Summer 1995

Southeastern Law Librarian Summer 1995

SEAALL

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From the President

The members of SEAALL like to say that not only is ours the oldest and the largest chapter, but also that it is the best chapter. I was musing about this fact recently, trying to decide just what it is that makes us the best. The infamous SEAALL cruise? No. The "second line" dancing in New Orleans? I don't think so. "Miss Betty's" talent as a stand-up comedian? Maybe. But I think I got the right answer at the recent AALL conference in Pittsburgh. What makes us the best chapter is our members. We must have the richest pool of talented law librarians anywhere in the country right here in the Southeast. My evidence? Take a look at the conference some of us were fortunate to just attend. SEAALL's own Carol Billings and Jim Heller, as the AALL President and Education Chair respectively, receive much of the credit for the marvelous programs that were presented. But going beyond the obvious, just look at your schedule. I counted at least 41 SEAALL members who acted as coordinators, moderators or speakers in various programs. Many other SEAALL members acted a chairs or vice-chairs of SIS's or AALL committees. In further perusing the schedule, I came upon the list of past AALL presidents. I was able to tentatively identify 9 AALL past presidents as members of SEAALL. In fact, 2 of the last 3 presidents of AALL are SEAALL members. (We may be able to claim 3 out of 4 now that D.C. is part of our geographic area!) 4 of the 11 AALL Executive Board members are from SEAALL. Then I thought back to the SEAALL Annual Meeting in Richmond. Out of 18 programs presented, with a total of 23 speakers, only 5 speakers were non-SEAALL members.

So what's the point to all of this, you must be saying to yourselves by now. I'm getting there, trust me. One thing about us librarians is that we love continuing education. We even schedule 7:00 A.M. meetings to satisfy our lust. What I would like to see is for more people to look upon chapter involvement as a form of continuing education. You are going to learn an awful lot simply because you will be working with some very talented people. Plus you have the opportunity to do some professional work that may be outside the scope of your employment in your library. Are you a techie with a secret yearning to develop a pathfinder? Call the

Continued on page 11
EDITOR'S NOTE

Moving, even to a wonderful place like Tallahassee, is stressful. The boxes! The heat! Knowing that a resource exists, but not knowing if this library has it or, more importantly, where it is shelved. And this time, I have Losing Things Syndrome. I may be messy, but I’ve ALWAYS been able to find something eventually. Since moving here, things keep disappearing into the Nothing (a new Florida driver’s license being the most recent item to go missing). Most importantly, however, I’ve lost the disk that had this issue of the newsletter on it. I apologize, in advance, to anyone whose carefully prepared material is missing! I have tried to recover the material from my exceptionally kind and understanding SEAALL colleagues, but I suspect there are a few items that just won’t be in here. If your item is one of these, please let me know as soon as possible. This edition is so late in coming out that the next issue will be at press almost before you receive this one.

SEAALL NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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Mary M. McCormick
Head of Public Services
Florida State University Law Library
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1043

Submissions should be sent in both hardcopy and electronic format. Direct transmission via electronic mail is preferred, but all standard size diskettes are acceptable, if delivered in IBM-based WordPerfect or plain ASCII format.

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Financial Statement
May 1, 1995 - July 18, 1995

| OPENING BALANCE | $6,658.06 |
| ADD INCOME | |
| Dues | $6,870.00 |
| Interest | 29.74 |
| 1995 Joint Meeting | 5,915.86 |
| Reimbursement - Bank Charge | 5.00 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **$12,820.60** |

| DEDUCT EXPENSES | |
| Scholarship (1) | $280.00 |
| Newsletter - Printing | 398.96 |
| Postage | 78.60 |
| Returned Check | 20.00 |
| Bank Charge | 5.00 |
| Election - Ballot Envelopes | 16.13 |
| Dues Invoice/Committee Volunteer Form Duplication | 63.25 |
| Postage | 208.96 |
| Initial Deposit for New Treasurer | 800.00 |
| Federal Express (to new Treasurer) | 23.50 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **$1,894.40** |

| CLOSING BALANCE | |
| Cash at bank | |

$17,584.26

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy S. Heberer
Former Treasurer
Georgia Net

Georgia Net currently gives schools and libraries discounted rates. There is a $250 per year subscription fee for all institutions, but search charges are waived for schools and libraries. Georgia Net personnel hope to provide free access to Georgia Net to libraries through the use of Peach Net (a state-wide library network) in the fall. The Government Relations Committee will monitor their progress and will report new developments.

