

MINNESOTA CHAPTER
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

1955 - 1974

The Golden Jubilee issue of the Law Library Journal recounts the history of the fledgling Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries through its organizational meeting on December 1, 1955. This history was prepared by Mrs. Margaret Andrews, librarian, Minnesota State Library and appears in 49 L.L.J. 211.

The organizational meeting and many subsequent meetings were held in the Campus Club of the University of Minnesota in order to take advantage of the excellent Thursday evening roast beef dinners. There were usually two meetings each year, in the fall or winter and in the spring. Some meetings were strictly business meetings, others included reports on various topics by chapter members; still others featured guest speakers.

The minutes of the October 24, 1957 meeting record the visit of the chapter members to the newly completed addition to the University of Minnesota Law School and Law Library. Also in 1957, a committee chaired by Arlette Soderberg compiled a Union List of Loose-leaf Services in the various Twin Cities Law Libraries. This list was up-dated in 1962.

1960 was a busy year as our small Chapter prepared to host the 53rd national convention of A.A.L.L. which was held at the Leamington Hotel in Minneapolis on June 27 through June 30, 1960. Mrs. Margaret Andrews served as Local Arrangements chairman. The other chapter members served on various committees. The result — one of the best conventions the A.A.L.L. had ever held.

Over the years, the Chapter was visited by two national presidents and one President-Elect: Elizabeth Finley, 1962; William Murphy, 1967; Erwin Surrency, 1973.

The Chapter minutes record memorials for the following of our members who have died: James Ryan, 3M; Ester Motz, University of Minnesota Law Library; Mrs. Evelyn Adams, Briggs and Morgan.

In November 1971, a committee was appointed to revise the chapter by-laws. This committee's work finally culminated in a special meeting on May 22, 1974 to amend the by-laws. A new section on dues was added and seven committees were established.

In 1973 and 1974 the Chapter was again planning a national convention, the 67th which was held in the Hilton Hotel, St. Paul on June 24 through June 27, 1974. Mrs. Margaret Andrews was again Local Arrangements chairman. The Chapter provided a repeat performance for excellence of its convention arrangements.

Janet Dolan arranged the CONELL meeting which was held on Saturday, June 23, 1974. Mrs. Phyllis Marion was in charge of the A.A.L.L. Institute on Cataloging which was held at the University of Minnesota the week prior to the convention.

1974 saw a reorganization of the chapter activities. There was now a dues structure; more frequent meetings planned by a program chairman. An attempt was made to expand the membership to include law librarians in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Iowa. A newsletter was started under the editorship of Mrs. Carol Florin. The first issue appeared in September 1974.

In the years covered by this brief history, our Minnesota Chapter has come a long way.

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