

HALL Quarterly

HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS

Volume 33 Number 1

Spring 2016

Inside This Issue:

Continuing Education	<u>3</u>
AALL Names Local Attorney Law Library Advocate	<u>4</u>
2016 Spring Seminar Review	<u>5</u>
AALL VP Visits HALL	<u>6</u>
Meeting Minutes	<u>7</u>

Next Meeting:

HALL Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday
May 11
11:45 a.m.
at

STCL Fred Parks
Law Library,
Emilie Slohm Room

Message from the President

It's hard to believe this is my final President's column of the year! HALL has had a great year – we redesigned the logo and website, implemented Wild Apricot for meeting announcements and RSVPs, and revamped the budget process. One of our newer initiatives is adding PayPal to the website! You can now pay for monthly meetings and membership renewals via credit card or PayPal, though checks are still welcome if you prefer.

One of my big goals of the year was to evaluate HALL's administrative practices and committees. A year ago, I had lots of questions along the lines of "Do we have a budget? Why not?" that I was determined to answer, and those sometimes led to more questions but also to thoughtful answers from longtime chairs and officers who care about the continuity of HALL's operations. Out of all of those questions came the creation of the HALL Procedures Manual which, as



Coming soon!

of this writing, is very close to being complete and will likely be debuted at the May meeting, if not sooner. Clocking in at 40+ pages, it contains a calendar, to-do lists, deadlines, important notes, and best practices to help new officers and committee chairs complete all of the necessary tasks to keep the association running. Essentially, everyone had to answer a version of this question: "If you got hit by a bus tomorrow, what would your successor need to know?" The answers are pretty good and will serve as a useful guide to whomever needs them. I'm excited to pass along copies to the new officers and see how they build on it.



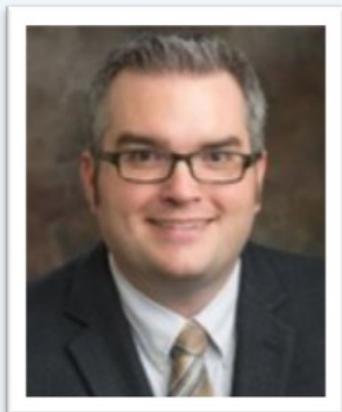
President Margaret Bartlett

Continued on next page...

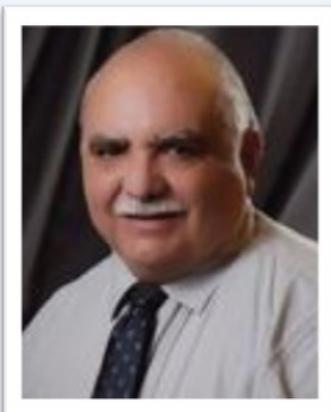
Message from the President *(continued)*

In closing, none of the accomplishments we've made would have been possible without this year's stellar officers and committee chairs. There are lots of people to highlight, but the two I want to single out are Joe Lawson and Richard Guajardo, who have worked tirelessly on setting

up Wild Apricot, moving to the new website, creating templates for meeting announcements, updating our Facebook page, enduring countless e-mails from me, and so much more. They've given us the ability to offer more services to HALL members and their efforts will provide a great vehicle for advertising our association and its members to the legal community.



Joe Lawson



Richard Guajardo

Thanks to Joe, Richard and everyone for a great year!

- Margaret Bartlett

Editor's Notes

The *HALL Quarterly* is recalibrating its issue naming. Instead of beginning each calendar year with the Winter Issue and ending with the Fall Issue, the *Quarterly* will now start each calendar year with the Spring Issue and end in December

with the Winter Issue. Any HALL members concerned that the most recent Winter Issue was skipped can rest assured that they have not missed a single edition of their favorite HALL publication.

- Dan Donahue

The *HALL Quarterly* is the official publication of Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments and news items to Dan Donahue, Editor, and Joe Lawson, Co-Editor, at newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.com.

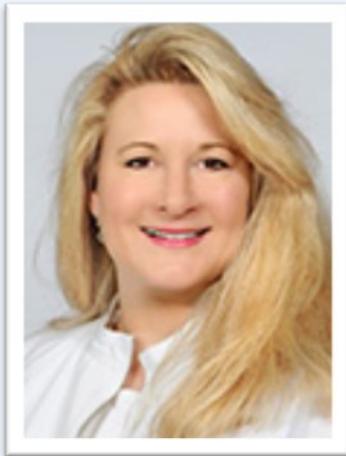
All contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. HALL does not assume responsibility for the statements of contributors. Views or opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of Houston Area Law Librarians. The *HALL Quarterly* is not copyrighted, however, permission should be sought from the authors and credit given when quoting or photocopying material from this publication.