Telecommunication

Deregulation Legislation

There are two complex pieces of legislation dealing with the deregulation of the telecommunications industries currently pending in Congress. The intent of this legislation is to expand and improve telecommunication services while lowering the costs to consumers. Deregulation would allow telephone and cable companies to expand and compete for business, and also would allow the Baby Bells to enter the long distance market. As of the end of July, the Telecommunication Competition and Deregulation bill (S.652) has passed the Senate, and the House version (H.R.1555) is moving quickly.

Many organizations are concerned that deregulation will allow telecommunication providers to either bypass servicing or to underserve rural and lower income areas while they concentrate on more lucrative markets. This imbalance (information redlining) would create information have and have nots.

AALL Washington Affairs

Representative Robert Oakley has sent letters on behalf of AALL voicing concerns about the Exon amendment to S. 652, which would legislate the content of materials transferred through online communication systems by making the authors of "obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, indecent" materials criminally liable. Oakley conveyed that AALL "opposes this legislation to prohibit constitutionally protected speech in the electronic environment. It is tantamount to censorship and counter to every American's rights of freedom of speech and privacy." The internet is a global environment that does not stop at the United States border, and many have stressed that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to enforce the provisions in the Exon amendment. It is ironic that a bill to deregulate the telecommunication industry carries an amendment that would impose regulations on what can be transmitted.

In mid-July the AALL Executive Board endorsed a resolution on telecommunications and the national infrastructure. This resolution stresses the need for affordable telecommunications rates for schools, libraries, universities and health care facilities; and the need to protect and advance broad, low-cost public access to government and legal electronic information regardless of geographic area. The resolution states that the NII must consider the protection of privacy, security, and freedom of speech as well as the right of fair use of government information. Contact Sandra Dyer or Tim Coggins if you would like a copy of the resolution.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review whether the federal government can bar the Baby Bell telephone companies from owning or operating cable television systems in the areas where they provide local telephone service. If telecommunication deregulation legislation is not passed, the Baby Bells still will have the opportunity to persuade the Supreme Court to eliminate the restrictions on their expansion into other markets.

The prevailing mood on Capitol Hill appears to favor telecommunication deregulation, and many have stated that 1995 will be the year that the 1934 Communications Act will be rewritten.
Executive Order 12958
President Clinton recently issued an executive order on the classification of government information. The order is intended to reduce the number of government records that are classified and to improve public access to government information. The order attempts to limit the use of the "classified" category to cases where it is genuinely necessary, and provides for automatic declassification of most documents after 25 years.

President Clinton pointed to the "sizable costs of secrecy." This order would reduce both the tangible cost of needlessly guarding documents and the intangible cost of depriving the public of access to government information. The President stressed that safeguards will continue to be maintained for information that legitimately needs protection in the interest of national security.

Production and Dissemination of Government Information
There has been tremendous activity in Congress this summer that will affect directly the production and dissemination of government information. The House appropriations bill (H.R. 1854) would make severe budget cuts to GPO and the Federal Depository Program, and would institute changes that would encourage a swift movement toward the dissemination of government information electronically instead of in the current formats.

The Senate version provides the $30.3 million budget requested, and advocates a more orderly move toward electronic dissemination of information. The Senate realizes that efficient utilization of electronic dissemination of government information will require careful analysis, planning and restructuring.

Fugitive documents, government materials not distributed through the Depository Program, have long been a difficult problem, and the provisions proposed by the House could aggravate this situation. Agencies have had a history of utilizing their own small presses, outside publishers and now desktop publishing, and then they often fail to provide the Depository Program with copies of the material they produce. These agencies justify the production of their own publications because they feel it is more efficient in terms of time and budget not to use the GPO.

