President’s Column

“There is a meaning in every journey that is unknown to the traveler.” This quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer certainly resonates in 2020. There have been countless things about this year’s journey that we will be reflecting on for some time to come, both personally and professionally. The answers to many questions may be difficult to see right now. As law librarians, we may be reflecting on how our library services have changed and adapted in 2020 and wondering what they will look like in 2021. Which changes will fade away, and which will remain?

I have been impressed with how the WestPac community has come together to discuss questions and share ideas to help navigate these challenging times. With the postponement of our in-person annual meeting, we hosted our fall business meeting in September online via Zoom. AALL Executive Board Members (and WestPac members) Karen Selden and Jason Sowards provided an update from AALL at the meeting. (WestPac is fortunate to be so well-represented at the national level with two WestPac members on the AALL Executive Board at the same time.) The business meeting was followed by a social hour with many members sharing the impact of the pandemic on their workplaces and personal lives.

Throughout the fall the WestPac Education Committee also sponsored a series of free, one-hour roundtable discussions to help fill the void of the typical educational programming at the WestPac annual meeting and provide points of connection and social interaction for members. Mari Cheney hosted a roundtable on “Teaching & Student Engagement During COVID” on Oct. 26 and a follow-up session on Dec. 3. Karen Selden and Lauren Seney hosted a roundtable on “Technical Services During Turbulent Times” on Nov. 12 with many members of the AALL Technical Services SIS and Library Systems & Resource Discovery SIS also in attendance.

Roundtable participants shared useful tips and ideas and how they put them into practice in a variety of settings. In the midst of challenging circumstances, it was comforting to hear stories of shared experiences and the creative solutions librarians and their libraries have discovered. Sharing information and exchanging ideas have always been hallmarks of WestPac, but it seems even more important during this year’s journey with so many unfamiliar and winding paths. Thank you to all who facilitated and joined in these important conversations.

(continued, page 2)
WestPac is well-positioned to navigate the year ahead thanks to the work of our previous and incoming leadership. Special thanks to Kerry Fitz-Gerald for her guidance and direction as WestPac President during unprecedented times in 2020. We are also grateful to Jill Sturgeon for her dedication and work as WestPac Secretary. We are also excited to welcome incoming Vice President/President-Elect Cory Lenz and Secretary Sharalyn Williams, and grateful for Lee Van Duzer’s continued service as Treasurer.

As we enter 2021 continued communication and connection will be essential. We will do our best to keep everyone informed, especially as decisions need to be made on whether our business meeting will be held in-person in Cleveland at AALL and whether we will be able to gather for our annual conference in Reno in fall 2021.

We will also continue to share opportunities for members to become more involved in WestPac--from committee openings to newsletter contributions and beyond-- and we invite you to share your ideas with us. As a chapter, let’s continue moving forward and learning from each other. Happy holiday season to you all.

- David

2021 AALL AWARDS/ NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Achievements in the legal information profession are key in what you do--nominate yourself or someone you know for a 2021 AALL Award. The purpose of the AALL Awards Program is to recognize the achievements of law librarians, institutions, companies, and partners for significant contributions and innovation in the legal information profession. Recipients are selected by the committees/juries and will be recognized during the 2021 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference.

The deadline to nominate a colleague, library, or company (including your own), or to self-nominate has been extended from February 1 to March 1, 2021--a month longer to allow for additional nominations. Nominations/applications/entry forms may be found on the individual award pages.

- Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award
- Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award
- Hall of Fame Award
- AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award (Note: Deadline for Student Division applicants is May 14, 2021)
- Emerging Leader Award
- Excellence in Community Engagement Award
- Innovations in Technology Award
- Minority Leadership Development Award
- New Product Award
- Public Access to Government Information Award
- Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award
- Volunteer Service Award
WestPac Annual Business Meeting Minutes
When: September 26, 2020, at 3pm (Pacific time)
Quorum: 22 attendees

AALL Executive Board address attendees-- Jason Sowards & Karen Selden

• Reminder to vote for AALL President, VP, and Board Members
• Committee updates through AALL
  o Creation of new special committees
• Reminder to update AALL member directory profiles

2020 Annual Meeting

• Virtual Annual Meeting had 1,151 attendees
• Annual Meeting was more accessible (21% survey respondents stated that this was their first annual conference)
  o Convenience
  o Educational Programs
  o Reduced Cost
• Cleveland, OH: July 17 – 20, 2021
  o Call for Proposals: October 1 – November 30, 2020
  o Registration opening in March 2021

