

**Idaho Chapter Councilor Report from the
ALA Council Meetings – ALA Annual Conference
June 2010 – Washington, DC**

Endowment Fund: ALA's long term investment fund.

- For the 5 months ending 5/31/2010, the fund had a positive return of 1.1%
- Current up over last year, just barely; but still down from the 2007 high.

Treasurer's Report

- ALA has its financial strengths
 - Each dues dollar is matched by more than a dollar in revenue generated by conferences, publishing, and grants.
 - As a result, we can accomplish much more than we could if we were totally dependent on dues.
 - Another strength is that because ALA has four major sources of revenue, its budget is more stable than an organization dependant on one revenue source.
- ALA's financial weaknesses
 - Because the Association has these other revenue sources, it is also vulnerable to forces operating in the "business" world and larger economy (e.g. drop in advertising)
 - Budgets for state, county, city and university libraries also support ALA publishing, conference travel and even dues in some cases. When these are under pressure, it impacts ALA.

President's Report

- Frontline Library Advocacy initiative
 - www.ala.org/frontlineadvocacy
 - Vision was to start getting frontline librarian and other library staff engaged and empowered to articulate the value of their respective libraries and their value as library employees.
 - Materials have been developed for each type of library (special, academic, school, and public). The materials can be copied/adapted by anyone making frontline advocacy plans in individual libraries. These postcards available for distribution at state conferences and advocacy workshops.
 - A tutorial will be available online through Advocacy University
 - A webinar will be provided in the fall.
 - ALA held a train-the-trainer pre-conference and trained over 100 people to perform this frontline advocacy.
- Advocacy for Literacy
 - Vision was to recognize the spirit that el Dia de Los Ninos/El Dia de Los Libro has brought to literacy and children.
 - Each of the 5 ethnic affiliates put together a presidential workgroup to develop Family Literacy Focus (FLF) projects that have been piloted across the country and can be replicated by public libraries that serve any or all of our minority communities.

President-elect Report (Roberta Stevens)

- Committee Appointments: Pleased to be able to place so many new members on committees. Had more positive responses than negative; a pleasant surprise given the economic concerns
- Initiatives for her term:
 - Our Authors, Our Advocates
 - Frontline Fundraising
 - Why I Need My Library

Capwiz Software

- ALA provides Capwiz to all 51 ALA chapters at no charge to them. Can be used to organize library advocates to communicate
- In Florida, library advocates saved \$25million in funding using the tool. It was also used in South Carolina to save a \$9 million appropriation that had been zero'd out in their budget.

Choose Privacy Week 2010

- A film featuring Neil Gaiman, Cory Doctorow, Geoffrey Stone and the ALA President Camila Alire is available online. It discusses the complex privacy issues in our world.

Attendance

- 25,444 attendees as of Saturday (a couple thousand short of Chicago, but a wonderful showing exceeding our expectations)

StoryCorps Interviews

- 12 librarians won the opportunity to do a personal StoryCorps interview with an admired mentor or colleague during the Annual Conference courtesy of American Libraries. These will be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Stories can be heard in the weekly StoryCorps program on NPR or on the StoryCorps website <http://storycorps.org/>.

Advocacy Stuff

- ALA is requesting that Congress include school libraries in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by including 3 requests (having every public school have a school library staffed by a state-certified school librarian, (2) allowing for state and local professional development funds to be used for recruiting and training school librarians, and (3) maintaining dedicated funding for the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries. It's unlikely that Congress will reauthorize ESEA this year. However, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman wanted to mark up a bill in the Senate by early June. No date yet has been set for such a mark-up.

Revised Intellectual Freedom Manual

- Debuted at ALA Annual Conference. This 8th edition can be found online at <http://www.ifmanual.org/>.

Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women – Library Outreach Programs

- Grant opportunity for libraries.
- \$2,500 to support five reading, viewing and discussion programs featured in the documentary and the biography. www.grants.gov (accepting apps through July 30th)

AASL Fall Forum will be in Portland November 5-6, 2010

- The theme is “In Focus: The Essentials for 21st Century Learning”
- Registration now open. Find more information at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/conferencesandevents/fallforum/fallforum.cfm>

ALA Strategic Plan 2011-2015

- Passed as amended.
- Find the plan at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/missionhistory/plan/index.cfm>

Committee on Library Advocacy

- The Office for Library Advocacy was established in 2007 in response to the ALA *Ahead to 2010* Strategic Plan. That plan identified advocacy as a top priority.
- Library Snapshot Day
 - 27 states participated in Library Snapshot Day in 2010
 - ALA had incredible feedback from it. They will repeat in 2011.
 - A number of states are now using that data for local advocacy efforts.
- Funding Crisis Efforts
 - ALA Advocacy is responding to library closures and funding threats taking place at a local level. Their goal is to advance the efforts of the library in questions and to avert closings or restore funding.
 - ALA can only become involved when their efforts are welcomed by and coordinated with the library and/or state Chapter in question.