The GPO currently funds the production and distribution of depository copies when it handles the agency's publishing. The House bill would require agencies to start reimbursing the GPO for the cost of printing and distribution of paper and microfiche materials for the Depository Program. This provision would further encourage agencies not to participate in the Depository Program, which would increase the number of fugitive documents.

The public, libraries, and even some government agencies may not have the proper equipment or training to access electronic information. While the electronic dissemination of information may be cheaper in many situations, not all publications are appropriate for electronic form. A serious concern with the rapid change to electronic dissemination of information is the difficult, if not impossible, task of retrieving non-textual material. The lack of equipment and training could make material inaccessible, dividing the public into information have and have nots.

As this column goes to press the conference committee is beginning to meet about this legislation. The proposed House cuts to the GPO and the impetuous conversion to electronic dissemination of information would have drastic effects on the depository program and public access to government information. The cost of the government accessing its own information electronically, or the cost of the inability to access it, could be staggering, and far outweigh the current budget of the GPO. We should know soon how this critical debate will be resolved.
Future of the Education Committee
by Joyce Manna Janto
Deputy Director of the Law Library
University of Richmond School of Law
janto@uofrlaw.urich.edu

At the last Executive Board meeting, the question was raised as to whether or not SEAALL needed both an Education Committee and a Program Committee. In the past few years, the only activity of the Education Committee has been planning the one day Institute held in conjunction with the SEAALL Annual Meeting. It is the feeling of some on the Board that this function could easily be folded into the work of the Program Committee. An Education Committee was not appointed this year due to the joint meeting with SWALL.

Other members of the Board felt that an Education Committee was still necessary. The Institute does not have to be the sole product of this committee. As one board member pointed out, the original charge of the Education Committee was to organize educational programs in various parts of the region to benefit members who cannot attend the SEAALL Annual Meeting.

As the president of SEAALL, I have one problem with this mission. Neither this year, nor in the past few years has SEAALL budgeted any money to support this type of programming. As some of you may be aware, even the SEAALL Annual Meeting is expected to be totally self-supporting. It is my feeling that rather than having an Education Committee plan programs for local groups, and then asking them to foot the bill, it would be better for SEAALL to serve as a resource for the various groups attempting to organize educational programming in their locale.

Obviously, this is an issue on which there can, and will be, many different opinions. Please let me know what you think. Join the seaall-l list and let’s have a discussion there as to the future of the Education Committee.

SEAALL BRIEFS
Compiled by Carol A. Watson
The University of Georgia Law Library

If you have items you wish to include in the SEAALL Briefs column, please e-mail: cwatson@uga.cc.uga.edu.

FLORIDA
Betty Taylor, Director, Legal Information Center, University of Florida, is sorry to report that Jim Gates resigned as the Assistant Director of Technical Services as of June 30, 1995. She is pleased to say that he accepted the position of Director of the Library at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, which he views as the dream job of his lifetime. An advertisement for his position appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The web page from the Legal Information Center, University of Florida, will be visible soon. The Legal Information Center plans to announce that they will be offering the Florida Supreme Court opinions through their home page on the internet.

This year Rosalie Sanderson, Legal Information Center, University of Florida, was promoted to University Librarian, which is a title equivalent to Full Professor. She also shared the West Publishing Company's annual award for excellence in academic law librarianship and was recognized at the West reception at the AALL annual convention in Pittsburgh on July 17, 1995.

Billie Jo Kaufman, Acting Law Library Director, Nova Southeastern University Law Center, was a speaker at the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association's annual meeting in April in Philadelphia. Her topic was "Abuse Excuse: What Ever Happened to Responsibility?"

Mark Evans, Computer Services Librarian, Florida State University College of Law Library, has been promoted to the rank of Librarian.
Janice Ross, Serials Librarian, Florida State University College of Law Library, has been promoted to the rank of Assistant Librarian.

Trish Simonds, Reference Librarian, Florida State University College of Law Library, has been promoted to the rank of Librarian.

Mary M. McCormick, formerly Reference Librarian, Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina, has been appointed Head of Public Services at the Florida State University College of Law Library.

