Every organization needs to communicate with its members. For many a professional organization this need was met solely by the issuing of a newsletter—until the birth of e-mail. But can e-mail really replace a newsletter? The answer is a very obvious no. And for a very good reason: a newsletter can be much more than just the timely passing on of information. It is a forum where the members can convey organized and refined ideas ready to be adopted by the others.

The printed SWALL Bulletin was such a publication. Created and improved by many people since 1969, it was a collective labor of love. Take a look at the names of the columns and the reader will immediately realize that this was a well thought-out publication: From the Bench (SWALL President’s words), Transcript (business meeting record), Pro Forma (SWALL financial report), Outside Counsel (AALL activities), Headnotes (SWALL announcements), Dicta (news from SWALL libraries), Briefing the Case (subject bibliographies), Discovery (new publications on law librarianship), Expert Testimony (news on useful conferences/meetings), and Hearsay (membership activities). In addition to providing SWALL officers a vehicle to communicate with its members, its sections brought to the membership support for professional development. No wonder SWALL Bulletin was well received. And there was an extra benefit: the camaraderie formed through putting together something meaningful lays the foundation of the professional network and friendship lasting for a lifetime. I can attest to this as someone who hustled for authors to fill the Briefing the Case column from 1989 to 1992. Unfortunately SWALL Bulletin gradually went into a hiatus in recent years.
When the current Publication Committee (chaired by Elizabeth Caulfield, with Richard Guajardo, Emily Lawson, and Lauren Schroeder as its members) began to revive SWALL Bulletin, I was overjoyed. Thanks to their labor of love, SWALL will again have a vehicle for members to engage in professional development activities. Only this time it will take advantage of web publishing and social networking. Let us value and utilize this new vehicle. Be a reader. Be an author. It belongs to all of us.

**Transcript**

SWALL Business Meeting Minutes  
July 24, 2011  
Philadelphia, PA, AALL Annual Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Mon Yin Lung at 5:35p.m.on Sunday, July 24, 2011 in Marriot room 302-304 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A moment of silence was observed in the memory of Lori Bull Dodds and she was remembered for her contributions to SWALL and the profession.

Annual Meeting Status Report: Mon Yin Lung
- The 2011 annual meeting was deferred to the fall for a joint MAALL-SWALL meeting.
- In addition, a joint meeting between HALL and SWALL was hosted by the University of Houston on March 11th and 12th. The program was very successful, with 3 CLE credits offered.

2011 MAALL-SWALL Joint Meeting: Mon Yin Lung
- The meeting will take place in Lawrence, Kansas, November 3rd through 5th.
- More than 24 proposals for three tracks of programming were received.
- More information about the meeting and registration is coming soon. The Joint Meeting Local Arrangement will set up a website.

Chapter President Report: Mon Yin Lung
- Mon Yin Lung attended the Council of Chapters Business Meeting. The President of the Chapter Council president stated that the AALL Executive Board requested the chapters to post on their website a message that chapter members should not use the chapter discussion lists to transfer files downloaded from database or commit any action violating copyright law.
- There was additional discussion among the chapter presidents on the AALL Executive Board’s other request for no discussion on vendor pricing, although this request was postponed for the time being.
• The President of the Chapter Council also forwarded another request from the AALL Executive Board: that since candidates running for AALL Executive Board are not allowed to campaign for the position, chapter members should not bring up the candidacy in the discussion list. This statement drew some lengthy discussion. The Council President will bring it back to the AALL Executive Board for further discussion.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Jennifer Laws was not present; President Mon Yin Lung reported in her absence that SWALL’s assets were around $15,000.

Committee Reports:
• Constitution and By-laws Committee: No report.
• Finance Committee: No report.
• Grants Committee: David Gay
  David Gay introduced Katy Stein from St. Mary’s University Law Library and Faye Hadley from the Mabee Legal Information Center at the University of Tulsa College of Law as the 2011 AALL annual meeting grant recipients. There are plans to offer three grants for the MAALL-SWALL joint meeting. Additional grants are planned for the 2012 meeting in San Antonio, details to be announced later.

• Legal Information Services to the Public: Mike Martinez was appointed as the new committee chair.

• Lifetime Memberships and Memorials: Mon Yin Lung made announcements for Sharon Wayland and Rick Ducey that Sharon Blackburn will be nominated for a lifelong membership and a memorial will be made for Lori Bull Dodds.

