

# From the President

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**AALL Newsletter**  
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## AALL Newsletter Deadlines

Articles are due at the editor's desk by the following dates:

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No. 6	February	January 3
No. 7	March	February 7
No. 8	April	March 7
No. 9	May	April 4
No. 10	June	May 2

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Last November, President Dick Danner asked you to volunteer for AALL Committee assignments by urging you to "Fill out the form. Make Penny Hazelton's job hard. She won't mind the work; you will benefit from the opportunity, and so will AALL."

Well, you did make it hard, and I *did* mind! You did not make it hard because there were too many volunteers. You made it hard because there weren't enough volunteers—in certain categories and for several committees.

Last year, Dick received 123 volunteers; I received only 138, a very small increase. Of these, 101 were from academic librarians, 20 were from firm and corporation librarians, and 17 were from court, county, state and government librarians—a very unbalanced sample if one looks at it in relation to our membership, which is nearly half law librarians from the private sector.

The other way you made my job hard is that there were several committees for which no one volunteered. In addition, many volunteers neglected to complete the form and simply listed the name of a committee without a brief statement of interest as requested. Or volunteers listed only one committee. It was hard to know how to interpret this last situation. I assumed (probably incorrectly in some cases) that the volunteer was not interested in any other committees, so if I had no appropriate slots for that committee, I did not try to appoint them to another.

In trying to increase the size of the volunteer pool, we have decided to include the committee volunteer form in at least two issues of the *Newsletter*. However, it doesn't help to get a lot more forms if they are not completely filled out. So we are including a little more information about each committee in the *Newsletter*. Perhaps this will help you select an appropriate committee. If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact the committee chair or a committee member.

Since Dick included some numbers for you, I will do the same:

## PROFILE OF AALL COMMITTEES (includes chairs)

	1989/90 Danner				1990/91 Hazelton			
	New Appointments	Returning	Total/	%	New Appointments	Returning*	Total/	%
Women	41	59	100	68%	59	47	106	66%
Men	25	23	48	32%	22	32	54	34%
Minorities	4	16	20	13%	5**	6**	11	7%
<i>Type of Library</i>								
Private/Corporate	17	13	30	20%	21	17	38	24%
Academic	37	51	88	59%	46	43	89	56%
State/County/Court	12	18	30	21%	14	19	33	20%
New to AALL Committees	Not available				36	N/A	36	23%

\*Committee chairs are included here because they must come from the committee membership, current or past

\*\*Self-identified

There were 160 committee slots available for 1990/91 including 16 standing committees, 4 advisory committees, and 2 special committees.

As the President appoints only half of the committee members (the other half are serving the second year of a two-year appointment), I made 71 appointments to standing and advisory committees and 10 appointments to the two special committees. Twenty-two committee chairs were appointed.

As you recall, the *AALL Committee Handbook* requires the Vice President to appoint at least one new (someone who has not served on AALL committees before) law librarian to each committee. I am pleased that 36 new law librarians

have agreed to take on committee assignments for 1990/91! In addition, the Vice President is to balance the rest of the committee membership as much as possible—given the pool of volunteers—by geographic location, type of library, and type of position. All committee chairs must have been on that committee in the past.

I found the committee appointment process to be one of the most difficult and time-consuming (70+ hours) jobs I have ever handled. It was hard. Taking into account all the necessary factors is enough to blow even a computer's brain power. The leadership data base prepared at Headquarters provided very helpful and needed information. But the bottom line is that I am glad I won't have to do it again.


In reviewing the committee appointments I made for 1990/91, I will make these observations:

1. I am delighted with the spirit, energy, commitment, and enthusiasm of the 138 committee members and 22 committee chairs. Most hit the deck running and are working on important AALL business.
2. I am delighted so many new faces have volunteered to serve on AALL committees.
3. Though several minority law librarians volunteered this year, we are underrepresented by minorities on our various committees.
4. The total number of private or corporate law librarians who are serving on committees has increased by eight over 1989/90 (from 20% to 24%).
5. Of the 22 committee chairs, 14 are from the academic sector, 4 are from the private sector, and 4 are from the state/county/court/government sector.
6. Though I diligently tried to avoid having any one librarian serve on more than one committee, this did happen. In the end, we all want the best, most qualified people serving on AALL committees; and in my judgment, these duplications are justifiable.

Now, after telling you how hard you made my job, I want to urge you to VOLUNTEER! Active participation in AALL is professionally and personally rewarding. Not everyone can be on a committee, but those who serve definitely have work to do. Our committees are so small now that *every* committee member has to pull his/her weight. A Vice President is not very willing to risk a few bad appointments if that means the committee will not be able to handle its work that year.

If you are curious about a committee, call the current chair and talk about the committee's role. Read the more in-depth description in the *AALL Committee Handbook*. Inform yourself! Fill out the volunteer form thoughtfully. Remember, listing only one committee may limit the possibility of an appointment.

If you are not appointed to a committee, don't give up! Try again. Become active in your local or regional chapter or an SIS. I always wanted to be on the Education Committee and could not understand why I wasn't appointed—until I did the appointing! I had over 80 volunteers who wanted to be on that committee, mostly from the academic sector. I made only four appointments to that committee, two from academic libraries. Be adventuresome! Indicate an interest in a committee that you think may not be so glamorous—after you have learned what that committee does.

To paraphrase a friend: Fill out the form. Make Carolyn Ahearn's job hard. She will mind the work, but she will do her best. You will benefit from the opportunity, and so will AALL. VOLUNTEER! 



(Editor's note: the 1991/92 Committee Volunteer Form is on page 97)