**GEORGIA**

Trish Cervenka, Library Director, Mercer Law Library, was a presenter at a workshop for prison librarians on June 1, at the Georgia State Training Center in Forsyth. Scott Salzman, Systems Librarian, Mercer Law Library, participated in a panel presentation entitled "We Survived the First Year and You Can, Too," at the Innovative Users Group Third Annual Conference and Preconference for New Users, on April 22. Scott is leaving Mercer for St. Olaf University, in Northfield, Minnesota, on August 11. The library brought up the circulation module of Innovative Interfaces this summer.

Larry Dessem, formerly Associate Dean at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, became Dean at Mercer July 1. The newest library staff member is Lynn Bloodworth, LAIII - Automation Assistant.

Effective August 14, Lisa Smith-Butler is the new Public Services Librarian at Georgia State University College of Law Library. Lisa received her J.D. from Creighton University and her M.L.S. from Clark Atlanta University. Lisa practiced law for several years before obtaining her master's degree in library science.

In an effort to improve library security and to prepare for a computerized circulation system, the University of Georgia Law Library is installing a magnetic key card system to control access to the Law Library. Once the system installation is complete, all doors except the main entrance to the Law Library will be locked and alarmed at all times.

Hazel Johnson, former Law Library Services Consultant, Northport, Alabama, is now the Law Library Manager at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, Atlanta, Georgia.

**KENTUCKY**

In February the first meeting of the Lexington Area Law Librarians (Lexall) was held at the University of Kentucky Law Library. Herb Cihak, Law Library Director, led the efforts to get the group formally organized. After three meetings, membership has grown to 20. Officers are Herb Cihak, Chair; Jeff Frey, Chair-elect; Lynn Fogle, Secretary; Jennie Carrigan, Treasurer. The group plans to have bimonthly meetings that will feature current topics of interest, such as the Internet and its ever expanding legal resources, and to support the research activities of all types of legal librarians in the area.

A sizeable group of Librarians from the Lexington area attended the recent AALL annual meeting in Pittsburgh: Sue Burch, Herb Cihak, Shaun Esposito and Ebba Jo Sexton from the UK Law Library; Jennie Carrigan, Michael French, freelance librarian; Sallie Howard, State Law Librarian; Katharine Maddox of Stites & Harbison; Amy Osborne of Landrum & Shouse. Other Kentuckians seen there were David Ensign, University of Louisville Law Library Director, Carol Bredemeyer, Information Services Coordinator and Tom Heard, Collection Services Coordinator, from Salmon P. Chase Law Library, Northern Kentucky University.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

North Carolina law librarians exhibited for the first time at the North Carolina Bar Association Annual Meeting in June. Meeting attendees and other exhibitors asked questions about the services law firm librarians provide, and about association activities on the local, regional, and national levels.
SOUTH CAROLINA

Mary McCormick, Reference Librarian, is leaving the Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina, to join the Florida State Law Library staff as Head of Public Services. Dennis Benamati will be serving as Reference Librarian at USC for 1995-96. He is an experienced law librarian, having worked at the University of Maine, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Bridgeport law libraries, both in reference and technical services. He is coming to Columbia, South Carolina from Albany.

VIRGINIA

Steve Hinckley, Director of the Law Library and Associate Professor of Law, University of Richmond School of Law Library, moderated an OBS-SIS program on the Internet. The program was given Sunday in Pittsburgh as part of the National Conference on Legal Information Issues. "Net Gain--Learning to Bank on the Internet" was coordinated by Sally Wambold, Technical Services Librarian, University of Richmond School of Law Library and featured speakers Margie Axtmann, Anne Klinefelter, Linda Karr O'Connor, and Jim Purnell.

SEAALL Scholarship Recipients Reports

By Kathleen Miller

Since I grew up in Pittsburgh, I especially enjoyed the AALL convention, which was held in my hometown. My mother and I used to ride the train into the old station, which is now Station Square, a bustling shopping area loaded with great shops and restaurants. Visitors were raving about the Incline ride up to Mount Washington, a place at the top of the world, which I had enjoyed as a kid. And everyone at the Convention loved the opening banquet at Carnegie Museum, where I had gone to see the biggest and scariest dinosaurs. At the Carnegie, the chefs had prepared the Golden Triangle of Pittsburgh with the city's major buildings made of cheese and rivers of grapes and other fruit.

