydia Freeman, William Gaunt, Ken Johnson, Leon Liddell, Beverly Ann Lipton, Julius Marke. Julius Marke was the second recipient of the Marian Gould Gallagher

Distinguished Service Award. He was the first recipient after Marian received it herself. Julius was also president of AALL from 1962 to 1963. Other deceased members include Ellen Rappaport, Susan Roach, Richard Sloane, Adolf Sprudz, Willi Steiner, Jane Strable, and Ludwik Teclaff. Are there any other members we should remember at this time?

¶21 Please stand and join me in a moment of silence in memory of those individuals who died during the past year. (A moment of silence was observed by the members.) They will be remembered for their contributions to AALL and to the law library profession. Thank you.

### **Report of the President**

¶22 I will now present to you my president's remarks.

¶23 The AALL Bylaws state that the Association "exists to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the public, the legal community, and the world, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information and information policy, in recognition that the availability of legal information to all people is a necessary requirement for a just and democratic society."

¶24 It is amazing and truly awe-inspiring to work with the members and staff of AALL who work timelessly to pursue these objectives. I use the word "pursue" because each achievement that is accomplished by an individual or entity within the Association is quickly replaced by a new initiative, a new challenge, or a new reality within the world of legal information and information policy. This is what keeps us fresh and energized! Attending the AALL Annual Meeting with its myriad of educational programs, meetings, networking, and social events is another source of energy for the challenges that lay ahead, helping us to envision the new frontiers of tomorrow; and it is also an investment in time and resources that reaps benefits throughout the year, helping us to maximize the opportunities of each day. This educational experience supports the work that we return to—with fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm.

¶25 This year the Annual Meeting Program Committee will introduce new thirty-minute programs. These short "mini-sessions" are designed to provide more flexibility for AALL entities in creating programming to fulfill the educational needs of their members. It is my belief that the thirty-minute programs will add a little spice to the traditional mix of sixty-, seventy-five-, and ninety-minute educational program offerings. I hope that you will attend these new programs on Wednesday afternoon, as well as the full array of educational programs offered throughout this year's conference.

¶26 At the beginning of my presidential year, I mentioned several strategic initiatives and ongoing activities on which I planned to focus during 2002–2003.

¶27 The amount of information available on AALLNET, the AALL Web site, is substantial and, for the most part, up-to-date, but reports from members indicate

that more work is needed to create a truly preeminent Web site. I am pleased that we have made significant steps to enhance the Web site. We now have a full-time webmaster and a new look for AALLNET. Although there is still more work to be done, it is rewarding to see that we are off to a very good start.

¶28 In addition to the introduction of new thirty-minute programs, I am pleased to report that the Executive Board has now approved revisions to the Guidelines for Annual Meeting Program Planning as follows:

Program Committee should consistently provide members with a balance of formal educational programming and alternative educational and meeting opportunities during the course of an Annual Meeting. Recognizing the importance of member participation in SIS meetings, Roundtables, AALL Committees and Caucuses, each Annual Meeting schedule developed by AMPC will accommodate sufficient time blocks to ensure greater flexibility for constituent group meetings during the day, not just at 7:00 A.M., the midday and luncheon time slot, or at 5:15 P.M.

¶29 Also, the Professional Development Committee and the new Career Development Task Force have worked closely with the President, the Executive Director, and consultant Gary Siegel to draft the Educational Needs Assessment Survey and conduct focus group meetings here at the Annual Meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chair Tim Coggins and the members of the Professional Development Committee for their many years of service to the Association and for the extensive work that they contributed to the development of the needs assessment survey. As a former member of the PDC, I know firsthand how much they contributed to the implementation and expansion of the professional development program. As we now move forward with the work of the Career Development Task Force, you can be assured that the Executive Board and Executive Director Susan Fox will continue to seek ways to enhance and strengthen AALL's career development program.

¶30 The Executive Board also approved the creation of a Special Committee on Graduate Education. The field of law librarianship is an exciting and rewarding profession; and as the baby boom generation nears retirement over the next several years, there may not be sufficient numbers entering the field as replacements. Our nation is becoming increasingly diverse, yet we attract very few minorities to serve our increasingly diverse constituencies. The Special Committee on Graduate Education will focus on the many issues that arise in this arena, and work with the Recruitment Committee and the Committee on Diversity to help identify and educate the next generation of law librarians.

¶31 AALL will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2006. In recognition of this historic event, I have appointed committees to plan and execute a yearlong celebration which will begin in 2005 at the San Antonio Annual Meeting and culminate at the 2006 Annual Meeting to be held in St. Louis. In the next year or so many of you will be called upon to assist with the plans to celebrate our centennial. I hope that you will be willing to take part in celebrating this historic event, and encourage you to contact Carol Billings if you have any ideas or suggestions

for the centennial celebration.

¶32 Strategic Initiative 1, Outcome C of the 2000–2005 AALL Strategic Plan states: “Law Librarians receive equitable compensation and status relative to their skills, knowledge, and contributions.” This year the Biennial Salary Survey Task Force reviewed and recommended changes for improving the biennial salary survey instrument to strengthen the published data as a resource for law librarians seeking comparative salary information to substantiate requests for salary increases. I would like to remind all law library directors to complete, or delegate for someone else to complete and return, the biennial salary survey instrument by July 25.

¶33 I also had the opportunity to appoint several committees recommended by the Future of Law Librarians in the Digital Age Special Committee, including the ABA Standards for Academic Law Libraries Task Force, the Cataloging and Intranet Access to Electronic Resources Special Committee, and the Special Committee on Licensing Electronic Resources.

¶34 The Fair Business Practices Implementation Task Force was appointed this year and charged with the responsibility for monitoring the ongoing interpretation, revision, promotion, and evaluation of the “AALL Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers” that was approved at the fall 2002 Executive Board meeting and published earlier this year. The FBP Implementation Task Force will work cooperatively with the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors as appropriate.

¶35 As AALL president one often has the opportunity and responsibility to carry forward initiatives that resulted from the ideas and efforts of past presidents. In fact, that is often the case, and I have had the benefit of that experience this year. Yet, one such opportunity was of particular significance to me.

