

Houston Area Law Librarians

2015-2016 Annual Report

The 2015-2016 HALL Officers were Margaret Bartlett, President; Joe Lawson, Vice President/President-Elect; Shelby Shanks, Immediate Past President; Mary Ann Wacker, Secretary; Sarah Lopez, Treasurer; Kelley Bocell, Member-at-Large; Heather Kushnerick, Member-at Large.

HALL had a very successful year, accomplishing our goals of improving our online presence and cleaning up administrative procedures. First, we hired a graphic designer to create a new logo, since the old one was outdated. Using Wild Apricot, our Website Committee Chair, Richard Guajardo, was able to completely redesign the HALL website, adding much more functionality, including an online membership directory, access to association documents and handouts, and the ability for members to RSVP and pay for events online. Our newly formed Public Relations Committee created and has been periodically updating the HALL Facebook page to keep members and non-members informed about upcoming events, member news, and news items that are of interest to the law librarian community.

In addition to the improved online presence, we recognized that our administrative procedures needed to be reevaluated. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer created an annual budget to ensure that funds are being properly allocated. The Bylaws Committee audited the HALL bylaws and identified sections that needed to be clarified. Finally, with contributions from all Officers and Committee Chairs, we created a HALL Procedures Manual that contains duties and procedures for each committee and officer position as well as a calendar of events, information about chapter awards, archives, corporate registration, budget, and auditing procedures. The intent of the Manual is to provide a set a guidelines to ensure that all of the duties and responsibilities of each position is fulfilled.

At the monthly meetings, we had educational programs on topics such as White Collar Crime research, Trial Presentation Techniques, and an update on the Oral History of Law Librarianship Project. In February, our special guest was Ron Wheeler, AALL Vice President/President-Elect, who gave us an update on AALL initiatives. In April, HALL held its Spring Seminar entitled “Legal Research for the Boom & Bust” that included presentations on Oil & Gas law and International Arbitration research. The program was well attended and helped raise funds for future HALL activities.

Every year, HALL arranges a community service project for its members. This year, we volunteered at the Houston Humane Society. This was a great event as it allowed participants to lavish affection on dogs and cats who are awaiting adoption and don’t often get human interaction.

The newly elected HALL Board for 2016-2017 is: Joe Lawson, President; Christopher Dykes, Vice President/President-Elect; Margaret Bartlett, Immediate Past President; Patrina Epperson, Secretary; Sarah Lopez, Treasurer; and Heather Kushnerick and Mary Ann Wacker, Members-at-Large.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Bartlett

President, 2015-2016