

Houston Area Law Librarians (HALL)

2017-2018 Annual Report

The 2017-2018 HALL Officers were Chris Dykes, President; Colleen Manning, Vice President/President-Elect; Joe Lawson, Immediate Past President; Patrina Epperson, Secretary; Margaret Bartlett, Treasurer; Michael McHenry, Member-at Large; Mary Ann Wacker, Member-at-Large.

During the last week of August 2017, Tropical Storm Harvey heavily flooded the Houston area causing widespread devastation and impacted several HALL members. The Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association (WPLLA) and The Western Pacific Chapter of AALL (WestPac) both provided donations that were used to assist some of our members. Our public relations committee and executive board took an active role in staying in touch with members throughout the aftermath of the storm. For example, a Facebook page was used to allow HALL members to post their status.

This year, HALL continued to have a busy schedule with monthly educational meetings, a holiday party, participation in a reception at the AALL Annual Meeting, and this year we co-sponsored the joint HALL/SWALL annual meeting held April 5-7 in Houston. HALL members helped organize the conference and several members created educational programming covering topics such as Competitive Intelligence on the Fly, Disaster Recovery: Law Library Responses in Times of Crisis, Video Editing for Law Librarians, Robot Lawyer: Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law and Current Issues in Immigration Law, Developing Cultural Intelligence, and Free and Low Cost Tech Tools for Law Librarians.

At our monthly meetings, we had educational topics such as Mindfulness in the Legal Profession, The Myth of 'Safe' War & the Role of Law During Combat Operation, updates on the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) annual meetings, and What Does the New Tax Law Mean to You and Your Institution. Greg Lambert, AALL President and HALL member, provided an AALL update at our February meeting.

Annually, HALL organizes a community service project giving members an opportunity to serve the community. Our January meeting focuses on this project encouraging members to participate. This year, our members volunteered for Books Between Kids, a non-profit organization serving Houston's at-risk children by providing them with books to build their own home libraries.