



# American Lands Access Association, Inc.

[www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)

Volume 11 Issue 1

January - March 2019

## **Shirley Leeson, ALAA President**

president@amlands.org

### **ALAA HAS BEEN ON "PAUSE"**

Let me explain this extraordinary chain of events.....

The ALAA presidency has been vacant for over a year. This because Doug True the previous ALAA president was also coming up on taking the reins of the AFMS presidency and Doug had a lot on his plate. He asked to be replaced, but NO ONE STEPPED FORWARD, so the position was left vacant. Think about your own situation. In the local clubs, in the regional federations and even at the AFMS level, it is hard to find someone who is willing to take a position these days.

So ALAA limped along with a skeleton crew keeping it together, but with no clear purpose or goal. ALAA officers and directors met at the annual meeting in Quartzsite in January. At that meeting we made two important decisions, I would take the ALAA presidency and Hidemi Kira would take the Vice Presidency. A change of the Vice presidency was due to Lauren Williams wanting to do other things and take a different direction and his wishes were accommodated. ALL other officers were confirmed and we started polling the directors who were unable to attend as to their continued interest in ALAA. We found that Doc Bob Carlson of Los Alamos, New Mexico asked to be replaced because of major health reasons and his request is accepted, with regret.

We need to find new directors for the three positions left open by Hidemi and I taking on officer jobs and the replacement of Doc Bob Carlson. I can tell you one of those chosen is Jennifer Haley, the recent president of CFMS. Jennifer comes to us as a thoroughly seasoned officer and eager to participate in keeping our public lands open to multi-use. We are working on coming up with two more directors very soon.

All this being said, we are off and running..... all of us committed to working hard within each regional federation to inform our 'recreational rockhounds' what is going on and what can be done to get our message out.

BUT, we can't do it without you. When you join ALAA we are asking a commitment from you to make yourself aware of what is going on around you. In your county, in your state and in your region. Are you personally, or your club still going on field trips? Do these include forest, grasslands or BLM lands? Do you know the management plans for these areas? What have you encountered when field tripping?

We are going to address these issues with an OPEN FORUM at the convention/show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in March. Our meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 22nd at the Host Hotel, the Ramada Inn 2pm in the Milano Room. Please come and make your concerns know to us, we will be there listening.

I can only hope you read this entire message all the way to the end. But it doesn't end here, we are on an upward movement....please be part of it. We NEED YOU.

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# News from Utah

**Jack Johnston**

jack.johnston@amlands.org

This is the only way the country can be saved and returned to Constitutional principles. Congressional Reform Act of 2017 1. No Tenure / No Pension. A Congressman/woman collects a salary while in office and receives no pay when they're out of office. And, no more perks go with them. 2. Congress (past, present, & future) participates in Social Security. All funds in the Congressional retirement fund move to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security system, and Congress participates with the American people. It may not be used for any other purpose. 3. Congress must purchase their own retirement plan, just as ALL Americans do. 4. Congress will no longer vote themselves a pay raise. Congressional pay will rise by the lower of CPI or 3%. 5. Congress loses their current health care system and participates in the same health care system as the American people. 6. Congress must equally abide by all laws they impose on the American people (i.e. NO MORE INSIDER TRADING!!!). 7. All contracts with past and present Congressmen/women are void. The American people did not make this contract with Congressmen/women. Congress made all these contracts by and for themselves. Serving in Congress is an honor and privilege NOT a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators should serve their term(s), then go home and go back to work ... not get all kinds of freebies.

Excuse the political pontification but we are having Public Lands taken away where we do most of our collecting and if we do not solve the systemic problem with the government it will continue.

This is an anti-access group response.

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900054400/group-says-oil-and-gas-leases-will-ruin-ancient-cultural-artifacts-in-Utaha>

There are protected sites all over the U S. Also look at all the so called Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas around the western states. Wilderness Study Areas have not been legitimized in over 20 years so they should be put back as Public Land. All these people are trying to do is make a living on the backs of the old, young, and handicapped by excluding them from the areas.

This is how the State is reacting.

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900054948/federal-designations-bill-stirs-controversy-in-utah.html>

This is a perfect subject for Amy Joy O'Donohue to do some investigative reporting about Public Lands, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and where the money goes. A good example is the Omnibus bill S 47 in Emery County. Why did SUWA dislike the bill and now they are for it? Why did some four-wheelers like the bill then they were against it and now they say it is ok maybe? Who gains money from the latest version of the bill? Is this another mistake by Curtis and Hatch like the one Bob Bennett made in Washington County that got him voted out of office? I also agree with Mr. Grayeyes " The local people need to make decisions impacting their surroundings and land.

