Annual Meeting Program Committee 2008-2009

The 2009 Annual Program Planning Committee held its first meeting in March 2008 in Chicago in order to start planning for the 2009 Annual Meeting. At this meeting, the committee reviewed the program planning process and assigned the tasks of updating key informational materials including the Speakers Handbook, the Coordinators Handbook, and the Program Planners Handbook. Working with then Vice President James Duggan, we selected the topic “Innovate” for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

As part of AMPC’s own innovative efforts, the committee held the first AMPC webinar in June 2008, prior to the 2008 Annual Meeting. The topic of the webinar was “Perfect Program Proposals,” and speakers included past AMPC Chairs Donna Bausch and Diana Jaque. Paul George led the session, which explained how to make a strong program proposal with suggestions and tips as well as advice on how to avoid weaknesses.

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, the committee members held an open forum for AALL members planning to submit program proposals. Each AMPC member was also assigned to act as liaison to two or more of the various SIS’s and met with the members or education committees.

The committee received over 180 proposals for programs and workshops from members, chapters, SIS’s, AALL committees, and others. We met in September 2008 to select the programs for the 2009 Meeting. We had 66 available program slots. Three of these are dedicated: the legislative update, the LexisNexis Call for Papers, and the Hot Topic. The current practice is to provide each of the 13 SIS’s with their top choice of sponsored programs. This left the committee members with the task of selecting the remaining 50 programs, which was a difficult task given the strength of so many proposals, but we selected those that best represented a variety of topics and audiences. We also selected four strong workshops. As of July 15, all workshops have substantial enrollments.

After the fall meeting, the committee’s two remaining tasks for the year were to identify the plenary speaker and to select the hot topic program. Plenary speakers are increasingly difficult to obtain because many of them have fees that far exceed AALL’s budget. Fortunately, the committee was able to receive a commitment from Prof. Jonathan Zittrain of Harvard Law School. Prof. Zittrain is an expert on the future of the Internet and its role in society, and he will be an exciting and provocative speaker.

The AMPC’s final official act prior to the 2009 Annual Meeting was selecting this year’s hot topic program, which will be “The New Economic Reality: Opportunity or Catastrophe?”

The 2009 AMPC members were Jeff Berns, Barbara Fritschel, Mary Lu Linnane, Judy Meadows, Holly Riccio, and Ron Wheeler.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul George
AMPC chair