

**American Association of School Librarians
Affiliate Assembly at ALA Midwinter
January 22, 2006**

The Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians met from 8:00 until 12:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2006, in the Del Rey North room at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. See attached list for Affiliate Assembly members and guests in attendance.

Affiliate Assembly Chair Diane Chen convened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with general announcements and thanked TLC for providing breakfast. David Burns from TLC was on hand to make welcoming remarks.

Barbara Stripling provided information about the Task Force on School Libraries and the "65% resolution." She believes it is important for ALA to support the resolution but to strongly advocate for school librarians to be classified as instructional staff and to recognize the impact of state-certified school librarians on student achievement. As instructional staff, librarians would receive their share of the 65 per cent funds.

The Improving Literacy through School Libraries grant RFP has moved to grants.gov and now requires school districts to register, a process that can take up to 10 days. Districts are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last minute.

Mary Frances Wilkins spoke about *Book Links*, a magazine designed for teachers, librarians, library media specialists, booksellers, parents, and other adults interested in connecting children with high-quality books. *Book Links* provides comprehensive information for using books in the classroom, including thematic bibliographies with related discussion questions and activities, author and illustrator interviews and essays, and articles by educators on practical ways to turn children onto reading. Each issue of *Book Links* focuses on a core curriculum area, including science, social studies, language arts, history, geography, and multicultural literature.

Cathie Marriott presented information about the AASL Fall Forum being held Oct. 13-15, 2006, in Warwick, Rhode Island. "Assessing Student Learning in the School Library Media Center" brings together sessions on the role the media specialist plays in student achievement. Sessions include "What is Assessment, and Why Should the School Librarian be Involved," "Assessing Information Fluency," "Assessment Tools," "Who Gives You the Authority to Do What You are Doing?" "What Does Assessment Look Like in the SLMC?" and "Item Analysis: What are the Skills Needed to Answer Standardized Assessment Questions, and What is the Connection to the SLMP?"

Cyndi Phillip spoke to the Assembly about the need for more volunteers, citing over 150 opportunities to serve the organization. She encouraged each Affiliate member to go back to their home state and recruit volunteers who are willing to work for the profession. Volunteer forms are available.

Mary Ghikas shared the dues structure. A survey was conducted; there were 20,000 participants (16,000 online and telephone surveys). There will be a \$10 increase for each of the next three years. For more information, go to www.ala.org and click on ALA Ahead to 2010.

Julie Walker, the Executive Director of AASL, presented information about “Partnership for 21st Century Skills,” a national coalition working to advance 21st century educational skills. The Partnership is the leading advocacy organization, bringing together the business community, education leaders, and policymakers to encourage schools, districts and states to advocate for the infusion of 21st century skills, tools and resources to facilitate and drive change. Jennifer Habley is the AASL liaison for this initiative. More information can be found at the ala.org website.

Veanna Baxter, Appointment Chair, reported that there are always committee openings and encouraged everyone to fill out Volunteer Forms available on the AASL website.

Deb Levitov and Carl Harvey updated the assembly on the Advocacy Pre-Conference.

Linda Williams, President of AASL, expressed her support of the affiliate and reviewed the brochure, “AASL Presidential Travel to State Affiliates” with the assembly. She covered the five-year schedule and agenda so that each state would have a visit within a five-year period.

Linda also responded to issues and concerns generated at the 2005 Affiliate Assembly (posted at the [ala](http://ala.org) website). She suggested that it would be more effective if the Assembly focused its concerns on the top three. It is difficult for the organization to give the attention each issue needs when there are more concerns.

Legislative concerns were addressed by Diane Chen and Sandy Schuckett. They made two suggestions for getting legislators to work more favorably with you: Get to know them Thurs. through Mon., and get others to speak for you and with you (PTO, businesses, etc.)

Floyd Pentlin and Carl Harvey discussed the changes in the Handbook. They went over the process for concerns and commendations and changes; also forms for feedback for nominations. *Tapped-In.org* (used in Region 4) is a good example of virtual meeting via the web.

It was announced that the next AASL meeting would be held October 24-28, 2007 in Reno, Nevada.

Lawren Hammond made a motion that the minutes be approved at annual meeting; Ric Jones seconded the motion.

The Assembly organized into regional work groups to address the question, “How does the profession remain viable for the future?”

How does the Profession Remain Viable for the Future?

