

# State & County

Law Libraries

# NEWS

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*Newsletter of the State, Court and County Section of the American Association of Law Libraries*

## From the Chair

With the whirlwind of the National Conference on Legal Information Issues and the Annual Meeting now behind us, I am ready to get down to business. I would like to start by personally thanking Marvin Anderson, as Chair, Kathy Carlson, as Secretary/Treasurer, and Anita Shew, as Past-Chair, for their service to the section and for their help to me over the past year.

Over the next several months as we plan for the coming meeting in Indianapolis, I have several themes that I would like each of us to consider.

The first is to encourage everyone to participate in the section. Participation can take many forms, such as volunteering to serve on a committee or agreeing to run for office. I don't believe that one necessarily needs to attend the Annual Meeting in order to participate. Most of the work for the section is accomplished by telephone, letter and, now, e-mail. Participation can also be done by simply sharing information with others. For example, I regularly meet with the library manager for our Attorney General's Office and lately we have been reciprocating with in-house library training for our employees. This provides an

inexpensive training opportunity as well as a chance for staff to interact with other librarians.

Secondly, I encourage all of us to spread the word about our section. Although our name specifies state, court and county law libraries, I believe that it does not adequately describe all of the types of libraries represented by the membership. We also include libraries for attorneys general, for municipal corporations, and for administrative agencies. Some of us are open to the general public, some of us are not. But we do share common concerns about funding, about collection development, about service. I have asked each of the officers and each committee chair to consider how we can encourage membership and promote participation by all libraries who share our common concerns.

Thirdly, I would emphasize that we all should be concerned and promote our libraries as integral to the efficient administration of justice. Whether yours is a public library like mine, open to all and sundry, or whether yours is open only to a select clientele, I still believe that you can support and encourage the recognition of our libraries as basic to the administration of justice and access to the justice system by all.

We have an excellent opportunity to open up discussion and participation through our listserve "STATECOURTCOUNTY-L". If you are on the Internet, sign-up by sending a message to [listserv@lawlib.wuacc.edu](mailto:listserv@lawlib.wuacc.edu) with the following instructions:

SUBSCRIBE STATECOURTCOUNTY-L your name

My e-mail address is [dnorwood@wln.com](mailto:dnorwood@wln.com). Either send me a message or feel free to call me if you have questions or concerns.

I am excited about the challenge of the coming year and invite all of you to participate. A list of committee chairs and officers is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

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