



WPLLA NEWSLETTER – Winter 2006



President's Message – Sonya Koros

As we start 2007, we on the Executive Board of WPLLA are looking towards our organization's future, both immediate and long-term. We are working towards making WPLLA stronger and better positioned to face the challenges of the ever-changing law library environment.

To help secure the financial future of WPLLA, we made a change in our savings plan last autumn. We decided to combine our Citizens Bank checking and savings accounts into a traditional non-profit checking account, and then move some of the funds into a CD. This decision was based on the fact that the savings account was yielding negligible interest income due to much lower interest rates than when the account was first opened twenty years ago. We decided that a CD would be a wiser savings option. Our fantastic Treasurer, Karen Shephard, carefully researched CD interest rates and we decided to place \$5,000 of WPLLA funds in a 13-month CD at PNC Bank. The Treasurer's report on page 5 contains the accounting details. (President's Message continued on pg. 3).

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Quarterly Quote

**Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.
- Helen Keller**

WPLLA Board 2006-2007

President

Sonya Koros
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
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Vice-President/President-Elect

Mary Stacy
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Secretary

Lauren Vucic
Pepper Hamilton, LLC
vucicl@pepperlaw.com

Treasurer

Karen Shephard
University of Pittsburgh
Barco Law Library
Shephard@law.pitt.edu

Executive Board Members

Jamie Yoder
Duquesne University Center for Legal
Information/
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yoderj@duq.edu

Barbara Cage
Reed Smith LLP
bcage@reedsmith.com

Immediate Past President

Louise Beswick
Reed Smith LLP
lbeswick@reedsmith.com

WPLLA Committee Chairs - 2006-2007

Care

Chairperson, Sonya Koros
skoros@eckertseamans.com

Historian

Chairperson, Joel Fishman
fishman@duq.edu

Membership

Chairperson, Ann Unger
AUnger@dmclaw.com

Mentoring

Chairperson, Susan Broms
SKB@pbandg.com

Newsletter

Chairperson, Jamie Yoder
yoderj@duq.edu

Nominations

Chairperson, Louise Beswick
lbeswick@reedsmith.com

Programs/Continuing Education

Chairperson, Mary Stacy
MStacy@bccz.com

Public Relations

Chairperson, Louise Beswick
lbeswick@reedsmith.com

Web

Chairperson, Linda Tashbook
tashbook@law.pitt.edu

President's Message (cont'd from page 1)

As part of our continuing effort to fortify the future of law librarianship locally, the Executive Board and Membership Committee have been reaching out to students in the Master of Library and Information Science program at Pitt. We held a meet-and-greet reception at the School of Information Sciences in late October. Students stopped by on their way to and from evening classes to chat about potential careers in law librarianship. Several students joined WPLLA as new members. Be sure to read about them in the New Members Spotlight! We plan to host a student tour day again this year in March since last year's was a huge success. Some students have already expressed interest in gaining valuable real-world library experience through internships and field placements, so if you have an opening in your library please let us know!

Mary Stacy and the Programs Committee are planning an array of great programs for the upcoming months. We have also reserved a spot with AALL for a WPLLA meeting at the Annual Meeting & Conference in New Orleans. Wishing you a very Happy and Prosperous 2007!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Joni Cassidy

"Joni L. Cassidy is the founder and co-owner with her husband, Michael, of Cassidy Cataloguing Services, Inc. Cassidy Cataloguing has been providing high-quality contract cataloging and other library technical services to special libraries since 1984. A staff of 13 catalogers, computer specialists and paraprofessionals create original MARC records in all formats and most foreign languages, perform catalog clean-ups, non-MARC to MARC conversions, inventory projects, multi-catalog merging and de-duping, and any other technical services work you can think of! Joni also teaches cataloging to library school and information science students at Queens College, a division of the City University of NY and Kean University in Union, NJ. She proudly claims four students who switched their academic focus to become catalogers and are all working as full-time technical services librarians today. In addition, two of her former students will be teaching at NY-area library schools starting in the Spring 2007 semester.



Cassidy Cataloguing Services is located in Harrison, NJ, just east of Newark. Joni and Michael live out in Northwestern New Jersey, by the Delaware Water Gap, with their two Bernese Mountain Dogs, Chance and Darla Jane."

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Margo Sussman

Hi. I'm Margo Sussman, a full time graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh working on my MLIS. I am presently working as an intern in the Elizabeth Nesbitt Room, a children's archive in the Information Sciences Library. I also volunteer at the Squirrel Hill library for a few hours a week.

I received my bachelor's degree from Dickinson College, Which i in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I am originally from Dayton, Ohio. At Dickinson I began my experience working in a library, starting as a reshelver and working my way up to a student supervisor.

Even though I just started the program, I am currently hunting for a full time job because I did not receive any financial aid from the Library Science department for next semester. Any recommendations, advice or suggestions on job searching would be most welcome.



New Members

WPLLA welcomes 16 new members for the 2006-2007 year!

