

**American Association of School Librarians
Affiliate Assembly Executive Committee Meeting
June 23, 2006**

The Executive Committee of the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians met from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on June 23, 2006, at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. Committee members in attendance were: Rosina Alaimo, Diane Chen, Nancy Dickinson, Carl Harvey, Jim Hayden, Marilyn Joyce, Karen Lemmons, Karen Lowe, Robbie Nickel, Janice Ostrom, Cyndi Phillip, Barbara Ray, Hilda Weisburg, and Linda Williams.

Diane Chen, Affiliate Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to New Orleans. Officers were introduced and there was a roll call of executive committee members. The minutes from Midwinter Conference in San Antonio were discussed and any changes were to be given to Affiliate Secretary, Karen Lowe. Robbie Nickel made a motion that the minutes be approved; Jim Hayden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements by AASL Officers

- **AASL President Linda Williams** shared her appreciation for all the hard work done by the Affiliate Assembly at Midwinter on the question of keeping the profession viable. She assured the committee that the input had been, and will continue to be, taken into consideration. Linda also told the group that she would be announcing on Sunday a visioning summit/retreat, asking each state to identify one person to represent them at the summit. They will be looking for someone who can look to the future (visionary), not necessarily a member of the Affiliate Assembly; it can be anyone who meets the established criteria. Other important considerations are diversity, experience, and different levels. The person needs to be identified by July 15 because the event will take place during the last week in September. Then Linda reminded the group about the President's Program on Saturday. David Warlick will be speaking on publishing on the web. Finally, she announced the exciting news that First Lady Laura Bush will be hosting a Town Meeting on Monday at 1:00 (everyone must be in the room by 12:30).
- **AASL President-Elect Cyndi Phillip** updated the committee on the 100 Emerging Leaders initiative. She said that more information would be coming but that it was not on the website yet. ALA President Leslie Burger launched the new initiative to "enable 100 new librarians to get on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership" and enrich the association's incoming volunteer base with practical skills and applicable knowledge. Emerging Leaders 2007 will select and train 100 new librarians to get a jump-start in leadership. The initiative will kick off with a day-long session during the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, Wash., and it will grow and develop virtually for six months, culminating at the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. AASL will provide two members with a \$500 stipend for travel to each conference. AASL is also urging its state affiliates to consider supporting an emerging leader from their organization. More information about the Emerging Leader 2007 initiative and instructions on submitting an application can be found at Leslie Burger's Web site: http://lb.princetonlibrary.org/emerging_leaders.html. Cyndi is also looking for more volunteers for AASL committees to serve during her term. She has received some response to her call for help, but she urged the affiliates to encourage their members to be proactive in recruiting volunteers.

Reports from Membership Committee

- **Annual Celebrate Conference, Rosina Alaimo.** Rosina announced a breakfast celebration event for first-timers in Room 393. The agenda will be loose, with goody bags and books as gifts for attendees. Committee members are encouraged to attend and talk about being involved in the organization. A discussion then followed about the amount of preparation (time and expense) that goes into planning the Celebrate Conference vs. a small turnout the last few years. After discussion, Robbie Nickel moved that the Affiliate Assembly no longer host an Annual Celebrate Conference; Janice Ostrom seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rosina also presented a new membership procedure, “AASL Membership Booth at ALA Annual Conference,” designed to provide volunteer staffing for the AASL membership booth at Annual Conference. This will be discussed further at the Affiliate Assembly.

Review/Approve

- **The Affiliate Assembly Agenda** for the Sunday meeting, 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m., was reviewed and approved.
- **The Affiliate Assembly Handbook** criteria for concerns and commendations were reviewed prior to considering the following ones submitted to the Executive Committee:
 - **Concerns 1 and 4:** The need to update the national Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning and guidelines for school library programs (Information Power 2) continues to be a concern.
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Robbie Nickel; Second: Janice Ostrom)
 - **Concern 2:** NEEMA requests that AASL conduct a review of all affiliated organizations (outside the state affiliates) to determine if they are the best organizations with which to connect as our role within the schools’ changes)
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Nancy Dickinson; Second: Barbara Ray)
 - **Concern 3:** The school library media specialists in Vermont are currently without the guidance, wisdom and support of a school library media consultant at the Department of Education. Many of Vermont’s school library media specialists work in isolation and are in great need of a consultant working as a liaison with the Department of Education is critical for the development and continuation of effective school library media programs.
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Nancy Dickinson; Second: Hilda Weisburg)
 - **Concern 5:** Cuts to jobs of SLMS and library programs
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Robbie Nickel; Second: Rosina Alaimo)
 - **Concern 6:** ...the adoption of a slightly more specific trademark—“@ Your School Library,” would complement the efforts of the task force, by allowing school libraries to publicize the great things students achieve with the help of and instruction by their school libraries...
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Carl Harvey; Second: Robbie Nickel)
 - **Concern 7:** The Affiliate Assembly feels there is a need for a report of actions taken on Affiliate Assembly concerns beyond the verbal report of the President at Midwinter in order to better understand the long-term implications of Affiliate concerns acted upon by the AASL Board.
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Barbara Ray; Second: Janice Ostrom)

