Council of Chapter Presidents 2006-07

Much of the responsibility of the chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents (Council Chair) is to serve as a liaison among the chapters and the Association. As in the past, the communication continues to be through the council listserv and the electronic Council Chat newsletter. There were several topics addressed through the listserv this year, however, the main issues pertained to chapter bylaws, chapter visits, and the chapter biographical form.

The bylaws of the chapters must be consistent with those of AALL. Additionally, any bylaws changes need to be approved by the AALL Bylaws Committee. It appeared that some of the chapters were not aware of these procedures. There has been some inconsistency with vendor members serving on chapter executive boards, which is not permitted. Chapters are also changing their bylaws to include electronic voting and replacing *Roberts Rules of Order* with *Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*, which is consistent with the organization.

Providing chapter leadership training to incoming vice presidents and presidents is another responsibility of the Council Chair. This training takes place in conjunction with the AALL Annual Meeting. The “Chapter Leadership Professional Development Training” was renamed “Program Development” to adequately reflect the type of training covered at this session. In the past, the Chapter Vice President and President Leadership Training consisted of several break-out discussion groups, however, this year it was difficult to get leader participants to commit to two hours due to the shortened length of the Annual Meeting. As an alternative, each participant talked for fifteen minutes to the group as a whole. This allows for more topics to be covered as well. The topics and presenters scheduled for the 2007 Annual Meeting are: Budgeting & Finances by Lynn Cotteleer, former AALL Finance Director; Washington Affairs Office & Government Relations by Mary Alice Baish, AALL Staff; Bylaws by Chris Knott, Bylaws Committee Chair; Chapter Visits by Anne Myers, AALL Executive Board member; Membership by Hannah Phelps, AALL Staff; and, Continuing Professional Education Resources by Celeste Smith, AALL Director of Continuing Education and Announcements.

The AALL Executive Board focused on chapter visits this year. Sally Holterhoff assigned Anne Myers to a task force evaluating chapter visits from the past, as well as the procedures involved. Anne and I worked closely on this. The Board recognizes the importance of these visits and, as a result, it has been decided that AALL will absorb the costs associated with these visits beginning July 2007. It is hoped that every chapter will take the opportunity to host a member of the Executive Board. The Chapter Visit Request Form will be revised as well.

The Chapter Biographical Form continues to be discussed. It is hoped that the form will become interactive, the information will be readily available to Board members in preparation of their visits, and AALLNET chapter profiles will be updated faster. This is an area that the incoming Council Chair, Mary Lu Linnane, will be working on with her AALL Executive Board liaison, Darcy Kirk.
In closing, this has been a very rewarding experience for me. I’d like to thank the current Executive Board for all of their wisdom and support, especially Ann Fessenden, who served as the Council Chair Executive Board liaison. Additionally, a special thanks to all of the AALL Headquarters Staff and Chris Siwa for his assistance with the listserv administration and electronic distribution of the *Council Chat*.

Kimberly Serna, Council Chair
2006-07