In attendance: Eugene Giudice (President), Sue Mecklem, Amy Noll, Bria O’Brien, Karen Rutherford, Jill Strand, Martha Foote
Guests: Kendra Levine (SLA Board of Directors), Caren Luckie

Call to Order

Eugene called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. EDT and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Kendra Levine, who is our SLA Board liaison. Attendees introduced themselves to Kendra.

Approval of the March 4, 2022 Minutes

Moved by Sue and seconded by Amy. Carried unanimously.

March 31, 2022 Webinar on Vendor Relations

Eugene reported that we have 50 registrants so far. He and Martha have posted announcements to the Legal Community’s social media venues and to some of the other communities within SLA. We are using SLA’s webinar infrastructure. The webinar will be posted to the Learning Hub and available for viewing by anyone who cannot attend on March 31. Eugene noted that this will not be a vendor bashing session. We want to understand the vendor mindset and develop more productive relationships with the vendor community. Kendra offered to share information about the webinar with other SLA communities.

Outreach Activities

Eugene said that Terri has had good responses from the library schools in Texas. Eugene is talking to Dominican University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is working with the Illinois Chapter. The goal is to promote law librarianship as a career.

Conference Session Submissions

Eugene expects to hear this week which of our programs have been approved and then begin to look for speakers.
April Vendor Showcase

Eugene hopes to hold a vendor showcase in late April with Thomson Reuters. He is working with Blythe McCoy and Zena Applebaum.

Managers’ Roundtable

Eugene talked to Jill Strand about the roundtable. She suggested that we first ask our members about the need for a roundtable, the main issues, and whether someone would volunteer to moderate. Eugene will prepare a post for Connect.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Eugene recommended that we create a list of potential sponsors to pass to SLA headquarters. Jill offered to reach out to her vendor pool. Eugene hopes to have small giveaways such as pens at the conference. He asked Kendra about the status of SLA’s rebranding project. She will follow up and provide more information at a future meeting.

Other Announcements, Business, etc.

Kendra said that the next SLA Town Hall will focus on user experience. She asked for possible questions, particularly regarding the budget process. Some communities are not clear about their responsibilities regarding budgets or the role of SLA’s Finance Committee. Eugene noted that we are not sure about who in the Legal Community is eligible for a stipend to attend the conference. Amy said that stipends might be a budget line item. Kendra noted that this is an area of confusion with the new community structure. Eugene spoke with Jordan about this issue. SLA is looking at the practices of other similar-sized organizations and hope to implement a new policy. Kendra offered to follow up with headquarters.

There was discussion about the challenge to secure nominations for the Outstanding Achievement Award. In recent years the nominations have come from the board. We could put the award on hiatus this year and ask the membership whether it should be continued. Thomson Reuters sponsors the award, and we do not want to lose the funding should we put it on hiatus. Eugene will talk to Blythe McCoy. It was agreed to ask the Legal Community for nominations this year. Eugene will prepare a post for Connect and Karen will post it to the blog. Eugene thanked Amy for her work on our social media.

SLA Europe has announced the Early Career Conference Award which we co-sponsor. Amy has posted to our Connect, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.

Kendra noted that nominations for SLA association awards have just opened. She asked us to consider nominating suitable candidates.

The next meeting will take place on April 28 at 11am CDT. The President and President-Elect of SLA are expected to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m. EST.