Minutes of 2019 meeting: Approved

(continued on page 4)
Finance Report

- Deposits for Reno, NV annual meeting carrying into 2021
- Added WestPac $$ to CD account
- Added WestPac $$ to savings account
- 101 received deposits for members by 9/25
  - Down by ~20

President’s Report – Kerry Fitz-Gerald

Comments on Black Lives Matter and pandemic response

Committee Reports

- Archives (Jacque Jurkins): Nothing new
- Bylaws (LeighAnne Thompson): Bylaws approved at last meeting, Geri Cepeda has stepped down as Chair, new chair is LeighAnne Thompson
- Government Relations (David McFadden): Nothing new happening
- Grants/Awards (Hilary Hardcastle): Hilary Hardcastle taking over, 5 grants given for Virtual Meeting
- Membership/Retention (Ashley Sundin): 125 active + student members, 38 life members
- Newsletter (Megan Austin): December newsletter coming
- Nominations/Elections (Anna Blaine): New officers, Sharalyn Williams and Cory Lenz
- Site Selection (Dennis Sears): 2021 meeting to be held in Reno

David McClure – Incoming President

WestPac 2021

- Local arrangements in Reno: 13 committee members; conference postponed until 2021
- Conference hotel: Whitney Peak Hotel. Opening reception: Bundox Bocce
- Currently scheduled for September 30 - October 2, 2021
- Writing Institute: September 30, 2021, from 1 – 6pm

WestPac 2020

- Roundtable Discussions
  - 10/26: 1 – 2pm Teaching/Student Engagement with Mari Cheney
  - 11/12: Technical Services with Karen Selden and Lauren Seney

Old Business: nothing

New Business: nothing

Pass the gavel to David McClure, closing words

Meeting adjourned 3:47pm
The 2019-2020 WestPac Executive Board members were Kerry Fitz-Gerald, President; David McClure, Vice-President/President-Elect; Lee Van Duzer, Treasurer; Jill Sturgeon, Secretary; and Brian Huffman, Immediate Past President.

Our 2019 annual conference was held Oct. 10-12, 2019, in Spokane, WA. The opening reception took place at the lovely Jundt Art Museum at Gonzaga University, while the conference itself took place in the historic Davenport Hotel. For the first time, WestPac held a pre-conference writing institute. Organized by Mari Cheney, the WestPac Writing Institute served as an opportunity for members to present and receive feedback on in-progress scholarship. Five WestPac members participated and this free workshop will be repeated in future conferences. As part of our business meeting held during the conference, outgoing President Brian Huffman oversaw the vote to dissolve the WestPac Constitution and amend the Bylaws.

Following that conference, planning began for our 2020 annual meeting scheduled for Oct. 2020, in Reno, Nevada. Whitney Peak was chosen for our hotel and conference venue, while Bundox Bocce was selected as the site for the opening reception. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, WestPac had to make the difficult decision to postpone our in-person gathering. Fortunately, the vendors were willing to amend our contracts, thus retaining these locations for our meeting in 2021.

In lieu of our Reno meeting, a special committee chaired by David McClure and Mari Cheney planned an online business meeting/social hour, as well as several short online roundtables. The business meeting and social hour, attended by 22 people, was held on Sept. 26, 2020. The first roundtable, on “Teaching & Student Engagement During COVID,” was held on Oct. 26 and attended by 18 people, and the roundtable on “Technical Services During Turbulent Times” was held on November 12.

Over the summer, our plans to hold our annual luncheon and business meeting at the AALL meeting were cancelled when the AALL meeting went virtual. WestPac provided grants for 5 members to attend AALL’s virtual meeting.

In May, the WestPac membership elected Cory Lenz as Vice-President/President-Elect and Sharalyn Williams as Secretary. Their terms in office began at the October business meeting.

Kerry Fitz-Gerald
President 2019-2020
WestPac is in good financial shape as we approach the end of the year. Sadly due to the pandemic we had no major expenses or revenues from the annual meeting, but this means our financial status was relatively level for 2020 – roughly $3,000 in 2020 pre-pays count towards annual meeting expenses in 2021. Membership dues were received from 111 members as of December 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Van Duzer
Treasurer, WestPac
Washington County Law Library, Oregon
Member News

WestPac 2020 Life Membership Nomination

The Membership Committee is happy to report that the WestPac Executive Board has unanimously voted to approve Jaye Barlous’ nomination for Lifetime Membership. Jaye’s nomination will be submitted to members for a vote at the next annual chapter meeting.

