

ALA Council Notes
Midwinter Meeting 2010 – Boston, MA

Nominating Committee

- In presenting the slate of candidates for Councilors At Large, the nominating committee attempted to draw candidates from Movers & Shakers and Emerging Leaders lists to represent new voices on ALA Council. They feel the result is a balanced list of candidates that represent new leaders, experienced leaders, and geographic diversity.
- The 2010 ALA Candidates for President-Elect are Sara Kelly Johns (Library Media Specialist, Lake Placid Middle/High School, Lake Placid, NY) and Molly Raphael (Director of Libraries, Retired, Multnomah county Library, Portland, OR).

ALA President's Report – Camila Alire

- Advocacy of the Front Lines: This new initiative will encourage and train librarians and library staff to seize opportunities to promote the diverse professionals, resource and services of public, school, academic and special libraries. More information at <http://www.ala.org/frontlineadvocacy>.

President-Elect Report – Roberta Stevens

- Frontline Fundraising Initiative
 - Recognizes the fact that we have users that come in frequently to the library with which staff have developed relationship.
 - Will include a focus on planned giving.
 - Will bring a speaker to the Annual Conference that addresses what individuals are considering when making a decision of contributing funds
- Our Authors, Our Libraries
 - Take 10-12 authors per year and develop them as our advocates.
 - Using multi-media and in-person to help them share.
 - Will include a toolkit for cultivating your local notables.
- Why I Need My Library
 - Contest for kids to create a video. Prizes will be earmarked by them to go to their local public or school library. The intent is to create a cadre of younger library advocates.

Executive Director's Report – Keith Michael Fiels

- Have had a slight decrease in membership, but it has been exacerbated by a very good thing. The membership database had many errors and duplicate records that have accumulated over a number of years have been removed from the database. Current membership stands at 61,739.
 - Have seen a large growth in support staff and student membership.
- Library Support Staff Certification Program is being rolled out.
- Received a 250,000 grant from Dollar General called The American Dream Starts At Your Library. It is designed to reach out literacy services for people serviced by public library.

- Capwiz has been made available for the past couple of years to ALA Chapters so they can use it for local advocacy efforts. It has proven very effective by a couple states where library services were threatened due to fiscal cuts.
- ALA Staff has taken two very big steps
 - Audio recordings of ALA Council sessions will now be made available online.
 - Reference File (a historical file that documents the changes in ALA policies) used to reside at the ALA Headquarters office in paper form. The staff has now completed the process of digitizing the reference file.

Resolution Declaring and Promoting 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research.

- Be it Resolved that
 - The ALA acknowledges the importance of outstanding research in the area of cataloging and metadata and declares 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research, and
 - The ALA promotes 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research throughout the association, among professors of library and information studies and to other library associations.
- Resolution passed.

Freedom to Read Foundation

- ALA hired a new FTRF Executive Director. Barbara Jones brings a rich background in library administration, scholarship and intellectual freedom advocacy to the position.

Resolution in Support of National Health Care.

- Resolved that:
 - The ALA strongly urges the US Congress to include a public option or “Medicare for All” provision in the current legislations, and
 - The ALA Executive Director charges the ALA Washington Office to vigorously lobby Congress in support of this position
- Discussion:
 - Whereas clauses do not identify the link to libraries clearly enough
 - Yes, it is important, but we need to be clear
 - It’s calling for an action by Congress when the current bills have already passed the House and Senate and neither included the public option. At this point joint committees are working to merge the Senate and House bills and since those didn’t include public option, it’s a futile effort. ALA risks looking very ignorant of the process.
 - Suggestion to refer the resolution to Committee on Legislation so they can review it and make a recommendation. The motion to do that was defeated, so Council continued to consider the resolution.
 - Upon vote, Council voted to NOT pass the resolution.

Resolution on Transparency and Openness in the Federal Government.

- Resolved that the ALA
 - Commend the President of the United States and the Office of Management and Budget for improving the federal government’s policies and capabilities for

making government information available to the American public in an open, timely, participator and transparent manner.