I thoroughly enjoyed working as a volunteer at the Hospitality Booth. Pittsburgh has so many fantastic restaurants that it was no problem recommending one of them--particularly--Mallorca, with delicious Spanish cuisine.

As far as the convention programs went, there were many excellent lectures and seminars. Prof. Christina Kunz and Prof. Albert Brecht gave a particularly good discussion on the "Tension Between Librarians and Legal Writing Instructors." Another excellent talk was "Expanding Reference Using the Internet," by Lissa Holzhausen, Cindy Chick, and Hazel Johnson. Lissa Holzhausen was especially good with her lively discussion about the Internet, digital cameras that take pictures that can be easily and quickly injected into Internet, and the "Virtual Law Reference Desk" to organize legal reference information found on the Internet.

My favorite seminars at the Convention were the two on Jewish and Islamic Law: A Comparative Perspective of Religious Legal Systems," presented by the highly qualified and very informative team of Professor and Rabbi Michael Broyde, Professor John Esposito, and Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl. The first session provided an overview of comparative law, while the second session featured a discussion between the Islamic and Talmudic scholars. At one point, everyone in the room was on the edge of his seat.

There was the usual West bash, prepared as a barbecue; the closing banquet with many funny jokes; and the wonderful band, True Gold. I didn't want to leave after the closing banquet since True Gold's sixties music was so inviting.

I was especially sad to see Carol Billings end her term as president, since she was, I thought, the perfect president and hostess, always taking the time to make people feel welcome.
My thanks to SEAALL for the grant which made it possible for me to go to the AALL Convention.
Looking forward to seeing you next year in Indianapolis!

Reports on the SEAALL Conference to the Lucile Elliott Scholarship Committee

Report by Carol W. Gebel
North Carolina Supreme Court Library

The Lucile Elliott Scholarship to the 1995 SEAALL Annual Meeting allowed me to attend the excellent conference which was held at Richmond, VA. One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to tour the Virginia State Law Library and talk with its librarian, Gail Warren. Gail has recently automated her public catalog. We, at the North Carolina Supreme Court Library, are in the midst of the arduous task of investigating the offerings of various library automation companies in order to make a decision on our own automated catalog. Since it is one we will have to live with for a long, long time, we are looking at the experiences of other law libraries, particularly state law libraries. I found Gail to be a very gracious host, informative, helpful, and friendly.

The presentation by Tom Steele, Director of the Law Library at Wake Forest School of Law, on Violence in the Library was very timely and appropriate. Our library is located in a downtown area and open to the public. The examples of violence in all kinds of libraries that Tom described are appalling. Although the number of libraries that are affected is statistically small, the effect of violence on the individuals involved, whether or not they are directly injured, is devastating. Of particular concern is that in some cases the violence has originated with library personnel. Tom outlined behaviors that may indicate violent tendencies and he indicated procedures to follow. He also spoke of the liability of a library when an employee commits an act of violence.

Judy Meadows, State Librarian at the State Law Library of Montana, spoke about providing service to public patrons. She strongly supported a written public policy outlining the level of service that one may give without giving rise to problems of unauthorized practice. Judy listed several types of reader aids that are helpful to the public’s understanding of how to use law libraries and mentioned that the location of frequently used reference materials should make them easy for patrons to find.

Report by John Bissett, Sandra Dyer, and Carol Gebel

John Bissett, Sandra, Dyer, and Carol Gebel, the other recipients of the Lucille Elliott Scholarships from SEAALL, follow up Rhea Ballard-Thrower’s multiple choice quiz with the essay portion of the test.

John Bissett, a cataloger from Washington and Lee, made good use of his time in Richmond—renewing old acquaintances, meeting new folks, attending a variety of sessions. Not only did he attend to the “here-and-now” of librarianship, he turned his attention to the Failed Thirteenth Amendment, early Virginia legal materials, the Confederate Constitution, and Richmond’s Edgar Allan Poe sites.