• Local Arrangements Committee: Katy Stein reported that the 2012 SWALL Annual Meeting will take place from March 28 to March 31 at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio. Arrangements are currently being made with more information to be available soon.

• Membership Committee: Mon Yin Lung commented that from 2003 to 2010 membership in SWALL declined from 281 members to 179. The goal for the future is to recruit and retain members.

• Private Law Libraries Committee: Riva Laughlin is the new committee chair. SWALL will be making an increased effort to recruit private law librarians.

• Program Committee: Program committee chair Bob Hu was not present. Mon Yin Lung announced program committee members.
Publications Committee: Elizabeth Caulfield is the chair. Committee members include Richard Guajardo, Emily Lawson, and Lauren Schroeder. Emily Lawson and Lauren Schroeder also serve as the SWALL web mistresses. Consideration was made to restart SWALL Bulletin on the SWALL website. Jessica Alexander suggested developing a social network presence for SWALL. RSS feed will be added to the front page.

Public Relations Committee: No report.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m., attendees were welcomed to the reception that followed.

Members Present:
Jessica Alexander, Dan Baker, Uwe Beltz, Melissa Bernstein, Elizabeth Caulfield, Christopher Dykes, Stacy Fowler, Barbara Fullerton, David Gay, Lisa A. Goodman, Mimi Greenwood, Faye Hadley, Darla Jackson, Riva Laughlin, Emily Lawson, Lorraine Lester, Mon Yin Lung, Jane O’Connell, Lauren Schroeder, DeCarlous Spearman, Kathy Stein, Jennifer Stephens

Minutes recorded by Katy Stein.

Outside Counsel

AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: Overcoming the Challenge of Change.

This one-hour, 43-minute audio file (mp3) was recorded at the 2011 Northern California Association of Law Libraries Spring Institute and features Sandra Yancey, founder and CEO of eWomenNetwork. Through frank discussion of real-life issues, this program will help librarians understand how to personally become an effective "change agent" and overcome obstacles associated with change.

Yancy begins by discussing her own personal journey into business ownership. She then walks audience members through a series of exercises and then discusses the results. She also discusses why little changes went unnoticed and why certain changes happened. Many of these tools and concepts that were incorporated into the session were created by Joel Barker, William Bridges, and Stephen Covey. Through this series of exercises followed by discussion, Yancy provides the audience with a framework whereby they can work with their own staffs to understand the challenges of change in any organization. Find this and more than 80 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on AALL2go!
2011 AALL Salary Survey Now Available

The AALL 2011 Biennial Salary Survey and Organizational Characteristics is now available online free for AALL members.

This new edition is the only source for up-to-date information about salaries for law librarians and other law library employees who work in academic libraries; private firms and corporate libraries; and state, court, and county law libraries. The survey was carried out this summer in complete confidentiality by Association Research, Inc., a professional research firm in Rockville, Maryland, that works exclusively with nonprofit organizations.

Printed copies of the survey will be available for purchase and shipment in mid-November; $110 for AALL members and $175 for nonmembers (contact orders@aall.org).

Headnotes: Report of the 2011/2012 SWALL Grants Committee

W. David Gay, SWALL Grants Chair
Reference Librarian
Ross-Blakley Law Library
Arizona State University

The current grants committee consists of Chair W. David Gay, Arizona State University, Ross-Blakley Law Library; Christopher Dykes, University of Houston Law Center, O’Quinn Law Library; and Kasia Solon, University of Texas, Jamail Center for Legal Research. The immediate charge of the committee when formed in May was to advertise and award grants for the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the joint SWALL MAALL Meeting in Lawrence, KS, and the Annual SWALL Meeting in San Antonio in the Spring of 2012. The number and amounts of the awards for Philadelphia and Lawrence were arrived at from discussions by the committee with the SWALL board.

Awards to date:

2011 AALL SWALL Grant Recipients for Philadelphia (2 @ $595):
- Faye Hadley, Native American Resources/Reference Law Librarian, University of Tulsa College of Law, Mabee Legal Information Center
- Katy Stein, Faculty Services Librarian & Assistant Professor, St. Mary’s University, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
2011 SWALL MAALL Grant Recipients for Lawrence KS (3 @ $700):
- Jennifer Laws, Law Librarian, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Antonio
- Emily Lawson, Reference/Research Librarian, University of Houston Law Center, O’Quinn Law Library
- Lisa Rush, Law Library Manager for Travis County Law Library in Austin, TX.

