

Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin

Annual Report 2017-2018

The 2017-18 LLAW Board of Directors included Kris Turner, President; Deborah Darin, Vice President/President-Elect and Program Co-Chair; Shawn King, Secretary; Angela Henes, Treasurer; Elana Olson, Past President and Nominating Chair; Beverly Butula, Archives; Diane Duffey, Government Relations Chair; Pam Noyd, Grants Chair; Katie Kvien, Membership Chair; Michelle Wollman, Newsletter Chair; Barbara Fritschel, Placement Chair; Carol Schmitt, Program Co-Chair; Jenny Zook, Public Relations Chair; and Karlee VanLaanen, Website Chair.

At the end of the fiscal year, LLAW had a total of 77 members, a decrease of 4 members from the previous year. Of these 77 members, 20 were academic law librarians, 37 firm librarians, 9 government librarians, 5 vendors and 6 members identifying as 'other'.

In September 2017, LLAW celebrated its 35th anniversary as an organization. AALL president Greg Lambert visited and discussed the future of law librarianship. As a part of the celebration, LLAW rented space at Olbrich Gardens, a botanical garden in Madison. LLAW invited founding members to return and had one of our largest turnouts for a program this year.

LLAW hosted the annual MAALL meeting in Milwaukee from October 19-21. The Mid-America Association of Law Libraries conference draws attendees from across the United States, with members mainly located across the Midwest. Several members of LLAW presented at the conference, with a large number of local Milwaukee members serving on the conference planning committee.

The LLAW Board of Directors discussed strategies for ensuring the financial viability of the organization. With a shrinking membership base and a will to continue to provide funding for conference attendance, the Board decided to raise the cost of membership. Active members will now pay \$35 per year, 10 dollars more than the previous amount. The rates of other member types were also raised commensurately. The Board is optimistic that this modest increase will allow LLAW to continue to provide grants for members while also retaining a solid foundation in the treasury for future projects and plans.

Along those lines, the Grants committee awarded one grant for attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting in the amount of \$550. The Committee also awarded a grant for \$300 to allow an LLAW member attend the 2017 International Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference in Atlanta.

In addition, the Awards Subcommittee, as a part of the Grants Committee, considered nominations for the LLAW Distinguished Service Award. Carol Hassler, Web Services Librarian at the Wisconsin State Law Library was selected for the 2018 award. Ms. Hassler was selected as the winner based on her outstanding service at LLAW's Webmaster, contributions to the State Law Library and law library profession.

LLAW also actively advocated for librarian funding and staffing throughout the state and the nation. In May 2018, LLAW sent a letter to the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau chief that criticized the termination of half of the remaining LRB library staff. This letter was published in various newspapers and online forums, and widely shared with the library community and our legislators. In addition to our letter to the LRB chief, LLAW also sent a letter of support for the adoption of the FDLP Modernization Act to Representative Paul Ryan.

Finally, the Public Relations Committee continued to coordinate and monitor outreach activities, including scheduling monthly contributions by LLAW members to InsideTrack, the Wisconsin Bar's online newsletter while the Web Committee created a new LLAW twitter handle and removed the LLAW Google+ page, moving LLAW further into the realm of active social media in an effort to connect with other legal professionals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kris Turner
LLAW President 2017-18