

Happy 2017!

As we look forward to the New Year, I would like to take a few minutes to look back on the previous 12 months. 2016 was a year of great change for the Chapter, and I want to thank the Board for their hard work and dedication to implement these initiatives. My sincere thanks to our members as well, for your continued willingness to embrace change. Some of the highlights from our “hit parade” include the following:

- Introduction of the HR Specialty Luncheon series, the quarterly Diversity & Inclusion series and the Finance/Operations series
- The reformatting of our EXPO to our innovative Education Conference & Business Partner Symposium
- The Phoenix Leadership Workshop
- Live streaming of all educational content via our Face Book Live page – *thank you Total Networks!*
- A name change to the Arizona Chapter
- The addition of new members located in Tucson, plus the addition of a Tucson Liaison to our Board - *welcome Jo Ann Keckonen!*
- The roll out of our new Ambassador Program as a means to help members stay connected with the Chapter
- An updated website and ramped up social media presence
- Winning our first IDEA Award for the BP Student Intern Program
- Introduction of the weekly Arizona Chapter Happenings
- Increased scholarships including registrations for 19 members to attend the Regional Legal Management Conference in Phoenix this past October, in addition to partially funding another 7 members.
- Recognition of past president and CLM, Joyce Patrick-Bai as Region 6 Volunteer of the Year
- Our first half day Board Retreat capped by a Past Presidents’ Dinner

Wow, the list is quite impressive, so what do we do next?

Looking ahead to 2017, I think it is important to “Dream” big and set goals at both an individual and Chapter level. For me personally, I plan to continue my professional development through involvement with the ALA. Over the next 12 months I hope to build on my mentoring skills facilitating a smooth transition for the new Board. It is very difficult to “let go,” but I am very excited about the individuals moving up starting with President-Elect Sharon Williams. I also plan to seek opportunities to improve my communication skills via writing and public speaking.

For the Chapter, we remain committed to helping you **ELEVATE your performance**. We plan to do this with a continued focus on professional development including the HR/Diversity & Inclusion specialty series, and the Finance/Operations series, plus we have lined up some amazing speakers for our August Symposium and Chapter lunches. Gina Sanfillippo, Lisa Kelly and Dana Marinaro have done a great job of scheduling of our educational programming for 2017. In January we kick off a membership drive that

will focus on recruiting members across the state as well as former members that have lapsed. This initiative is headed up by Valerie Cochlin with assistance from Teri Adam and their committee. In February we plan to introduce a new website platform which will provide a more cohesive social media presence and streamline event registration even further thanks to the foresight and hard work of Sonji Le Blanc. In March we have scheduled our second Arizona Leadership Workshop featuring Judy Hissong.

We will continue to offer both live streaming of educational content, plus recorded content for viewing at your convenience. We are also looking at the development of a Chapter App to make it easier to stay connected with the Chapter. Carrie Valenzuela and Gina have been hard at work on this project and it will be exciting to see what they have in store.

Networking in the form of member to member connections and building relationships between members and business partners will also be a goal. Connectivity to fellow members of the legal community can be a great resource on many different levels.

Bottom line, whatever your personal goals, I encourage you to dream and use the ALA to **ELEVATE your performance**. ALA resources include education, CLM certification, networking and volunteer opportunities which can be a great way to flex your leadership muscle and distinguish yourself from your peers in meaningful ways. My involvement with the Chapter has allowed me to attend many conferences, network with legal professionals across the country and increase my value to my firm. I could not be more grateful for the benefits that have come my way through this journey and encourage each of you to think about what the ALA can offer you.

All our  **DREAMS** can come true,
if we have the courage to pursue them.

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