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Letter to Edwin Schroeder regarding Constitution and Bylaws Committee Appointments and Committee Activities, February 3, 1987

Carol Billings

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February 3, 1987

Professor Edwin M. Schroeder  
Director of the Law Library  
Florida State University Law School  
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-1043

Dear Ed:

I apologize for leaving you wondering about the SEAALL Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Back in the early fall I wrote to (I thought) all of the committee chairs and appointed members to announce the assignments. Now I fear that I carelessly missed sending your letter, and I am sorry.

You have two lovely and capable ladies on your committee, Nancy Johnson, Of Georgia State, and Connie Matzen, of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, et al, in Raleigh. I am positive that they did receive their notification letters.

One of the matters that I thought you would need to take care of has, I understand, already been discussed and handled by you and Ed Edmonds: that is, getting the approval of the AALL Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the amendments that we adopted last spring.

There is a good possibility that we may ask your committee to go into action very shortly on the matter of a dues increase. Last week I wrote to the other officers to get their opinions on several chapter financial matters, and one question that I raised was whether to put a dues increase to a vote. I told each officer that I would give them a few days and then call them to get a consensus. I plan to call them all on Thursday. If I succeed in reaching all four, I will call you by Friday to report;

In order to vote upon a proposed bylaw amendment at the Charleston meeting, we would be required to give the members notice at least 30 days in advance, that is, by March 5. However, since the change would be a simple one, there shouldn't be much problem accomplishing it.

One other matter should probably be looked at by your committee: the bylaw naming standing committees. Dick named the new Education Committee last year, and I have added
the Publications Committee and the Publicity and Public Relations Committee. I personally think that SEAALL needs to have standing committees working in all three of these areas, but I realize that some members may look upon them as special committee concerns that may not be kept by future presidents. Certainly, it does not affect the chapter in any practical way to have committees working although they are not recognized in the bylaws. Therefore, it may not be worth all of the hassle of the amendment process just to add the names of the new committees. On the other hand, if the dues increase is proposed by the officers, perhaps the committee bylaw should be handled at the same time to avoid going through the notification and approval process once again on another occasion.

It is quite likely that the officers will just want to leave everything as it is. If you, Nancy, and Connie see anything else in the Constitution or Bylaws that appears to need examining, by all means let me know.

I shall also be grateful if you will serve as parliamentarian at the Charleston business meeting.

I'll be in touch with you in just a few days--perhaps on the very day you receive this. Thanks for your help, Ed.

Best wishes,

Carol D. Billings
SEAALL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Constitution ByLaws Committee has proposed the following amendment to the SEAALL Constitution. The bracketed and highlighted items are being added:

Article VII: Committees
a. There shall be the following committees:
   (1) Program
   (2) Membership
   (3) Nominating
   (4) Placement
   (5) Scholarship
   [(6) Constitution & ByLaws
   (7) Newsletter]

This is an amendment formalizing procedures which have been in practice for a number of years. Both committees have functioned as special committees appointed by the President. This makes the two committees standing committees to be appointed annually. The change will be voted on by the membership present at the next business meeting of the Southeastern Chapter on Saturday morning April 16, 1988 in Lexington, Kentucky.