

## **2010/2011 SCCLL Trustee Development Committee Report**

For the past several years the SCCLL Trustee Development Committee has explored various strategies to get library trustees or board members to become active within the American Association of Law Libraries.

In November 1994, the AALL Executive Board authorized SCCLL to revise its bylaws to create a membership category for Law Library Trustees which would give them voting privileges.

In 1998 SCCLL planned an all-day workshop for trustees and members of SCCLL, "Law Librarians and Their Governing Bodies: Strategies for a Successful Working Relationship". The workshop was cancelled due to low registration. However, the SIS held its first SCCLL SIS Librarians and Trustees Dinner Meeting. It was a no-host dinner and 5 trustees and 22 librarians attended the meeting.

In 1999 the group met for lunch on Sunday during the AALL Annual Meeting. Twelve trustees and members of library governing bodies, as well as forty-four librarians attended the lunch. Many of the Trustees attended the meeting on VIP grants. This is more than double the number that attended the first meeting. The luncheon tradition continued through 2010 and until that year, there was a speaker for the luncheon. In 2000, in addition to the luncheon, the Trustee's Committee planned a mini-conference for trustees attending the meeting.

In 2001, new AALL By-laws were passed that allowed Trustees to vote in AALL. A series of special events for Trustees attending the meeting were planned including a tour of the West Group's Headquarters.

Programs of a similar nature continued for the next several years, but fewer Trustees attended each subsequent year and the luncheon was attended by mostly librarians and many of them did not even have trustees. In 2008, the Trustee's Committee evaluated the committee's strategic initiatives and surveyed SCCLL libraries. They found that only 4 libraries enrolled their trustees as AALL members.

In 2010 the SIS Chair, Anne Matthewman and Coral Henning, Chair, Trustee's Committee decided to have a discussion format rather than a speaker for the Trustee's Luncheon. Five Trustees attended the lunch and participated in the discussion. It was determined that the majority of SCCLL members did not have trustees and the question was raised as to whether or not the section should focus its energies elsewhere. Our section has awarded an Advocacy award for the past few years and that traditionally took place at the lunch although it could take place at another time such as the annual breakfast and business meeting on Sunday morning or the reception held on Sunday evening. Many ideas and suggestions were presented but the fact remained that the Trustee's Luncheon was an event attended by SCCLL members, most of whom did not have Trustees. Based on this fact, it was decided by this year's Trustee's Committee not to hold a Trustee's luncheon during the 2011 meeting.

The Chair of this year's Trustee's Committee has reviewed all SCCLL Newsletters from 1992 through the present and has found that during the mid-1990's through about 2006, there were members of SCCLL who promoted Trustee involvement in our SIS. The reality is that although the American Library Association has an active Trustee's Committee, it is a much, much larger organization than AALL or the SCCLL SIS and if only 4 libraries enroll their Trustees as members of AALL, is it realistic for there to even be a Trustee's Committee within SCCLL?

The Chair has spoken with librarians who have governing bodies and asked them why their Trustee's do not attend the AALL Annual Meeting. The general consensus was that the members of their governing bodies are volunteers who are busy professionals. The Judges are due in court and are unable to take time away to attend the Annual Meeting, likewise for the attorney members. They said that their governing bodies expect them, as the manager of the library to keep them informed about developments and changes in the profession. They do not have time to keep up with reading the AALL publications or monitor list serves, etc., they see that as the library director's job. However, they also said that they do share Trustee information with their governing bodies when appropriate as it relates to their particular organization. Information about Trustees could be shared on the SCCLL Website and via the list-serve.

We respectfully recommend that the committee be disbanded due to the fact that the majority of our SIS's members do not have trustees.

Regina Smith, Chair 2010/2011 Trustee's Committee Chair  
Mary Jenkins, Trustee's Committee Member