

## AAHSL New and Interim Directors Committee

### Annual Report 2024

Members: Nancy Allee, Renae Barger, Charlotte Beyer, Jessica DeCaro, Nadine Dexter (Board Liaison), Jennifer McKinnell, Melissa Rethlefsen (Chair), Scott Thomson, Philip Walker (Future Leadership Committee Liaison)

The New and Interim Directors Committee met several times to discuss the committee's charge, current initiatives, and ongoing plans for the 2023/4 association year.

#### AAHSL Buddies Program

Fifteen new and interim directors were matched with AAHSL Buddies since October 2023. All other new and interim directors were invited to participate in the program, but did not request a buddy. Philip Walker and Jennifer McKinnell developed a draft document outlining guidelines, tips, and general information about the AAHSL Buddies Program. When approved by the committee in its final form, it will go on the web site.

#### MLA Breakfast

Melissa Rethlefsen and Nadine Dexter hosted 16 new and interim directors for breakfast at MLA 2024 in Portland, Oregon. This gave new and interim directors a chance to get to know one another and talk about issues they are facing at their libraries.

#### New and Interim Directors Symposium

The Chair and Committee worked with M.J. Tooley and others to begin planning for the New and Interim Directors Symposium. The committee reviewed 29 applications for eligibility and offered slots to 21 of the applicants. One applicant did not meet deadlines for final registration, leaving a total of 20 in the cohort for the New and Interim Directors Symposium. The Symposium will take place the morning of November 7. The keynote speaker for the Symposium is Jennifer B. Litchman, MA, Senior Vice President for External Relations, University of Maryland, Baltimore. Regular meetings for the Symposium cohort are also scheduled for the 24/25 association year.

#### New Directors Mailing List

AAHSL set up a New Directors mailing list (AAHSL\_New\_Interim\_Directors@aahsl.memberclicks.net) in March 2024. Two committee members, Renae Barger and Charlotte Beyer, were added to the list. Other new directors will be invited to join. As of October 16, 2024, 35 AAHSL members were on the mailing list.

#### Updated Charge

The committee finalized a draft of an updated charge in September 2024 and submitted it for Board review.

## Identifying New and Interim Directors

The Committee identified challenges surrounding how new and interim directors were identified and tracked within AAHSL's systems (for example, directors changing to new libraries after 10 years as a director elsewhere were not distinguishable from brand new directors). Led by Scott Thomson, the committee met with AAHSL staff to discuss potential solutions that would help both staff and the committee. After discussion, AAHSL staff proposed the following:

1. LinkedIn URL Text Box: We can add a text box attribute to the linked profiles, allowing individuals to share their LinkedIn URL. This can be included in both the membership application and the annual meeting registration form. This would provide access to their career history.
2. Director Change Form: We can create a director change form using Google Forms and launch it in August.
3. Profile Data for Directors: For all future new and interim directors, we can create a second tab in the Google Sheet to store their profile data. We would export their raw profile data and add it to the new tab. We would not be able to go back and extract data for those currently listed on the google sheet. Alternatively, you can look up the individuals for whom you'd like additional information through the online member directory.

The committee approved the recommended steps and thanks the AAHSL staff for all of their help on this process. The new AAHSL Intake / Director form is available:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9YIDJZwNpMJjheo7C36PxowBdKqvG3JCLI5h3YT-2Y9Q\\_jA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9YIDJZwNpMJjheo7C36PxowBdKqvG3JCLI5h3YT-2Y9Q_jA/viewform)

Respectfully submitted by:

Melissa L. Rethlefsen, MSLS, AHIP  
Chair, New and Interim Directors Committee