Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL)
Annual Report 2017-2018

The SEAALL officers for 2017-2018 were Jason R. Sowards, President; Kristina L. Niedringhaus, Vice President/President-Elect; Michelle Cosby, Immediate Past President; Thomas (T.J.) Striepe, Secretary; Amy O’Connor, Treasurer (until August 2017); Sally Irvin, Treasurer (August-December 2017); Rachel Purcell, Treasurer (since December 2017); and Charles (C.J.) Pipins and Avery Le as Members at Large. Newly elected officers for 2018-2019 are Louis Rosen, Vice President/President-Elect; Kat Klepfer, Secretary (replacing Thomas (T.J.) Striepe); and Suzanne Corriell as our new Member at Large (replacing Charles (C.J.) Pipins).

SEAALL held its annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee from April 12-14, 2018. The theme for the meeting was “Changing Your Tune: Dealing with Disruptions in Law Librarianship.” The opening reception was held at Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum. Local Arrangements also set up several tours of local law libraries. A training session on Wild Apricot, the new SEAALL website management tool, was also held. AALL President Greg Lambert attended.

This year’s pre-conference institute was entitled, “Change, Challenge, and Opportunity.” The institute speakers discussed various types of change taking place in the profession and how law librarians can respond to and stay abreast of these changes. For example, Todd McCullough, co-founder of Ampersand, gave the keynote address titled “On Innovation: Turning Threats into Opportunities” and Phil Rosenthal, President of Fastcase, delivered a program titled “Transforming AI from ‘Read Only’ to ‘Read Write’: How Together We Can Turn Disruption to Our Advantage and Future-Proof Our Careers.”

As for traditional programming, the annual meeting offered over 25 sessions, including six 15-20 minute talks. These shorter programs time slots were started several years ago and are designed to give SEAALL members, especially newer librarians, a shorter presentation opportunity. In addition, two Deep Dive programs were offered. “Diverse Interactions: Race and Implicit Bias in the Legal Research Classroom” was presented on behalf of the SEAALL Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Black Caucus of AALL. The second Deep Dive program was on the history and impact of fake news, how to identify it, and teaching students to recognize it.

The Community Service Committee selected Safe Haven Family Shelter of Nashville, Tennessee as the recipient of its annual community service project. SEAALL members donated over $720 of Amazon wish list items and over $620 in monetary donations to Safe Haven.

The scholarship committee awarded over $8,195 in grants and scholarships.

The Newsletter & Publications Committee continued to publish The Southeastern Law Librarian on a quarterly basis with a special election issue. It also continued to make active use of Twitter to publicize SEAALL, AALL, and other law librarianship related information.

The Service to SEAALL award was presented to Fran Norton.
Planning for the 2019 meeting at The Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia (March 21-23, 2019) is well underway. Caroline Osborne is Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee and Louis Rosen, Vice President/President-Elect is Chair of the Program Committee. Additionally, the Executive Board selected Jackson, Mississippi as the location for SEAALL 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina L. Niedringhaus
President 2018-2019