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Email to Pam Williams regarding the SEAALL Annual Meeting, March 2, 1994

Anne Washburn

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Connie Matzen is going to be calling you about a young woman whom we think should be going to the SEAALL conference but cannot. I just wanted to put my two cents in. She is the law librarian at the Buncombe County Law Library and has been doing a lot of "local arrangements" work for the conference. She has been helping me with the Internet booth and arranged for West to donate the use of a PC for us to read Internet email on. Gratis. She is co-authoring (ie, writing) the guide to local entertainments, eateries, etc. with Tom Steele. She worked with folks at UNC-A to try and line up free access or computer smarts for the Internet. The county will not send her to the conference. She does not earn enough to be able to afford it herself. She didn’t know how to apply for a scholarship. Connie & I wonder whether SEAALL couldn’t find some money to send her to the conference, either by giving her a scholarship "next year" to be used this year or just by using some discretionary money to do it. I don’t think it would be enough to tell her she could attend the sessions "under cover" or whatever. The best part of these meetings is the schmoozing and meeting colleagues in social settings. By getting the computer for free, surely she has saved SEAALL the cost of her admission to the whole convention? She’s the only law librarian up there in Asheville and she’s done a lot already for the association. Thanks for whatever you can do for her. (by the way, her name is Marie Penta)

Board Members: I need your thoughts on this. I’m also seeking input from Sally Wiant, Scholarship Chair.
TO: Pam Williams

FAX #: 904 392-5093

FROM: Carol Avery Nicholson
PHONE: (919) 962-1199

DATE: 3/3/94 TOTAL PAGES: 1
(including cover sheet)

NOTES: Pam,
I agree that SEAALL should sponsor the registration fee for Marie Penta. Martha Barefoot is currently working on speaker registrations and I mentioned the situation to her. She will include Marie in the list of registrants unless you let me know to do otherwise. (I took the liberty of presuming the generosity and sense of fairness of the SEAALL Board!)

Carol

If you did not receive all of the pages, or if any portions of the transmission are illegible, please contact us at (919) 962-1191.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Pam Williams
FROM: Kathy Heberer
DATE: March 3, 1994
RE: Marie Penta/Funding

1) Is Marie Penta a member? If so she should have received a scholarship mailing last year. If Marie is not a member she should join before further consideration is given to this issue.

2) How long has Marie known she would not be able to attend the meeting? Have we been given as much notice as possible?

3) Are we just talking about the registration fee? She lives in Asheville so room/board is not in question?

4) The Board decided a year or two back that registration fees would not be waived for member speakers at the annual meeting. Wouldn’t it be inconsistent to waive the fee for a member of the local arrangements committee?

5) The fact that there is no other law librarian in Asheville should not be a rationale for waiving the fee at the last minute. Whether there are "members on the spot or not" should be considered when selecting future meeting sites.

6) Aren’t there members who applied for scholarships, but didn’t get funding? Some of those won’t be attending the meeting. Is it fair to those who went through the scholarship procedure to sponsor Marie?

7) Although this case seems to have arisen innocently enough, I am concerned that we might set a precedent that would allow for abuse or favoritism in the future. Someone else might be in need, but not have been as forthcoming about their situation as Marie.

8) Marie seems to have worked very hard; I am sympathetic to her situation. I would be willing to personally donate $10.00 towards her registration. If 10 other people did likewise she’d be covered. Even though I’d personally be glad to help out, I think the association needs to answer to higher procedural standards and not provide the money.