Membership dues are \$40/year. For membership information, please visit the [HALL Membership page](#).

Continuing Education

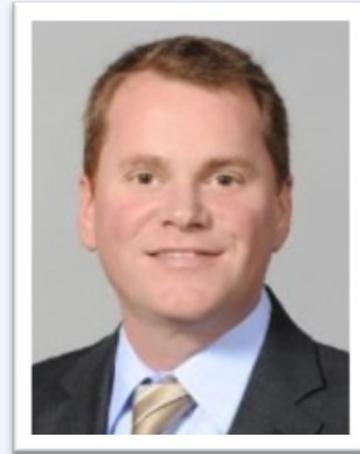
We're getting close to the end of HALL's education calendar for this year and I have to say, it's been a great one thanks to all of the HALL members who pitched in this year. Perhaps there is no better example of that than the Spring Seminar. We had 30 attendees who braved the weather to hear about "Legal Research for the Boom and Bust." HALL members provided fantastic programs, including International Arbitration Research from Natalie Lira and Saskia Mehlhorn and Oil and Gas Law Research from Chris Dykes. HALL members at South Texas College of Law Fred Parks Law Library also pitched in by coordinating the meeting space and connecting me with Professor Kulander (Director of the STCL Oil & Gas Institute) for our third program, A Primer on Oil & Gas Law.

The April meeting was another example of a great team effort. HALL member Blythe McCoy provided a timely program on



Blythe McCoy

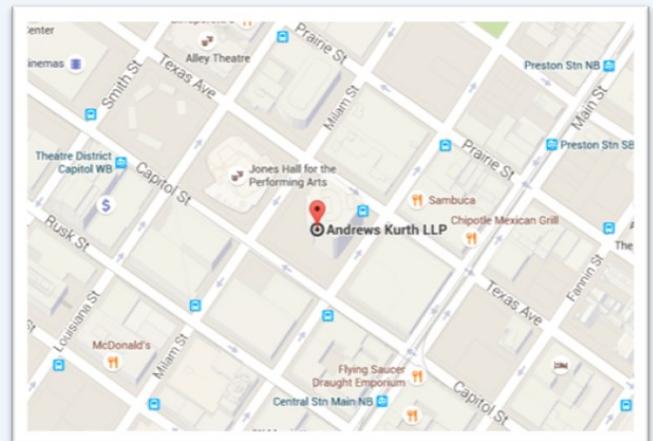
Cybersecurity Trends with her Westlaw colleague Pat Barry. HALL members at



Patrick Barry

Andrews Kurth agreed to host the April meeting, giving us the chance to visit a member library we may not often get to see. Congratulations to those who took advantage of this unique opportunity.

- Joseph Lawson



Courtesy of Google Maps

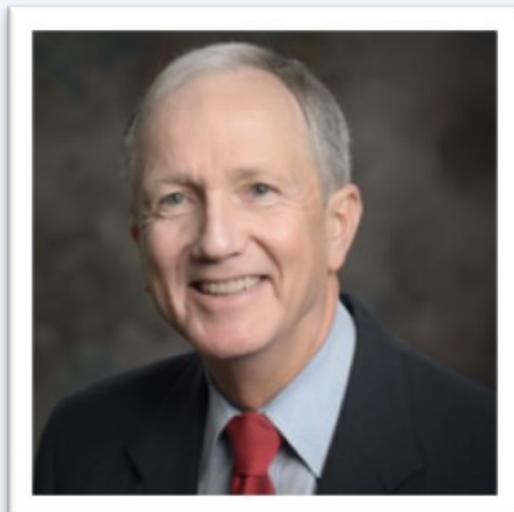
Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan Honored with Law Library Advocate Award

By Joseph Lawson

Each year, the AALL Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section honors a non-librarian whose support for and promotion of law libraries rises to a noteworthy level. This year's recipient is local law library supporter, Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan. Since HCLL became a part of Ryan's office in 2011, his leadership and support has helped the Law Library more than double its yearly patron counts, expand digital services, and partner with local legal aid organizations to develop access to justice programs. GLL-SIS will present the award to Ryan at its annual business meeting on July 17 at the AALL Annual Conference in Chicago.