***Continued on page 3.....***

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S.47 - Natural Resources Management Act 116th Congress (2019-2020)  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/47>

Sponsor:

Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK] (Introduced 01/08/2019)

Latest Action:

Senate - 02/07/2019 Cloture motion on the measure presented in Senate. (All Actions)

Roll Call Votes:

There have been 3 roll call votes

We thought this was going to be passed Tuesday February 5 over the objections of many in Utah because it made WSA's into Wilderness, closed about 60 additional miles of roads and infringed on Emery county. So far it has not passed the senate and has had 3 roll call votes hopefully because of the many calls made by Utahns. Many thought it would pass easily because SUWA got all of these changes and it was a sacrifice of Utah lands to get something for Colorado. **Last Minute Update 2-12-2016** (Below)

UAR Four Wheeler and Rockhounds: Basically, this means that Arndt, Rubio, and Lee have been running a filibuster on S 47 that has delayed the bill from being voted on from 2/5 until now 2/12. If they get 59 for and 34 against, the Senate would not be able to override a President Trump veto. It is the only thing we can hope for now.

American Lands Access Association

California Director

**Jennifer Haley**

[jennifer.haley@amlands.org](mailto:jennifer.haley@amlands.org)

Last year as the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies president, I was very involved with ALAA concerning the issues that involve our hobby's collecting sites. In years prior, I have stayed involved with issues concerning the states of California and Nevada. All along the way, the American Lands Access Association has been a steady and reliable friend to lean on. I do not know what our societies across the country would do without them.

Preserving the future for Recreational Rockhounding is near and dear to my heart. I fell in love with the hobby and the people, as I walked through the door of the first rock and gem club meeting I attended. You all know as rock, gem, mineral, fossil and geology clubs, we have something very special going on.

Every Federation could use the involvement and support of each other. The potential closure to any collecting site, actually threatens the closure of that site to every society and individual, who is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the public who will become our future club members.

We have a bright and beautiful future ahead of us, full of fun, with the enjoyment of sharing and teaching to others what made us fall in love with the hobby.

We have a future to fulfill for our hobby. Let's stay involved as societies and people working together to accomplish that goal.

# Idaho News

Lauren Williams

ALAA - Vive President 2018

Greater Sage-Grouse Plan

December 18, 2018

Idaho Falls, Idaho

U.S. Forest Service Office

John Shivik conducted the meeting

The affected plans by this office in Ogden, Utah, occur within the states of Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming and Utah. Other States, wait for it, wait for it, it's coming to your state.

About 30 people attended this meeting, 3 or 5 of them have large ranches in the Island Park area so these processes are something that they are going to have to live with. Island Park is the area that adjoins the west side of Yellowstone park and goes west to I-15.

The Forest Service is requesting comments on specific Items, areas, no big general areas or big general ideas. The Forest Service goal is BALANCE. Consistency over all but flexibility for local circumstances. To become consistent across all States.

The Forest Service has no restriction on private land, however, what you do on your private land could become a Forest Service issue. The Forest Service issue is HABITAT. So be careful and ask before removing brush and doing other minor land work on your land. Doing first and then asking for forgiveness may work but the forgiveness will have healthy fines. Be able to show exactly on a map where you want to work. GPS is really not considered a reliable system.

The Forest Service has to coordinate with a lot of different agencies. Considering the checker board land ownership in the west such as BLM, private land, school districts, railroad, etc.

In any exchange of land with the Forest Service, size is of secondary importance, the size of Habitat is of primary importance. The Forest Service is not allowed to lose the size of Habitat.

The STATE manages the birds and animals, in this case, Sage-Grouse. No mention was made about natural predators of the Sage-Grouse.

Grazing was mentioned, about doing away with the 7" and 4" length that grass needed to be, because each area has its own specific area and has its own criteria.

The Intended Schedule is; Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) published in October 2018, comment period ends January 3, 2019. Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Decision late February 2019. Objection Period, commentators can formally object to the draft decision until late April 2019. Final Record of Decision (ROD) should be signed by July 2019.

# QUARTZSITE 2019

## Rockhound Clean Up at Dome Rock Road



Rockhounds collect twelve large bags of trash and a truck tire from the area around Dome Rock Road. We leave them attached to sign poles for BLM pick up.



The Rockhound Community was well represented by representatives from the Northwest Federation, Rocky Mountain Federation and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Again, this year, the BLM was unable to help with the clean up. We look forward for our BLM Partners participation next year. ALAA Thanks all of the Recreational Rockhound support who made this another Success!