Name	Title	Organization
Alleyne-Regis, Arlene	Student	University of Pittsburgh, SIS
Brady, Casey	Student	University of Pittsburgh, SIS
Cassidy, Joni	President Program Coordinator and Advisor /	Cassidy Cataloguing Services, Inc.
Colbert-Lewis, Danielle	Student	University of Pittsburgh, SIS
Duncan, Robert A.	Reference Librarian	Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham, LLP
Ely, Steve	Student	University of Pittsburgh, SIS
Guo, Tianxin	Student	University of Pittsburgh, SIS
Heckathorn, Jean	Law Librarian	Mercer County Law Library
Hovis, Richard	Library Clerk	Allegheny County Law Library
Jones, Jeff	Librarian	Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
Katz, Amy R.	Asbestos Clerk	Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
Lemon, Kimberly	Library Assistant	Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote
Li, Qi	Student	University of Pittsburgh, SIS
Smith, Cynthia L.	Librarian Evening & Weekend Reference	McGuireWoods, LLP Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library
Sprolws, Charles	Librarian	
Sussman, Margo	Student	University of Pittsburgh, SIS

Treasurer's Report

by Karen Shepard

WPLLA's current balance in checking is \$7,503.86. We also have a \$5,000 certificate of deposit which earned 19.69 in interest in 2006 (in two months, Nov. and Dec.).

WPLLA Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 5, 2006 8:30-9:30

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

Minutes taken by Lauren Vucic

Treasurer's Report – Karen Shephard

Karen reported on the status of the WPLLA bank accounts. Currently, we have a checking account (balance: \$8,668.25) and a savings account (balance: \$4,824.24), both with Citizens Bank. The WPLLA Board members have discussed closing the savings account, and purchasing CDs. Karen briefed the group on our options. After review by Sonya Koros, President, the Board will determine the best choice and take action. WPLLA now has 78 members in total, including 8 new and student members.

Programming Committee – Mary Stacy

Mary provided the group with a programming handout, listing all of the programs that have been planned for the upcoming year. Included are:

- 1.) Colibri System Presentation – October 19, 2006, 12:15-1:15 at Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir, P.C.
- 2.) RIF – “Reading is FUNdamental” – November 15, 2006, 12:15-1:15 at Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir, P.C.
- 3.) WPLLA Holiday Party – November 30, 2006, 5:30-? at Café Amante

In addition to the programs listed above, Bob Sullivan and Barb Cage of Reed Smith are planning a business research program for March. Mary Stacy and the Programming Committee are open to any suggestions for the winter/spring months. Members discussed how to increase attendance at meetings and programs. Issue of webinars was raised – would this help? Also, what time is best for members to attend meetings and programs? Survey results indicate that the majority of members prefer morning meetings to afternoon or evening. Group discussed holding events at different times in order to accommodate those who cannot regularly attend due to scheduling conflicts.

Membership Committee – Ann Unger



Ann was involved in the Pizza Social at the SIS orientation party. She will follow-up with the administration, and discuss the possibility of WPLLA hosting a similar pizza event on our own at SIS. Ann asked the group how we can increase recognition and visibility. A couple of ideas that Ann presented are contact legal administrators, and approaching Clarion University to see if we can work with the MLIS program.

Mentoring Committee – Susan Broms

This committee is new, and Susan is looking for any mentor volunteers to work with her. The committee will work with the library school to spread awareness of the program, and cultivate interest in being a mentee. Due to very busy work schedules, Louise Beswick suggested that each mentee be assigned more than one WPLLA mentor. This will ensure that the mentee receives the best possible support and guidance.

Newsletter Committee – Jamie Yoder

The newsletter needs writers. The staff would like to continue featuring new member profiles in each edition. They are also looking for feature articles that may include discussion of a program, class or seminar attended, a review of a conference, new technologies, or anything interesting and relevant to law librarianship.

Public Relations – Louise Beswick

Public relations go hand in hand with both the newsletter and new member committees. The programs that were very well-received last year will be repeated this year. These include: Legal Research program for New Summer Associates and the St. Patrick’s Day Library Tour.

Joel Fishman suggested that WPLLA sponsor a book drive for the RIF “Reading is FUNdamental” program taking place in November. Members thought this was a great idea. Mary will speak with RIF representatives regarding this possibility.

Historian/Archive Committee - Joel Fishman

It was decided that Secretary will provide all meeting minutes to Joel Fishman, who will store electronic and print copies in the Allegheny County Law Library.



Survey Results – Sonya Koros

The WPLLA survey results show that the majority of members fall within the “Baby Boomer” generation (61%). Some members raised concern about the lack of younger members, and the group discussed the reasons for this and how we can possibly reach out to attract younger generations. Ideas included targeting SIS students (working with SIS administration, continuing to make our presence known by participating in SIS social events and creating our own), targeting law students (“Table Talk” opportunity at University of Pittsburgh – Susan Broms has been involved with this previously), and making students aware that AALL has scholarships/grants for law students who wish to attend library school.

Other Business

Joel Fishman is working on the New Civil Local Court Rules. Upon completion, these will be available online, and will be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Valerie Weiss, a new WPLLA member and Pittsburgh resident, has expressed interest in chairing the new scholarship committee.



