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Letter to SEAALL Officers regarding SEAALL business updates, September 25, 1989

J. Wesley Cochran

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Southeastern Chapter  
American Association Of Law Libraries

University of Mississippi  
Law Library  
University, MS 38677

TO: Southeastern Chapter Officers  
FROM: Wes Cochran  
DATE: September 25, 1989  
SUBJECT: NEW BUSINESS

1. Data Entry for Directory: I have attached a note from Lisa Williams requesting that the Chapter cover the cost of data entry for our new membership directory. I think that the costs that Lisa has listed are reasonable, and I am inclined to advise her that we will authorize an expenditure up to $200.00 from Chapter funds for this purpose. If one of you knows a reason why we should not do this, please let me know by letter or telephone call by Friday, October 6. I want to respond by then to minimize any delay in producing the new directory.

2. 1991 Annual Meeting: Cherry Thomas at the University of Alabama proposes to host the 1991 Annual Meeting. You may recall that Cherry and her staff hosted one of the 1988 AALL Institutes. Cherry has reserved a block of 125 rooms for March 14-17, 1991, at the Sheraton Hotel that the University operates, located across the street from the Law School.

I attended the 1988 Institute as a speaker and saw the available facilities. The hotel is nice, and the Law School physical plant is large. I have no doubt that we would find accommodations pleasant. I promised Cherry that we would consider her proposal and respond by November 1.

3. Educational Mission Policy Statement: I propose that we consider establishing a policy to guide our future Program Committees. I see a problem in that the programs at our Annual Meeting deal primarily with topics aimed at intermediate or advanced librarians, not at someone new to the profession.

I began thinking that we should address the question of "beginner topics" when I heard what one new Chapter member had suggested to this year's Program Committee. This Chapter member suggested a program comparing LEXIS and
WESTLAW, clearly something of value to a new law librarian but not to those of us who have dealt with these databases for 10-15 years.

While AALL has its Conference for Newer Law Librarians (CONELL), I recall that the program I attended concerned "networking", in the professional sense, much more than substantive issues. As a result, unless that program has changed radically, I think that newcomers to our profession, coming through our Chapter, have little substantive introduction to law librarianship.

Perhaps I am making more of this than I should (it wouldn't be the first time). If any of you think that the Chapter should address this, please think creatively and share with the rest of us your thoughts.

Again, let me know by October 6 of any problems with our authorizing an expenditure of $200.00 for data entry for the directory.

Thanks!

Attachment