Work Group Reports

(Top 3 Listed – Others Listed in Addendum)

Region 1

1. Connecticut Library Association – Media Specialist is included under Highly Qualified
2. Accreditation – More emphasis placed on better collection
3. Hiring a lobbyist
4. Mentoring program

Region 2

1. Pennsylvania – Toolkits and workshops to keep up-to-date, How Good is Good?
2. Maryland – Weekly updates key reports
3. New Jersey – Mentoring program, new media specialists, 1-3 years
4. New York – Database connects tests to SLM program
5. Delaware – Also has a database

Region 3

1. Alliances need to establish regarding legislative issues
2. Ohio established partnership with Kent State, State Dept., State Media Org. to study
3. Indiana – Blue Ribbon Schools
4. Missouri – Visiting Team
5. Iowa – Including assessment, librarian has a role
6. Wisconsin – Sponsoring sessions at other state conferences to increase visibility

Region 4

1. Make sure role stays broad enough to include media and technology, literacy involvement
2. Make sure we're included in reading and rest of curriculum
3. Strong leadership needed

Region 5

1. Alabama and Georgia – Performance standards
2. Louisiana – Global awareness, virtual conferences
3. Community & business partners
4. Involved on committees, take courses, acquire NBPTS

Region 6

1. Education – need to network, conference within a conference
2. Do reception before conference to get word out
3. Put together workshop, present at state conference
4. Statistics other than ones usually cited
5. Lobbying – encourage media specialist to know their legislators

Region 7

1. Universities need to invite/require students to join association
2. Joint resolutions
3. How to keep libraries in the spotlight
4. National Board Certification, use as leadership in our profession

Region 8

1. Washington - Hired a legislative advocacy liaison this year; she has been recently quoted in SLJ on the 65% issue.
2. Oregon – Non-legislative year in state; working in districts. Both states sending school reps to National Legislative Day.
3. Alaska – Calendar sent to every principal; use as an advocacy tool. They are for sale; money to be used as fundraiser.
4. Idaho – We have a contact with affiliation pending.

Region 9

1. Advocacy outside profession (parents, PTO, etc.)
2. Increase numbers in our own organization
3. Eye on instructional purpose of media center
4. Do more work with colleges and universities

Each group presented orally its top answers to the question, “How does the profession remain viable for the future?”

There being no further business, Hilda Weisburg made a motion that the assembly adjourn; Christine Findlay seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen R. Lowe, Secretary
AASL Affiliate Assembly, 2006-2007

Diane R. Chen, Chair
AASL Affiliate Assembly, 2005-2007

How Does the Profession Remain Viable for the Future?

Regional Work Groups

Unedited Lists

Region 1

- CT – Wrote resolution stating need for SLMS to be included as “highly qualified” in NCLB reauthorization. CLA (Connecticut Library Association) endorsed resolution.
- MA – Hired lobbyist to help insert wording re “school libraries” into Education Reform. Currently state law does not mention school libraries. Developing Information Literacy Standards based on the Technology Standards that include benchmarks.
- ME – Refined state standards. Every content area has a school librarian on the committee to ensure information literacy embedded in each subject area standard. Conducting survey as there is a great difference between southern Maine and the rural north.
- NEEMA – NEEMA has worked with NEPSC for the past few years to change the SLMS from “Support Services” the “Teaching-Learning.” Although language has not yet changed, teams aware of concern when evaluating secondary schools for NEASC accreditation.
- VT – Working with public and academic on joint conference. Cooperating with UVM to match students in a mentoring program with practicing SLMS.
- Recommendations for AASL:
 - Toolkit for contact with university teaching programs
 - Develop programs for staff development for SLMS to use within their schools
 - Recommend benchmarks for state certification as SLMS

Region 2

- PA – Keep up with trends in education and libraries by providing toolkit workshops showing how SLMS are integral part of curriculum; include How Good is Good: An Assessment that emphasizes school library media programs
- MD – Send weekly updates to keep SLMS aware
- NJ – Mentoring – Ensure quality of new SLMS aligns with DOE requirement; connect data from tests to library media program; data driven decision making
- DE – Put Ross Tod study on a database available to legislators and everyone else; articulation with college joint information literacy listserv showing what we still need to do to ensure our students are actually ready for college

Region 3

- Iowa – Emphasizing accountability, including assessment into teaching in LMC; LMS giving tests, assessments, grades in classrooms
- Ohio – State association designing evidence-based practice; partnership with state education department and Kent State University, ILILE.org, T.R.A.I.L.S9 online assessment tool; training module developed based on Ohio study
- Missouri – LMS including on writing teams for GLE (grade level expectations) benchmarks
- Indiana – Blue Ribbon School Library Media Program of the Year to promote/publicize exemplary programs; get into school board association conferences; establishing alliances with state library associations, education associations, school boards, PTOs.; legislative issues; communication; education of administrators, teacher training programs-formally or informally
- Wisconsin – Proposed re-structuring organization to include technology; co-sponsor sessions on school libraries at state education and state library association conferences

Region 4

NC – Provide staff development for their school teachers; be the instructional person; state document, IMPACT, media coordinator is chair of media advisory committee

SC – Have a lobbyist designated to go to their conference and meet with legislative chair; have local training in regions; Advocacy Institute created by lobbyist will be offered this summer; Grant-do research at their local sites pre-conference will be to unveil the grant; \$100 scholarship to enable librarians to go to other academic conferences to spread the word.

