

**Association of Legal Administrators  
Region 1 Council Meeting  
Sunday, May 22, 2011  
Orlando Marriott World Center Resort  
Orlando, Florida**

**Management Team Members Present**

Janine Book, Incoming Region 1 Director  
Sabine Curto, Incoming At-Large Director  
Paul A. Farnsworth, Region 1 Director  
Susan J. Gay, Education Officer  
Mary Lawson, Projects Officer  
William D. Mech, At-Large Director

Absent: Rita I. Thompson, CLM, Communications Officer

**Chapters Represented**

Albany	Eileen Lang
Boston	Ian Breslin, Kevin Costello and Joanne Schnare
Central PA	Patricia Klinedinst
Cyber	Kim Newberry and Georgiana McCall
Downeast	Maria Mason
First State	Joann Winterle
Independence	Cristin Bucciaglia
New Jersey	Fran Puntillo, CLM and Kitty Soroka
New York City	Diane Fugalli and Sheila Shen
Nutmeg	Angie DiDomenico and Dana Moody
Ottawa	Caroline Choquette
Philadelphia	Diane Burkhardt
Pittsburgh	Carol Feldman, Penny Lotz and Bob Conway
Rochester	Clara Onderdonk

The meeting was called to order by Incoming Region 1 Director Janine Book at 1:15 p.m.

**Welcome/Introductions/Presentations**

Region 1 Director Paul Farnsworth welcomed the group by introducing the incoming Region 1 Management Team. Returning for the 2011-12 term is Susan Gay from the Nutmeg Chapter, Education Officer; Mary Lawson from the Albany Chapter, Projects Officer, and Rita Thompson, CLM from the New York City Chapter, Communications Officer (not in attendance today). Janine Book was introduced as the Incoming Region 1 Director.

### Ice Breaker

The group broke for a brief "get to know each other" game. While that was occurring, ALA Executive Director Larry Smith visited the meeting with ALA President Rita Alli, ALA President-Elect Karen Griggs and ALA Immediate Past President Susan French. After brief introductions of the ALA leadership team, the meeting proceeded with regional business.

### Annual Conference Benefits

Mary provided an overview of what members could expect during the Annual Conference including.

1. Opportunity to address sensitive issues with firms outside their geographic area that they might not feel comfortable addressing with their local firms.
2. More exposure to diverse viewpoints.
3. Exposure to the largest number of people.
4. The Annual Conference draws speakers from all over, while regional conferences tend to select speakers from "closer to home."
5. More days of conference which equals more education sessions.
6. The Annual Conference is usually held in a popular vacation location that people want to visit.
7. Exposure to approximately 200 exhibitors, more than three times the number at regional conferences.

### Regional Conference Benefits

Susan provided an overview of the Region 1 Conference which will be held at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 13-15, 2011. Susan informed attendees that excellent speakers and educational sessions are planned, many of them highly recommended by some of the region's chapters.

Susan discussed the benefits of attending a regional conference. Firms can be more supportive since a member has less time away from work. The welcome reception is usually held on Thursday evening, with classes all day on Friday and a half-day on Saturday. The smaller group attendance is more intimate and regional conferences tend to be less costly. Travel is more manageable in many instances depending on location, oftentimes providing an opportunity to combine business and pleasure.

The Exhibit Hall usually draws around 60 business partners versus the much larger expo at the Annual Conference. There are plenty of opportunities to network with business partners in the Exhibit Hall, at the welcome reception and at business partner sponsored events.

## The Regional Management Team

Janine addressed the group regarding what the Regional Management Team can do for them. Janine's message to Chapter leaders and Committee Chairs was to view the Regional Management Team as an external team on your Chapter Board. As part of your external team, they want to better understand your challenges and offer ways to help you succeed. The Regional Management Team will be reaching out to you to visit and work with your chapter and to continue to build a mentoring relationship with you.

## ALA Leadership

Paul Farnsworth gave a brief mention of the Association Nominating (ANC) and Regional Nominating Committees (RNC). ALA is looking for volunteers to serve on both committees. Even though the deadline has passed, Janine would still like to hear from you if you are interested in learning more about these committees and have an interest to serve.

The ANC meets in the fall and the RNC meets at the regional conference. Committee members must attend the meetings to participate. If anyone wishes to serve on either the ANC or RNC, they should contact Janine.

## ALA Update

Bill Mech addressed the group regarding some of ALA's initiatives. ALA has for many years built and maintained relationships with partner organizations in the legal community, including bar associations and other legal management professional associations like LMA, ILTA and NALP. As part of ALA's goal to elevate awareness and attention to the value of professional legal management, one of the most visible efforts has been to lead a group of partner organizations in celebrating Professional Legal Management Week, scheduled for October 3-7 this year. Because the effort should really be a sustained effort throughout the year, beginning in 2012 we will be de-emphasizing Professional Legal Management "Week" in favor of a more sustained campaign and joint programming effort throughout the year.

The same holds true for ALA Community Challenge Weekend. ALA is considering a name change that reflects the Association's broader community efforts. For example, we are likely to drop the "Weekend" and possibly change it to ALA Community Outreach.

## Open Forum

Paul informed attendees that the team had selected a "speed dating" format for the final segment of the meeting since it worked so well the prior year. The team went from table to table, to speak with attendees and engage them in discussions focused on chapter challenges in the following areas:

Business Partner Programs/How to start new ones or improve on current ones (Mary)

Leadership Succession/Volunteerism/Benefits of Service to Your Firm (Janine and Susan)

Member Retention (Paul)

Education/How to keep things fresh; attract attendance; provide value (Bill)

### Prize Drawings - Scholarships

Sabine Curto conducted the prize and scholarship drawings.

### *Chapter Grants*

The Regional Management Team received eight application submissions for the Region 1 Grant program. The team narrowed down this year's worthy submissions and the recipients were: Albany Chapter; Downeast Chapter; First State Chapter and the Ottawa Chapter.

### *Scholarships*

The team awarded four scholarships to the 2011 Regional Conference. The winners were encouraged to give the award to a newer member that has never attended a conference. The lucky chapters were as follows: Central Pennsylvania; Cyber Chapter; First State Chapter and Long Island Chapter.

### Departing Team Members

Janine thanked departing team members, Paul and Bill, for doing a great job. She presented a special gift to each of them to thank them for serving on the team.

There being no further business, Janine adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Book and Susan Gay