Jaye Barlous earned her JD from Nova Southeastern University and her MLS from University of Washington. After interning at Law Library of Congress in 1993, she began – and ended - her librarian career at the University of Oregon, initially in collection services, and ultimately serving as Law Reference Librarian until 2020. During her career, Jaye supervised the law library’s access services, served on wide range of university and library committees, taught legal research, and ultimately assumed the role of faculty services librarian. Beloved by her faculty, and known by students for her exacting research instruction, Jaye’s expertise included sessions on Web searching which she also shared through CLE publication. Her interest in animal law extended to work with the American Association of Law Libraries as well as to the Eugene community. In WestPac, Jaye served on several committees, most notably serving on the Executive Board as Treasurer and chairing Grants and Awards. Jaye was widely recognized among members for her perseverance, frank humor, and the increased organization and documentation she brought to her posts.

Welcome to New Members!

Madeline Cohen, University of Denver
Karina Condra, University of Denver
Catherine Dunn, University of Denver
Pearl McCrea, Univ. of Washington
Andi Molinet, University of Denver
Michelle Penn, University of Denver
Mark Popielarski, University of Denver
Lauren Seney, Univ. of Colorado
Amy Summer, Fisher Phillips LLP
Michael Whitlow, University of Denver
Lewis Zimmerman, University of Denver
WestPac Q&A: Sarah Bates

A column featuring a WestPac Member and their answers to five questions

Sarah Bates has been the Law Librarian at the Washoe County Law Library since June 2019. She received her MLIS in 2009, and has worked in both law firm and public libraries throughout her library career. Sarah lives in Reno, Nevada with her family and two dogs. She enjoys movies, terrible reality TV, being outdoors, and helping provide access to justice in her community.

1. **What is the best advice you ever received about working as a law librarian?**

   I had a boss who said, “Done is better than perfect.” To someone that is an admitted perfectionist and often agonizes over the “perfect” answer, that is a tough philosophy to follow, but it’s something I need to remind myself of often. Once a request or task is completed, I need to let it go and move on to the next, instead of obsessing over the “coulda, shoulda, wouldas.” The same boss also told me that when you’re feeling overwhelmed, make a “to do list” and do the thing you least want to do first.

2. **What is your favorite app?**

   I listen to a lot of podcasts, so I really like the Apple podcast app. Apple has stepped up their search capability in that app recently, making it easy to search for anything you want in a podcast, down to topics or people that appear in specific episodes.

3. **What book title best represents your day-to-day work life?**

   *Girl, Interrupted*

4. **What is the coolest thing you’ve seen another library do that you wish you could do at your library?**

   I would like to get laptops to replace all of our public-use desktop computers, so patrons could spread out throughout the library to do their research and allow for social distancing. The laptops could also be disinfected/quarantined between use for added safety.

5. **What is something important you have learned at a WestPac Annual Meeting?**

   I have not been a member of WestPac for very long, so I look forward to attending my first annual meeting (someday!) so I can meet fellow WestPac members and get to know everyone.
The BYU Howard W. Hunter Law Library has a brand-new collaborative learning space! BYU Law Dean Gordon Smith promotes using design thinking to improve legal services. Together with Kimball Parker, Dean Smith founded the Law School’s LawX legal design lab where students created the tools Hello Landlord and SoloSuit tools. Dean Smith envisioned an open, configurable space to facilitate these and other collaborative projects. David Armond (Librarian/Head of Infrastructure and Technology) oversaw the design and construction of the space, which blends movable furniture and white boards with technology in a space where students, professors, and librarians can learn and collaborate. The space is complete with some furniture yet to arrive.

The space housing our periodicals collection area was the most logical location for the new classroom. We had previously cancelled print periodicals that are available electronically. Dianne Davenport (Collection and Student Services Librarian) measured the shelf space used by each title in the collection and available remaining space in the library. Based on her analysis, the library moved some periodicals, including active titles, to available shelving in the basement. Discarded periodicals were placed in roll-off bins and turned into mulch. Discarding the periodicals was painful, especially for Bonnie Geldmacher (Head of Technical Services) who has spent 30 years building that collection! Bonnie has been updating our records and completing an inventory to verify that what is on the shelves matches what we have in our system.