¶36 As the first African-American president of AALL, and the recipient of academic scholarships to attend both undergraduate and graduate school, it was especially rewarding for me to have the opportunity to promote and support the AALL/West George A. Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment. The response to this fund-raising initiative was absolutely fantastic, and I wish to thank each of you who contributed for your generous support. I also want to remind you that there is still time to contribute even further or for the first time. We have made it halfway to our goal and we still have halfway to go. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the membership dues increase. As you can see from the Treasurer’s reports, it couldn’t have come at a better time. (Applause)

¶37 Finally, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as AALL’s president this year. Thank you. (Applause)

### **Introduction and Remarks of Special Guests**

¶38 I would now like to take the opportunity to have greetings brought from our other sister library associations. First, Janine Miller, representing the Canadian Association of Law Libraries.

¶39 **Ms. Janine Miller** (Great Library, the Law Society of Upper Canada, Toronto, Ontario): Thank you, Madam President. I'll try to keep my remarks to the allotted three minutes.

¶40 I want to thank you, the Board, and all the members for the warm hospitality and the friendship that you have shown me in my official capacity. I have old friends that I made when I was just an ordinary member, but you have extended further courtesies and warmth to me in my official capacity as the president of the Canadian Association.

¶41 We had an opportunity at our conference this year to act as host to some of your members who joined us at our national conference in May from your Upstate New York chapter. I think that they will vouch for the good time and the education that they received. And more than that, they found what I have observed with my travels to other sister organizations: the realization that we are all dealing with the same issues, the same topics, and the same concerns. We really are one profession wherever we are.

¶42 One of my goals during my presidency, which is a two-year term, is that we, as librarians, promote the skills that we have. I would like to put a challenge out to all of you here, particularly to your Board, to work toward this goal as well.

¶43 As I've gone around to meetings, I have heard too much about changing the name of an organization as a way of telling the world what we do. What I think we need to do is not change the name, but change the information that we're giving out to people about what the skills are of the new librarians. And I'm not talking about the competencies, because I think the competencies are what we use to tell each other of what our expectations are of each other, of our staff, and perhaps our immediate employers. I'm talking about telling the world.

¶44 I have some concerns when I see on the front page of the paper today that there is now this plastic doll of the image of the librarian, just the image that we are trying to get beyond—of the “shhhh,” of the glasses, of the boring librarian. I know that this is supposed to be tongue in cheek, but the public out there don't see that. We need to market that we're brighter, we're energetic, we're smart, and we know a heck of a lot more than most of them. (Applause)

¶45 So I ask you to join me in nominating someone to put up a marketing campaign, an international marketing campaign, about the skills of the new librarian. And let's not have any more—and excuse me for those whose names are Marian—“Marian librarians.” Thank you. (Applause)

¶46 **President Nicholson**: Thank you. Holger Knudsen, President of the International Association of Law Libraries.

¶47 **Mr. Holger Knudsen** (Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Private Law, Hamburg, Germany): Well, I have nothing much to add to what my Canadian colleague has said. Also, I want to limit myself to the three minutes that were allotted to us.

¶48 I simply bring you the greetings of the International Association of Law Libraries. We are relatively small compared to the American Association of Law Libraries, but we also have annual meetings. They are definitely smaller than this

meeting. But I must say I've enjoyed enormously being here. This was a great experience; the wide range of topics we could enjoy, the many talks I could have, the hospitality I have experienced were very rewarding to me. I almost could say it was a real privilege to be here.

¶49 If I may make a little advertisement for the International Association of Law Libraries, if you enjoyed Seattle, the International Association of Law Libraries will meet in a place which is pretty much like Seattle, Cape Town, South Africa, in September 2003. So if you should like to repeat your Seattle experience, do come and join us in Cape Town. Thank you. (Applause)

¶50 **President Nicholson:** Thank you. Valerie Stevenson, Immediate Past Chair of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians.

¶51 **Ms. Valerie Stevenson** (University of Aberdeen, Queen Mother Library, Aberdeen, Scotland): Thank you, Carol. I bring you greetings from BIALL, from our council, and from all our members. I would like to thank you for the very warm welcome we have received here. All the overseas delegates have been very grateful for the attention that you have given to us, and it means a lot to us to be here. Thank you very much.

¶52 We've received our customary warm welcome from the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law SIS and also from our old friends, Carol and Warren Billings, who always welcome us here. BIALL this year decided to bestow honorary life membership upon Carol and Warren in recognition of everything they have done. (Applause)

¶53 This has been a very busy year for BIALL. We have a number of new projects that you might be interested in. First, we have decided to change the publisher of our journal, *Legal Information Management*, from Sweet and Maxwell to Cambridge University Press. And you'll be able to get the content online there through Cambridge University Press.

¶54 We've upgraded our Web site. We've taken a lot of inspiration from yourselves and AALLNET. We have added features which you have. We are also going to be taking job ads on our Web site shortly, an interesting development for us.

¶55 In publishing, we published a new *Directory of British and Irish Libraries*, which you might like to purchase from us. And we're starting work on a new edition of the *Manual of Law Librarianship*, which was originally edited by Betty Moys.

¶56 I also have news of a project, which is not a BIALL project, but that of one of our members, Peter Klinch, who has set up an index called the *Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations*. It's on the Web now free of charge. So if you need to look up any British legal abbreviations, it's all there for you, and I can give you details later on. It will expand to include legal abbreviations and citations from all over the world as the project develops.

¶57 We're going to start work on a directory of online legal resources. You'll be able to access that on the Web as well, if you need to purchase any British online materials.

¶58 All of these things cost money, and we're also facing a very uncertain economic climate in the United Kingdom. We have dipped into our strategic reserves this year. So we have started to focus on strategic planning, which will be a very rigorous financial plan. So like yourselves, we're facing financial challenges. I've looked at what you've been doing. I've looked at your various strategic directions. I've taken a lot of inspiration from you in setting up a strategic planning process for BIALL. So I thank you for that. We will probably be back in touch for more advice and information later on.