The number and amounts of the grant awards for San Antonio will be announced on the SWALL listserv by late January.

Many thanks to Chris Dykes and Kasia Solon for their assistance!

Headnotes: AALL Philadelphia Travel Grant Reports

Faye Hadley
Native American Resources/Reference Law Librarian
Mabee Legal Information Center
University of Tulsa College of Law

SWALL Grant Recipient: 2011 AALL Annual Meeting Report

First, I would like to say a special thank you to David Gay for his work in making this grant available for the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Receiving this grant made it possible for me to attend the Annual Meeting of AALL in Philadelphia.

While attending the Annual Meeting, I participated in the CONELL Marketplace, representing the Native Peoples Law Caucus on Saturday. On Saturday evening I attended the opening reception at the Exhibit Hall where I enjoyed such fine Philly delicacies as a cheesesteak sandwich and Italian ices. On Sunday I attended several programs – the most interesting of which was a session that focused on the QR symbols that are becoming ubiquitous not only in libraries but also in advertising and other marketing ploys. Then I attended the Diversity Symposium (I am on the Diversity Committee), then rushed to the SWALL Business Meeting and attended the reception afterward. Monday was the busiest day of the Conference for me. At noon there were at least two programs that I wanted to attend (the BE Press seminar and the NPLC Meeting), but as I was the stand-in for the chair of the NPLC, I decided that I should attend the Caucus meeting. On Monday evening my sister, who lives in New Jersey, was able to join me for the Bender (Lexis) Dinner – always a special occasion. In between all of these meetings and sessions I managed to listen to several talks that updated me on the most recent developments at West, Lexis, CALI, Bloomberg, HeinOnline and other database vendors.
I just want to say a big thank you to all of the SWALL officers and the Grants Committee in particular for awarding me the grant that made my attendance at the Annual Meeting a reality. Thanks so much!

Katy Stein
Faculty Services Librarian & Assistant Professor
Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
St. Mary’s University School of Law

SWALL Grant Recipient: 2011 AALL Annual Meeting Report

The 103rd AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which took place from July 23rd to July 26th, was among the most exciting and informative meetings I’ve had the pleasure of attending. Our host city, Philadelphia, provided a wonderfully historic backdrop and served as a reminder of the rich history of American law and the importance of law librarians in its preservation and continued evolution. After arriving on Saturday afternoon, I was met with heat rivaling that of my home city, San Antonio, which made me feel quite at home. The first event I attended after checking into my hotel was the exhibit hall ribbon cutting and opening reception, where I enjoyed both the delicious pretzels and visiting with colleagues from around the country.

The meeting’s programming began in earnest on Sunday morning with the opening general session and address by this year’s keynote speaker, Dahlia Lithwick. A writer for Slate.com, she addressed how privacy concerns may be creating new divisions among the Supreme Court justices. Interestingly, she theorized that Justices Thomas and Alito may have more guarded views on privacy rights after their own difficult confirmation hearings. Ms. Lithwick’s address connected many issues important to law librarians, from first amendment limits to access to the courts, and provided much food for thought. Following the opening session and address, I attended a lunch held by the Latino Caucus, where Yolanda Vazquez, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania spoke to the group. Ms. Vazquez addressed the problems and consequences of incorporating immigration law into the criminal justice system, an important topic especially for those who often work with pro-se patrons.

Of the programs I attended at the annual meeting, several stood out for both their quality and ability to enhance the work that I and other librarians do at St. Mary’s University Law Library. The first of these, “Best Practices for Evaluating a New Electronic Resource,” addressed best practices for librarians when evaluating whether or not to purchase a new electronic resource. Best of all, the program included a sample evaluation checklist for librarians to use when making
decisions about these resources, a handout that I think we will modify and use here at St. Mary’s for our collection development decisions. The checklist includes areas for decision makers to evaluate a resource considering many factors, including: cost, content, search features, technical support, and catalog record availability. Another interesting program, “Peeping THOMAS: A Little Look at a Big System,” introduced the audience to the librarians and technical professionals who maintain and improve Thomas.gov, a resource I both use and teach often. Though most of the program focused on changes the team had made based on user feedback, it definitely made me excited about new developments in THOMAS that will be coming in the next year.

