

# STATE, COURT & COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES



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## Chair's Message

1993/94 - The Year to Belong & Renew

### *The Value of Belonging*

The phone rings. A law librarian is asking for a copy of the SCCLL County Law Library Standards. I send it out with a cheerful note. A colleague calls to find out if we have a particular CD-ROM and what equipment I have. I call a colleague to ask if his library has a particular book and is it good? Another colleague calls to get a warm fuzzy because she is having a stressful day and needs a sympathetic ear. A librarian from another state calls and asks about an Ohio book to purchase. What do all these situations have in common? The connections have all been made as a result of professional associations - longstanding friendships and connections made at conferences, especially SCCLL. This year encourage a non-member to join SCCLL.

### *Oxygen & Renewal*

When I worked at the University of Akron in the late 60's, I felt a general unrest after a while because I felt I could not keep up with the flow of information and the pace of change. After reading Toffler's Future Shock and realizing we were coming into the Information Age, I could put my feelings into perspective. Lately, I have been feeling the same sense of being overwhelmed by the amount of information, pace of change and lack of time to absorb it all. But I wondered why I was still saying yes to doing book reviews, preparing programs, serving on committees, etc.

After hearing Sarah Weddington's keynote speech at this

summer's AALL meeting in Boston, I knew why. It is the same thing that keeps my 85-year old father writing articles for encyclopedias and magazines, giving talks and teaching Sunday School. "OXYGEN". Pretty basic. Professional and civic opportunities renew us and we gain from the recognition and sense of accomplishment.

Just like "showing up". "Showing up" means you have taken the time to attend a local, regional, or national conference. "Showing up" means you have volunteered to serve on an SCCLL Committee. "Showing up" means you are reading professional newsletters and making use of information in them to help your library. All these and other activities provide the intellectual and emotional oxygen to keep you going.

Renew yourself this year. Become involved in SCCLL and AALL or local library activities. Visit another library in your city, call a colleague, write an article, take a "field trip" to a library outside your area, send a colleague a cartoon you like, call your SCCLL chair to share your day!

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