Featured Articles

WPLLA's Outreach to Next Generation Continues -- Mixing in Oakland
- Ann Unger

October 25 2006 Meet & Greet Event: In August, WPLLA manned an information table at the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences outdoor Orientation Party. It was a great opportunity to expose students to our field – for many it was the first time they heard of “law librarianship!” – but WPLLA realized that the students might have suffered some “information overload” at this event.

So, WPLLA, as it did last year, held an informal “meet and greet (and eat pizza)” event October 25th at the School. Thanks to the efforts of Jamie Yoder (Duquesne), SIS Governing Organization President Karen Kugel, and SIS Administrative Assistant Molly Murphy, this successful event attracted a good number of students and provided a great opportunity for one-to-one exchanges. WPLLA President Sonya Koros, recent SIS graduate Suzan Dolfi (Thorp Reed) and Ann Unger (Membership Chair) represented WPLLA. Discussions of students' coursework and career goals mixed with our members' sharing of their career experiences. As WPLLA President Sonya Koros said, “Most of us never thought when we were students that we would find our niche in law libraries, so we loved talking to students [some who] had never even considered law librarianship as an option. We hope we might have converted some.” “I think we learned as much, if not more, from the students as we hope they learned from us,” said Ann Unger.

Welcome again to our student members -- Arlene Alleyne-Regis, Casey Brady, Danielle Colbert-Lewis, Steve Ely, Tianxin Guo, Qi Li, and Margo Sussman. -- Please take advantage of our meetings, listserv, and internship and placement opportunities. Feel free to contact our members with any questions you might have. Law librarianship is a great field that can offer many avenues for advancement and achievement!

*2006 Holiday Party
- Jamie Yoder*

WPLLA held its 2006 Annual Holiday Party on November 30th at Café Amante'. Approximately 35 members were able to attend this year's exciting event. The dinner menu included a variety of delicious entrees, including appetizers of Pittsburgh's famous fried Zucchini. Door prizes were also given out to Barnes and Noble, Starbuck's and Breugger's Bagels. Congratulations to the big winner of the \$100.00 Amazon.com gift card - Barbara Alexander-Klein! Thanks to everyone that attended- especially the program committee that put it all together. Until next year- Cheers!



Member News



Professor Frank Liu, director of the Center for Legal Information at Duquesne University's School of Law, was appointed a commissioner for the United States-China Joint Commission on Legal Education, a new cooperative initiative between the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) and

the Guidance Commission of Higher Legal Education of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

New Publications



Dr. Joel Fishman, Joel Fishman- Assistant Director of Lawyer Services, Allegheny County Law Library has published an Index to the Pennsylvania Bar Quarterly, volumes 1-76. WPLLA proudly provided financial support for this publishing venture.

Dittakavi Rao, Associate Director of Duquesne University Center for Legal Information, has just published two new titles.

- *Internet Resources for legal Professionals. 50 Legal Research Sites, 50 Law Firm Technology Sites, 50 Blawgs.*
- *Internet Legal Research Q & A.*

If you are interested in purchasing either of these titles, please send \$10 (includes postage and tax) to

Pennsylvania Legal Research Institute,
P.O.Box 2644,
Pittsburgh, Pa:
15230-2644.



Program News

Reading Is Fundamental – Mary Stacy



On Wednesday November 15, 2006 Cindy Krappweis, Executive Director of Reading is FUNdamental Pittsburgh (RIF) spoke to WPLLA regarding the history of the program and the ways it helps promote reading/tutoring in the Pittsburgh community for children. There were approximately 20 WPLLA members in attendance. With the great idea of Joel Fishman we decided to turn this event into a Holiday Book Drive! The book drive ran from November 15, 2006 thru December 1, 2006. This was a great success and many new books were collected for the children. The board would like to turn this event into an annual book drive. Thank you to everyone that was able to participate either by collecting books in your Library or delivering books or making monetary donations.

WPLLA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association

2006-2007 NEW / RENEWAL APPLICATION

Name _____

Title _____

Firm/Institution _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Birthday _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES and DUES STRUCTURE (Check Desired Category)

- Active Member \$20.00
- Associate Member \$15.00
- Student Member \$10.00

ORGANIZATION TYPE (Check Appropriate Category)

Academic _____ Firm _____

Court/County _____ Vendor _____

Corporate _____ Other _____

\$ _____ Total Dues Enclosed

Dues are for the membership year, June 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007;
Dues will be prorated to \$10 for new members joining as active members after Dec. 31, 2006.

Please make checks payable to the Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association and mail to the WPLLA Treasurer:

Karen Shepard, Treasurer
Barco Law Library
University of Pittsburgh
School of Law
3900 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

WPLLA welcomes member participation in its committees:

Program/Continuing Education

Newsletter

Membership/Recruitment

Nominating

Placement

Web

Scholarship

Archives/Historian.

If interested, indicate with a check or contact Sonya Koros, President at skoros@eckertseamans.com.

Revised 01/26/07