RESOLUTIONS

A Resolution Reaffirming Equal Employment Opportunity for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Librarians and Library Workers

Resolved;

- The ALA change Policy 54.16 from “The ALA Council reaffirms its support for equal employment opportunity for gay librarians and library workers. The Council recommends that libraries reaffirm their obligation under the Library Bill of Rights to disseminate information representing all points of view on this topic.” To the following: “The ALA supports equal employment opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender librarians and library workers.”
- Discussion:
 - The changes reflect more accurate language; more inclusive.
 - Also the previous version suggests that only Council support versus all of ALA
- Resolution passes

A Resolution to Ensure Equitable Access to All Formats of electronic Content Through Libraries

- Resolved that
 - The ALA calls for the formation of a Presidential Task Force charged with studying:
 - Challenges and potential solutions in libraries for improved electronic content access, distribution systems, and infrastructure in response to the migration of materials from print to electronic access;
 - Collaborations that provide electronic content and distribution infrastructure for libraries, including the development of a list of potentially practical, effective collaborations and courses of action that ALA and libraries around the country could engage in;
 - Current and emerging assistive technology that provides people with sensory and physical disabilities the opportunity to access electronic information hitherto inaccessible through libraries;
 - Methods of encouraging solutions through libraries for electronic content access that use formats and standards that work across DRM-free device platforms;
 - Options for compromise agreements between the library and publishing communities regarding access to digital content; and
 - The need for any ALA policies required to further the creation of an effective electronic content and distribution infrastructure for libraries; and
 - The Tasks Force submit a report to Council at ALA Annual Conference in 2011 containing recommendations for Association action.
- Discussion:
 - All discussion was in favor of making this happen and finding a way to get the wording correct so it reflects the intent.
- Resolution Passed.

Resolution on Ensuring Summer Reading Programs for all Children and Teens

- Resolved that the ALA urges library directors, trustees, school board members, and supervising government bodies to ensure that libraries are provided adequate funding to support summer reading programs for all children and teens.
- Discussion
 - It's time we remind our funding bodies about the value of these services and need for literacy efforts for kids
 - Strong support particularly in light of the needs of children of color, where research shows reading skills are lower in those that don't take part in summer reading activities
 - Noted by one individual that significant budget cuts have resulted in a decision to cut summer reading this year. Staff and funding to support it aren't there. Suggests an action to support funding of these services.
 - Noted that the action is too focused on summer reading and not literacy programs in general. Summer reading is just one of the programs that work to improve literacy among children and families.

- Resolution passed

Resolution on Non-Discrimination in Conference Contracts

- Resolved that the ALA shall change Policy 7.1.1 from “The ALA will enter into conference-site contracts only with organizations and legal bodies in cities, counties, or states that do not by law discriminate against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people.” To “The ALA will avoid entering, whenever possible, into conference center contracts with organizations and legal bodies in cities, counties, or states that by law discriminate against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. ALA will provide materials for sensitivity training about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression for all employees on the floor of each convention center, including employees of companies to which the convention center has contracted for services on the floor of the convention.”
- Discussion:
 - Policy as it is now is unenforceable, but there really is no place that doesn’t discriminate in some ways, and current policy is too narrow
 - Language changes reflect current description of LGBT community
 - Resolution passed.

Resolution Concerning the Proposed Closing of the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University

- Resolved that the ALA:
 - Strongly opposes the elimination of the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University, and
 - Urges the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors and the Louisiana Board of Regents to continue to support the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University.
- Resolution passed.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

- Council passed a resolution that would adjust Article IX regarding the Endowment Funds. The adjustment increase the trustees of the Endowment Fund from 3 to a maximum of 6 trustees. It also provided some clarification in the wording in the rest of the Article.
- Council Passed a resolution to clear up article VIII, Section 1. Previously it did not define the voting status of the Executive Director. The change now clarifies that the Executive Director is non-voting and adjusts other wording to make clear who among officers have voting privileges.

Intellectual Freedom Committee

- Brought to Council the “Prisoners’ Right to Read” which is an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. The document was approved by Council.

Committee on Legislation brought forth the following, which Council approved:

- Resolution urging Congress to commit a minimum of \$100 million designated specifically for school libraries in FY2011 and beyond to the Improving Literacy Through School Library program to establish a population-based state grant program that provides students in every state the opportunity to increase reading achievement and master 21st century skills.
- Resolution to include school librarian in the reauthorization of the elementary and secondary education act.
- Resolution on a proposed joint LC and GPO digital pilot project
 - Urges the Joint Committee on Printing to approve the Memorandum of Understanding so the GPO can process the *Statutes at Large* and *Congressional Record* content digitized by the Library of Congress, and
 - Urges the Joint Committee on Printing to support GPO making this new digitized content available for permanent public access via GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys).
- Resolution on equal access to 21st Century Communications, which strongly supports the Equal Access to 21st Century Communications Act (S.3304) and the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2009 (HR 3101) as passage of the bills would update communications laws to ensure that individuals with vision, hearing and other disabilities are able to utilize fully broadband services and equipment and have better access to video programming devices and other technologies.
- Resolution to ensure equitable access to library services for all people regardless of immigration status, which calls on Congress to quickly enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Such reform should result in ensuring that all people in the U.S. can have access to library services regardless of their immigration status, and strongly encourages other library organizations to proactively engage their legislators at every level, local state and federal, about the importance of equal and ready access to library services for all people.

Committee on Organization

- Proposes the establishment of a Retired Members Round Table. A petition was brought forth by members to request it. Council approved it.
- They also increased the composition of the Conference Committee to include a representative of the Accessibility Assembly.