

MAALL 2019-2020 Annual Report

President: Lacy Rakestraw

Vice President: Matthew Braun

Past President: Karen Wallace

Secretary: Allison Reeve Davis

Treasurer: Gail Wechsler

Members at Large: Rebecca Lutkenhaus; Rena Seidler

After the continued attacks against individuals related to race, the MAALL board decided to adopt a 21-Day Racial Equity challenge. This was an attempt to give members a forum to speak out on issues related to the need for impartiality, the presence of racial inequalities, and the need for better access to justice. Exec board members started off by posting moving videos and promoting books and art they found spoke to the cause.

The Exec board discussed with the History Task force the need for direction. We provided them with the task of sorting through our paper archive (which is current held at Drake University Law Library) and decide what items should be kept and what can be tossed. That work continues.

MAALL was beginning to plan for our business meeting in July 2020 at AALL when Covid-19 reared its head beginning in January. By June we knew not only was the AALL meeting not going to happen, but our own October meeting likely wouldn't as well. The Exec board, the education committee, and the local arrangements committee quickly switched gears and began planning the 2020 meeting to be held virtually, which meant we could hold it at no charge for our members. We all then pitched in to take what had already been set up in Indy for 2020, and had it moved to 2021. Contracts were re-signed, dates re-negotiated, and presenters very quickly re-worked their submitted programs to be able to present them virtually. Although we will not be using the standard 3-day format, we will be spreading the programs out over a few weeks so that more people can attend. In the end, a virtual conference was planned, and 2021 is basically already set up. Take THAT Covid!