The President’s Pen
Lisa Lamkin

Welcome to 2017!

Your Southern Region board just launched the year together gathering in Dallas for a Strategic Planning retreat. We focused on 6 key topic areas and how to focus our collective energies to accomplish priority goals together. Highlights of the discussion included:

MEMBER VALUE

Continue to focus on Purpose Goals and Results for educational programs that add value.

Leverage current and future planned digital platforms for knowledge sharing of high value content

Recruit and support student Schools Next teams: creating immediate positive impact on our communities and building wider appreciation for the value of A4LE

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Invest in the development of a strong next generation for our organization through emerging professional’s events.

Leverage the opportunity created with new membership structure for public members to grow membership.

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Identify opportunities for Mentor and Protégé chapter relationships to support smaller chapters with shared experience and resource development assistance.

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Happy 2017!
The Foundation has been very busy working on scholarship applications and looking for every possible opportunity to support our chapters. Our first scholarship application of the year is out, and it is for travel and registration to the SR Conference in New Orleans. Details are on our website. Be on the lookout for other applications for these programs to come out later in the year:

- Registration for the A4LE Advanced Academy Program
- Otto Grove College Scholarships
- Travel and registration to the A4LE Conference in Atlanta this Fall

Since the beginning of the year, the Foundation has also provided funding for chapter activities such as the South Texas Chapter Social/Service Networking Meetings. These events help the South Texas chapter grow their networking as well as give back to the community. If your chapter has events that you’d like to see implemented, but may be tough to fund, please consider us as your funding source. Applications are on the A4LE website.

Lastly, the Foundation will continue to refine processes and identify more opportunities to support the region and chapter, increasing the value to our members.

I hope everyone has a great 2017!

Irene

It was a honor to receive the scholarship to attend my first Association for Learning Environment International Conference. The relationships I made and the experiences I encountered while attending the conference have been monumental in adding to my career. School districts have limited funds and it was extremely helpful to have this additional help.

Sarah Stewart, Northwest ISD

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BOARD ENGAGEMENT

Strategically invest resources to increase opportunities for board participation in regional and international conference; building relationships and gaining knowledge to serve the organization. Return to monthly board meeting schedule to provide stronger lines of communication and engagement

COMMUNICATION

Increased use of social media, member connect platform and website to inform and engage membership.

FOUNDATION

Build on successful reorganization begun in 2016 by solidifying governance and communicating broader awareness of what the foundation can accomplish for members and the communities we serve.

I am honored to serve A4LE as Southern Region president and look forward to seeing many of you at Convention in New Orleans!

Lisa
Welcome to New Orleans!
Kevin Moran

This April, the Southern Region’s annual conference will come to the State of Louisiana for the first time. The Louisiana chapter is working with the conference planning committee to make sure that they event is a huge success. New Orleans has so much to offer to visitors and we hope everyone will make the trip. We are a relatively young chapter and are honored and thrilled to be able to host the event in New Orleans from April 1st through the 4th. Our local chapter is committed to the success of the conference and we are looking forward to welcoming our neighbors from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas and to showing them around our wonderful city and all it has to offer.

This event is a great opportunity for those who are unfamiliar with all the great things that the A4LE association offers. We strongly encourage everyone to take advantage and come out to experience first hand the passion and knowledge that this group shares for learning environments and the great community of members that are a part of the association.

There are available scholarships to help with the costs of attending the Southern Regional Conference in New Orleans and it is open to all members and non-members. The scholarship is there to help cover the cost of registration, travel and hotels. If you have been interested in joining the association, this is a tremendous opportunity to interact with local and regional members and we strongly encourage you to apply and attend the conference. The deadline for scholarship applications is FEBRUARY 3RD!

There will be many exciting events throughout the conference including a sporting clay tournament, swamp tour, school tours, and a traditional New Orleans second line to Mardi Gras World. Spring time in New Orleans has so much to offer with festival season well under way bin early April, there is always something happening in and around town.

LA Chapter Board of Directors
Update:

President: Kevin Moran
President Elect: Ed Jenkins
Past President: Michael Lachin
Secretary: Tania Hahn
Treasurer: Brian Lafluer
Governor: Michael Holly

Board Members at Large
Sam Herpin
John Mundinger
Todd Mann
Sue Robertson
Pierre Theriot
Southern Region Strategic Planning
Gary Hutton

On January 20th and 21st Southern Region Board Members and representatives from the Chapter’s and States attended the Southern Region Strategic Planning session in Dallas Texas. This event is held every biennium to prepare the vision for the Southern Region. The focus of the event revolved around 6 key areas: Communications, Membership, Member Value, Chapter Development, Board Engagement and the Southern Region Foundation.

All the key outcomes and responsibilities are being compiled and will be presented soon. On the Communications side the conversation can be summed up in two words, Content and Participation. To improve the content of the A4LE web page and this Newsletter we need members to participate in submitting articles. The articles can be on any subject relevant to the membership. We encourage content from the educational side particularly any contributions from senior leadership at the District Level. Please remember that as an association, we can not advocate on political matters. All correspondence should be apolitical.

