

International Communication and Development Committee Meeting Minutes

2019 ASLCS Professional Development Seminar
Seattle, Washington
Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting of the International Communication and Development Committee was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Obie Rutledge (Ore.), chair.

Attendance

The following members of the committee were present: Obie Rutledge (Ore.), chair, John Hollman (Ill.), vice chair, Jackie Schulz (Alaska), vice chair, Yolanda Dixon (La.), Ann Cornwell (Ark.), Susan Kannarr (Kan.), Janice Gadd (Utah), Londi Ensor (Alaska), Crystaline Jones (Alaska), Sherry Rodriguez (Nev.), Andrew Carpenter (Colo.), Emily White (Mo.), Jessica Upadhye (Calif.), Carrie Maulin (Idaho), Lori Roland (Alaska), Patsy Spaw (Texas), Lacy Ramirez (Ore.), Susan Furlong (Nev.), Kristin Canterbury (W.Va.), Daniel Loyd (Ark.), Darek Grant (Maine), Alison Morris (Mass.), Jeff Takacs (Fla.), Bernard Dean (Wash.), Ali Sagraves (Ohio), Keira Alkema (Alaska), Rebecca Silbernagel (Vt.), Jeremy Weiss (Vt.), Brian Takeshita (Hawaii), Melissa Mapes (Minn.), Jessica Tupper (Minn.), Brad Hendrickson (Wash.), Liz Clark (Alaska), Marshall Long (Ala.), Bill Horn (Ala.), Carolyn Tschida (Mont.), Lindsey Vroegindewey (Mont.), Michelle Fontenot (La.), Nadia Zylawy (Mont.), and Jason Hataway (Nev.). Also in attendance: Beverly Isles (Canada).

Approval of Minutes

Upon the motion by Susan Kannarr (Kan.), and seconded by Ann Cornwell (Ark.), the minutes of the committee meeting held in Nashville Tennessee, dated August 5, 2019 were approved, as reviewed by electronic copy.

Introductions

Incoming President Paul Smith (N.H.) was recognized. He thanked the chairs, vice chairs and the group for their participation in the committee and discussed the importance of its role. He requested that they “open the books” on this committee, think outside the box, and review all their procedures. He said the committee would continue the work begun by President Pat Harris to include other legislatures in the Society by working with certain countries this year and possibly other places in the future. President Smith also stated that the goal of this committee is to be a global trendsetter in legislative practices.

Purpose of Committee

Chair Rutledge (Ore.) reviewed the purposes of the committee as listed in the Standing Orders and with international relations, within the Society and with the International Directory. He also indicated he wanted to get right to work – focusing on the goals outlined on the meeting’s agenda. He was delighted with the response from volunteers to meet this year’s goals (listed below). Chair Rutledge also reviewed the Society’s current relationships with other international

legislative organizations including ANZACATT, ANOMAC, CATTs, SALSA, and now Scotland and Wales.

2019-2020 GOALS

1. Review the International Directory: Review for accuracy and relevance of information, layout and new modifications, timeline for publishing and distribution. Chair Rutledge asked how many had looked at the Directory recently, how to update its relevance, and how to ensure society members and international colleagues were utilizing the directory. He passed around old and updated versions. Past versions were printed in a single booklet with all three languages (English, French and Spanish) in each part. Now that we are no longer printing the booklet, the new version is three larger documents, one in each language, and are only available on the ASLCS website. He suggested it should be created and electronically distributed in January or February of each year (instead of late fall). This aligns with ANZACATT's officers and CATTs changes in summer, so there may be a one-time duplication in some offices. Patsy Spaw (Texas) stated that the Standing Orders call for the Directory to be printed by February 1, but this timeline was changed due to delay in getting information from international groups. Jackie Schulz (Alaska) expressed that a new January deadline could be better as there could be more time and information gathered after the PDS. A subcommittee was formed, led by Lacy Ramirez (Ore.), Obie Rutledge (Ore.), and John Hollman (Ill.). Following further discussion, it was decided the Directory would be published by late January or February 2020.

2. Expand relationships with other organizations: Chair Rutledge explained that the goal was to start with countries who have a similar structure to the U.S., with multiple states under a federal united government and where language would not be a barrier, which he explained is why Asia is not currently included in the committee's goals. During discussion Lori Roland (Alaska) noted that many Asian countries and other nations listed frequently learn and speak English. Chair Rutledge said this could be something to look into more in the future. It was noted that the Commonwealth countries have a similar sister organization. Incoming President Smith asked that the committee work with Westminster as well. As for Austria and Germany, there are current ASLCS member(s) who speak German. Regarding Argentina, ASLCS has fluent Spanish speakers, but Jackie Schulz (Alaska) and Susan Kannarr (Kan.) reminded the group that Argentina is already a regular participant in ANOMAC, which is in contact with most Central and South American nations. Chair Rutledge formed subcommittees to reach out to the following countries: Bernard Dean (Wash.), Austria and Germany; Jackie Schulz (Alaska) and Lacy Ramirez (Ore.), Argentina; and Obie Rutledge (Ore.) and Sherry Rodriguez (Nev.), Westminster and other countries within the Commonwealth.

3. Update Committee Manual: Maintain current and relevant information while updating new information. Susan Kannarr (Kan.) suggested an electronic version of the manual would provide improved accessibility at meetings and could be e-mailed. Ann Cornwell (Ark.) noted that scanning the manual would be an easy option. A subcommittee was formed: Sherry Rodriguez (Nev.), Lead, Kristin Canterbury (W.Va.), and Emily White (Mo.). Chair Rutledge requested the updated and electronic version of the manual be ready by the Spring Meeting in Cleveland.

New Business

Chair Rutledge stated that the Society wants to strengthen its relationship with the Clerks from Scotland and Wales. One goal: ASLCS members invited to attend their meetings to continue to strengthen and grow our relationship. Beverly Isles (Canada) stated that in the past, ASLCS had been invited to attend Canada's parliamentary training courses and a member had attended. She offered to look into that with CATTS again.

Old Business

Chair Rutledge explained ANOMAC has yet to meet this year but may do so in October. He reviewed the leaders specifically authorized to represent the Society and stressed that there is no prohibition on other members attending the ANOMAC meeting. He encouraged interested members to contact him if they have an interest in attending.

Ann Cornwell (Ark.) asked if ASLCS members had been polled to determine who speaks languages other than English. Sherry Rodriguez (Nev.) asked if this could be added to the Roster and Bernard Dean (Wash.) recalled a list had been created at the Arizona meeting. Liz Clark (Alaska) confirmed this was in the minutes of that year's meeting, but that it would be helpful to get a poll from ASLCS members instead of just this committee. Susan Kannarr (Kan.) stated that NCSL already has a robust international program with many contacts and suggested Holly South (NCSL) could explore that.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ann Cornwell (Ark.), seconded by Susan Kannarr (Kan.), the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Schulz (Alaska), vice chair