SLA Legal Community
Board Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2022

In attendance: Eugene Giudice (President), Sue Mecklem, Bria O’Brien, Mary Talley, Martha Foote
Guests: Terri Lawrence, Caren Luckie

Call to Order

Eugene called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. EST and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Motion that we conduct business in the absence of a quorum. Moved by Mary and seconded by Martha. Carried unanimously.

Eugene introduced Terrie Lawrence and Caren Luckie, two friends of the Legal Community.

Approval of the January 2022 Minutes

Moved by Mary and seconded by Bria. Carried unanimously.

March Webinar on Vendor Relations

Martha said that this webinar will take place on Thursday, March 31 at 2 pm EDT. The title is “Partnering with Vendors: The Other Side of the Coin”. The webinar will focus on the vendor perspective of the information professional/vendor relationship. The speakers are Marisa Floriana of Thomson Reuters and Mark Schwartz. Martha, Mark and Marisa have set the questions and will have a Zoom meeting next Friday to finalize the details. Eugene clarified that SLA headquarters will take care of the technical aspects of the webinar and Amy will publicize the event. Martha will contact Jordan Burghardt and finish drafting the webinar announcement.

Community Governing Documents

Eugene said that Martha will assist with reviewing Legal Community governing documents in light of SLA guidelines. He, Martha and Jordan had a Zoom meeting in February to kick-start the process. Martha will provide an update in April.

Conference Session Submissions

Eugene reported that we have submitted proposals for five educational sessions for the SLA conference. All will be in-person sessions. The topics are: media bias; ongoing legal issues for the LGBTQ community; working with big data; privacy law update; and a post-pandemic review
of the legal landscape. Programs that are not accepted will become Legal Community webinars. Nathan Rosen has submitted a proposal for a program about the Great Resignation. We have some co-sponsoring opportunities with the Leadership and Management Division.

April Vendor Showcase

Eugene said that he would like to hold a vendor showcase about a new product that has been developed by Thomson Reuters. He will contact Blythe McCoy to start the process.

Managers’ Roundtable

Eugene talked to Eileen Rourke of the New York Community about their monthly manager roundtable. He would like to adopt this idea for the Legal Community. Eugene will approach Jill Strand about spearheading this event and report back at the next meeting.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Eugene will request that our annual meeting take place at conference. We will revive the breakfast meeting, likely with support from Thomson Reuters. We may need financial assistance with speaker stipends. Eugene will create a list of opportunities for vendors to sponsor events at conference and provide it to SLA headquarters. Since legal vendors target AALL we need to emphasize community-type niches. One idea would be for vendors to speak at panel sessions. Eugene asked for suggestions to pass to SLA headquarters.

Other Announcements, Business, etc.

Terri commented that legal vendors might forget about the Legal Community and focus on AALL. However, the decision makers belong to SLA. Eugene noted that many legal vendors sell products that would be of interest to non-legal librarians.

Mary asked what the board could do to support Eugene. He asked for assistance in identifying speakers and moderators. Board members could take responsibility for our webinars. Eugene asked that we push the value proposition for SLA membership.

Eugene said that the president and president-elect of SLA will attend our April meeting. Kendra Levine is our board liaison and will attend meetings when she is available to do so.

There was discussion about making inroads with library schools to attract students to law librarianship. Eugene will contact the library schools in the Chicago area. Terri offered to reach out to students at the library schools in Texas. Bria will contact students who have attended our events in the past.

There was discussion about having a social event at conference. One idea was a no-host dinner. The key is to get this event on the conference agenda.

The next meeting of the board will take place on March 24 at 11am central time.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m. EST.