¶59 Our annual conference is going to reflect these concerns next year. In 2004, I'm delighted to say that we will be back in Edinburgh, Scotland, and I'd love to welcome you all there for a glass of whiskey, if you want to come. We will be changing our format to reflect concerns of our membership. We'll be moving from a four-day to a three-day conference, and we'll be packing the program very intensively. We will also be taking on a theme of doing more with less. You are addressing some of these issues in your program this year. Again, we'll take the ideas from you and use those later on. And we will, I'm sure, collaborate on some of the conclusions that we all come to. Our call for papers has been issued, so if you'd like to come as a speaker we'd be very pleased to have you. But if not, please come and enjoy the program and enjoy hospitality from the United Kingdom. Thank you very much. (Applause)

¶60 **President Nicholson:** Thank you, Valerie. Jennie Speirs, National President of the Australian Law Librarians Group.

¶61 **Ms. Jennie Speirs** (Piper Alderman Lawyers, Adelaide, Australia): Good afternoon, everybody. I would like to thank Carol and AALL for their invitation yet again to attend this conference. It's been absolutely marvelous. I've met so many people and had words of friendship extended to me. We're a tiny nation at the bottom of the world, so this was a great experience for me to be able to attend this major conference. I would like to thank Oceana Publications because they are the ones that gave me the scholarship to attend. Thank you. And may I say it's a long way from home.

¶62 Greetings from the bottom of the world. I'd like to extend the hand in friendship from us down there. I must say, and I must reiterate what Janine said, the friendliness and warm hospitality that we have been given has been marvelous. And it's been lovely to meet the people that I met last year. Thank you very much.

¶63 I just wanted to talk about conferences that we actually have coming up next year—well, this year and next year. In August I go back to the Asia Pacific Special, Health and Law Librarians' Conference which actually will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, which is where I come from. Not many people have heard of Adelaide. It sits between Sydney and Perth. So we are holding that conference in August, with some notable people as speakers, one of whom is Richard Susskind. Another person is David Snowden and I'm sure that most people have heard of him.

¶64 The other conference which is coming up is the Joint Study Institute, which I'm sure you all know about. That will be held in Sydney in February 2004. Sydney is a lot like Seattle; on the water, beautiful views, and it will be summer in Sydney. The Joint Study Institute's title is "Australia and New Zealand: Access to the World," and it will be held at the Women's College at the University of Sydney. We'll be covering a diverse range of topics, including common law traditions of Australia, the Australian legal system, and Australian immigration and human rights.

¶65 And the final thing I'd like to mention is our Law Libraries Symposium next year, which will be held in the national capital, Canberra, in Australia. It will be held in September, which is springtime for us, and will coincide with the centenary of our High Court.

¶66 Again, many thanks. I have really enjoyed the hospitality that you have extended to the Australian visitor again. (Applause)

¶67 **President Nicholson:** Thank you. Again, it's such a pleasure to have all of our foreign visitors here with us. When you see them, please greet them, talk to them. They're delightful people, and they're wonderful hosts when we visit their association meetings. (Applause)

### Nominations and Elections Schedule Proposal

¶68 At its meeting in July 2002, the Executive Board approved the proposed Bylaws amendments to shorten the Association's nominations and elections schedule and to use electronic voting when possible. A Special Committee on Election Procedures was appointed to draft the proposed Bylaws amendments in consultation with the Nominations Committee and the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee then submitted the proposed Bylaws to the Executive Board.

¶69 The last two paragraphs of the Bylaws handout deal with implementation. If approved, the amendments will become effective immediately, except for the provisions that would affect the nominations and elections in 2004 for the officers and board members who will take office at the Annual Meeting in July 2005.

¶70 The proposed revisions were published in the May 2003 issue of *AALL Spectrum*. No requests for a mail ballot have been received, in accordance with Article XII, Section 2b of the Bylaws. Therefore, the proposed Bylaws amendments will be voted on at this session, if there are no amendments, or at Wednesday's session.

¶71 Hearing no objections, the provisions concerning the implementation of the Bylaws amendments are adopted. Coming from the Executive Board, no second is needed.

¶72 We will now discuss the proposed Bylaws amendment. To remind you of the rules of debate you adopted previously, discussion will be limited to thirty minutes unless there is a motion to extend discussion for a specified time. The Chair will announce when thirty minutes is completed. If members wish to extend discussion, a motion to extend for a specified amount of time will require a two-thirds

majority. No member may speak for more than three minutes.

¶73 The Chair invites members present to discuss the proposed Bylaws amendment. The Chair asks members who wish to speak in support of the proposed Bylaws amendment to use the microphone placed on the right side of the hall, which is to my left, or the middle microphone. The Chair asks members who wish to raise questions to use the microphone on the left side of the hall.

¶74 The Chair invites members present to discuss the proposed Bylaws amendment. The proposed amendment basically can be divided into two sections—that dealing with Bylaws notice and that dealing with changes in the nomination procedures. If there is no objection, the Chair recommends that discussion be held on the Bylaws notice first.

¶75 Is there any discussion? (Pause)

¶76 The discussion will now be held on the nominations procedures. (Pause) That was a fast thirty minutes. (Laughter)

¶77 So let me confer just a second, because I think since there are no discussions we can proceed with our vote. Is that correct? (Parliamentarian nods assent.) Are we prepared to vote on the Bylaws amendment? I am asked to remind you that we are voting on the entire Bylaws revision in seriatim. Would all of those who are in favor of passing the Bylaws amendment as published in *AALL Spectrum* please rise. Thank you. Those who are opposed, please rise. Thank you. The Bylaws amendment passes.

### **New Business, Announcements, and Recess**

¶78 The Secretary has received no resolutions, so we don't have to deal with that part of the agenda either.

¶79 Are there any items of new business?

¶80 Receiving no request for new business, we will move to the next item on the agenda, which is announcements. Again, I have none.

¶81 Therefore, the Chair would now recess this General Business Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries until 10:15 A.M. on Wednesday, July 16.

[The General Business Meeting, session one, was recessed at 3:20 P.M.]

### **Wednesday Morning—Session Two July 16, 2003**

[The second session of the General Business Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries was called to order at 10:20 A.M. at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Hall 4C, with Carol Avery Nicholson, President, presiding.]

