AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Name: Anne McDonald
Title: Chair
Email: amcdonald@riag.ri.gov

Committee Name: Grants Committee

Committee Charge: The Grants Committee shall review and recommend to the Executive Board criteria for grant awards according to contemporary funding circumstances; coordinate the procurement, receipt and acknowledgement of grant funds; publicize the availability of grants, solicit applications, and award grants according to established criteria.

Major Activities for 2008-2009:

The Grants committee successfully petitioned to the Executive Board in 2007 for a new granting category so that we could award grants to longtime members. The previous scoring system was weighted against long time members. We now have two applications, one for experienced members and the other for student/new members, which were placed on the committee's website. Julie Kimbrough served as Webmaster.

Our major activities this year are geared around implementing this new granting category, making sure AALL members are aware of this award and to take a hard look at our current committee charge to see if it could be re-worded to better clarify our mission.

Last fall the Committee developed three task groups or projects and volunteers were solicited for each. The three task groups were:

- Outreach and publicity
  Outreach group composed email that was sent by AALL to the various library schools and some group members planned visits to their local library schools. Vice Chair Patty Wellinger was in charge of publicity and forwarded articles to headquarters at several intervals that were incorporated into the President's monthly message for January, February and March as well as forwarded to Chapters and Special Interest Sections. Patty Wellinger will represent the Grants Committee during the Chapter Leaders training at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

- Revisions to scoring and rating form
  Scoring group reviewed the older scoring and rating form and developed separate forms for screening the Student/New Member and Experienced Member applications. This is an internal tool for committee members to use in scoring the applications when we received them to ensure consistency and to make the process go as smoothly as possible.

- Language change project.
  This group reviewed our current committee charge and purpose clause and came up with a draft with clearer language so we can have more flexibility in awarding grants. We are presently limited to awarding grants to cover registration costs for the annual meeting or a workshop associated with the annual meeting. We have submitted a proposal revising our committee charge to AALL Executive Board for their consideration.

In addition, the Chair responded to various email inquiries from potential grant applications that request information about various aspects of the application project.

Our activities advanced the Strategic Goal of Education by providing partial funding for members to attend AALL.

Proposed Activities for 2009-2010:

- Implement any changes to our granting structure (if approved by the Executive Board)
- Iron out any difficulties that may arise during our voting now that we have two categories and clarify the "previous winner" status.
- Continue publicity efforts and update the committee's web page.