

Memo

From: Allen
Date: May 6, 2021
Re: FOLA - Report from the Central South for the FOLA Plenary May 13, 2021

The presidents of Central South met recently to discuss ongoing issues of concern.

Of importance, Karen Shedden is now president of the Lincoln County Law Association. Milena Protich has assumed the presidency of the Kitchener-Waterloo Law Association.

During this meeting most of the concerns surrounded library funding. A report was given on the steps that FOLA and others are taking to advocate on this issue before the Law Society.

There was also a healthy discussion about whether and to what extent paralegals should be offered access to the libraries in exchange for payments of library dues as part of their Law Society fees. As well, a number of the Associations are undertaking study on whether paralegals should be admitted as members of their Associations. To date Kitchener-Waterloo has made paralegals full members of the Association as long as they are licencees of the Law Society and of course pay the necessary dues. One paralegal is on the Board of Directors for the Association. Several other Associations are debating this issue at their board level and I will continue to keep FOLA advised as I become aware of the positions taken by each Association. Regardless of each Associations position with respect to paralegal membership, all of the Associations agreed that access to the library should be provided so long as paralegals pay the library levy.

The only other matter discussed during our most recent meeting was a concern expressed by the fact that the recent Covid lockdown had forced the Judiciary to completely shut down all but emergency operations. This is obviously creating extreme difficulty for those members who are involved in litigation practices.

This completes my report on behalf of the presidents of Central South.

End of memo.
/ph