

HALL Quarterly

HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS

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Inside This Issue:

- 2—Continuing Education Committee Column
- 3—Mixology Class: COVID Cocktail Recipes
- 4—AALL Annual Meeting from Home
- 5—Member Spotlight: Jonathan Briggs
- 6—HALL Member Poll Results: Virtual Meetings
- 7—Obituary: Ben Pride
- 9—Obituary: Dr. Yvonne Chandler
- 10—HALL Board Meeting Minutes, 8/11/2020
- 11—Community Service Committee: Call for Virtual Ideas
- 12—HALL Meeting Minutes, 8/12/2020
- 13—HALL Treasurer's Report, August 2020
- 13—Edifications (Editor's Notes)

Message from the President

Michael McHenry

Director of Research and Knowledge Services
Vinson & Elkins LLP

Thank you for this opportunity to be HALL President. I'm honored to do this job, especially with the fantastic Executive Board we have for this year.

I also want to thank our committee chairs for their service this new year. We had several who are continuing on from last year, which certainly helps. Those who are volunteering in a new role for 2020-2021 include Melissa Vann (Placement), DeCarlous Spearman (Membership), Richard Guajardo (Data Protection) & Chris Dykes (Website/Listserv).

The organization cannot run without board members and committee chairs volunteering their time, so kudos to you all.

This is indeed a memorable time for all of us. My hope is that we can adjust ourselves as an organization well enough to get through this new world of Zoom and be able to offer even better content for our members.

And I think our abrupt switch from in-person meetings to virtual ones has been a

success so far. We conducted our Annual Business Meeting in May completely online. And while we may not have been able to socialize and have lunch together, the rest of the meeting went smoothly – even voting with the Raise Hand button. We also had our first regular meeting of the new year in August with no real technological hiccups—thank you to our speakers, Andrew Bennet, Jonathan Briggs, Heather Holmes, and Deb Hamilton.

Be on the lookout for more monthly educational opportunities, including a few “social” opportunities coming up.

The AALL Leadership Academy was postponed from its original March date, but it continued virtually in August. Congrats again to Andre Davison and Emily Lawson for being chosen as Leadership Fellows.

Stay safe!
Michael



gg64147172 GoGraph.com

Continuing Education Committee Column

Welcome to a whole new world of virtual programming! If you missed our August meeting and program, “Creating Technology Training Courses for Attorneys,” the slides and handout are available upon request—just e-mail [Sabrina Davis](#) and ask for a copy. Thank you to our speakers!

Our next monthly meeting is **Wednesday, September 9** (noon-1 pm Central), via Zoom. Please join us to welcome our speaker, Hallie Love, founder of [Positive Psychology for Lawyers](#). Ms. Love is a Positive Psychology instructor, having completed a yearlong certification course with former Harvard professor and NY Times bestselling author Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar. She is also a therapist certified by the International Association of Yoga Therapists, an Integrative Restoration® Meditation instructor, and co-author of *Yoga for Lawyers – Mind-Body Techniques to Feel Better All the Time*, published by the American Bar Association. Ms. Love will speak with us about stress management, resilience, and recharging.

We are excited to present the following line-up of speakers for the rest of the year.

(Please note that, as of the time of publication, all events are anticipated to be virtual. Many thanks to the HALL Board for approving the purchase of a Zoom account, to make this endeavor much easier.)

- Oct. 14 – [Judge Jeremy Brown](#), Presiding Judge of Harris County Justice of the Peace Court (Precinct 7-1), will speak with us about his innovative initiatives and the work of JP courts.
- Nov. 11 – *Shortlisted: Women in the Shadows of the Supreme Court* – co-authors Renee Knake Jefferson & Hannah Brenner Johnson will join us to discuss their research and the book.
- Dec. (date/time TBA) – HALL-iday Party
- Jan. 13 – Community Service Speaker (TBA)
- Feb. 10 – AALL Board Member Visit
- March (date/time TBA) – Spring Institute: The tentative theme is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Stay tuned for more details!
- April 14 – “Unmasking Our Marketing Potential: Tales from Academic, Firm, and Government Law Libraries”: Join Heather Holmes, Heather Kushnerick, and a firm librarian TBA (let them know if you are interested!) for a

[Continued on page 3](#)

The *HALL Quarterly* is the official publication of Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments, and news items to the Editor at HALLQuarterly@gmail.com.

