

## President's Report, 2023-2024

Donna Arment, Durango, CO

This past year as the Patent Trademark Resource Center Association's President gave me the opportunity to work with a great group of people in making what we hope are positive changes to our PTRCA Committees, Bylaws, and membership process.

At last year's Business Meeting the idea to combine the database and Ad Hoc Guide to Best Practices committees into one educational committee was proposed and accepted as a concept to explore in 2023. In summer 2023 the members of the database and ad hoc guide to best practices committees meet to discuss this proposal. It was obvious the two committees had similar charges and could be combined into one educational committee. Once we had the idea of combining committees we began reviewing all the committee charges. It was felt the conference and program committees also had similar charges and could be combined into one conference committee. With the combining of these committees we were able to reduce the number of committees from 8 to 6. These proposed changes to the committee's structure meant we had to amend the Bylaws and therefore needed to place it on Seminar 45's PTRCA Business Meeting agenda to be voted on and approved by members of the PTRCA.

The next order of business was proposed by the Membership and Mentoring committee's chair Tallie Casucci. The idea was to review our current membership structure and payment process. The Membership and Mentoring committee proposed the idea to add an electronic payment option for membership dues with PayPal. The committee also proposed updating the 3 different membership levels category – Regular & Student and remove the affiliate category and consolidate them into one category. Everyone on the committee felt this was a great way to simplify our membership status. Also, another proposal was to change the yearly membership dues from the Seminar schedule to a calendar year schedule. Again, this idea was approved by the committee and shared with the executive council who also approved both proposals for voting. Tallie Casucci, Jim Miller, and I worked on creating a PayPal account and we now can pay our membership dues online. The membership categories and dues payment schedules require changes to the Bylaws. These will also be voted on during the Seminar 45's PTRCA Business Meeting.

As you can see 2023 was a busy year for committee members of the PTRCA.

I wish I was joining you for the array of social and networking events during the Seminar, but I was not able to attend in person this year. The schedule this year looks like...

- Every morning during Seminar the PTRCA is supplying breakfast, coffee, tea, and water and every afternoon there will be drinks and snacks. For your convenience these items will be available in the Hospitality Room.
- PTRCA No-host Dinner, 5:30 PM on Sunday, April 7, at Hard Times Café located at 1404 King St in Alexandria. The restaurant is within walking distance, or you can take the Eisenhower Metro to the King Street Metro. You can either go over together or meet at the restaurant. Denise Wetzel will be coordinating the meet up at the hotel lobby (the Holiday Inn on Eisenhower Ave) around 5PM. Patrick Griffis will be at the restaurant at 5PM assisting early arrivers.
- Meet & Greet, 5:00 PM on Monday, April 8, in the Madison building concourse-level atrium (next to our seminar rooms). We've invited a host of people from the USPTO, and this is a fantastic opportunity to talk with them and get their perspective on the patent and trademark systems. And, of course, there will be hors d'oeuvres, a 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake, and the chance to catch up with each other.
- Group dinner, after seminar on Tuesday, April 9. This year, the PTRCP is scheduling a group dinner at the Fish Market, 105 King St. This is a great way to socialize and get to know the folks at the PTRCP and how they can assist you. You can continue to socialize and chat with our colleagues.
- Group dine-arounds, after seminar on Wednesday, April 10. This year, rather than do a formal no-host dinner for the entire group, we've decided to offer smaller group dine-arounds. Restaurant sign-up sheets will be available on the PTRCA table in the Hospitality Room.
- PTRCA Business Meeting, Thursday, April 11, 2:15-3:15 PM. Come hear about PTRCA's work. Current members can vote on the Bylaws.

· PTRCA Lightning Talk Presentations, Thursday, April 11, 3:30-4:30 PM. There will be 6 lightning presentations on various topics related to best practices for patent and trademark librarians, AI, and teaching IP. This is always a great opportunity to go deeper into how our patent and trademark outreach and teaching activities work, and we hope you'll stick around to participate.

With my term ending, I would like to thank the executive council for all of their work this year. This year, that committee included Dave Zwicky (Past President, West Lafayette), Tallie Casucci (Vice President, Salt Lake City), Jim Miller (Treasurer, College Park), Denise Wetzel (Secretary, State College), Suzanne Reinman (Stillwater), Patrick Griffis (Las Vegas), James Bettinger (Cleveland), Stella Mittelbach (Los Angeles) and emeritus, Marian Armour-Gemmen (Morgantown) for her expertise regarding the PTRCA Bylaws and, of course, everyone who served on a committee, attended a conference, or otherwise contributed your time and effort to our organization.

Now has I leave the president position and pass it on to Tallie Casucci. With my resignation from my current position at the library, Missy Murphy has graciously accepted the position as Pass President. I feel it's been a great year, and we proposed several changes that we hope are positive and you will vote yes to amend the Bylaws and accept them.

Beyond the officers and executive committee, I would encourage everyone to volunteer for a PTRCA committee. The time commitment is relatively low and offers many rewards. As a relatively new person to this Association, I felt welcomed. I feel fortunate to have worked with this group of people and have learned so much from them. If that sounds like something you could participate in, then I encourage you to join the PTRCA or renew your membership. And if you have any questions about the PTRCA, please do not hesitate to ask any association member. The PTRCA will have a table at registration and throughout the week.

If you are not a member of the PTRCA, please consider joining this great support group and sign up for the listserv. As a new representative it's a great resource when assisting your patrons in their intellectual journey. If you are on site, see Jim Miller for membership of the association and Denise Wetzel if you would like more information on the PTRCA listserv.

What great community people we get to work with, and I am so grateful for their guidance and support over the past year. It has been a pleasure to serve as the PTRCA's President this last year. Thank you