



## AALL is Energizing, Exploring, and Evolving

Our 100th Annual Meeting in New Orleans truly lived up to its theme of *Rise to the Challenge!* From the excellent opening keynote address to the Closing Banquet's spectacular Mardi Gras-style parade, members were treated to a wealth of outstanding programs and networking opportunities. Many members also helped with the recovery of our host city by participating in service projects; donating books, cash, or gift cards to the Recovery School District; or purchasing fleur-de-lis pins to benefit the New Orleans Public Library. Many thanks to the Annual Meeting Local Advisory and Program Committees, the Headquarters staff, and Past President Sally Holterhoff for working so hard to make this historic Meeting memorable.

### 2008 Annual Meeting

Our 101st Annual Meeting promises to be memorable as well. Plans are well underway for 2008 in Portland, Oregon, where the theme will be *Energize \* Explore \* Evolve!* The Annual Meeting will provide us with opportunities to *energize* ourselves and our careers by meeting new people; learning about trends in our profession; and trying out new roles in a committee, caucus, or special interest section (SIS). In Portland, you can *explore* a variety of programs, including a new 45-minute time slot. Our Annual Meeting programs, networking, and exhibits will give us the tools we need to cope with the constant changes in our profession and *evolve* to meet them.

Our host city is the ideal place for us to *Energize \* Explore \* Evolve!* Portland is a national leader in energy conservation and environmental friendliness, so you can be energized by its clean air and refreshed by its rivers, mountains, and trees, and, like Lewis and Clark or pioneers on the Oregon Trail, you can explore this beautiful part of our country. Portland has already evolved beyond most cities in its development of sustainable systems and will provide the perfect environment for us to evolve as law librarians. Please make plans now to join us in Portland.

### Focus on the Future

*Energize \* Explore \* Evolve!* will be our focus not just for Portland, but throughout the year ahead. AALL is now reaching the mid-point of its 2005-2010

Strategic Directions of leadership, education, and advocacy. The last few years we have made great progress in education, with development of our new Continuing Professional Education Committee and grants program, and in advocacy, with AALL leading the way in encouraging government organizations to address authentication and permanent public access of legal information.

Therefore a particular focus this year will be on leadership and the future—energizing our profession and our Association through recruiting and training tomorrow's leaders, exploring ways to more fully involve all our members, and helping law librarians develop the skills they need to evolve into leadership positions both in AALL and in their own organizations.

I have appointed three special committees to help move us forward on recruitment, involvement, and leadership skills.

**Developing Law Librarians for the Future Special Committee.** We need to ensure that there are well-trained law librarians ready to move into the positions that will eventually be vacated by the baby boomers. AALL has several committees that deal with various aspects of recruiting and developing new members, but of necessity their focus is on the limited time periods of their terms.

This two-year special committee, chaired by Susan Lewis-Somers, is charged with developing a comprehensive, long-range program to be sure that the best and the brightest learn about law librarianship as a career option, that they receive the education they need, that they find help in locating jobs, and that they are mentored throughout the formative years of their careers.

The special committee will work closely with other member-related committees, especially the Recruitment, Mentoring, and Membership and Retention Committees, whose chairs will serve as ex officio members.

**Involving ALL Our Members Special Committee.** AALL's Strategic Directions vision states that AALL is "the national

professional organization for *all* law librarians and those who support the field of law librarianship," yet many members find that they are unable to fully participate due to lack of employer support or a perceived lack of programs and activities that meet their needs.

Co-Chairs Christine Graesser and Catherine Lemann and their committee will explore what barriers may exist to full participation by under-represented segments of the membership and how AALL might help members overcome them. It will consider and recommend ways for members who do not attend the Annual Meeting to actively participate. And finally, it will review how Annual Meeting and continuing educational programming can best meet the needs of all segments of our membership.

**Leadership Development Special Committee.** Periodically AALL has sponsored various leadership training programs, but to fully support the "leadership" strategic direction, we must ensure that leadership training opportunities are made available on a continuing basis. Therefore, Chair Judy Meadows and the special committee will recommend the structure, timing, format, selection criteria, and funding needed to provide for an *annual* AALL leadership development program.

They will plan the first annual leadership program for spring 2008 (or as soon as possible thereafter) and recommend ways that AALL can identify and develop potential leaders, keep track of information about them, and make this information accessible to Nominations and Appointments Committees, officers, or others who may need to identify leaders.

**Other Areas of Emphasis.** I will pursue efforts to improve communications with vendors, as well as communication between the Executive Board and our membership about vendor relations. I also hope to find a way for AALL to take a leadership role in addressing the problem of disappearing URLs in court decisions and other primary legal materials.

### Advancing the Future by Building on the Past

Every AALL president is part of a continuum, so it is vitally important that the work begun one year continues into the next. Therefore, I will seek ways to

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continue the partnerships and progress begun by the Authentication Summit and the Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships. Grants for continuing professional education have been funded and will continue, and, thanks to your energy and creativity, another exciting array of innovative programs can be anticipated. The final report and recommendations of the Special Committee on Committee Structure is expected in the fall, so the Executive Board and the staff will develop plans for implementation.

I also look forward to working with our new Executive Director Kate Hagan and the Headquarters staff on improvements to AALLNET functionality, currency, and archiving.

But most of all, I look forward to working with all of you—our members—for I realize that it is only through your dedication and contributions that we can accomplish our goals. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve as your president, and I look forward with great anticipation to the year ahead. ■