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

¶82 **President Carol Avery Nicholson:** Good morning. The Chair is pleased to call

to order the second session of the 2003 Business Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries. The Chair notes that the Bylaws requirement of fifty members to constitute a quorum is met.

¶83 I would like to introduce those sitting at the head table. They are Parliamentarian Mary L. Randolph, President-Elect Janis Johnston, Treasurer Anne Matthewman, Secretary Cathy Lemann, and Executive Director Susan Fox.

### Adoption of Revised Agenda

¶84 Copies of today's agenda are available in the back of the meeting room. We adopted the agenda at the first session of the Business Meeting on Monday. Are there any items that need to be added?

¶85 **Mr. Vicente E. Garces** (University of Minnesota Law Library, Minneapolis, Minnesota): Madam President, I have a resolution of appreciation I'd like to present at this time.

¶86 **President Nicholson**: Thank you. Are there any other additions to the agenda? (Pause) I've also been asked if we can make one change to the agenda. The President's Certificates of Merit will be presented following the report of the Washington Affairs Representative. If there are no objections, we will adopt the revised agenda. Hearing no objections, we will consider the revised agenda to be adopted. Thank you.

### Report of the Treasurer

¶87 The Chair is pleased to report that the audit report prepared by the independent audit firm of Wolfe & Company, Chicago, Illinois, for the 2001–2002 fiscal year was reviewed with the Treasurer and the Executive Board's Finance and Budget Committee at its February 2003 meeting in Chicago, Illinois, and approved by consent by the AALL Executive Board at its April 2003 meeting. The Chair now calls upon Treasurer Anne Matthewman, to present her report.

¶88 **Ms. Anne C. Matthewman** (Metropolitan Toronto Lawyers Association, Toronto, Ontario): Thank you, Carol. Good morning. This is my second report to you as your treasurer. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the support and advice that I have received from many of you during this year, and to also thank you for the confidence that you have shown in me in performing this financial role for the Association.

¶89 There are copies near the door where you entered of the Treasurer's Report, which was published in the May 2003 issue of *AALL Spectrum* and in which I highlighted the financial results of the fiscal year, which ended on September 30, 2002. I'm not going to delve into the details of this report, but if you have any specific questions, Steve Ligda, AALL director of finance, or I will be glad to answer them.

¶90 Before I move on any further in my report, I also would like to thank Steve Ligda for all his advice and assistance to me and to the Finance and Budget Committee during the year. We couldn't do our job without Steve's assistance. (Applause)

¶91 The fiscal year, which ended on September 30, 2002, was not a good year for many associations, and AALL was no exception. We have had to look long and hard to find any good news in the audit statements from the past year. While the general downturn in the economy was particularly difficult on AALL's investment portfolio, it also caused many of our firms, schools, and courts to exercise fiscal and spending constraints that resulted in significantly lower attendance at last year's meeting in Orlando. While many of the same libraries were represented, we saw broad declines in the numbers of their staff who attended the 2002 meeting. Rather than the usual five or six law library staff in attendance, we registered one or two attendees from any number of libraries. The fact that our Orlando attendance fell 383 members below our estimated budget of 1828 registrants was particularly difficult as we had planned and prepared for their places in classrooms, meetings, and at meal events. After planning and advertising for five workshops, four were subsequently canceled due to lack of registrants. That, in a nutshell, is what happened to AALL and a lot of other membership associations in 2002. Their invested funds earned a lot less in interest and dividends. Their portfolio values declined in double digit percentages. And meeting attendance took a big hit.

¶92 Now, this might all sound pretty bleak insofar as the impact on your Association's financial picture, but the news isn't all bad.

¶93 If you have been reading the treasurer's articles in *AALL Spectrum* and heard these treasurer's reports in the past, you are probably aware of AALL's reserves. The largest of these is our permanent investment fund of professionally managed stocks and bonds. We call it the PIF for short. To be certain, it reported a significant decline in earnings and market value, along with most every other portfolio that uses a broad investment strategy. However, with our endowment fund, restricted investments in scholarships such as the John Johnson Memorial Fund and the recently launched George Strait Minority Scholarship Fund, and our cash reserve fund, we are far from insolvent. We are, in fact, more financially liquid than many for-profit organizations of our size.

¶94 But the most significant positive factor in the last fiscal year was the presence of our current reserve fund. This fund, which was generated from our surpluses in investment earnings of previous years, served as the financial cushion that we so badly needed in 2002. Our financial policies and the actions of the Finance and Budget Committee and Executive Board to build up the current reserve to over \$300,000 served us exceptionally well. Their foresight in mandating this rainy day fund is what we needed to absorb the \$380,000 loss from the general fund that you see on Schedule C of your handout. In fact, the loss exceeded the current reserve fund by almost \$60,000. I will note how the Board has decided to handle that deficit in just a minute.

¶95 With the financial deficit of 2002 behind us, your Finance and Budget Committee and Board have made plans to apply time-tested policies to assure the continued financial stability of your Association.

¶96 You will recall that earlier in 2002 you, the members, approved the first dues increase in over thirteen years. This increase, which will be phased in over the 2003, 2004, and 2005 dues years, will assure a reliable revenue stream that will lessen our reliance on the Annual Meeting as the defining factor in our economic survival. While the meeting will continue as the eight-hundred-pound gorilla, due to its size and scope, we now have another annual revenue stream approaching \$800,000 that won't be subject to how many registrants we attract at future Annual Meetings. I want to thank you so much for approving this essential dues increase.

¶97 I assure you that your Executive Board did not take this dues increase as license to spend without forethought. The current reserve fund deficit of \$60,000 that I noted earlier will need to be erased and built back up to the minimum \$300,000 to protect us in case of another rainy day. I'm pleased to report that at its April 2003 meeting the Executive Board approved the Finance and Budget Committee's recommendation to allocate 50% of the dues increase revenues to the current reserve fund until such time as the fund reaches its former level. With a replenished current reserve fund, AALL will be able to absorb the financial uncertainties that most assuredly lie in the future.

¶98 I would at this time like to acknowledge and thank the many firms and exhibitors who have supported the Association with their contributions and gifts in kind. A number of events here in Seattle have the direct and continuing support of our friends in the legal information community, and for that we are most appreciative.

