

Report of ILA Chapter Councilor to ALA ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 2003

This meeting had several important events as listed below.

ALA/APA: Council finally approved the bylaws of the ALA/Affiliated Professional Association. A business plan has been accepted, and the organization is now being formed. This is not a membership organization but rather a 501(c)6 organization for the purposes of advocating for library workers (salaries, etc.) and preparing certification materials in conjunction with library schools.

Probably the most important resolution passed was against the USA Patriot Act. The resolution came from the Committee on Legislation and was endorsed by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as well. It can be read on the web at

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/usapatriotresolution.html>

The association finances are ok but are not as strong as last year. ALA has some investments, and they have suffered with the current market. However, no one is hitting the panic button yet.

There was an attempt to reverse the resolution on the destruction of Palestinian libraries that was defeated. The justification was that specific libraries were mentioned with an implied condemnation of Israel without a parallel condemnation of Palestinian activities. The Anti-Defamation League put out a lot of material on this issue trying to get the resolution reversed. The resolution stands.

There was an attempt to pass a resolution against the war that was couched in terms of the expense of war and the threat to library funding. This resolution was also defeated. Many of the same reasons as discussed at the last ILA board meeting were mentioned. Since January and the outbreak of war, this issue has been revisited on the council listserv. It has been pointed out that many other organizations are passing such resolutions. If hostilities are still in progress in June, we can expect another such resolution.

ALA has hired a new parliamentarian, and things moved along more smoothly.