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Membership dues are \$40/year. For membership information, please visit the [HALL Membership page](#).

Continued from page 2

presentation on marketing ideas for various types of law libraries.

- May 12 – Annual Business Meeting

In addition, look for some not-entirely-educational programming this Fall, including (but not limited to!):

- **Sept. 30, 5:15 pm:** A mixology class (COVID Cocktails—see recipes on this page, below) with bartender Austin McCoy (son of HALL member Blythe McCoy).

- Date/Time TBA, but probably in October: Joint social event with DALL (Dallas Association of Law Librarians)

Let us know if you have any other suggestions!

2020-2021 Continuing Education Committee

Sabrina A. Davis, Chair

Andrew Bennett

Ashley Arrington

MaryAnn Wacker

Melinda Elder

Mixology Class: COVID Cocktail Recipes

Please join us **Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 5:15 pm** for a virtual mixology class with bartender Austin McCoy (son of HALL member Blythe McCoy). Austin will be demonstrating how to make the following drinks:

Black Cherry Sling

1.5 oz of bourbon

0.5 oz simple syrup

0.75 oz lime juice

0.5 Luxardo Maraschino Cherry Juice

3 dashes of Cherry bitters

Shake and serve with ice

Italian Margarita

1/5 oz tequila

0.75 oz of lime juice

0.75 oz of simple syrup

1 oz Amaretto

Shake with ice – can be served with ice or straight up.

Lemon Drop Martini

2 oz vodka

0.75 oz lemon juice

0.25 oz Cointreau or triple sec of choice

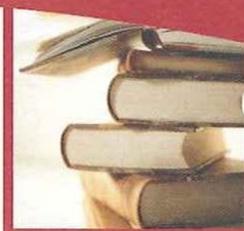
0.75 oz simple syrup

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AALL Annual Meeting from Home

Kim Serna

Firmwide Associate Director
for Research Services
Jones Day

Think you can't attend a conference in the middle of a pandemic? Think again. Personally, I had other plans, but, due to mass quarantines and stay-at-home orders, those plans quickly changed. I was now afforded the opportunity to attend the AALL Virtual Conference from the comfort of home.

With my laptop, comfy pajamas, and coffee in hand, I settled in to my first ever virtual conference. Day one was Partner Solutions Day. A day devoted to legal information product providers, a "virtual exhibit hall." Exhibitors offered various demonstrations and presentations throughout the day. It was nice to "see" some new exhibitors, as well as several of our faithful vendors and product selections. I must say I enjoyed perusing their offerings at leisure and without the used car salesman approach. I took advantage of this day by acquainting myself with new products, such as Trellis and Leopard Solutions, and becoming better acquainted with seasoned products by participating in LexisNexis demonstrations and Manzama's, "Driving Maximum Value in 2020: A Session for Law Librarians." A fun-filled first day!

Day two started similar to day one: laptop, coffee, and comfy clothes. It also included an enthusiastic and inspiring opening session with keynote speaker, Jim Kwik, author of Limitless, "a book on methods." So many great takeaways! (Too many for this article.) Jim provided keys to

learning faster and memory retention, along with a slew of acronyms. I particularly liked his quote, "Life is C (choice) between B (birth) and D (death)". I knew in an instant that I made the right choice by zooming into his dynamic presentation. He definitely set the stage for my eagerness to learn and participate in the programs that followed.

Learn I did. The next two days were filled with quality programming. Not knowing what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised. The presenters, moderators, and coordinators did a great job presenting their topics, using the technology at hand, and trying to engage with their audience. Were there glitches? Yes. Were there technology issues? Yes. Was it perfect? No. But, nonetheless, it was time well spent.

Of course, what would the annual meeting be without a party or two. Time spent relaxing and networking with colleagues, vendor representatives, and friends. Although it looked a little different, and the personal interaction was missed, the virtual platform did not stop that from happening. Thanks to our friends at Bloomberg Law, "A Taste of NOLA" was a great hit! We virtually learned how to mix a cocktail (or two, or three, or four) and how to cook some yummy food. Not to mention doing so with some great New Orleans jazz! Well done, B Law!