# Amy Granat

ALAA Director - California OHV

## The Rockhounds I Know

The rockhounds I know are brave, forthright, and always ready to fight for a good cause. The rockhounds I know have fought some tough battles over land use, and prevailed! The rockhounds I know have caused a powerful Senator's staff to call in dismay, asking if there was anything I can do to stop their emails and phone calls. I just chuckled. The rockhounds I know have the Bureau of Land Management referring to them in conversations with awe and respect.

Simply put, the rockhounds I've come to know and love are people who are willing to stand up to authority and fight for their access to public land. As a group, American Land Access Association has come to mean much more, and stand for much more, than the small group of individuals who are involved might have you believe. Speaking personally, I depend on ALAA to help with me fight access battles, and your participation means more than I can say. The fact that I can trust a rockhound to be true to his or her word is amazing in itself, but the vast amount of knowledge rockhounds bring to the table can't be underestimated.

This is why I am honored to serve on the board of ALAA and to help the rockhound community in whatever way I can. Many people, such as myself, turn to advocacy later in life when the pressures of family life lessen. We look at the younger generations who are busy with kids and jobs, and perhaps mourn the time when we had that much energy! But we can put our energy into another area - saving our access to public land for the generations that come behind us. Because what we lose now will never be reopened.

Those other generations may never convey their thanks and appreciation, so I am conveying the message in my own way to all of you. Thanks for the hard work it takes to keep ALAA going. Thanks for serving on the Board of Directors, and most of all thanks for understanding how important rockhounds stand in the access community. Your voices are too important to be silenced by inaction, so each one of you must persevere and find others to continue the amazing legacy of ALAA. I stand ready to help and assist in any way I can.

## National Park Service Announces 2019 Fee Free Days

The five entrance fee-free days for 2019 will be:

Monday, January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Saturday, April 20 – First Day of National Park Week/National Junior Ranger Day

Sunday, August 25 – National Park Service Anniversary

Saturday, September 28 – National Public Lands Day

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/11-19-2018-fee-free-days.htm>

# Letter to Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon

Lenora Smith - Oregon State ALAA Representative  
lorna.smith@amlands.org

January 8, 2019

Senator Ron Wyden,

I understand that you are pushing for more Wilderness Areas (hundreds of thousands of acres) in Western Oregon including more Wild and Scenic Feeder Streams of the Molalla & Rogue Rivers! Wilderness Areas have proven to be a waste of our timber over and over! There are no roads, no use of the timber, and no way to fight the fires that keep destroying our forests!! This is a terrific loss of jobs, money for the schools in the area, and loss of lumber for the building industry (and they have to import lumber from Canada and other foreign countries!). Wilderness Areas also shut the forests to all of us, because there are no longer any roads! Then there are local communities who have traditionally used some of the water such as in some of the dryer communities. That is no longer available to them, BECAUSE OF THE WILDERNESS AREA, which means they have to have deeper wells for summer usage.

Also there should be no Wilderness Areas next to private property, such as the CROOKED RIVER RANCH. The Juniper trees next to this Ranch will absolutely explode if fire ever spreads thru them. This is a so called Wilderness Study Area that has been there with no change for several years! All they have asked is that they remove some of the trees next to the Ranch Area that would spread thru the grass and weed areas onto their inhabited Areas!! I have seen these fires spreading like the wild fire they are, in the Warm Springs and Madras Areas along the highways! I have already sent you an email, but I hear that you continue to push for these Wilderness Areas! Extremely Disappointing!! AND HORRIBLE for the neighborhoods when there are FIRES!!! BESIDES THE LOSS OF USE OF THE PUBLIC LAND for MOST PEOPLE !!!

I am feeling that you are listening to the Rich Environmental Groups that continue to push for more and more Wilderness and Wild River Areas, which totally cuts these areas off to the average person, unless you are able to hike for miles and miles on foot! I assume their money is much more important to you than the people who have had jobs and schools that were helped with the money from the lumber industry on OUR PUBLIC LANDS! We need Forests that are maintained and used for what they WERE INTENDED, jobs, money for schools, building industry, hunting, and recreation!! In the 1990's and earlier we did not have these horrible fires as there were roads, maintenance and harvest!!!

Sincerely,

Lenora F. Smith RN retired, and lover of Oregon's PUBLIC LANDS FOR PUBLIC USE!!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the NEWSLETTER are DUE to the Editor by the  
**10th of January - 10th of April - 10th of July - 10th of October**

For inclusion in each Quarterly Newsletter

Please send articles to: **editor@amlands.org**

Please send articles in plain text, MS Word (.doc)

Pictures in jpg format at not less than 96 dpi or more than 200 dpi.

