

# Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL) Vision Planning, 2020-2023

Approved by 2020-2021 Executive Board, Nov. 12, 2019

## Introduction

**MAALL's Purpose:** "The Association is established for educational and scientific purposes, and to improve the profession of law librarianship. It shall be conducted as a non-profit organization for:

Promoting law librarianship; and

Developing and increasing the usefulness of law libraries."

(MAALL Bylaws, Oct. 2019)

**Vision Planning Process:** As part of the 2018-19 committee formation process, MAALL President Karen Wallace issued a call for members to serve on a Vision Planning Task Force. The following members served: Karen Wallace, chair; Heidi Kuehl; Rebecca Lutkenhaus; and Allison Reeve Davis.

The group built on the work of the prior Vision Planning Task Force (Cindy Bassett, chair; Jessie Burchfield; Jeri Kay Hopkins; Sandy Placzek; Jennifer Prilliman; and Jenny Sutherland), which developed goals for the 2016-2019 years.

The 2018-19 task force conducted business via a series of conference calls and email exchanges during the first ten months of 2019. In addition to the original calls for members to serve on the task force, member input was also solicited via the following:

- A Feb. 8, 2019 MAALL discussion list email "What do you want MAALL to be?"
- The March 2019 President's column in *MAALL Markings*
- Executive Board discussion at the April 2019 meeting
- The committee's report at the July 2019 Business Meeting
- Sharing a draft plan through the MAALL discussion list on Oct. 10, 2019 and at the Oct. 18, 2019 Business Meeting and asking members to share feedback by talking to Karen Wallace or Allison Reeve Davis at the 2019 MAALL Annual meeting or by sending an email to one of the task force members by the end of October.

The task force was also mindful of two over-arching board goals: continuity planning and fiscal responsibility. To that end, the task force also considered member feedback on the fall 2018 survey about the annual meeting. The goals were written to further the association's purpose and value to our members, while recognizing the need to accomplish these ends sustainably.

## **Goal I: Community**

**Objective:** To actively and consciously foster a sense of belonging and community within MAALL by providing opportunities for meaningful interaction among MAALL members.

**Rationale:** Enhancing MAALL’s traditionally strong sense of community can help attract and retain members. Facilitating the ability of our members—new and long-standing—to better know each other encourages them to share ideas and best practices, collaborate, and build a professional network.

### **Strategies:**

1. Encourage structured networking opportunities, particularly those that provide opportunities to interact with other members who are not already known.
2. Increase committee engagement by asking for committee goals with target deadlines and periodic progress reports.
3. Use the website, discussion list, and newsletter to highlight individual members, helping members get to know each other.

## **Goal II: Collaboration**

**Objective:** To encourage collaborations among MAALL members that can help us better serve our profession, our institutions, and the public good.

**Rationale:** Partnerships increase our value to our stakeholders by harnessing the experience and expertise of those outside our own institutions and helps maximize limited resources.

### **Strategies:**

1. Collect and make available online a collection of MAALL libraries’ and librarians’ interests, collections, expertise, and experiences. Encourage self-submission and assign an editor for updates.
2. Connect librarians from all institution types (schools, firms, courts, and agencies) in one or more collaborative interest groups. Facilitate quarterly meetings to discuss topics of interest, host online forums, and hold in-person sessions at the Annual Meeting.
3. Create a clearinghouse of ideas, materials, book lists, and other materials of interest to generate a community of sharing and help members identify like-minded librarians for further collaboration.
4. Identify opportunities for cooperative collection development or other resource sharing.

## **Goal III: Continuing Education**

**Objective:** To provide meaningful and accessible opportunities for professional development to all members.

**Rationale:** Librarians need to ensure their knowledge and skills keep pace with the evolving fields of law and librarianship. The annual meeting provides valuable educational opportunities for many MAALL members. However, not all members, particularly those in solo/small firm environments, can attend the meeting. Thus, MAALL should continue to pursue robust annual meeting programming while also investigating ways to distribute educational content remotely.

### **Strategies:**

1. Explore ways to capture, provide access to, and archive MAALL presentations and scholarship or otherwise bring annual meeting programming to people who could not attend.
2. Ask members to host in-person brown bags, watch webinars, and discuss continuing education materials.
3. Host webinars outside the annual meeting with a focus on bringing more members together and benefitting those who cannot participate in person.
4. Identify and encourage continuing education opportunities with other chapters or entities. Explore creation of joint memoranda of understanding (“MOUs”) on workable and beneficial projects for meaningful joint continuing education.

## **Addendum: Idea Bank**

The following specific suggestions emerged during the planning process. They are not part of the official plan but are captured here as items to consider as we work to implement our goals.

- Informal mentoring event at AALL and MAALL. Pair new member with 1-2 seasoned members to have coffee, a meal, etc.
- Distribute a networking game at registration that ties into conference theme, if possible.
- Note that setting committee goals might also help with committee recruitment.
- Develop a page on the website where members share why MAALL membership is valuable and how the organization is meaningful to them.
- Use the Stefanie/Keelan expertise database to identify members to feature on the website and possibly in an emailed “member of the month” feature or one in the newsletter.
- Encourage development of profiles by either linking to Linked In or creating one on the MAALL website

- Find new ways to make the discussion list more engaging, such as issuing a “Question of the Month” to help members get to know each other better and learn from each other (e.g., “What’s the best book you’ve read this summer?” or “What is your best advice for job applicants?”). Note: while First Friday Fanfare has had some positive feedback, little is submitted, and it’s challenging to find content.