Despite all of the obstacles and crippling effects that this grand pandemic has delivered, AALL and its members came together to create something positive by sharing their knowledge and creativity. Librarians ROCK!

Member Spotlight: Jonathan Briggs

Jonathan Briggs

Assistant Law Librarian
Fort Bend County Law Library

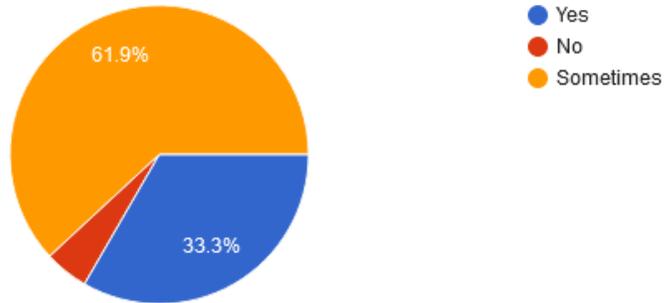
- *Last movie seen:* A rerun of The Hunt for Red October
- *Least favorite food:* I like baked sweet potatoes, but I don't care for the dish with sweet potatoes and marshmallows on top.
- *Non-travel item on Bucket List:* Updating my stamp collection.
- *Star Trek or Star Wars:* Star Wars
- *Pineapple on pizza? Y/N:* No
- *Book currently reading:* With the Old Breed by E. B. Sledge
- *Favorite drink:* Beer
- *Favorite color:* Blue
- *Conferences—Invigorating or exhausting?:* Invigorating
- *Favorite type of music:* Rock; Classical a close second
- *Biggest fear:* A loved one suffering
- *Favorite smell(s):* Ground coffee
- *What's on your phone home screen?:* A photo of my girlfriend's grandson
- *Favorite TV show or movie:* TV show—M*A*S*H
- *Favorite streaming service:* Don't have any
- *Ice or roller skating:* Roller
- *Text or phone call:* Text, but both are good



HALL Member Poll Results: Virtual Meetings

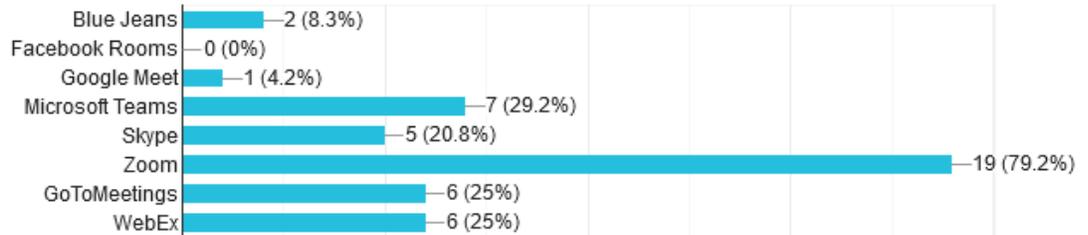
Are you a fan of virtual meetings?

21 responses



Favorite virtual meeting platforms? (Select as many as you like.)

24 responses



Q: Any other thoughts you would like to share about virtual meetings?

- Completely understand the difficulty of trying to continue professional development effectively during these times, but I just can't take any more virtual meetings! Lunch hour has become the busiest time of day as well, so it's just hard to schedule non-work meetings.
- There are way more "face-to-face" meetings now, even vs. phone calls. I've decided virtual meetings are just as exhausting as in-person ones.
- Keep them light and cheerful.
- I have gotten to where I don't mind them. I have found the "enhance my appearance" button on Zoom.
- Stick to the time frame.
- For the foreseeable future, we don't have a choice for HALL (or any) meetings.
- I live alone, so during this remote-work time, having actual faces to look at and voices to listen to is a HUGE boost to my morale. Sometimes work meetings can be too many or too long, but that's the nature of this remote work thing.
- My best friend of 45 years and I used to get together for movie and lunch out, or a DVD day, or something once or twice a month, so she and I try to Skype every evening and weekend day/holiday. We don't know why we've haven't been doing this for y-e-a-r-s! It has really made this remote thing more bearable.
- Etiquette

