

**A Report from ALA Annual Conference 2004
Orlando, FL**

ALA-APA:

The new organization continues to organize itself. The tax exempt status, 501(c)(6) has been approved. They are continuing to look for donations. The electronic magazine that they have been producing will require subscription beginning in June (\$35 per year). A movie on library work and pay has been created. It is 10 minutes long and documents what librarians do along with some information on librarian/library worker pay in relation to other professions. Due to the speed with which it was produced, however, it focuses on libraries in the northeast, and no rural librarians were depicted. One copy would be useful for ILA. There will be several programs at Annual 2005 on unions, outsourcing, etc.

ALA:

Rural and Tribal Libraries Task Force: This task force was appointed last year, and this was their report. They requested \$40,000 to help advocate for rural libraries, a request that was referred to the Budget committee (BARC) for impact. There were many who spoke eloquently about the needs of rural and tribal libraries. One of the requests of the TF was that the dues structure be reexamined in light of the low salaries of rural librarians, many of whom do not have MLS degrees. It was pointed out that the membership committee is currently examining the dues structure with the idea of changing to a structure based on salary. Many urban librarians also suffer with low salaries, so a general policy based on salaries, instead of title or type, seems to be the best way to go. The problem is that changing the dues structure will take some time and has to be evaluated for budgetary impact. Therefore, I hope that we will see some movement on the dues structure in the next two years.

Core Values: The core values TFII extracted values from existing ALA documents to come up with a list of values. The “words” are informed by quotations from relevant documents. The list was passed by council, but may need to be cleaned up.

Treasurer’s report: things aren’t looking as bad as they were. There is talk of increasing the dues and conference registration fees.

Library School Closings. Clarke-Atlanta is closing, and a group is working to challenge the closure and/or come up with some way of continuing library education in GA, particularly for minorities (since C-A is an HBCU).

Intellectual Freedom Committee: This group reported that the Supreme Court has once again refused to remove the injunction against the Children’s Onlinet Protection Act (COPA, the precursor to CIPA). Thus, the issue is sent back to the lower court again. In addition, many IF policies are under revision, but most of the revisions are grammatical and for consistency. The Privacy Handbook is now on the web.

Membership Committee: Still trying to figure out a way to get a quorum to a membership meeting. Decided to lower the quorum size to 75 members.

Sponsorships: There has been concern expressed regarding ALA working with Walgreens to provide pamphlets in public libraries on the new Medicare benefits. The information is on a free brochure that has ALA's and Walgreens' logos printed on the back. The question was how such relationships are solicited and approved.

Strategic Planning ALA is engaging in a strategic planning exercise, so two meetings were given to discussing strategic directions for the organization.

Resolutions: These are the issues brought to Council independently of the committees. Some are quite important; some have less relevance to libraries. These are usually at the end of Council III and we do not get to many of them.

Passed:

Resolution against the use of torture as a violation of our basic values as librarians

As usual, I have additional information if any are interested. The ALA website also archives many of these materials.

Respectfully submitted,

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