Other programs and components of the meeting also helped me enhance my professional knowledge and skills. As the faculty services librarian at St. Mary’s, the annual faculty services roundtable has consistently been a highlight for me. This year, there was spirited discussion about how much current awareness information can and should be provided to law professors, based on their degree of interest. I heard lots of interesting ideas from other schools, like personalized current awareness newsletters, some of which I hope to implement in the coming school year. Another program that was of great interest to me was Tuesday’s program, “The New Generation of Legal Research Databases: Eighteen Months Later.” This program surveyed librarians from courts, law firms, and law schools about their adoption and use of WestlawNext. Though many librarians seem to have mixed feelings about the products, it was helpful to hear about the experiences of users from outside the academic context, as it will better inform my teaching.

In addition to the many great programs, I was also fortunate to spend some time at the exhibit hall, where I was able to see new vendor products, and connect directly with the vendors our library uses and express any questions or concerns. Though I did not win an iPad, or the car offered by Hein, I did receive plenty of product information and ideas to bring home with me. Another highlight of the conference was attending the SWALL business meeting and reception, where I was able to meet many SWALL librarians I had yet to meet in person, or at all. Strengthening these community relationships is certainly one of the most rewarding aspects of attending the annual meeting.

Though the activities of the conference did not leave me much time for sightseeing, I was able to explore a little bit of Philadelphia, and of course visit the Liberty Bell and Constitution Hall. Spending time eating meals and chatting with colleagues I do not often have a chance to see in person was also wonderful, and was enhanced by all the delicious food Philadelphia had to offer. I was impressed by Philadelphia’s sense of history in such a bustling city, and hope to return someday soon. I very much enjoyed my conference experience at the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, and I am most grateful to SWALL for awarding me a grant to help me to attend. I encourage other SWALL members to apply for annual meeting grants next year, and hope to meet many more SWALL members at our upcoming meetings and conferences.
Headnotes: 2011 SWALL-MAALL Joint Meeting

W. Blake Wilson  
Head of Instructional & Research Services  
Wheat Law Library  
University of Kansas School of Law

The 2011 joint Meeting for the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL) and the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL) will be held November 3-5, 2011 at the Oread Hotel in Lawrence, Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas is a picturesque community with a fiery history, a nationally recognized arts scene, a rich culture that makes Lawrence unique, and, of course, the University of Kansas. The Oread Hotel is new to the Lawrence scene. It is perched atop Mount Oread at the north gate of The University of Kansas and has spectacular views overlooking the Kaw River Valley, the university campus to the Campanile and the KU Football Stadium.

Being two meetings in one, it will offer an even greater number and variety of programming and activities than usual. For more information, visit http://www.aallnet.org/chapter_maall/2011jointmeeting/.

Headnotes: 2012 Annual Meeting - Springtime in San Antonio

Katy Stein, Co-Chair, Local Arrangements Committee  
Faculty Services Librarian/Assistant Professor  
Sarita Kenedy East Law Library  
St. Mary’s University

Though many SWALL members are now preparing for our joint meeting with MAALL in Lawrence this November, I invite you to look ahead to 2012 and start making plans to attend SWALL’s Annual Meeting in San Antonio! Mark your calendars for March 29 thru 31 when SWALL’s Annual Meeting will be held in downtown San Antonio at the historic Menger Hotel. March is the perfect time to visit the Alamo City, with average temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees. The Local Arrangements committee is planning several events to give attendees a true taste of San Antonio and our famous Texas hospitality. Here are some highlights of our wonderful city to get you in the spirit for the 2012 meeting, Embracing Today, Innovating for Tomorrow!
Location, Location, Location

Our headquarters hotel, and site of the meeting’s programs and events is the historic Menger Hotel, situated in the heart of downtown San Antonio, immediately adjacent to both the Alamo and San Antonio’s Rivercenter Mall on the Riverwalk. The Menger, built in 1859 (just 23 years after the fall of the Alamo), has hosted numerous luminaries in its history, from Teddy Roosevelt and Oscar Wilde to President Bill Clinton and Roy Rogers. The hotel’s food is beyond compare (don’t miss the mango ice cream!) and amidst its Victorian décor, the Menger provides all the modern amenities (free wireless internet!).