While working to ensure HCLL's future, Ryan turned to the HALL community for their expertise. HALL member Greg Lambert consulted with the county attorney's office on HCLL's relocation from the 17th to the 1st floor of Congress Plaza. Ryan also turned to HALL to find a capable, public-service-oriented law library director. He selected Mariann Sears, whose

expertise, acquired over more than 15 years in law firm libraries, has served HCLL well. In subsequent years, Ryan has continued to



County Attorney Vince Ryan

encourage HCLL staff to attend professional development programs and to serve in leadership capacities for HALL and AALL. His support for HCLL and law librarianship is certainly laudable and well-deserving of the Law Library Advocate Award.

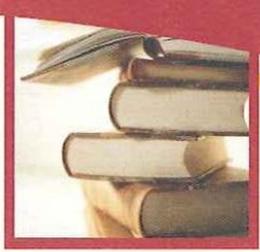
Joseph Lawson is Deputy Director at the Harris County Law Library.

The Executive Librarian
Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service
www.TheExecutiveLibrarian.com

Monika Miura

3510 Kiamesha Drive
Missouri City, TX 77459

mmiura1@comcast.net
281.437.2135 - office
713.859.5100 - mobile



Local Events

“I Drink Your Milkshake” and Other Things I Learned at the Spring Seminar

By Heather Holmes

Held on March 9th under gray skies and heavy rain, this year’s Spring Seminar was a great success! Once again, South Texas College of Law provided their excellent facilities, keeping all attendees comfortable and dry. Our fearless VP, Joe Lawson, planned a terrific morning of compelling programs under the umbrella topic, Legal Research for the Boom and Bust.

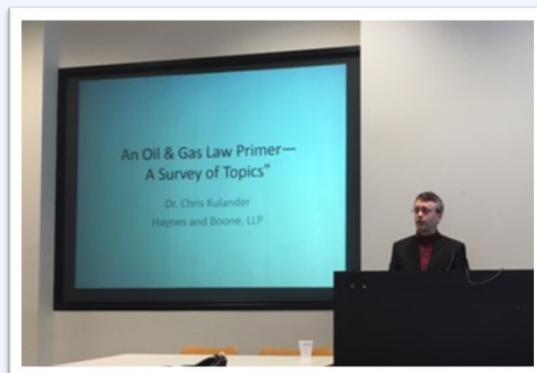


Saskia Mehlhorn and Natalie Lira

To kick things off, the very impressive duo of Saskia Mehlhorn and Natalie Lira told us all about international investment arbitration, demonstrating their incredible knowledge and expertise. Our resident experts in this complex and very specialized area of legal research simplified an intimidating topic, and that’s what makes the Spring Seminar so great. It provides an opportunity for exposure to new ideas, resources, and facets of our field. For half a day,

we get to glimpse aspects of law librarianship that we may not otherwise encounter. And when those presenting this information are two extremely dedicated authorities who so clearly love their work and enjoy sharing their knowledge with an audience of their peers, it is a joy to witness. I am proud to say that I share a profession, no matter how different our specific roles might be, with two such brilliant women.

Turning the corner, Christopher Kulander, Director of the Oil & Gas Law Institute at South Texas College of Law, was the second speaker of the day. Despite the complexity of his topic, Professor Kulander’s presentation was accessible and uncomplicated. Oil and gas law never made so much sense! And the pop culture references sprinkled throughout his presentation brought the topic to life. I finally know the meaning of “I drink your milkshake,” Daniel Day Lewis’s memorable line from *There Will Be Blood*. If you know the phrase as nothing more than an internet meme, ask me or anyone else who attended the seminar to explain.



Professor Christopher Kulander

Continued on [page 7...](#)

Local Events

Ron Wheeler, AALL VP, Visits HALL

By Joseph Lawson

For the second year in a row, HALL enjoyed the privilege of hosting the AALL VP/President-Elect at our February meeting. This year, Ron Wheeler, Director of the Fineman & Pappas Law Library at Boston University School of Law,



VP Ron Wheeler speaks to HALL

joined us at a pivotal moment in AALL history as the vote on the proposed name change drew to a close. With the future of our century-old association at the forefront of everyone's mind, the chance to hear from and pose questions to our president-elect was an invaluable experience HALL was happy to arrange for its membership.

