

## LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC – SIS

Annual Business Meeting – St. Louis, MO

Monday, July 10, 2006

5:15 p.m. – America’s Center – Room 125

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDEES:

David McFadden, Sarah Sabasteanski, Wei-Yau Huang, Tina Ching, Brian Haley, Luis Acosta, Mareth Wilson, Sara Galligan, Betty Agin, Henry Gozoz, Liz Robb, Maria Prott I, Mon Yin Lung, Zoya Golban, Charles Dyer, Judy Helms, Joel Fishman, Catherine Hendrickson.

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Sara Galligan called the meeting to order. Each attendee introduced himself or herself.

1. **Minutes** – David McFadden made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as recorded. Mareth Wilson seconded the motion. All members agreed, and the motion was passed.
2. **Treasurer’s Report** – Catherine Hendrickson stated that the Treasury balance is \$7,876.97. Luis Acosta moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Mareth Wilson seconded, all members agreed, and the motion was passed.
3. **Committee/Activity Reports** –
  - a. **Nominations** – The slate for nominations and the election transition should be discussed after the close of this meeting. These committees should be updated with new committee members for next year.
  - b. **Grants** – Betty Akin and Brian Haley received Kathy Garner grants for this Conference in St. Louis. The grants covered full registration for the annual meeting.
  - c. **VIP – Education Summit** – Ayn Crawley, MD Legal Assistance Network was selected as our first VIP guest. Ayn is extremely active in working with pro se litigants and with law librarians around the country. **Education Summit**--LISP received a strategic directive from AALL executive staff requesting that a member attend the program regarding additional educational programming beyond the yearly conference. Amy represented LISP at that Summit in September 2005. AALL is seeking opportunities and is requesting suggestions on how to reach member needs in particular areas.
  - d. **Newsletter** – Sara Galligan reported on behalf of Amy Hale-Janeke. Amy has agreed to continue the two issues of the newsletter next year. Amy is seeking assistance from any member who is interested in either helping with the newsletter or submitting articles.

Luis Acosta announced that Amy would like to have the column in the newsletter dealing with pro se problems put on the website in order to draw traffic. Also, our web links should include links to self-help and all the other AALL programs dealing with pro se programs at the AALL meetings. Additionally, we should consider a “Dear Pricilla” type of a column which would include a patron problem or a pro se “question of the month”.

- e. **Tool Kits** – Public libraries are looking to use what is on the website to work with LISP to assist the public in need of legal knowledge. Contact Lee Warthen with questions, additions, changes, or suggestions regarding promotion of the tool kits.
  - f. **CONNELL** – Sara and Catherine attended the Saturday event at the Conference. They answered questions and handed out LISP materials to new members with an overwhelmingly positive response.
  - g. **Website** – Pam Tull is our webmaster, please let her know if you want something posted on the webpage. David thanked Pam for her assistance with the Conference grant stating that she was “very, very helpful”.
  - h. **Bylaws** – Discussion regarding changing sections of the bylaws, in particular: the election format from snail mail to online format (this bylaw change was completed prior to the March online election), a new area addressing grants and VIPs. Because redrafting the entire bylaws is an enormous task, it was suggested that we review AALL’s model bylaws first. LISP changes need to be submitted to the AALL Bylaws Committee for examination and approval. David volunteered to review the bylaws and report back to LISP with some recommendations.
4. **Programs/Roundtable** – LISP’s programs: Sara’s roundtable was well-attended and very successful. Amy is bringing in an expert to assist with her presentation on “Compassion Fatigue”. Both Sara and Amy are doing a great job attracting member attention to the needs of pro se litigants and the various programs being worked on in numerous libraries.
  5. **Pro Bono Special Committee** – Sally Holterhoff (AALL President-Elect) – has formed a Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships for 2006-07. This Committee will focus on cooperative efforts between law librarians and other providers of pro bono legal assistance. Led by Chair Sara Galligan, the committee will be exploring ways to promote and expand these efforts and encourage more AALL chapters and local law libraries to become involved.
  6. **Self Represented Litigants Network (SRLN)** – Charles Dyer is working with self-represented litigants. He is gathering support through an outreach group to law librarians (and including at least one public librarian) to address “best practices” issues. Contact Charles for further information.
  7. **Program for Next Year** – The Program Committee will be holding an open forum at noon today to discuss new programs. Members are encouraged to join similar ideas in order to develop a comprehensive program next year in New Orleans. It was suggested that we should concentrate on pro se/pro bono/self-help. Luis volunteered to gather the new programs and put a message on the listserv

and submit them to the program board. We are looking for anything relating to LISP as well as areas of interest to pro se litigants.

8. **Strategic Planning – Online Survey Results** – Sara sent a survey to LISP listserv members in early June asking about their libraries' pro bono activities. There were 32 responses. David stated that SCALL also had a presentation regarding pro bono issues, that there is now a new interest to investigate pro bono matters, and that the above survey results were part of SCALL's handout.
9. **Other - Crossing Over to Other Librarian Associations** – It was suggested that we might consider submitting an article to the ALA Public Library Newsletter, or possibly giving a presentation or an exhibit at the ALA yearly conference. David and Charlie have attended PLA and feel that LISP should encourage a connection. In addition, it is highly likely that many of our members have connections with other Librarian organizations, for example, Catherine volunteered that she has been a member of ALA for many years and has presented LISP issues at the California Library Association (CLA) conferences.

A discussion followed in which the members discussed the benefits of collaboration between LISP and affiliates of the American Librarian Association. Finally, it was agreed that we should put out a *call* to other Chapters regarding their outreach programs.

At 6:15 pm a motion to adjourn was made by Henry Gozoz and seconded by Mareth Wilson. All members agreed and the motion was passed.