This event also marked the changing of the guard in the Southern Region as it was the last event coordinated by Carla Cummins. She has been the Southern Region Director at International for a number of years. We wish Carla every success with her new role and responsibilities as the Southwest Member Care Manager. Replacing Carla as the Southern Region Member Care Manager will be Donna Robinson. Donna will be in the Southern Region for the Conference in New Orleans.

On January 12th, the Oklahoma Chapter kicked off the new year with a Strategic Planning Session setting its goals, priorities and vision for the 2020-2022 Chapter Vision. Discussion topics included assessing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities as the Board currently understands. Goals and vision include strengthening of programs, member involvement, increase information available to membership, teaming with others and Chapter growth.

Throughout this process communication and exposure of the A4LE program and its advantages to the educational sector will be at the forefront for continued chapter development.

Chapter representatives were also in attendance at the Southern Region Strategic Planning Conference held in Dallas on January 20th and 21st representing the Chapter needs and helping to develop the Southern Region plans.

Chapter members were elected for the next year and a new Board is being installed.

Our next meeting will be held February where follow up from the planning conference and programming for the next year will be discussed and outlined.

Strategic Planning Conference Participants
Back Row: Joe Irizarry, John Hansen, Gary Hutton, Clay Clayton, Wayne Reynaud
Middle Row: Dillon Brady, Michael Holly, Bradley Chicote, Danny Brewster
Seated: Patrick Glenn, Briar Glenn, Irene Nigaglioni, Lisa Lamkin, Tim McClure
NIP: Bill Stice, Clay Clayton, Kerri Ranney
Insert: Donna Robinson

Oklahoma Chapter
John Hansen- President OK
Starting a new year is certainly easier when the leadership team has it down to a science. In today's ever-changing social-economical-political environment, we should definitely appreciate A4LE volunteer efforts to keep us well-informed. By sharing and learning together, we all contribute to continuous improvement for the families and communities we serve.

Beyond, our everyday professional activities, our North Texas Chapter never ceases to amaze at the giving and caring spirit in which it pursues excellence, extends knowledge, and includes new membership. This year since our leadership retreat we have picked up the mantle to bring meaningful content like never before. We plan to showcase topics to our North Texas Association that are incredibly relevant and thought provoking.

Our local study of “Educational Facility Cost Trends” is one example of a true collaborative effort that was very rewarding and informative. From the feedback received, it will provide useful data in this growing economy. It is paramount that all of us - user, builder, designer alike, continue to work in collaborative ways to achieve ultimate end goals of success for students all over. This mission is a journey on which we are all privileged to be traveling together.

I want to thank those on the Southern Region Board and the North Texas Board who all continually sacrifice their time and resources to produce relationships, opportunity and information that make A4LE an incredibly valuable organization. 2016 / 2017 will be a banner year!

O. Wayne Reynaud, AIA, REFP
President – NTX Chapter A4LE

A4LE Awards Program

The following Awards and recognitions are given at the Southern Region Conference, nominations for these awards are to be send by Chapter and Region Boards to the Committee so that the members can be recognized for their hard work and commitment to A4LE.

Service Citation Award

Chapter designated
All Board Members
Up to 3 awards per chapter for non-Board Members who have shown elevated service to the Chapter
Nominations to be provided by the Chapter President to the Awards Committee.
If a Chapter does not exist for a State member of the Southern Region, the State Governor may nominate recipients.
Awards to be announced at the Regional Conference and distributed at a Chapter Event.

Regional
All Board Members
All International Committee Members
Up to 3 awards for non-Board Members/Committee Members who have shown elevated service to the Region
Nominations to be provided by the Regional President to the Awards Committee.

Distinguished Service Award

Chapter designated
Up to 2 awards per chapter for individuals who have exhibited exceptional service to the Chapter throughout the year
Nominations to be provided by the Chapter President to the Awards Committee.
If a Chapter does not exist for a State member of the Southern Region, the State Governor may nominate recipients.

Regional
Up to 2 awards for individuals who have exhibited exceptional service to the Region throughout the year
Up to 2 awards for individuals serving on the Conference Planning Committee who have exhibited exceptional service to the Committee
Nominations to be provided by the Regional President to the Awards Committee.
A4LE Awards Program: continued

**Cornerstone Award**

Chapter designated

An award given to a Chapter Member who has shown dedication and commitment to the growth and overall success of their Chapter. A recipient shall only receive this award once in their lifetime.

Nominations to be provided by the Chapter President to the Awards Committee. If a Chapter does not exist for a State member of the Southern Region, the State Governor may nominate recipients.

**Planner of the Year**

An award given to a Region Member who has shown dedication and commitment to the growth and overall success of the Region.

A recipient shall only receive this award once in their lifetime.

Nominations to be provided by a current member through his/her Chapter President to the Awards Committee.

Southern Region Planner of the year for 2016 Sue Robertson along with previous planner of the year recipients and past International Chairs

Front Row: Roy Sprague, Irene Nigaglioni, Judy Hoskens, Sue Robertson, Jim Brady
Back row; Merle Kirkley, Dan Mader, David Waggoner, Dave Edwards