Ron's visit also provided the opportunity for HALL members to get together and have some fun, too! Beginning with happy hour and dinner the evening before the meeting, several of us welcomed Ron to downtown Houston with a tour of some lively establishments on North Main Street and a tasty meal at Sambuca. Special thanks to Greg Lambert for the happy hour

location recommendation! The next morning, Margaret Bartlett and I accompanied Ron on tours of member libraries. Margo Davis and her crew at Andrews Kurth graciously treated us to breakfast and a tour. The next stop at the Harris County Law Library included a glimpse of a busy



VP Ron Wheeler (and friends)

public reference desk and welcome from Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan. Finally, we visited DeCarlous Spearman and her staff at TSU Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library,



VP Ron Wheeler (and more friends)

where we received a tour of their beautiful, student-filled facility before speeding to South Texas College of Law for our monthly meeting. With so many HALL members pitching in, Ron's visit was a great success.

Joseph Lawson is Deputy Director at the Harris County Law Library.

Local Events

“I Drink Your Milkshake” and Other Things I Learned at the Spring Seminar

(continued)

Professor Kulander was a tough act to follow, but, in the third and final session of the morning, the ever-impressive Chris Dykes met the challenge. As always, Chris was thorough and engaging. His considerable experience in oil and gas law research was clear to see, and the resource guide he provided to accompany his presentation was comprehensive, clear, and exact. I am consistently amazed by Chris’s obvious love of legal research. He is a consummate professional and an exemplary



Chris Dykes

librarian, and his presentation on oil and gas law research was, as expected, informative,

detailed, and complete. It was the perfect complement to Professor Kulander’s oil and gas law primer and an excellent ending to a fun and informative event.

Heather Holmes is an Assistant Law Librarian at the Harris County Law Library.

HALL Meeting Minutes - January

HALL MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2016

South Texas College of Law Library

The January HALL Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:05 p.m.

The November Minutes were approved. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Old Business: None

New Business: Margaret announced that the Publications Committee and the Social Media Committee would be combined into one, now called the Public Relations Committee. Joe Lawson will serve as Chair of the committee. Technically it’s a special/temporary committee, until we can make the change in the bylaws. The New PR Committee will be responsible for the

newsletter, content of our web site, Facebook page, blog, and all communications/announcements for HALL. Many thanks to Patti Curtis and Barbara Szalkowski for their leadership and assistance with social media and publications, respectively.

Committee Reports:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Continuing Education: Joe Lawson reported that AALL Vice-President/President-Elect Ron Wheeler would be our guest in February. The Spring Seminar is set for March 9, and the theme is “Legal Research for Boom and Bust.” It will be held at South Texas Law Library in the morning. Our April meeting is tentatively scheduled at Andrews Kurth for a change of scene.

Continued on next page...

Government Relations: No report.

Community Service: Our speaker was Molly Bache from the Houston Humane Society. Kendal Bergman has arranged our annual service project with the Humane Society on April 2.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Laura Edstrom reported that someone had asked to join HALL but found that the application form was a little difficult to track down on our web site. She also asked if people needed to be approved to become members of HALL. The general consensus of the group was no. Margaret said she would look into making sure the application form was easy to locate.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: Candice Kennington reported that there are currently three openings: Harris County Law Library, Locke Lord in Dallas, and South Texas College of Law Library.

Public Relations: Joe Lawson reported that he is working hard on adding content to our Facebook page, blog, and web site.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: No report.

Web Site: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

HALL Meeting Minutes - February

HALL MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2016

South Texas College of Law Library

The February HALL Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:05 p.m.

The January Minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business: Margaret reported that the Procedures manual is coming together. All of the Board members have sent in their duties and she is still waiting for some Committee Chairs' submissions.

New Business: Margaret reported that the Board has come up with a new plan for the Treasurer position after discussing various options. There will be an Immediate Past Treasurer position who will mentor the new

Treasurer. We need to make this change in the bylaws. This new position will be a non-voting member of the Board.

Blythe McCoy reported there will be a librarian update lunch on March 3.

Committee Reports:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: Caren Luckie reported there will be some upcoming changes to our bylaws.