- Calls upon the Obama Administration to support federal agencies providing services already in place that assist the public in their access and use of government information, including federal agency libraries, the Government Printing Office, the National Technical Information Service, and the General Services Administration's Office of Citizen Services
- Send copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, peter Orszag, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties.
- Resolution Passed

Resolution to Support Digital Information Initiatives at the U.S. Government Printing Office

- Resolved that the ALA
 - Work to ensure that the government fulfills its obligations to create, authenticate, collect, disseminate, and preserve government information,
 - Thank GPO for the work that has been done in FDSys development and urges that GPO demonstrate its capacity to ingest both access and preservation copies of digitally born and digitized historic collections into FDSys,
 - Urges GPO to establish partnerships to conduct demonstration projects for systematic gathering and accessing digitally born content.
 - Urges GPO to establish partnerships to conduct demonstration projects for creating and accessing digitized historic collections.
 - Urges congress to reaffirm no-fee public access to, dissemination of, and preservation of authentic government information by providing sufficient and sustained funding to the GPO to support Cataloging and Indexing, and the Federal Depository Library Program for systematic gathering of digitally born and digitized historic collections,
 - Urges Congress to provide sufficient and sustained funding to the GPO to support FDSys
- Resolution Passed

Resolution on Universal Access to Broadband

- Resolved that the ALA
 - Urges federal, state and local governments to recognize that universal access to broadband is essential to support the basic right of unfettered access to information in order for the public to participate in the digital world and the global information economy, and
 - Asks that federal, state and local governments, as well as the public, supports libraries as essential providers of broadband access for the communities across America.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report

- The Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc. submitted an application for affiliate status of ALA. The policy addressing affiliate members states that those affiliates be;
 - Not for profit
 - Have interest consistent with those of Ala

- Have sufficiently large membership and length of existence to ensure continued support under constitutions and bylaws not in conflict with ALA and its policies, and
- Do not discriminate in membership on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, disabilities or national origin.
- Because ALA has a strict policy of non-discrimination, the Committee recommended that
 - The ALA Council approve affiliate status for the Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc. contingent upon the receipt by the Executive Board of an affirmation by the Association of Jewish libraries, Inc. that sexual orientation is explicitly included in its non-discrimination policy.
 - Council approved the recommendation.

International Relations Committee Report

- 80 international colleagues from 15 countries participation in the ALA MidWinter meeting.
- There are currently over 1,800 ALA members located in 100 countries

Resolution on Rebuilding Libraries and Archives Damaged or Destroyed by the Earthquake in Haiti

- Resolved that the ALA
 - Express its deepest sympathy to the National Library and archives and the library community in Haiti,
 - Work in coordination with other U.S. Association, IFLA and its members, and UNESCO on the international response to this disaster,
 - Publicize and provide information to the international library community and the public on the importance of rebuilding damaged libraries and their collections,
 - Publicize and provide information on how and where the library community and the public can contribute to these rebuilding efforts,
 - Urge the U.S. Government and other Non Government Organization (NGOs) to provide funding for the reconstruction and rebuilding of libraries and other cultural institutions in Haiti,
 - Act as a conduit for the receipt of funds to assist in the rebuilding of libraries in Haiti.
 - Urge libraries to provide up-to-date information and social and communication services available in the communities for the Haitian diaspora and links to donation and other relief services.
- Resolution Passed

Committee on Organization Report

- Recommending the adoption of the revised ALA Leadership Development (Intern) Guidelines
 - Concern that interns can be appointed as such only if they have never served on another committee before, but this creates a barrier as one moves from New Members Round Table (for example) to other areas of ALA

- Concern that interns are at meetings to take minutes, but do not participate or vote as a member even though they are full members of ALA with equal status to the other members of the committee
- Suggestion that maybe this needs more consideration and further review.
- Are the guidelines more exclusive than inclusive?
- Is the limitation of one year as an intern to limiting?
- Council decided to refer the issue back to the committee that originally created it to request a more thorough review and a report back at the Annual Conference 2010.

ALA Conference Event Planner

- There have been many complaints about the Event Planner with regard to difficulty of use, inability to identify meetings, inconsistency in categorizing meetings, and more.
- ALA staff has a plan with 11 components that addresses improvements to the planner.
- The planner is a priority for staff.
- The ALA Librarian will work on standardization of the content
- Executive Board will survey for feedback from members
- The full report regarding the Event Planner will be presented to the ALA Executive Board and shared with Council.
- Changes should be in place by April, in time for 2010.
- Elimination of the print program has been discussed, but it is not time to really address that until an alternative is running consistently.

Resolution in Support of 2010 Spectrum Presidential Initiative

- Resolved that the Council fully supports the 2010 Spectrum Presidential Initiative to raise \$1 million and urges ALA units and members to donate or pledge their financial contributions to the campaign at the highest amount possible.
- Resolution passed

Memorial Resolutions were passed honoring:

- Sir John Clifford Mortimer
- Mary Alice Hunt
- J. Michael Rothacker
- Ken Davenport
- Sallie Farrell
- Eliza Atkins gleason
- Effie Lee Moris
- James “Jim” Raymond Przepasniak
- Walter Reandeau
- Judith Serebnick
- John Charles Fox

Tributes were passed honoring:

- Jeanne Sugg
- Sonia Sotomayer

Final ALA Midwinter Registration was 11,095 participants