Obituary—Remembering Our Friend, Ben Pride

Joe Lawson
Deputy Director
Harris County Law Library

On July 28, 2020, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Harris County Commissioners adopted a resolution recognizing Ben Pride for his 19 years of dedicated service to Harris County and offered their sincere condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. One month earlier, Ben's colleagues received devastating news of his sudden and unexpected death, which was the result of an apparent homicide. For anyone who knew Ben, whether during his time at the Vinson & Elkins law library or at the Harris County Law Library, his quiet, easy-going, and gentle demeanor immediately comes to mind. Squaring his peaceful nature and the kindness he showed for colleagues and patrons, strangers and friends, with the violent circumstances of his passing was and remains difficult for all who knew him.

The celebration of Ben's life that accompanied the Court's resolution helps remind us of the impact quiet dedication to one's community can have. After reading the recitals, County Judge Hidalgo described Ben as "an incredible person in an incredible profession" and noted that the work of law librarians is "truly selfless work, truly public servant's work" that "goes beyond books and supports the community with all kinds of needs." She then encouraged everyone to celebrate the service "he offered to our community and the service all of our librarians offer to our community." Ben's example and his friendly smile shined a light on our entire profession, and I am forever grateful for the chance I had to know him.

As a reminder of a life to be celebrated, I would like to share the following excerpt from the tribute posted by Ben's colleagues at the Harris County Law Library shortly after his death:

Ben's Work

During his 19 years at the Harris County Law Library, Ben helped thousands of people access the justice system. Whether an attorney or a self-represented litigant, each and every patron who Ben helped found a friendly smile, a listening ear, and a public servant ready to provide support and encouragement. He worked as part of the team that produced the Law Library's Pro Se Litigant Handbook, which helps economically-disadvantaged Houstonians access legal aid services. His care and encouragement extended to his coworkers as well, and it was common for Ben to offer to walk with a coworker after a late shift or to extend a caring word to a coworker going through a difficult time. Whenever someone needed help, Ben lent a hand.

Ben's Intellectual Curiosity

Anyone who knew Ben knew he was a voracious reader. It was not uncommon to find Ben poring through digital archives and examining an article on the influences of ancient history on modern law. His intellectual curiosity led him to discover important historical artifacts in the Law Library's collection. For example, it was Ben who found a signed copy of *Panorama of the World's Legal Systems* by the preeminent legal scholar John Henry Wigmore in the Law Library's historical collection. Ben also found legal volumes from the personal collection of Justice Learned Hand, which in subsequent years were resold and found their way to

Continued on page 8

[Continued from page 7](#)

the Harris County Law Library. Last year, Ben added a beautiful collection of historical maps of the border between the United States and Mexico to a library exhibit on the law of Coahuila and Texas. Without Ben's persistent exploration of new intellectual landscapes, these and many other historical treasures would have gone unnoticed. Ben uncovered them and opened them to all.

[Ben's Creativity](#)

In recent years, Ben's work took on a creative tone. To mark the passing seasons, the Law Library began constructing book art in 2017. From the beginning, Ben took a leading role and oversaw implementation of the project. He relished in gathering books that might languish on a back shelf and creating a focal point to engage the Law Library's patrons. As each season passed, Ben found ways to improve his constructions and made plans for future holidays.

[Words of Remembrance](#)

Ben felt deep sympathy for those in need—whatever their need might be—and felt driven to help. He was always ready to help.

- Heather

When I worked the late shift, I usually parked on the top floor of the garage. Ben would walk me to my car each night. It was very sweet.

- Lori-Ann

Ben's kindness was illuminated in his smile. You could see the care and attention he gave everyone, the staff members who loved him and the strangers he tried to help in the best possible way. I have not and will not meet anyone as sweet, thoughtful, and genuine as Ben. He will be missed and remembered always.

- Alex

Ben was a friend to everyone. He was a true public servant and a scholar. Everyone who knew him will miss him.

- Joe



Obituary—Dr. Yvonne Chandler

(Reprinted with permission of Dallas Association of Law Librarians.)