Continuing Education: Joe Lawson reported that the HALL Spring Seminar is set for March 9, and the theme is "Legal Research for Boom and Bust." It will be held at South Texas Law Library. There will be three hours of CLE credit available for attendees. The cost is \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members and will take place between 8:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Our April meeting is tentatively scheduled at Andrews Kurth for a change of scene.

Continued on next page...

Government Relations: No report.

Community Service: Kendal Bergman has arranged our annual service project with the Houston Humane Society on April 2. From 1-4 p.m.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Laura Edstrom welcomed a new member, Melissa Fuqua, and guest Michele Woods. Colleen Cable from Orrick was also visiting as a guest of Blythe McCoy.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: Candice Kennington reported that there is an opening at the new Houston office of Orrick.

Public Relations Joe Lawson reported that he is working hard on adding content to our Facebook page, blog, and web site.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: No report.

Web Site: Richard Guajardo reported that the bylaws on the HALL web site have been updated. He also said that he was working on settings for membership renewal. April 15 will be the start of the membership renewal period and will be wrapped up in early summer (hopefully by June 1).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

HALL Board Meeting Minutes - March

HALL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2016

Locke Lord

Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:05 p.m.

In attendance: Margaret Bartlett, Joe Lawson, Kelley Bocell, Mary Ann Wacker

By phone: Heather Kushnerick, Sarah Lopez, Shelby Shanks

Visit from Ron Wheeler – Joe reported the visit went extremely well. Ron was whisked away to happy hour and dinner the evening of his arrival, and on Wednesday was taken on tours of

Andrews Kurth, Harris County Law Library, and the TSU Law Library. He then spoke at our February lunch meeting.

Update on Texas District Courts Project –

Mary Ann reported she is making her way through the counties with info on docket search capabilities, access through online sources, and availability of documents online. Mary Ann will look into posting the spreadsheet to Google docs so we may crowdsource the project.

Spring Seminar – Joe reported we have 27 attendees so far, including 4 non-members. This means we will have a profit of at least \$500, which is great. We also discussed logistics and other details such as food, drinks, who will be

Continued on next page...

introducing the speakers, and obtaining gift cards to thank the speakers.

More details on the new “Past Treasurer” position – Margaret noted that she wanted to add this to the by-laws, but then realized the Past President position was not in the bylaws. We discussed the necessity of adding it. Caren Luckie (Bylaws Chair) is looking into it.

New Members – We also discussed the procedure for adding new members. Wild Apricot will be set up to send each new member welcome e-mail with details on HALL. We also want to make sure that new members will pay the reduced price (member price) for the spring seminar.

Lifetime Members – Kelley prepared a form to use for Lifetime members. We discussed whether it was necessary to require the nominator to include the nominee’s resume plus two letters of recommendation and ultimately decided against it. The nominator’s statement listing the person’s accomplishments and qualifications would suffice.

Pay Pal – Next item was a discussion of whether

we would add a PayPal account to Wild Apricot so HALL members could pre-pay for lunches, dues and seminars. On the plus side, it would make the treasurer’s job much easier; on the negative side, it will cost a percentage plus small fee for each transaction. If a lunch costs \$14, 74 cents will go to PayPal. We decided it would be okay to raise the price of lunch to \$15 to cover the fee. Mary Ann made a motion to try Pay Pal and Kelley seconded. The vote to go ahead was unanimous. We will try this at the April meeting and see how it goes.

HALL Travel Grant – We revisited the question of how much money should be offered for the HALL travel grant. We had some discussion on the appropriate amount given our budget constraints. We had budgeted \$1000. We decided to give \$1300 (Mary Ann made a motion and Joe seconded), because of the large number of attendees at the seminar and the extra income from that. Natalie Lira (Chair of Grants Committee) will send out the e-mail soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



JEANNE HARRIS

MSLS

(512) 632-9637

kic4jharris@hotmail.com

**3112 Windsor Rd • Suite A-363
Austin, TX 78703**

Subject to Approval

HALL MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2016

Andrew & Kurth

The April HALL Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:02 p.m.

The February minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business: Margaret reported on the success of the recent HALL Spring Seminar held March 9th. We had 35 attendees. Great work, Joe Lawson! Also many thanks to Kendal Bergman for organizing HALL's community service project for the year, an afternoon volunteering at the Houston Human Society. Also, Margaret reported that the HALL Procedures Manual is coming together, and thanked all involved for their participation.