***Please do not send articles in PDF format.***

**Concerns or questions on article format please contact the editor at  
editor@amlands.org**

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Provided, Credits and Citations are Maintained.

# Please Join the ALAA

Hidemi Kira, ALAA Vice President 2019  
hidemi.kira@amlands.org

At the **American Lands Access Association (ALAA)** Board Meeting in Quartzsite, AZ in January, Shirley Leeson was elected to be the President of the ALAA again after serving few years as the Director. I am very glad Shirley has come back to be the President. I was elected to be the Vice President replacing Lauren Williams. I thank Lauren very much for all the work he has done especially when the President position was vacant.

Here is a little story of how I got involved in the ALAA. I have always been concerned about the public land closures for recreational rockhounding after entering the world of "Rockhounding" with my wife Tomoko in 2002. Right after we joined a local club, we have heard many stories from the old club members that many public rockhounding sites have been closed and no longer available for collecting rocks. We thought it was sad and regretted that we started this hobby too late and didn't think much about ways to prevent the closures. Then one year when we went to Quartzsite, there was an ALAA Public meeting and decided to see what it is all about. Then President Shirley was there and there were a huge number of people including the Off Road people gathering at a church and we had to stand in the far back. From that point we woke up and started to attend the ALAA meetings as much as we can. I have been serving as a Director for these several years and attended the meetings whenever I was able to do so and attended the BLM/ALAA Clean Up of the public lands from the 2nd Clean Up. When I served as an officer for the NFMS, I was trying to increase the NFMS members in order to increase the volume of the voice to be heard for protecting the public land hopefully working together with the ALAA.

I was concerned that the numbers of attendance to the ALAA meetings and Clean Ups for the public lands were decreasing in these few years, but I am sure it will get strong again with help of all the rockhounds in the country. If you have not renewed your ALAA membership or have not been a member, please consider joining. There are memberships for Clubs or Societies (Annual Dues \$50) and for the Individual or Couple (Annual Dues \$25).

Please visit [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) to find the Application Form on the left "Membership" under the "Home". You will find the Interactive Membership Form (PDF) and the instructions.

The voices to protect our rights for recreational rockhounding in public lands will be louder and will be more heard with more members!

## **AFMS/MWF 2019 Annual Convention & Show**

Cedar Rapids, IA  
*March 21-24, 2019*

Information, Schedule, Registration, Flyer, etc.

The Show is held at Hawkeye Downs ~ 4400 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404



## Letter to the US Navy on the Fallon Range Training Complex



Shirley Leeson, 2019 President  
American Lands Access Association  
P.O. Box 54398  
San Jose, CA 95154

February 7, 2019

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest  
Code EV21.SG  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92123

Attn: Sara Goodwin – EIS Manager

Re: Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization

Dear Ms. Goodwin

I have been advised by the Reno Gem & Mineral Society, and the Mason Valley Gem & Mineral Club has notified me, as well as some off road organizations that you will be closing large tracts of public lands to expand your Naval Training Range. Our organization represents recreational rockhounds throughout the US and we're concerned with the closing of areas where rockhounds have collected for many years. The B-17 is our prime interest, but there are at least fourteen other areas we would like to discuss with you. Al Bolshazy of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society, will be speaking to the Fallon Base Public Affairs Officer regarding this issue.

Over the years many military bases have had recreation centers where rockhound equipment was available to personnel on the base, perhaps on one time there was rockhound equipment at the Fallon Naval facilities.

Veteran Rockhounds were at their strongest right after WWII and into the 1970s, I lived, at that time in San Diego and the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society in Spanish Village, Balboa Park was a magnet for veterans coming home. They brought their skills from their combat days and also the tragic memories of horrible experiences witnessed during the war. At that time many suffered from what is now called PTSD, but it wasn't diagnosed in those days. Many veteran/rockhounds sought the solace of the desert in Southern California and the comfort of family and friends around a campfire and a day searching for rocks to take back to the Society and cut and polish and share. This also happened after the other wars our military friends experienced and throughout our beautiful country rockhounds went to the public lands of the west searching for rocks and creating a valuable experience for themselves and others out in those remote areas. Rockhounding, I believe, is a state of mind. It allows us, for a few hours, a day or longer to forget all the trials and tribulations of life in the real world.

We are asking you to allow rockhounds to enter B17 when it is not being used for training exercises. We are asking you to consider allowing rockhounding to use the area at the south end of the Slate Mountain range GPS: N39 degrees 5.80 – W118 degrees 15.14. To consider letting us into the area in late Spring and then again in late Autumn when the desert is cool. This is an area of special impact to rockhounds and we are willing to negotiate the other areas if we can just continue the use in this particular area.