¶99 I would also like to recognize and thank the members who serve on the Finance and Budget Committee and Executive Board. It's sometimes a thankless task to wrestle with the budget. Indeed, with the 2003 budget we've had to make cuts twice. Many difficult decisions are made when we have to allocate scarce dollars between competing priorities. I can assure you that Board members do not and will not shrink from their responsibilities of maintaining the financial integrity of your Association.

¶100 Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, once again, for your vote of confidence in approving the dues increase and in your attendance at this meeting. You have demonstrated your commitment to AALL and the value and recognition it brings to your profession and society. Thank you very much. (Applause)

¶101 **President Nicholson:** Thank you for your report. Are there any questions about the treasurer's report?

### **Report of the Executive Director**

¶102 The Chair is pleased to introduce Executive Director Susan Fox.

¶103 **Ms. Susan E. Fox** (Executive Director, American Association of Law

Libraries, Chicago, Illinois): It is an honor to stand here before you today to give you my first report as your executive director. It's hard to believe that a year ago at this time I was anxiously awaiting to hear back from the Search Committee on whether or not I had made it to the final round of interviews. I am now in my ninth month in the position, and it's been everything I'd hoped it would be and more.

¶104 Before I give my report, I want to take this opportunity to thank Carol Avery Nicholson for the generous patience and guidance that she's provided since even before I officially came aboard on October 15. She has performed superbly as your president this year. She has been exceptionally responsive, conscientious, and thoroughly dedicated to AALL and the profession. We are quite lucky to have her. And as AALL's first African-American president, she will go down in history as one of our most gracious and attentive. (Applause)

¶105 In these past nine months the question I've heard more than any other was this: Why did you choose AALL? What was your motivation to apply for the position? And the answer is simple. I chose AALL because of the values that law librarians hold and espouse. There are three that I find particularly compelling. One, your abiding belief in professionalism and in the public good. Two, your generosity and selflessness in the service to others. And three, your dedication to preservation of and access to information as a foundation of democracy. In fact, just before leaving for Seattle I came across a quote from James Madison that I think eloquently speaks to these values. He said: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives. A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both."<sup>1</sup>

¶106 Clearly, these values are what set you apart and what make you very important contributors to our society and to what is right and good about this country. To be able to, in turn, serve you is humbling and deeply gratifying. I promise I will strive to do so to the very best of my ability.

¶107 As you just heard from Anne Matthewman, this has been a difficult financial year for AALL. Twice we cut back on expenses, and that included a 3% cut in operating expenses. I know that many of you here have experienced similar and likely deeper cutbacks in your home institutions. What makes managing Association finances especially tricky is the fact that we generate revenues as well as expenditures. That means that we must project what we think our revenues will be for the coming year. Given the complexity of AALL, this is difficult under the best of economies. In a bad economy it is more difficult still. I give Anne and our director of finance, Steve Ligda, great praise for their attentiveness and expert stewardship during these challenging times. (Applause)

¶108 If it gives you much comfort, I can tell you that we're not alone among

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1. Letter from James Madison to W. T. Barry (Aug. 4, 1822), in 9 THE WRITINGS OF JAMES MADISON 103 (Gaillard Hunt ed. 1910).

associations in grappling with declining revenues and reserves. Many are quite worse off than we are, especially those who did not have the foresight to put into place the fiscal controls and processes that our Board did so astutely during the prosperous 1990s.

¶109 This year, primarily due to budget restraints, we also decided to leave two important positions open—those of director of programs and customer service assistant. We owe Pam Reisinger, our meeting manager, a huge debt of gratitude for taking on a large number of additional duties to help us bridge the gap in the director of programs position. We never would have been able to leave that position open were it not for Pam's skill, enthusiasm, and ability to rise to the occasion. While it's always a team effort, Pam and Heidi Letzmann, our program coordinator for meetings and special events, deserve great praise for all their work in putting together this year's Annual Meeting. I plan on filling the director of programs and customer assistant positions sometime in the fall, although it's quite likely the titles of those positions will change somewhat. You can be sure that I will keep you all apprised.

¶110 While we are on the topic of personnel, I want to thank everyone in the Chicago headquarters office for all that they have done to make the transition in executive directors a smooth one and an experience, at least for me, of great joy. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Kim Rundle, my assistant, whose good humor and guidance has helped me navigate the first year in this position more smoothly than I would have ever been able to do on my own. Most of the staff is here in Seattle and I hope you have had a chance to meet them.

¶111 We have two staff members back in the Chicago office who also deserve recognition, Ivonne Torres, our accounting assistant, and Chris Orange, our mail-room assistant. These two people act far behind the scenes, in this case 1500 miles behind the scenes, and they are every bit as indispensable as those who are physically here.

¶112 Another staff member who is indispensable to our efforts in Washington, D.C., is Mary Alice Baish, our Associate Washington Affairs Representative. Mary Alice and Bob Oakley are remarkably effective in bringing the right issues to our attention at just the right time. (Applause)

¶113 One additional reason why I decided to leave the two previously mentioned positions open is the fact that this year we are engaged in an educational needs assessment in order to better understand what AALL members want and need to help them fulfill their continuing education. We are in the process of polling all of our members, not just a segment, in order to determine how best to proceed in this most important area of our work. Our consultant, Gary Siegel, joined us here in Seattle this week and with the Career Development Task Force conducted a series of focus groups to drill down deeper into member needs and expectations. The Executive Board will receive a final report this fall and will begin deliberating on the information that it contains. If you haven't filled out the survey, there is still time to do so; and I strongly encourage your participation in

it. You will be hearing more about the results of the survey and our subsequent plans in the weeks and months ahead.

