

PTRCA President's Report 2021-2022

The past year has been a challenging one as we continued into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have all been profoundly affected by it in our health, work, travel, finances, schooling, relationships and social lives. This year has found many of us working remotely or in a hybrid of onsite/remote work. We have all had to find new ways to serve our patrons. I applaud our resiliency and resourcefulness in carrying on during this very difficult time. We can be proud.

This year brought changes to the PTRCA Executive Council. John Schlipp, Highland Heights PTRC representative and Vice President/ President Elect, retired in January 2022. Dave Zwicky, West Lafayette PTRC representative, graciously agreed to serve out the Vice Presidential term and to run for President for the 2022-2023 term. Thank you, Dave. Thank you also, Marian Armour-Gemman (Bylaws Committee Chair) and Leena Lalwani (Election Committee Chair) for advising me during this transition.

In June 2021 we had an Executive Council meeting to discuss the website migration for our PTRCA website and approve an honorarium for our talented PTRCA webmaster, Russ Allen. Our PTRCA website was using Drupal as its web content management system. Support for the Drupal version would end in November 2022, and we had been having issues with it, so the Executive Council voted to switch to WordPress. The transition to WordPress was complete on December 13, 2021. Thank you to Russ Allen and the Publications Committee for their great work on this project. Russ was invaluable in researching and migrating the website to its new web content management system.

2021-2022 also saw the second edition of the *Guide for Best Practices for PTRCs*. The *Guide* was created to “assist PTRCs in providing the highest quality resources and services possible, ‘to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support the diverse intellectual property needs of the public’ and to update and maintain said document for the benefit of future PTRC libraries and representatives.” The *Guide* was updated in January 2022 and includes recommendations from PTRC representatives. Thank you to those reps who contributed suggestions for the second edition. The *Guide for Best Practices for PTRCs* committee includes Stella Mittlebach, Suzanne Reinman, Stephanie Barrett, Ran Raider, Jim Miller, Missy Murphey and me. It was an honor to Chair this committee and I thank them for their hard work in creating and revising the *Guide*. The *Guide* can be found on the PTRCA website at PTRCA.org

This year also saw the debut of the Patent Public Search database on the uspto.gov website. This “new web-based patent search application ... will replace internal legacy search tools PubEast and PubWest and external legacy search tools PatFT and AppFT.” Thank you to the PTRC Program Office for their excellent training webinars to familiarize us with this much anticipated database.

I am proud to announce that we have two Esther Crawford PTRCA Distinguished Service Award winners for 2022. The two recipients will join the previous (and first) winner Jim Miller, College Park PTRC representative, in recognition of their outstanding service to the PTRCA. The names of the two recipients will be announced at the PTRCA Business Meeting on April 7, 2022 and they will each receive an award trophy.

Thank you to our Executive Committee for 2021-2022 for keeping the PTRCA train on its tracks: John Schlipp (Highland Heights) and Dave Zwicky (West Lafayette) Vice President(s), Tallie Casucci (Salt Lake City) Secretary, Jim Miller (College Park) Treasurer, Missy Murphey, (Orlando) Past President, Ran Raider (Dayton) Academic Libraries Representative, Suzanne Reinman (Stillwater) Academic Libraries Representative, Stella Mittelbach (Los Angeles) Public Libraries Representative, and Jim Bettinger, (Cleveland) Public Libraries Representative.

In addition to the PTRCA Committees already mentioned, I want to thank the Conferences Committee, the Databases Committee (Lisha Li Chair), the Membership and Mentoring Committee (Dave Zwicky Chair), and the Program Committee (Missy Murphey Chair) for their service and hard work for the PTRCA. I encourage all PTRCA members to consider serving on a PTRCA committee. Your help is needed. It is very rewarding to be involved.

I also want to express gratitude to the PTRC Program Office for their help, the roundtable presenters for sharing their wisdom, and finally to the PTRCA community at large for their never-failing assistance and support for each other. We truly have an amazing group.

This year we had to say farewell to several PTRC representatives and colleagues:

- Neil Massong - PTRC Program Office Librarian and former PTRC Fellowship Librarian
- Craig Morris - USPTO Managing Attorney for Trademark Outreach
- John Schlipp - Highland Heights PTRC Representative and author of the book *Intellectual Property and Information Rights for Librarians*
- Connie Wu - Piscataway PTRC Representative
- Siu Min Yu - Houston PTRC Representative and former PTRC Fellowship Librarian

Thank you Neil, Craig, John, Siu, and Connie for your service, friendship, and kindness. We will miss you.

I have really enjoyed my year as PTRCA President. Thank you for this amazing opportunity. I especially appreciated the chance to get to know more PTRC representatives and work together with them. I have gained additional appreciation for the wonderful dedication and skills of our community. Thank you all.

Sharyl Overhiser
PTRCA President 2021-2022
Philadelphia PTRC
March 2022