- **Concern 8:** Currently there is not an easily accessible list of past commendations and concerns available on the affiliate section of the ALA/AASL website.
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Nancy Dickinson; Second: Hilda Weisburg)
- **Concern 9:** We are experiencing a decline in media supervisors, losing funding, and losing positions in the library (professional and clerical)... We feel there is a need for quantitative measures such as part of the national standards to identify, promote, and support exemplary school library media programs.
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Marilyn Joyce; Second: Jim Hayden)
- **Concern 10:** As school library media specialists and professional developers of collections, we want the right to override the filtering at our local sites. We include links to electronic materials as part of our collection development. We have the expertise to determine appropriate online resources. We need the ability to immediately access and determine appropriateness of sites for our students and our school community.
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Robbie Nickel; Second: Hilda Weisburg)
- **Concern 11:** The LMS role in reading and comprehension skills of high school graduates and middle school students.
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Hilda Weisburg; Second: Jim Hayden)
- **Concern 12:** There has been an increasing trend for school library media preparatory programs to offer part or all of their courses online or through distance education. While these programs are convenient and can bring needed candidates into our profession, our concern is that these programs may not maintain quality and accountability and produce highly qualified professionals.
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Hilda Weisburg; Second: Jim Hayden)
- **Concerns 13-16:** NCES classification of T-L's as instructional staff; Teacher-Librarian should have HQ status in NCLB; increased coordination between the leadership of ALA, ALA Washington office, AASL, COSLA, and IMLS; and declining membership in our national and state organization.
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Nancy Dickinson; Second: Marilyn Joyce)
- **Commendations**
 - **Commendation 17:** Program: MASL Innovative Grants to Maine School Libraries to Support Evidence-Based Practice
 - **Action taken:** Not approved. (Motion: Jim Hayden; Second: Nancy Dickinson)
 - **Commendation 18:** When the Library Book Selection Service (LBSS) voted to close its doors, and liquidate its assets, the LBSS selected ISLMA as their beneficiary to continue its mission of providing quality literature to youth in Illinois.
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Nancy Dickinson; Second: Hilda Weisburg)
 - **Commendation 19:** The "Libraries Matter" blue bracelet campaign was developed by the Alliance Library System (a multi-type regional group in Illinois) to advocate for, and create public awareness of, the importance of libraries.
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Hilda Weisburg; Second: Janice Ostrom)
 - **Commendation 20:** The Institute for Library and Information Literacy Education (ILILE) focuses on enhancing and developing collaboration between classroom teachers and school library media specialists in four areas: education and training, curriculum development, promotion and outreach, and research and evaluation.
 - **Action taken:** Approved. (Motion: Robbie Nickel; Second: Barbara Ray)

- **Commendation 21:** Several years ago, the requirement for Teacher Librarians was taken out of the Iowa Code. This year, with the great support and personal efforts by Iowa's Governor and Mrs. Vilsack, the Iowa Legislators have reinstated the requirement for districts to have at least one certified Teacher Librarian.
 - **Action taken:** Not approved.
- **Commendation 22:** "Children, Libraries and Literacy – An Initiative for South Carolina" USC's School of Library and Information Science has launched a \$6 million, multipart effort to raise the illiteracy level across South Carolina. The initiative will have an active Web presence and a "Readmobile" to deliver programs and training to underserved communities of the state.
 - **Action taken:** Approved.

The concerns and commendations that were approved will be presented to Affiliate Assembly for action at Sunday's meeting.

- **Discussion**

- **Chair-Elect Carl Harvey** announced that there would be one Affiliate Assembly meeting at Midwinter Meetings in Seattle in January. It will be on Sunday morning. Some Affiliate regions may meet together informally in roundtable discussions.
- **Diane Chen** demonstrated the use of the Online Community web site, showing how to navigate many of the helpful features available to the membership. Members can check it out at <http://communities.ala.org/affiliateassembly/DiscussionForum/AAForums/tabid/6411/Default.aspx>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lowe, Secretary
AASL Affiliate Assembly, 2005-2006

Diane Chen, Chair
AASL Affiliate Assembly, 2005-2006