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of the passing of our colleague, friend and mentor Dr. Yvonne Chandler. She has been part of the law librarian community for over forty years. She most recently was the recipient of the 2020 Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award by the American Association of Law Libraries. The award is the Association's highest honor. Additionally, throughout her prolific career, Yvonne has accomplished many incredible feats including serving as an Associate Professor at the University of North Texas for over 27 years, where she received more than five grants from the federal government totaling approxi-

mately \$4,600,000 dollars to support education for the pursuit of master's degree in library and information science. She also served as the Texas Library Association President and invested her time to mentor and inspire countless library students throughout the nation to help give them opportunities to break into the world of law librarianship. We will all miss her and the energy and fun she brought to any occasion. We offer her family our deepest condolences and will keep them in our thoughts and prayers during this especially difficult time. Yvonne was an imitable force and her loss is a great one not only to the Dallas community but to the Law Librarian community as a whole.



HALL Board Meeting Minutes - August 11, 2020

Minutes

Houston Area Law Librarians Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 11 AM CDT
Blue Jeans WebEx

Agenda:

Old Business

- Approval of last meeting's minutes
- 2020-2021 Budget
- Committee Chairs

New Business

- HALL Zoom account
- Spring Institute
- Virtual event with DALL
- Upcoming member suspensions on Sept 1
- *HALL Quarterly* branding
- Updating Procedures Manual
- Website maintenance and updating

Meeting called to order at 11:07 am.

Attendees: Trisha Petitt, Karen Kroenberg, Michael McHenry, Jonathan Briggs, Sabrina Davis, Andre Davison, Melinda Elder

Minutes from May Board meeting were approved and addendum added to include Andre Davison as an attendee.

Old Business:

2020 -2021 Budget:

- Karen Kroenberg is not able to access the HALL mailbox on a regular basis, but will make runs periodically.
- There will be a delay in the ability to change out people on the HALL accounts because of current safety protocols in place.

- Budget approved by the board.

Committee Chairs:

- DeCarlous Spearman will be Membership Chair Data Protection Chair is still vacant
- Richard Guajardo will be retiring from UH effective September 1, 2020
- Both HALL webmaster and manager of the HALL listserv is open. Emily Lawson has graciously volunteered to maintain the listserv for now.

New Business:

HALL Zoom Account:

- Sabrina proposed that HALL get a Zoom account since meetings may be virtual for a while.
- It allows a format consistency for members to use and allows more people to attend meetings.
- The proposal was approved, and the cost is \$14.99 per month, although a discount may apply if paying for a year in advance. Sabrina will look into setting up the Zoom account and will work with Karen on getting it paid for.

Spring Institute:

- Sabrina is looking into the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for the Virtual Spring Institute.
- If in-person, most speakers would be local and would not require travel expenses.
- Sabrina will look into what speaker fees will cost and applying for a Bloomberg Grant that could be used to pay for speaker expenses.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

Virtual event with DALL:

- DALL would like to co-sponsor a social virtual event with HALL.
- Looking at an October future date
- Event could be a competition between chapters or happy hour, et al. TBD.

Upcoming member suspensions on September 1:

- By end of the week, Karen will go to the mailbox to see how many renewals have been received.
- Those people that have not been paid will get an automatic extension to pay.
- Targeted email will be sent out to delinquent accounts to see if they may need a hardship discount to keep their membership current.

HALL Quarterly Branding:

- Sabrina will work on redesigning the newsletter to conform with AALL guidelines.

Updating Procedures Manual:

- Sabrina proposed amending the Procedures Manual to create a formal exception for August

meeting program if no grant to AALL is given in a year.

- Sabrina also discovered there were some inconsistencies between the HALL Procedures Manual and the HALL Bylaws. Sabrina and Michael will work with the Bylaws Chair, Caren Luckie, on changes to be voted on by the membership.

Website Maintenance and Updating:

- Richard Guajardo is retiring, and will no longer be maintaining the HALL website or listserv.
- Emily Lawson will maintain the HALL listserv at UH for now.
- The webmaster position for the HALL site is open
- A \$50.00 gift card will be given to Richard Guajardo for his many years of service to HALL. Congratulations!

The HALL board meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Community Service Committee: Call for Virtual Ideas

With apologies to JFK, it's time to think of not what your city/county can do for you, but what you can do for your city/county!