New Business: Margaret reported that HALL members may now pay via PayPal or credit card for HALL meetings, dues and events! Also a new "HALL of Fame" area on the HALL web site is now devoted to Lifetime members, complete with photographs. The Board has created a new form to submit for consideration of Lifetime membership status.

Committee Reports:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: Caren Luckie reported that the bylaws are in flux and there are a few changes coming.

Continuing Education: Joe Lawson reported that the May meeting is our annual business meeting and there will be no speaker.

Government Relations: No report.

Community Service: Kendal Bergman reported on our recent HALL service project at the Houston Humane Society. Seven members came out to walk dogs and play with cats. Kendal said she has additional information if anyone would like to volunteer there at another time or send in a monetary donation.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Laura Edstrom welcomed the newest staff member at the South Texas College of Law, Karen Kronenberg, Reference & Electronic Services Librarian.

Nominations: Patti Curtis reported that Nominations Chair Saskia Mehlhorn presents this slate of officers for 2016-2017:

- President: Joe Lawson
- Vice-President/President-Elect: Chris Dykes
- Treasurer: Sarah Lopez
- Secretary: Petrina Epperson
- At Large: Mary Ann Wacker (2016-2018) and Heather Kushnerick (2016-2017)
- Past President: Margaret Bartlett

Placement: No report.

Public Relations: Joe Lawson reported that Heather Holmes will be the new Chair of the Public Relations Committee. The recent survey of HALL showed that

Continued on next page...

members like receiving information via the HALL Facebook page.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe reported our next Vendor Forum will be April 28th and the presenter will be Jones McClure. The topic will be the Jones McClure online resource.

Web site: Richard Guajardo reported that HALL members can now pay via PayPal or credit card. The April meeting was the first opportunity to pay this way, and it seemed to go well! Membership renewals will also be accepted with online payments. HALL will be sending out renewal

notices a little earlier than we have done in the past, and hopefully renewals will be wrapped up by early summer. Richard also mentioned that he is adding two years' worth of minutes to the HALL web site. Richard said that HALL events are now picked up using a Google search with our new site, so this is good for PR purposes – getting the word out about HALL. Richard said that he and Joe Lawson will be presenting at the upcoming SWALL meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

Current Treasurer's Report

HALL Treasurer's Report						
HALL Treasurer's Report (Unaudited) April 14, 2016						
Balance Forward						
8/12/2015						\$6,889.56
		Income		Expenses		
Dues						
2015 - 2016		\$3,200.00				
Newsletter						
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars		\$3,134.00		\$2,958.86		
Scholarships/Grants						
Administrative		\$250.00		\$1,339.81		
Total		\$6,584.00		\$4,298.67		
4.13.2016						\$9,174.89



P.O. Box 61648
Houston, Texas 77208

For the promotion of:

- Ideas
- Sharing
- Education
- Cooperation
- Resources
- Networking

Houston Area Law Librarians is a chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Our monthly meetings are held at the South Texas College of Law. We present a half-day seminar in the Fall and a full-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics. However, meetings are subject to change. Visit the [HALL Website](http://houstonarealawlibrarians.org) for more information.

There are close to 200 members of HALL. We are librarians in firms, law schools, and courts as well as vendors and Library School students.

HALL Officers

President

Margaret Bartlett
mbartlett@lockelord.com

Vice President/President Elect

Joseph Lawson
Joseph.Lawson@cao.hctx.net

Secretary

Mary Ann Wacker
maryann.wacker@bgllp.com

Treasurer

Sarah Lopez
slopez@jw.com

Members at Large

Kelley Bocell
kelleybocell@andrewskurth.com

Past President

Shelby Shanks
sshanks@porterhedges.com

Heather Kushnerick
hkushnerick@stcl.edu

HALL Committees

By-Laws:

Caren Luckie

Archives:

Heather Kushnerick

Continuing Education:

Joe Lawson

Government Relations:

Margaret Bartlett

Membership:

Laura Edstrom

Library School Liaison:

Blythe McCoy

Nominations:

Saskia Mehlhorn

Community Service:

Kendal Bergman

Placement:

Candice Kennington

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

Public Relations:

Heather Holmes

HALL Website:

Richard Guajardo

Scholarships/Grants:

Natalie Lira

Visit us online at:

<http://houstonarealawlibrarians.org>