We envision the space being utilized to further the law library’s Legal Technology Initiative (LTI). We implemented the LTI to help law students develop the practical skills necessary to become successful advocates in today’s technology-savvy culture. In Fall 2019 we held 16 training sessions with a total of 437 participants. First and foremost, the space will be utilized as part of our continued effort to grow a culture of technology and innovation at the law school. We anticipate that students from other academic disciplines across campus will be invited and welcomed to collaborate with law students in this space as they work to create new legal technologies and solutions to society’s greatest problems. We are also discussing holding trainings and immersion activities in the space, although those details are still being worked out.
Zoom-land has been no Candy-land for law librarians and faculty. Fortunately, Mari Cheney, Assistant Director of Research and Instruction at the Lewis & Clark Law School, facilitated a couple of WestPac Roundtable Discussions about teaching, assessment, and student engagement during COVID. The Roundtable also discussed carrying forward some COVID teaching strategies into a post-COVID classroom.

Getting to know our students better beyond Zoom has been difficult; we have more familiarity with them than a TV viewer in the 1970’s had with the actors on the Brady Bunch or Hollywood Squares, but not much more. To facilitate greater interaction, many professors have shortened class time on Zoom in favor of requiring more one-on-one student conferences, while others have encouraged students to post short, three-minute videos about themselves to the course management system. According to Professor Cheney, the Legal Writing Institute Listserv has other great engagement tips. For instance, a professor might open the class 10-15 minutes before its start time for friendly, casual interactions with the students (with a shared slide show of the professor’s hobbies and interests perhaps, to encourage conversations about overlapping interests)

Once class starts, Zoom’s breakout rooms, whiteboard, and polling features assist with student engagement. Breakout rooms are an effective virtual space for students to collaborate on exercises and assignments, especially when the professor sets clear expectations for the collaboration and requires that each breakout room reports back to the larger class about the research process or the application of the law being measured by the exercise. Depending on the size of the class, breakout rooms can be tricky to juggle. The Roundtable shared ways to make this easier so that students in the breakout rooms receive as much guidance and feedback as possible, such as employing teacher assistants or fellows or other colleagues to help with the breakout sessions. Professor Cheney, as she often did throughout the discussion, highlighted an interesting alternative: for those averse to the breakout rooms, she suggested they share a document or a unique document per room in Google Drive and, thus, track the students’ progress without ever having to bounce around the rooms. Roundtable members spotlighted additional extensions and apps intended to improve student engagement in the breakout rooms, such as Hypothesis, an online social annotation tool, and Padlet and Miro, online collaborative whiteboards. Considering first-year law students are expected to learn so many new skills (e.g., analytical thinking, CREAC, Westlaw, Lexis, Zoom basics) so quickly, in so little time, professors might weigh an online tool’s impact on student learning outcomes before expecting the students to master anything additional.
Zooming with Students, continued

Student assessment has become its own learning curve for librarians and faculty during COVID. Professor Cheney keenly observed this is partly so because COVID has removed valuable, and oftentimes spontaneous, social interactions between librarians and lawyering or writing faculty where they would discuss the students’ research needs. To compensate for this information loss, librarians are using more online quizzes to gauge students’ reading comprehension and more in-class assignments and exercises to assess specific skills like using citators or searching with key numbers. By spending significant Zoom time assessing students’ practical skills, more librarians and faculty have been forced to adopt flipped classrooms (e.g., short asynchronous videos, possibly with embedded questions, assigned as homework before the in-class application of the specific skill), ironically to an even greater extent than during pre-COVID times when the topic was discussed ad nauseam in library journals and at conferences.

From the practical assignments, the Roundtable discussion segued to the interesting question of what librarians are to do if something cannot be assigned because of the limitations of Zoom and yet there are still reasons to assign it, such as using the print digest, a skill that ultimately helps the students understand headnotes and key numbers, or conducting legislative history that has yet to be digitized, a skill commonly required of judicial clerks. The best answer was to figure out how to teach it (Zoom be-damned!). Asynchronous videos could help teach the print resources, as could textbooks, such as *Legal Research Demystified*, that supplement with online assignments that include instruction on print resources and using the library. Professor Cheney highlighted another book that has helped her think outside the box about student assessment called *Small Teaching Online* and shared how a colleague has found success using video assessment in a similar way, as discussed in the book, by watching each student’s research process as he navigates within the legal databases to answer four research questions.