Actual in-person volunteering is out of the question for most us during this time of pandemic, but that doesn't mean there's nothing we can do for our city/county. Have you heard of any non-profit organizations that need assistance, virtually?

Let [Monica Ortale](#) know if you've heard of anything, and perhaps we can help out!



VOLUNTEER

HALL Meeting Minutes - August 12, 2020

Meeting Conducted via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm.

The February and May Minutes were sent out via email to HALL for review.

Approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's report was sent out via email to HALL for review.

Approved by voice vote.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business: Board has approved a Zoom HALL account at a cost of \$14.99 per month. HALL will purchase for a year, and then review at the end of the term whether to continue the account.

Committee Reports

Archives: Archives are fine, send photos to Heather.

Bylaws: The Board will identify changes that need to be made within the bylaws and will work with the committee on making sure both the procedures manual and bylaws are consistent with one another.

Community Service: No Report

Government Relations: No Report

Membership: DeCarlous Spearman has volunteered to be the new Membership Chair.

Placement: No Report

Public Relations: A memory page in honor of Yvonne Chandler is posted on the HALL Facebook site.

Scholarships and Grants: No Report

Vendor Relations: No Report

Website: Richard Guajardo is retiring, effective September 1. He will be stepping down as web site and listserv manager, but will be available to train new people stepping into the roles. The invoice for the annual fees for the domain registrations will be sent out to the treasurer in September/October.

Data Protection: Chair position is still open. Please let Michael know if you'd like to volunteer.

Newsletter: Deadline to turn in articles has been extended until Monday, August 17.

Nominations: No report

Motion to adjourn approved at 1:14 pm.



HALL Treasurer's Report - August 6, 2020

HALL Treasurer's Report

HALL Treasurer's Report - August 6, 2020

Balance Forward			
	6/1/2020		\$12,969.57
	Income	Expenses	
2020-2021 Dues	\$2,260.00		
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Scholarships/Grants	-	-	
Administrative (Wild Apricot, Wild Apricot Payments, Brinkster, Insurance)			\$196.39
Total	\$2,260.00	\$196.39	
	8/6/2020		\$15,033.18

Edifications — Editor's Notes

Calling All Graphic Designers

In order to conform with AALL [branding requirements](#), the *HALL Quarterly* will have a new look for its 2021 Winter edition (anticipated publication date in January). While I had hoped to just be able to change the colors and fonts of the existing newsletter template, the AALL color palette does not allow for the variety of shades of blue we are currently using. (AALL provides for two shades, whereas *HALL Quarterly* currently uses at least five.) In addition, we will also have to modify the

logos currently used on the masthead—at the very least, to conform to the AALL color scheme. This is a very long way of asking for help. While I am a decent writer and a better editor, my graphic design skills are sadly lacking. So, if anyone would like to help me redesign *HALL Quarterly*, please speak up!

New Newsletter Gmail Account

For archival purposes, please send all newsletter items to HALLQuarterly@gmail.com.



P.O. Box 61648
Houston, Texas 77208

For the promotion of:

- Ideas
- Sharing
- Education
- Cooperation
- Resources
- Networking

Houston Area Law Librarians is a chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Our monthly meetings are held at the South Texas College of Law or virtually, August-May. We present a half-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics. However, meetings are subject to change. Visit the [HALL Website](http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.org) for more information.

There are close to 100 members of HALL. We are librarians in firms, law schools, and courts as well as vendors and Library School students.

HALL Officers (2020-2021)

President

Michael McHenry
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Sabrina A. Davis
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Secretary

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Treasurer

Karen Kronenberg
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Melinda Elder
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Past President

Andre Davison
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HALL Committee Chairs (2020-2021)

Archives:

Heather Kushnerick

Nominations:

Patti Curtis

By-Laws:

Caren Luckie

Placement:

Melissa Vann

Community Service:

Monica Ortale

Public Relations:

Heather Holmes

Continuing Education:

Sabrina A. Davis

Scholarships/Grants:

Kelley Bocell

Data Protection

Richard Guajardo

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

Government Relations:

Joseph Lawson

Website:

Chris Dykes

Membership:

DeCarlous Spearman

Newsletter Editor:

Sabrina A. Davis

Visit us online at:

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