

Law Library  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge 3, Louisiana

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES  
PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

September 8, 1958

To: All Law Librarians within the Chapter's jurisdiction  
as listed in the 1958 Directory of Law Libraries.

Greetings to all members and prospective members of the Chapter.  
Congratulations and our best wishes to the new SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER.

Stanley Bougas has valiantly agreed to retain the editorship of our chapter newsletter. He will report to you about the annual meeting, about your new officers. Please send him news and any matters of common interest to all law librarians in our region. Other issues of the newsletter will keep you informed at irregular intervals.

At this time of the new year there are many plans in a preparatory stage. You ought to know about some of them, so that you can do some planning, thinking, etc.

Presidential visit.

President Ervin Pollack would like to meet with our chapter. Since it has been decided to have our next annual meeting a day or two before the AALL meeting in June 1959 in New York City, we shall attempt to arrange a special meeting at a place where those members who seldom can attend any annual AALL functions will have an opportunity to meet the president. The time will probably be in the early Spring.

Annual meeting.

For New York we have tentatively planned a social get-together with members of the Southwestern Chapter. Our business program will reflect our interests in membership growth, cooperation and expansion of law library facilities and services within our region. I intend to call on our members for contributions, but shall also endeavor to sprinkle our gatherings with a few "outsiders". Since the envisioned program will have appeal to all types of law librarians, it is hoped that we will be able to greet a number of first visitors. It is not the program alone which makes attendance worthwhile. Much can be gained by exchange of ideas with your colleagues from other sections of the country. The professional pride, the aims of the membership at large inevitably become much clearer at these gatherings and more meaningful to you personally through direct contacts than through merely reading about them in the printed pages of the Law Library Journal. Plan early to come to New York in June 1959.

Chapter aims.

As a chapter of the national association we have our duties and responsibilities. We labor under one very distinct difficulty: we are separated from each other so that a meeting of a majority of our members at one time seems a practical impossibility. If we cannot meet more often as a chapter, there is no reason why we cannot meet in smaller groups, close to our own place of work. As chapter members we should all work toward closer cooperation among all members of our profession, whether they are law school, bar, firm, court, state, or county law librarians.

There are a number of law librarians in our region who do not belong to the AALL and some who have not yet joined our chapter. Perhaps we have not sold them our "goods". I shall gratefully receive applications for chapter membership.

We need more and better law libraries and more librarians in our region. In order to get them we have to impress the authorities with our needs. One way of doing it is by finding out what others in other sections of the country are doing. Another way is to take stock of what has been done in our own region and then compare us with others.

Chapter project.

In Washington, at our annual business meeting, I proposed the undertaking of a survey among all members of our chapter and the project met with approval. Harriet French dryly remarked, we elected Kate president and we knew that she would make us work.

Your tasks for the current year:

1. Collect the laws in each of the states in our chapter's jurisdiction on law libraries of all kinds and descriptions.
2. Prepare for each state in our chapter a summary of existing law libraries and how they are administered and operated, etc.
3. For law school libraries: define the areas of cooperative planning for the near future.

I intend to appoint a chairman for each state. Until October 15, I shall wait anxiously for volunteers, then I shall have to exercise my presidential prerogative of requesting your services hoping that the project will tempt you sufficiently to accept without further prodding.

Each chairman will then appoint his own committee members for carrying out the survey together. It would be desirable if each chairman would personally meet with members in the state or city for discussions which would bring local groups closer together than heretofore.

I would like to have the written reports from each chairman by April 15. These reports will be published in some form and may prove useful to individual members in obtaining support from their respective administrative authorities.

Problems raised in the reports will then form the basis for discussion at our next annual meeting in New York. It is my intention to give you an opportunity to talk about common problems rather than present speakers to you who would do the talking for you.

The ultimate goal is: how can we improve law libraries and law library services in our chapter. The survey project is only the first step toward the goal. May I suggest that you read\* Bob Roalfe's The Libraries of the legal profession on county law libraries, esp. p. 246, and court and state libraries, depending upon your special interest.

Your advice, your support and your active interest in our chapter project is sincerely and urgently solicited by,

Kate Wallach  
President,  
Southeastern Chapter, A.A.L.L.

\*Additional suggested reading: Putnam, County Law Libraries in Kansas.  
Journal of the Bar Assoc. of the State of Kansas. 22:112-122 (1953).  
Leverette and Elliot, History of the Carolina - Southeastern Chapter.  
L.L.J. 49:180-85 (1956); Holt, Fifteen years of chapter development.  
L.L.J. 45:84-90 (1952).