Looking forward to a post-COVID law library, the Roundtable recognized the utility and convenience of Zoom and saw it continuing at the reference desk as a method of fielding questions and as an option in the research classes for one-on-one student conferences. Creating short videos on discrete topics (e.g., regulatory research, citators, online study aids) for asynchronous teaching was also nominated to carry forward post-COVID, as was continuing to post class recordings with closed captioning and greater consideration of other ADA accommodations.
Gratitude
by Alison Perry

With 2020 coming to a close and our awareness of the continued community spread nationwide (and I note that Idaho is a major hot spot in this), I decided it is worthwhile to make a gratitude list to share with our group. These are in no particular order, I am grateful for the following:

1. Our shared experience as law librarians. Throughout my years as a solo librarian I have been helped immensely by the groups I am in. This has been especially true this year.

2. My firm’s immediate move to place as many people as possible on a Work From Home schedule. Our IT Department did an amazing amount of work in a short amount of time leading up to Friday, March 13 when our state first shut down. That weekend a Chromebook and mi-fi were delivered to me on Sunday so that on Monday, March 16 I could begin working from home with ease, from my kitchen table. Thankfully, I had spent a few years converting most of our current material to electronic access. Many steps came into place that allowed an almost seamless move for me to work from home with ease. We are back in Stage 2, but for most of the year I have been working from home anyway – having that ability is something for which I am grateful.

3. The view from my kitchen nook, where my table sits. My 3rd floor apartment provides me a beautiful view of the Boise foothills. When I am in the office, I have no window view in my central location. Being able to watch sun and shadows on the foothills throughout the day provided a sense of peace and place in those chaotic first weeks of the pandemic. A local train goes by twice a day – and I like to count the cars sometimes. Sometimes, both the view and that periodic train car count exercise provide a nice mental break to regroup.

4. The Swainson’s hawk which even now hangs out in the cell tower stealth tree outside one of my windows. It has a huge wingspan. While sometimes that hawk swooped down on unsuspecting prey, I found joy in watching its “lazy circles in the sky” when it would fly to another spot or, more likely, scope the ground below for prey.

5. Weekly Zoom calls with my sisters. Three of us live here in Boise, the fourth lives in Cleveland. For years we have done individual phone calls to our non-Boise sister. Why did we not Skype or Zoom as a group before this? Live and learn. It’s been great. The conversations among the four of us are much livelier than any two-sided conversation. Plus, it’s fun to toast each other via Zoom on special occasions. We will continue these zoom calls, as well as our daily early “Good morning” texts to each other. The texts are a nice way to touch base, sometimes we share notes on the sunrise or morning temperature.

6. One year ago, via a local radio station contest, I won a trip to visit that fourth sister in Cleveland for Christmas. WOW! I am so glad I got to visit with her and her partner pre-pandemic AND hit our favorite restaurant, Nighttown, multiple times the week I was there! Like all restaurants, Nighttown faced challenges throughout 2020. The owner made the difficult to close before its usual very busy St. Patrick’s Day – for an Irish bar/restaurant/jazz club that was not an easy decision. While it did re-open for awhile with a lot of pandemic protocol in place – before Thanksgiving the owner decided to close again until some future
Gratitude, continued

date in 2021. My favorite restaurant made national news the last day it was open when a long-standing customer gave a $3000 tip for beer he bought (and did not finish). Here’s hoping that Nighttown and so many other favorite neighborhood hangouts survive and thrive in 2021.

7. My niece and her husband welcomed a healthy baby boy, their first child and the first grandson on the Perry side of the family. While I have not held Hank (yes, they live in Boise, too), it’s just great knowing that his parents are healthy, and he is a happy 3 month old getting ready for his first Christmas.

8. The amazing healthcare system from which we all benefit, both in good times and in bad. I experienced a health issue this year (not COVID-19) and throughout the months that I received treatment the staff I encountered were always cheerful and upbeat. I know that our local hospitals have had to adjust and change protocol throughout the spring, summer, fall, and now winter as this pandemic wreaks its havoc – and everyone I have met has handled those challenges with professionalism and grace. Send a nice card to your doctor or even hospital staff to let them know you appreciate their work and dedication. A thoughtful note, even from strangers, can go a long way in lifting spirits.

9. Grocery and dairy delivery at home. I now avoid going to stores whenever possible. Being able to sign up for home delivery has been a godsend. Even my wine shop can deliver to my door!

Cheers to all and best wishes for 2021!

WESTPAC WEB PAGE
http://chapters.aallnet.org/westpac/
Jason Cabaniss (WestPac Webmaster), aallwestpac@gmail.com

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Please submit as attachments in Word format.