Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association 2007-08

During 2007-08, the Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (GPLLA) offered its members a variety of opportunities to learn, participate and socialize.

The season began in September with GPLLA’s opening reception at the Philadelphia Union League, which was sponsored by the George T. Bisel Company. This year, the GPLLA Board opted to enhance the long-running event with a law library-oriented quiz game. It was wildly popular and is eagerly anticipated at the next opening reception.

Throughout the fall, winter and spring, GPLLA partnered with Jenkins Law Library to provide a series of lunchtime professional development programs. Notable speakers included Gary Price of Resource Shelf and Nicole Engard of LibLime. In December, GPLLA members celebrated the holidays with a party sponsored by LexisNexis.

In the spring, a variety of GPLLA members once again participated in a law library panel discussion at Drexel University. Library students from the Greater Philadelphia area were invited to attend and the event was filmed to appeal to Drexel’s online students. GPLLA also continued to offer its newly created mentor program, which matches interested students with those already working in Philadelphia’s law library community.

To end the season, GPLLA hosted the 2008 annual institute at Widener University in Wilmington Delaware. The event, which was sponsored by Thomson West, included presentations by Catherine MacDonagh of the Legal Service and Sales Organization and AALL Board Member Janice Henderson. Catherine lectured on personal marketing techniques while Janice opted to focus on the importance of volunteerism in local chapters. Also at the Institute, GPLLA awarded a $1000 scholarship to Michael Barton, who is currently enrolled in Drexel’s library program.

This year the GPLLA board decided to add a CLE component to the institute to attract members who hold law degrees and need continuing education credits. Nikki Shenk, Library Relations Manager at Thomson West, conducted the program, which was also sponsored by Thomson West.

To complement the chapter’s programming efforts this year, we also launched GPLLA’s new Web site. Response to the wiki-based site has been overwhelmingly positive and the GPLLA Board plans to offer an instructional session to teach members how to post content.

As it transitions to the 2008-09 season, GPLLA would like to extend hearty thanks to the outgoing board members: Mary Marzolla, Jessica Carey and Tim VonDulm. The new GPLLA slate includes Monica Almendarez, President; F. Scott DeMaris, Vice President; Deb Botke, Treasurer; Karen Schneiderman, Secretary; Mary Jane Mallonee, Rebecca Stanley, Margaret Stewart, Bonnie Shalala and Wendy Conroy, Directors-at-Large; and Susan Posternock, Immediate Past President.

Susan Posternock, President
2007-08