

ALIA local liaison officer – a dream job for an ALIA addict

Margie Anderson, ALIA local liaison officer (Vic)

I'm pro-ALIA. I believe a leading professional association is essential; for the information industry, for institutions and for individual members. Throughout my career I've been a strong ALIA supporter, giving my time and expertise.

I've been rewarded handsomely for this commitment. In every new job my employers acknowledged part of the reason they chose me was due to my wide knowledge of the industry and broad professional networks. I have my involvement in ALIA to thank for this.

Over the years I've been on countless ALIA Committees. I could take minutes of an ALIA meeting in my sleep. It's been an excellent training ground. I've learnt about leadership, communication, event planning, meeting procedures, and public speaking, to name a few. And I've learnt a lot about ALIA, the organisation and its members.

Although I always believed ALIA National Office did top work, and I marvelled at how volunteer members of Groups pulled off such an array of activities, I knew there were a need for closer ties between ALIA staff and members at a local level.

As a group member I wished for someone who understood the specifics of my situation, my working environment, and could relate that knowledge back to National Office. Many times I wanted to tap into someone who could help me find the right person to talk to at ALIA National Office, or could recommend a person or organisation locally to help me put together an ALIA event. Whenever the Board asked for feedback about

the structure of ALIA my suggestion was always 'we need someone locally to represent ALIA members on the ground'.

When ALIA established Local Liaison Officers (LLOs), I jumped at the chance to be involved. Not only did I get to see the idea of an ALIA staffer at a local level come to fruition, but also I got to fill that position myself. As LLO for Victoria I'm working with the members here to make sure they get the support and services they need from their professional association. Located in Melbourne, I can attend Group events to meet with members face to face.

LLOs and the membership team at National Office are working together to plan a range of services that will make the roles played by volunteers in Groups easier and more productive. We especially want to ensure that expertise and experience is shared from Group to Group, member to member.

ALIA is looking for local liaison officers to work in WA, SA, NT and NSW. If you're like me and think a flexible role, several hours per week, working for your fellow information professionals, is your dream job, give Georgina Dale a call at National Office. Or drop her an e-mail georgina.dale@alia.org.au to find out more about joining the LLO team. ■



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