Another cataloger, Sandy Dyer from UNC-Chapel Hill, was attending her first SEAALL meeting. She is serving on the Government Relations Committee (GRC), and she got to meet the state GRC contacts face-to-face. She highly recommended Steven Hinckley’s presentation on technology in the library: “inspirational—I was fascinated by the perseverance of law librarians” in implementing technology. Sandy stressed that although all of the sessions she attended were helpful, nothing topped the opportunities for informal exchanges among colleagues.

Down the road from Sandy is Carol Gebel, librarian at the North Carolina Supreme Court Library in Raleigh. She came to Richmond with a mission—to query colleagues about automated
catalogs. Since this upcoming decision is one
her library "will live with for a long, long time,"
she was anxious to talk to other librarians,
especially those in state law libraries, who had
already automated. The tour of the Virginia
State Law Library and the chance to talk with
Gail Warren about their system were just what
she was hoping for. Other sessions of interest to
her as a state librarian were Tom Steele's
program on violence, Judy Meadows on serving
the public patron, and the
Bausch/Ballard/Croslin panel on library
cooperation.

Now, the final portion of the examination--
the true/false questions.

True or false: All four recipients praised
the local arrangements, especially the evening at
the Virginia Museum.

True or false: All four did say or were
tempted to say that the informal exchanges
between colleagues were the most valuable part
of the meeting.

True or false: All four of them truly
appreciated their scholarship and want to thank
SEAALL for the assistance and vote of
confidence represented by the award.

True or false: Rhea, John, Sandy, and
Carol are looking forward to next year's joint
SEAALL/SWAALL meeting in San Antonio.

Answers: Despite the usual caveat that any
true/false statement that begins with "all" is
most likely false, all of the above are TRUE!

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ANNOUNCING A SEAALL
LIST!!

SEAALL now has a discussion list, seaall-l! To
subscribe, send a message, leaving the subject
line blank, to maiser@uofrlaw.urich.edu. The
message should read: subscribe seaall-l

first name last name. Messages to the list should
be sent to: seaall-l@uofrlaw.urich.edu.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Director/Public Services Librarian: University of Mississippi School of Law. Responsibilities: The Assistant Director/Public Services Librarian 1) assists the director in the administration of the library as requested; 2) manages the public services functions of the library, including reference, computer services, circulation, reserve, and stack maintenance; and 3) serves as one of the reference librarians. Requirements: JD from an ABA-accredited school; MLS from an ALA-accredited school; management and supervisory experience; a strong service orientation; strong interpersonal skills and ability to relate well to faculty and students; substantial law library experience, including at least two years of relevant experience, preferably in an academic law library; and a strong working knowledge of online databases. Teaching ability, previous library management experience, and knowledge of Innovative Interfaces systems and of Internet are highly desirable. Salary: Competitive with excellent fringe benefits. To apply, send a letter of application and resume, including names of three professional references, to Dr. Linda Anne Scott, Chair, Selection Committee, University of Mississippi Law Library, University, MS 38677. Review of applications begins October 1, 1995.

From the President, continued from p.1

Publications Committee. Tired of reference questions? Submerge yourself in the intricacies and beauties of a well written article or bylaw. SEAALL offers its members many different ways of growing professionally. If you can't come to the SEAALL Annual Meeting, try to take advantage of the opportunities committee work provides. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the committee lists. These are by no means final! If you would like to be on a committee just call, write, fax, phone or e-mail me! I can assure you that I can still find a place for you on almost any committee.

In closing, I would like to urge all SEAALL members that the next time someone from SEAALL calls and asks you to fill-in-the-blank, say yes. Two years ago Alva Stone called me and asked if I would consider running for the office of vice-president. Frankly, I didn't think it was such a good idea. But what the heck, it was only a 50-50 chance that I'd win so, why not? I can truthfully say that phone call was one of the best things ever to happen to me. I found myself doing things I never thought I would ever do and having the time of my life doing them. My SEAALL service has given me a greater appreciation for the people I work with, both near and far, and a greater appreciation for what a chapter can and can not do for its members. So let's all get involved and make this a record year for SEAALL!

Joyce

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