

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL)

2020-2021 Annual Report

submitted June 30, 2021

The MAALL Executive Board for 2020-2021 is Matthew Braun, President; Christopher Steadham, Vice President/President-Elect; Lacy Rakestraw, Past President; Matthew Timko, Secretary; Gail Wechsler, Treasurer; and Rebecca Lutkenhaus and Autumn Collier, Members-at-Large.

Educational Initiatives

Due to the pandemic, the MAALL Annual Meeting 2020, scheduled to be held in Indianapolis in late October, became the [MAALL Virtual Meeting 2020](#). This meeting was held over Zoom, October 15-16 and 21-23, with no registration fee for attendees, and featured 13 educational programs and seven vendor demonstrations. The meeting had over 200 attendees across the programs and demonstrations, including numerous non-MAALL members, and the attendee evaluations suggested that the substance and virtual presentation of the content was well-received.

Preparations for the in-person MAALL Annual Meeting 2021, to be held September 23-25, required much of the Executive Board and Local Arrangements Committee's time and attention throughout the year, given the fluidity of pandemic-related restrictions and preexisting vendor agreements for this Indianapolis meeting, which shifted from October 2020 to September 2021.

Continuing Initiatives

The MAALL President met with the Vision Planning Task Force to review the [2020-2023 Vision Plan](#). Two initiatives prioritized by the task force were (1) the acquisition of a shared communication platform for speaker/presenter/educational resource information and (2) the start of monthly or bimonthly discussions on a rotating series of topics, akin to AALL's Virtual Coffee Chats, which would be organized by the Education Committee or a newly established committee charged with planning the discussions.

The MAALL members that received AALL awards in 2020-2021 are Douglas Lind, Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award; John Edwards, Hall of Fame Award; Clanitra Stewart Nejd, *AALL Spectrum* Article of the Year Award and Emerging Leader Award; Ashley Ames Ahlbrand, Emerging Leader Award; and Matthew Timko, AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award, New Member Division.

MAALL held its annual election in May 2021. Rena Seidler was elected to Vice President/President-Elect; Sarah Kammer to Treasurer; and Barbara Ginzburg to Member-at-Large. These Executive Board members will begin their service in September 2021, at the beginning of the MAALL 2021-2022 year.

New Initiatives

The Executive Board began the process of establishing a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, to promote DEI principles both within the association and the legal information profession. An ad hoc committee of Board members drafted a detailed DEI Committee manual and worked with the Grants Committee to create parameters for a DEI grant to be employed starting with the MAALL Annual Meeting 2021.

At the Board's request, the Grants Committee and Library School Liaison Committee collaborated on parameters for a library school grant, for a full-time or part-time/early-career student, also to start with the Annual Meeting 2021.

The MAALL committees have begun and continue to review and revise their respective manuals, with the goal of having each of the manuals hold a last revised date of 2020 or 2021. The Board, with the MAALL Secretary's leadership, also developed enhanced security and continuity measures for committee information.

To build and sustain a sense of community among members, the MAALL President hosted two virtual MAALL Lunch Hours, on February 17 and April 15, 2021. The sessions focused on welcoming new members and sharing pandemic-related challenges and successes. Each session had 20-25 attendees, and the intention is to generally hold these sessions on a bimonthly basis going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew E. Braun
MAALL President 2020-2021