We understand that hunting would be allowed in B17, so would you please consider our request for collecting rocks in that area.

Respectfully

*Shirley Leeson*

2019 ALAA President

**American Lands Access Association**, a 501(c)(4) Non Profit Organization  
ALAA is the separate arm of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Our goal: To keep Public Lands Multi-Purpose

## **News from California that may affect Recreational Rockhounding**

S. 67: California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2019  
Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein [D-CA]

H.R. 376: California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2019  
Sponsor: Rep. Paul Cook [R-CA8]

H.R. 255: Big Bear Land Exchange Act  
Sponsor: Rep. Paul Cook [R-CA8]

H.R. 403: Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act  
Sponsor: Rep. Jimmy Panetta [D-CA20]

S. 129: Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act  
Sponsor: Sen. Kamala Harris [D-CA]

H.R. 572: Restoring Access to Public Lands Act  
Sponsor: Rep. Doug LaMalfa [R-CA1]

H.R. 245: Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2019  
Sponsor: Rep. Glenn Thompson [R-PA15]

H.R. 253: Nevada Lands Bill Technical Corrections Act of 2019  
Sponsor: Rep. Mark Amodei [R-NV2]

S. 308: A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal lands in San Bernardino County, California, to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and to accept in return certain non-Federal lands, and for other purposes  
Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein [D-CA]

If you need to see more, and you should! Just [Click here](#) to see the Public Lands Use bills introduced since January 1, 2019

### **Lauren Williams ALAA Vice President 2018**

ALAA has a problem and you are it. --- Doug True resigned to be AFMS President, so we need a ALAA President. My elected term as vice-president ends November 1, 2019; I will not run again, so ALAA also needs a new Vice-President. At my club meeting after explaining what is happening to another club member, he said, you have the same people just roaming around from one position to the next. I agree with that statement. This leads to the problem of we do not get any new people into the system, with new fresh ideas. We need one or two of you to step up and volunteer for the position of President and Vice-President. The job is not hard. You just have to write an article or two twice a year. There are plenty of people who will help you. Our Executive Board meeting is in Quartzsite in the middle of January and our Annual Meeting is wherever the AFMS has their Show and Convention; this year it is in the middle of March at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And oh yes, to digress from this subject.

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation needs a new President for the same reason sited above. I am 78 years old and I would like to have a couple of years for my bucket list. My biggest fear is dying at some rest stop in the middle of Nebraska.



# AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

## NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION**

Must be postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year

Member / Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Member / Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different from above) City State Zip Code

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Secondary

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are: New Member:   Donation:    
 \$25 for an individual or couple Renewal:   Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$50 for a Club or Society

Leave a note for us:

Please check an option to subscribe to our Email   or Snail Mail   list.

Please make checks payable to: American Lands Access Association (ALAA)

Please mail this completed form along with your check to the following address:

**American Lands Access Association**  
**C/O Membership Chairman**  
**P.O. Box 54398**  
**San Jose, CA 95154**

For more information or questions, please email: [membership@amlands.org](mailto:membership@amlands.org)

ALAA is a grassroots 501(c)(4) Educational, non-profit organization. Our organization is present wherever there are hobbyists and recreational users of public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level.

ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2016

***Click on the above Membership Form to use the interactive Form  
 (Fillable when opened in Adobe Accrobat Reader)***

ALAA Editor  
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## Be an Involved Rockhound

Dick Pankey, an Involved Member

If you are reading this ALAA Newsletter you are among a select group of people. A group of individuals that has chosen to be informed and involved with the issues affecting the future and use of our Public Lands. Although there are approximately 49,000 members in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies many (most?) don't know what ALAA is or does. It is crucial for the future of rockhounding and our use of and access to our Public Lands that they do learn about ALAA. The challenge to us, the "select group", is to inform, and advocate for what we now know and accept as obvious to the un-informed. un-familiar and apathetic. We as members should take any opportunity to talk about ALAA. No need for us to leave it just to the officers and leaders of ALAA.

Start with your own society; as an individual member or as the contact person for your society membership introduce and explain ALAA to your membership with short talks at your meetings and newsletter notes. Your task is to make ALAA more than 4 letters. Present ALAA as the advocate for rockhounds and for use and access to our Public Lands. Your ultimate objective is to involve your members with the work of ALAA, as a participant not only as an observer.

To be an affective entity ALAA needs informed, participating, and enthusiastic members with a vision for our future.