¶114 We all owe BNA, Inc., a debt of gratitude for so generously subsidizing the educational needs assessment. They are committed to continuing education in the profession, and they have been significant supporters of AALL's continuing education activities throughout the years. Kammie Hedges, if you are here, thank you very much. (Applause)

¶115 This past fall we brought the AALL Web site in-house. We owe Mark Folmsbee and his team at Washburn University a big debt of gratitude for so generously hosting the site for so long. Over the course of the years our site has grown in great complexity and depth, and so we had been planning to bring the site in-house in stages over the course of the next six months to two years. Unfortunately a chronic series of hacks against our site forced us to telescope our plans considerably. It was a bumpy transition for all of us, and I apologize to those of you who experienced the frustration of the transition along with us on staff. These transitions are never easy and they never go smoothly. The good news is today we have all of our services under one roof, and the newly designed site is far more functional and attractive. Both Reggie Swanigan, our director of information technology, and Arek Tarasiewicz, our Web administrator, put in very long hours and a high degree of dedication to make all this happen. I can't thank them enough. (Applause)

¶116 Overall for 2003 our membership numbers fell by 1.8% since 2002, but this is somewhat deceiving. Almost all of that decline came from our institutional members. Institutional associates fell by 8.2% in the year and institutional members fell by 4.5%. I think we can attribute this mainly to the economic downtown. Our individual memberships, however, show a much brighter picture. Individual memberships are up by 11.7%, individual associates are up by 7.4%, and, most promising of all, student memberships are up by 25%. This is especially important when we consider the graying of the profession and our pressing need to attract younger members into the Association. I should note, too, that although our overall statistics are down a fraction from 2002, they are still at their highest since 1995.

¶117 I will now touch on some of our publishing highlights of the past year. One mandate the members are very clear about is the need to raise the visibility of law librarians both within your home institutions and also in society at large. Three particular documents produced this year did just that in a significant way.

¶118 The "Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers" is, as we know, a significant piece of work that helps to define and clarify the landscape between law librarians and publishers. AALL developed the guidelines to replace the Guides for the Law Book Industry rescinded by the Federal Trade Commission on January 19, 2002. This year, to help us move forward with the distribution and promotion of the Guide as the accepted standard in the industry, we have appointed a Fair Business Practices Implementation Task Force. Charged with the responsibility of monitoring the ongoing interpretation, revision, promotion, and evalua-

tion of the Guide, the task force will be working cooperatively with the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors and others as appropriate.

¶119 Printed and distributed in cooperation with LexisNexis, our next publication, *Beyond the Boundaries*, is the report of the AALL Special Committee on the Future of Law Libraries in the Digital Age. The report describes possible models of academic, private, and government law libraries of the future, analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of each model. Members and allied professionals alike received this report with great enthusiasm and deserved praise. It is the work of visionaries within our Association, and it helps to shine a light on the path toward developing law libraries of the future.

¶120 Developed by the Public Relations Committee and adopted by the Executive Board just this past April, the “Statement on the Value of Law Librarians” helps to educate resource allocators and others about the knowledge and skills law librarians bring to a changing work environment. This simple, one-page statement will be effective in communicating value. Our challenge this year will be to make sure that the statement receives targeted distribution to the right populations. I encourage you to download a copy of the statement from the Public Relations Committee Web site and to use it often.

¶121 In helping to bring these publications to fruition, we owe our publications director, Maya Norris, a big thank you. Maya is another of our staff members who works quietly and very effectively behind the scenes. She is a graduate of the highly acclaimed Northwestern University School of Journalism, a consummate professional, and focused exclusively on bringing you quality publications on a consistent basis. We’re lucky to have her as a member of our team. (Applause)

¶122 Finally, I want to talk to you very briefly about the big picture issues I see facing AALL in the years ahead. Many of you likely read Carol Nicholson’s column in the March 2003 issue of *AALL Spectrum* in which she discussed Glen Tecker’s book, *The Will to Govern Well*. In it, Tecker spends a great deal of time discussing the need for organizational nimbleness as a survival tool in these ambiguous times. He defines nimbleness as “the ability of the organization to seize opportunities. Nimbleness is not just about accomplishing work quickly—it is about accomplishing work in the right amount of time in the right way.”

¶123 So how do you do that? What’s the magic answer? I would argue that there are four considerations that will help us transform into an organization more agile than we are today. They are:

- **Vision.** And in our case, of course, it’s a collection of visions, because each unit within AALL has a vision, and each set of visions contributes to the Association as part of an ongoing conversation. There are visions everywhere, many touched upon here in this report, and what we need to do is to continue to develop AALL as an open system that allows these visions to flourish and grow.
- **Governance.** You achieve nimbleness through trust. The governing board and

headquarters trusting members through transparency of process and information, and in turn members trusting the governing board and headquarters to provide right and proper stewardship of a precious set of resources.

- **Knowledge.** Through strategic positioning we can create a solid knowledge base that will increase our visibility in the broader population. Again, we can see evidence of this positioning in this report with *Beyond the Boundaries* and the “Statement on the Value of Law Librarians.” Each year we need to add to the base provided from the year before and to remain vigilant to the changing needs and demands of the profession and the Association.
- Last, and to my mind most important of all, **community.** It’s through community that we receive value in our work and in our relationships. It’s the sense of belonging that sets associations apart from other entities or resources. And it’s in community that we define ourselves and we define our role in relationship to others. AALL has a remarkably strong community bond.

¶124 You are good people and you are doing good things. You are, quite simply, an inspiring group of people. I truly look forward to working side by side with you to make this a great Association fulfilling all of your great expectations. Thank you. (Applause)

¶125 **President Nicholson:** Thank you for your report. Now you can see that we really did make the right choice at the right time for our Association. (Applause) Are there any questions about the executive director’s report?

### **Report of the Washington Affairs Representative**

¶126 The Chair is now pleased to introduce Robert Oakley, Washington Affairs Representative.

¶127 **Mr. Robert L. Oakley** (Georgetown University Law Center, Edward Bennett Williams Library, Washington, D.C.): Good morning. It’s always my pleasure to come before you at this Annual Meeting to report on the work of the Washington office for the past year. Of course, it’s not possible at this meeting to be able to go into as much detail as we do in the program sessions, but I always like to highlight some of the most important things for your information and for the record.

¶128 Our work this year took us much more into the international arena than it ever has before. Several new international trade treaties have been developed by the Bush administration with the support of the entertainment industry. These new treaties have tended to merge intellectual property policy with international trade policy. And there is now a clear agenda to export U.S. copyright policies, including a longer copyright term and the use of technological protection but not including fair use, to the rest of the world. Some of these treaties are on the fast track and might even be approved by Congress before we conclude our business here in Seattle.