VA – Talk to the principals about school administrators forum at their conference. Free day for administrator. Forum/panel to discuss school libraries. Have media supervisor on the elementary and secondary principal's board. Media services are identified under the technology division; need to be separated.

KY – Working on a law to have a media specialist in every school. Have to convince administrators that they need to hire two media people instead of one media and one technologist/instructional

TN – Staff development is being taken state-wide. Have the NCLB recognize that library coordinators be mentioned as highly qualified. Independent schools-students are too tech-savvy but they are not research-savvy.

In general:

- Make sure our roles are not perceived as strictly technical and comp.
- Collaborative experiences-Teachers, literacy coaches and administrators go to workshops conferences and inservices with librarians
- Get into workshops, journals, newsletters and certification courses for administrators, teachers and educate these entities as to our roles
- We need strong legislative process; share lobbyist with academic and public librarians

Region 5

- Collaborative instruction (LA – State Comp. Guide) to achieve benchmark (GA-GA Performance Standards, AL)
- Information Literacy Curriculum
- “No More Bird Units”
- Global Awareness – Virtual Online Conferences
- Working Collaboratively with Technology Dept.
- AL Reading Initiative
- Using Business/Partners/Community
- Participate in school/district committees; e.g., Instructional Management Team, Leadership Team, FSU.edu/Project LEAD (FL m-n, Sp.Ed. + NBCT), FSU [Nancy Everhart]
- Never graduate, continuing education/professional development
- NBCT – so respected as a teacher

Region 6

1. Education – partnerships with ISTE, school counselors, reading, administrators to let them know what we do
2. Texas – Conference in a Conference, Administrators at Texas Lib. Assn.
3. Oklahoma – Students in library schools invited to an OLA reception to encourage membership and attendance during conference; program on the organization-
4. Divisions, committees, and roundtables, information to encourage participation 2. 2. Gathering statistics – Research study (Oklahoma) – Time on task (22 school libraries in state) look at tasks accomplished with and without staffing; need to find ways to get

meaningful statistics out to the public

5. Lobbying – Work together to get states to require quality school libraries and librarians

Region 7

- Board – structure of committee, Affiliate Assembly
- Not involved, tied to their schools, consider themselves poor, isolated;
- Joining reading organization \$20.00, \$40.00 conference
- Middle of week
- National Board Certification do leadership in our profession (Utilize)
- Need to be asked; invite members
- Design an invitation
- Professional organization remain viable – ALA. AASL, state
- Library students – invited to join, required to join
- Talk to principals about evaluating them on standards
- Educating administrators
- Chicken or the egg? Availability of jobs, education, exciting job, multiple sites
- AASL – front and center – big, political; joint resolutions; how to keep libraries in spotlight
- Assumed library there, @ your library research

Region 8

- (WA) Strengthen relationship with state library and OSPI; certificates for highly qualified librarians (given at conference and mailed to administrators, co-signed by WLMA/State Board of Education, Annual Certificate; continuing to WAC (Washington Administration Code) for school libraries; Legislative Advocate hired by WLMA to attend and work on legislation and certification/highly qualified
- (OR) Represents attendance by OEMA School Board Association Conference Executive & speaking for school library advocacy at National Middle School Annual Conference in Philadelphia, “Importance of School Libraries;” sent to National and Conference to present/speak about school libraries
- (AK) Giving out calendar, Advocacy at Principal Conference (annual); involved in certification process that impacts school librarians; developing relationship with Alaska Dept. of Education; State Library Summer Readership Academy with Joya Valenzia; also has a calendar used for principal advocacy
- (ID) Affiliation is pending; Found key contact person to begin information gathering for Director-elect

Region 9

1. Need advocates outside of the profession about what we do: parents (PTO’s), administrators, students, teachers, sites councils
1. Increase membership numbers.
2. Eye on “Instructional Ball;” lifelong learning, continue with information literacy and instructional design
3. Do more with colleges and universities in educating teachers and administrators
4. Student teachers need to collaborate with the school librarian