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From the President: Professionalism & Community

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Professionalism and Community

With all due respect to T.S. Eliot, I firmly believe that February is the cruelest month. By the time February rolls around, we're tired of winter. We're tired of high heating bills, tired of dealing with the shorter days and the resultant bouts of Seasonal Affective Disorder, tired of wearing heavy fabrics.

Then there's the holiday let-down. After what seems like a non-stop whirlwind of celebrations, from Halloween, to Thanksgiving, to Hanukkah, to Ashura, to Christmas, to Kwanzaa, to New Year's, to Martin Luther King Day, we run into the void that is February. February is graced with not one but two fake holidays. "What a Good Excuse for a Sale" Day (otherwise known as Presidents' Day) and Valentine's Day. Honestly, does anyone other than the federal government and car dealers recognize Presidents' Day anymore? And don't get me started on Valentine's Day. Even February's one claim to fame—Leap Year—only comes every four years. The only good thing about February is that it's short. Knowing that February won't hang

around that long makes it easier to look forward to the coming of spring, warmer weather, and longer days.

Within AALL, we also have some things to look forward to. Our Strategic Plan identifies three areas of importance to us as law librarians: advocacy, education, and leadership. I am happy to say that we have something to look forward to in all three areas.

On the advocacy front, we are looking forward to the Vendor Colloquium. On February 28 and March 1, representatives from the five major legal publishers will meet with a group of librarians and other library stakeholders to discuss the future of legal publishing and how these changes will impact our libraries. We hope in the course of this meeting to find common ground and defuse some of the ill will that has recently plagued our Association.

On the educational front, members can look forward to the webinars AALL will be offering. In the coming months you will have the opportunity to learn about knowledge management, advances in technology, and tips on becoming a better leader in the comfort of your

own office. You can even begin looking forward to the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The preliminary information will be posted online soon, and registration will open within the next month.

On the leadership front, some members of AALL are looking forward to a trip to Chicago where the Management Institute will take place at the end of March. At the institute, new and aspiring managers will learn the skills they need to be successful in their jobs.

Also contemplating a trip to Chicago are the members of the Nominations Committee. They will be pondering the important issue of whom to tap for leadership positions on the Executive Board. And to help groom people for eventual service to the Association, planning is already taking place for the next Leadership Academy. If you're a newer law librarian, you can look forward to news regarding the application process soon.

So take heart that even as winter and February wind down, there is much to look forward to in our professional lives. ■

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