¶129 Even while we have been expressing our views on these proposed treaties,

we have also been supporting bills in Congress from Representative Rick Boucher and Representative Zoe Lofgren that would restore some of the balance to the copyright act that has been seriously eroded over the last few years.

¶130 We have also continued our opposition to UCITA which has threatened to allow shrink-wrap licenses to erode users' rights under copyright. Although I do not want to jinx it, because of widespread coalition opposition, we now seem to be very close to being able to declare victory over UCITA in its current form. (Applause) However, there is always a "but." We would be naive to think that these issues will go away. They're important to the industry, and I think that after a short period for regrouping they may well come back in some new form.

¶131 AALL this year also supported several amicus briefs, including Supreme Court briefs in *Eldred v. Ashcroft*, where the Supreme Court upheld the extension of the copyright term, and *Dastar v. Twentieth Century Fox*, where the court held that the Lanham Act could not be used to resurrect intellectual property protection for work that had passed into the public domain. We also supported Verizon's effort to resist providing the names of its users to the Recording Industry Association of America. Unfortunately, Verizon has not prevailed in this case, and that fact could have ramifications for many of our members' parent institutions.

¶132 We also worked this year on several issues related to government information. The new public printer, Bruce James, has indicated a strong interest in strengthening the depository library program, even as the transition to electronic information continues. He and Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell are engaged in a yearlong review of the program to develop new services for libraries and to create new incentives for libraries to remain in the program. In June, for example, GPO and OMB announced a new agreement to help bring more agency publications into the program. And following a resolution of your Executive Board last spring, the Government Printing Office has announced at this Seattle meeting that it will resume publication of the print slip opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court. (Applause)

¶133 I cannot conclude without acknowledging at least a few people, though there should undoubtedly be many more. First, Copyright Committee Chair Keith Stiverson and Copyright Committee member Sam Trosow have done a tremendous job this year. Not only has the full committee been engaged on a large number of issues, but Sam and Keith drafted statements on the international trade proposals that were signed by a broad coalition of organizations.

¶134 Second, the Government Relations Committee, chaired by Charlene Cain, has also done a tremendous amount. That committee has worked under an Aspen grant to produce a monumental report on the state of permanent public access to state government information. Not only is this an excellent state-by-state survey of where things are today, it will also be an important advocacy tool as we continue to promote better access to state government information throughout the nation. The regional editors who worked so hard on this report included Charlene Cain, David McFadden, Susan Dow, and Richard Matthews as editor in chief.

¶135 Finally, I must acknowledge and thank my colleague Mary Alice Baish for her tireless work throughout the year. You have no idea how much she does. Not only was Mary Alice involved in all the substantive issues I mentioned here, she also made a huge contribution to the writing, editing, and production of the report on state government information that I just mentioned. Please join me again in thanking Mary Alice. (Applause)

¶136 And I would be remiss if I forgot to add my thanks to all of you, our members, for your support. When we in Washington need letters written or when a state issue develops that we cannot handle, our members are the best. There is no doubt about it. So we in the Washington office appreciate you and we thank you.

¶137 As always, it has been a pleasure to serve the Association as your Washington Affairs Representative this past year. Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to serve. (Applause)

¶138 **President Nicholson:** Thank you for your report. Are there any questions about the Washington Affairs report?

### President's Certificates of Appreciation

¶139 Each year the president has an opportunity to present a few special certificates of merit for people or entities who have contributed to the Association or to the profession in unusual or extraordinary ways. This year it is my privilege to present the following certificates.

¶140 I would like to ask Charlene Cain to please come forward. I was the liaison to the Government Relations Committee, and I can attest to how tremendously hard this committee has worked. I'm presenting this certificate to Charlene who is accepting this morning on behalf of the Government Relations Committee "for producing the Permanent Public Access to State Government Information Study, a state-by-state compilation and resource guide that furthers the Association's strategic plan and promotes access to government information, presented at the 96th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, July 2003." (Applause)

¶141 Would Cornell Winston please come forward.

¶142 **Mr. Cornell H. Winston** (United States Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, California): I didn't do it.

¶143 **President Nicholson:** Yes, you did. He's trying to deny it, but he did it, and with just a little arm twisting from me. I've asked Cornell to come forward on behalf of the Southern California Association of Law Libraries to accept a Presidential Certificate of Merit "for launching the chapter challenge in support of the George Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment and for enduring support of AALL and the profession through the intercity youth program." (Applause)

¶144 Now, would Merle Slyhoff please come forward. (Pause) The reason that people are scattered around the room is because we didn't tell them who was going to get these certificates.

¶145 I've asked Merle to come forward on behalf of the Academic Law Library Special Interest Section. I'm presenting it a Presidential Certificate of Merit "for launching the SIS challenge in support of the George Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment." With the two of them, the SCALL chapter and the Academic SIS, they have really, really helped us make our fund-raising efforts so successful thus far. (Applause)

¶146 Would Kammie Hedges please come forward. In addition to the formal reason that I'm bringing her up here, I also want to thank Kammie for the wonderful job she does every year in selecting our Annual Meeting registration bags. But Kammie is accepting this Presidential Certificate of Merit on behalf of the Bureau of National Affairs "for their continuing support and for funding the career development needs assessment survey and report." Thank you. (Applause)

¶147 Would Gail Warren and Rita Reusch please come forward. They almost look like twins, don't they, they've been together so long. I asked them to come forward to receive a Presidential Certificate of Merit on behalf of the Future of Law Libraries in the Digital Age Special Committee "for producing the publication *Beyond the Boundaries* that furthers the Association's vision of the future and fosters the highest standard of law librarianship, presented at the 96th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, July 2003." (Applause) And also, for producing so many requests for new special committees, which really kept me busy this year. (Laughter)

¶148 Bob Oakley, would you come back. You know Bob just keeps working and working and working like the Energizer Bunny. This time he's being presented this Presidential Certificate of Merit "for enduring commitment to AALL and the profession and for spearheading the 'Preserving Legal Information for the 21st Century: Toward a National Agenda' conference to address the preservation dilemma in regard to legal information." (Applause)

¶149 Now, this is one person that I just assumed would be here. We didn't need to make any special calls and say, "Please come to the Business Meeting," because we just knew that Mark Estes would be here. Mark is getting this "for enduring commitment to AALL and the profession and for personifying the importance of our community of law librarians." He's another one who just keeps working and working and working. We really appreciate it. Thank you. (Applause)

¶150 And last, but certainly not least, I would like to ask Pam Reisinger to please come forward. Pam is always working behind the scenes to make us look good, so now she has to come up here and look good. This Presidential Certificate of Merit is presented to Pam Reisinger "for her expertise and loyalty in managing AALL's many meetings throughout the year and for her dedication and diligence in ensuring the operational success of the 2003 Annual Meeting." And she has certainly done a good job of that. (Applause)

¶151 That was fun. Now, the Chair is pleased to introduce Vice President Janis Johnston.