The hotel is mere steps away from San Antonio’s world famous Riverwalk, a network of walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story beneath approximately 5 miles of downtown San Antonio. Lined by bars, shops, and restaurants, the River Walk is the downtown destination in San Antonio. Whether you prefer a great place for a scenic morning walk or people-watching while sipping a margarita as the sun sets, the Riverwalk will enchant and delight you. For those interested in history, be sure to take a narrated river boat tour, which allows you to enjoy the sights along the Riverwalk while learning about its rich history.

Art, History, and Culture

In Texas, one is often told to “Remember the Alamo,” so be sure to take a tour through the historic structure during your time in San Antonio, which is open daily. Or, extend your visit to San Antonio’s past with a visit to the four other missions of San Antonio, preserved in a national park, and accessible via a six-mile hike and bike trail.

San Antonio is also home to over 25 celebrated museums, including the San Antonio Children’s Museum, the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Witte Museum, and the McNay Art Museum, which will please art and science lovers of any age. We are also making plans to enjoy food, drink, and the wonderful company of our fellow librarians at a Thursday night reception at the Institute of Texan Cultures. This museum celebrates the more than 20 ethnic groups that settled in Texas and represents them through a variety of exhibits.

Food and Fun

One of my favorite ways to get to know a city and its culture is, of course, through its food. San Antonio is home to all types of cuisine, but is most famous for its Mexican and Tex-Mex flavors. Whether you are looking for high-end Riverwalk fare at the critically acclaimed Biga on the Banks, or the famous Mexican fare at Mi Tierra Café, San Antonio is sure to satisfy your tastes.
For those seeking fun and thrills of a different sort, San Antonio is also home to Sea World, featuring live animal shows, rides, and a water park, and Six Flags Fiesta Texas, with roller-coasters and shows for the whole family.

Start making plans now to join us at the 2012 SWALL Annual Meeting: Embracing Today, Innovating for Tomorrow! The bluebonnets will be in bloom, the river will be flowing, and the conference promises to be a true fiesta for all. Don’t miss out, and stay tuned - more information about the San Antonio meeting is coming soon.

In Memoriam: A Tribute to Lori Bull Dodds

Kathleen Bransford
Librarian
Denton County Law Library

Lori Bull Dodds first introduced herself to me through an e-mail directed to all North Texas County Law Librarians. Having been introduced to the world of law librarianship only a few months prior to her e-mail, I was ecstatic. Finally, someone was reaching out to me with a warm and welcoming gesture. That was in the spring of 2008.

The welcome she gave several of us as we met in the Collin County Law Library was just as I had hoped it would be….warm and welcoming. Every time after that was similar. Lori was non-judgmental, open, gracious, and generous with both her time and her knowledge. There were many times when I called her with a question or request to e-mail me a form….she was always spot-on there for me.

Soon she and Virginia Eldridge from Grayson County and I were taking little road trips to other libraries in our area. We met at Grayson County Law Library, then my own Denton County Law Library, Tarrant County Law Library, and on our last trip together, we met with Wichita Falls County Law Librarian, Sherry Jones. Lori had arranged this trip with Sherry who was grateful for the connections. I believe it was this trip and our conversations with Sherry that led Lori to ideate a new committee for SWALL – the Special County Court Law Library Committee.

As a member of SWALL, I was put on the Program Committee for our conference in Waco. I felt totally inadequate to serve, so I summoned Lori’s and Virginia’s help in brain-storming for some program ideas. We met in Denton and each of them produced more than their share of ideas…..most of which were accepted not only by the Program Committee and the President, Michelle Rigual, but especially by the attendees at the Conference. Little by little, with Lori’s and Virginia’s support, I was learning law librarianship and increasing my confidence.
Even now, I have tears in my eyes…Lori and I were becoming friends. She was someone I could relate to and be myself with, never fearing that she would criticize but gently guide me, if I were misdirected. Her unexpected absence has left a deep hole in my heart as I was looking forward to spending more time with her. We did share a long walk along the Brazos River at the SWALL meeting in Waco. Those moments are golden in my memory, as is Lori. The only consolation is that she was as close to the heavens as one can be on this earth….she had only a few steps to take to be totally spiritual….for she was already close to that here on earth.

Thank you, Lori, for the brief time I did get to spend with you.
If you are interested in writing for the SWALL Bulletin, please contact Publications Chair, Elizabeth Caulfield at elizabeth.caulfield@ttu.edu.