### Remarks of the Vice President/President-Elect

¶152 **Ms. Janis L. Johnston** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Albert E. Jenner Memorial Law Library, Champaign, Illinois): Thank you and good morning. It has been a wonderful year for me, and I am pleased to report to you on my activities as Vice President/President-Elect, and on my plans for the coming year.

¶153 I have participated this year in the activities of the Executive Board by attending meetings, working on Board committees, and serving as a representative of the Board in visiting several chapters. These visits have been very rewarding events that have allowed me to meet many new law librarians, learn about exciting initiatives, and listen to members' suggestions and concerns.

¶154 In early March I attended the conference on preservation of legal information organized by Bob Oakley and the staff at Georgetown and cosponsored by AALL. Preservation is a critical issue for all of us, and the conference provided an opportunity to begin planning activities and to form an organization that will ensure the preservation of print and digital legal information.

¶155 In June I had the honor of attending the meeting of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians in Cardiff, Wales. I can report that our British and Irish colleagues face challenges very similar to ours and are meeting those challenges with great vigor and intelligence. I learned a great deal from participating in their meeting, including the fact that BIALL members work very hard and play just as hard as their American counterparts.

¶156 One of the major assignments of the vice president/president-elect is to appoint committee members for the coming year. I want to thank all of you who volunteered. Unfortunately I was not able to appoint everyone, but AALL does provide many other ways to be engaged in the work of our Association through our special interest sections and our chapters. The task of appointing committees proved to be a revealing one for me. I realized how diverse and important is the work of our Association and how many members I have yet to meet. I hope I have the chance to meet with all of you during the coming year.

¶157 I want to report that I have created three special committees for this year. As a former treasurer, it should come to you as no surprise that the first is a special committee charged to develop a planned giving program for the Association. Many of us have benefitted greatly from our membership and participation in AALL, and I believe we would be happy to include the Association in our planned giving.

¶158 The second special committee will review our use of *AALL Spectrum* and AALLNET to ensure that we are using these publications to best advantage as communication vehicles with our members and others interested in our profession.

¶159 The third special committee will be exploring grants and foundation support possibilities for our information policy activities. Our need to be a vocal par-

ticipant on an increasing number of federal, state, and international information policy developments has grown beyond the funding the Association can provide at this time. I hope that this committee will be able to identify possible funding sources and will inform the Board of the resources that we will need to secure and administer grant and foundation funding.

¶160 There are many other exciting things that are on the agenda for the President and the AALL Board in the coming year. I was pleased to write an article for *Coffee Talk*, our newspaper here, and that can give you further ideas of the plans ahead.

¶161 In closing, I want to extend an invitation to you to come to Boston in 2004. Our theme, "Boston to Bombay: The World of Legal Information," reflects the global scope that law librarianship encompasses today. I believe it will be an exciting meeting held in Boston, one of the world's great cities. I hope to see all of you there.

¶162 I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to serve AALL and its members. I want to thank you all for entrusting me with this responsibility. I anticipate a challenging, yet exciting year ahead. This is a time that requires great creativity and innovation, and I look forward to working with all of you on behalf of AALL and all its members to ensure that our Association flourishes in the years ahead. Thank you very much. (Applause)

¶163 **President Nicholson:** Thank you for your report. Are there any questions about the vice president's report?

### Resolution of Appreciation

¶164 The Chair will now call on Linda Davis and Vicente Garces to present the resolution of thanks.

¶165 **Mr. V. Garces:** Madam President, we are indeed honored and pleased to move the following resolution of appreciation:

#### Resolution of Appreciation

Whereas the 96th Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries, held in Seattle, Washington on July 12–16, 2003, was a strong educational and social success; and

Whereas the success of AALL's 96th Annual Meeting and Conference can be attributed, in large part, to the contributions of many individuals and entities that gave willingly of their time, energy, resources, and support.

Therefore be it resolved that, on behalf of AALL and its members, thanks be given to the following who worked throughout the year on Annual Meeting arrangements.

¶166 **Ms. Linda J. Davis** (George Washington University, Jacob Burns Law Library):

President Carol Avery Nicholson; Amy Eaton and Katherine Foster, cochairs, and the Local Advisory Committee; Ruth Hill, chair, and the Annual Meeting Program Committee; AALL Headquarters Staff, especially Susan Fox, Pam Reisinger, Heidi Letzmann, Steve

Ligda, and Kim Rundle; all the speakers, moderators, and program coordinators; all those who volunteered their assistance; and all of the members themselves, without whom the Annual Meeting would not have been a success.

And be it further resolved that, on behalf of AALL and its members, thanks be given to our Gold and Silver level sponsors, BNA, Inc., CCH, LexisNexis, and West, and all our other corporate contributors who have sponsored or cosponsored an event, service, or publication, or otherwise given their support to the Annual Meeting; and special thanks be given to LexisNexis for hosting the Opening Reception. Thank you.

¶167 **President Nicholson:** Thank you. Will all those voting in favor of this resolution of thanks, please say aye.

¶168 **Audience participants:** Aye.

¶169 **President Nicholson:** The motion carries. Thank you.

### **Announcements and Adjournment**

¶170 Receiving no requests for other new business, we will move on to the next item on the agenda. The only announcement that I can possibly think of at this point is please come to the closing banquet tonight, dress up pretty, get ready to have fun.

¶171 If there are no objections, this Business Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries is adjourned sine die.

[Whereupon the General Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.]