

**American Association of School Librarians
Affiliate Assembly Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, January 23, 2009
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Denver, Room: Capitol Ballroom 3**

Irene Kwidzinski called the meeting to order at 8:05 and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members introduced themselves and gave their positions on the committee. The following members were present: Jay Bansbach, Past Chair Affiliate Assembly, Ex Officio; Robbie Nickel, Director Region VII; Susan L. Garvin, Director-elect Region VII; Ann Perham, Director-elect Region I; Marilyn Joyce, Director Region I; Maribel Castro, Director-elect Region VI; Jen Habley, AASL Staff; Lorraine Monprode, Director-elect Region VIII; Linda Roberts, Director-elect Region IX; Deb Svec, Director-elect Region V; Sara Kelly Johns, Past President, Board Liaison; Rosina Alaimo, Director Region II; Allison Roberts, Director elect IV; Nancy Dickinson, Director Region IV; Deb Christensen, Recording Secretary; Sally Daniels, Director elect Region II; Sandra Andrews, Chair-elect; Irene Kwidzinski, Chair; Cassandra Barnett, AASL President-elect; Ann Martin, AASL President and Cara Cavin, Director-elect Region III.

An attendance sheet was passed around. Members were instructed to review the minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting at ALA Annual Conference.

Jay Bansbach and Sandra Andrews gave an update on the plans for the AASL National Conference. The authors have been chosen and local arrangements are almost complete

Announcements:

AASL President Ann Martin stated that the ALA store has the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* book in stock. Next the guidelines, which will be called *Empowering Learners*, will hopefully be released in March. The mission statement that is in *Information Power* will be a part of the guidelines. She was pleased that there would be an advocacy session on Sunday to meet needs of growing economic deficit. She would like to see a push from every state to have an advocacy effort. Most school systems need to have balanced budgets and this will impact positions – not just librarians.

There was some discussion on the range and impact of budget cuts on state and local levels. Ann Martin encouraged everyone to keep track of what's going on in states and localities. Ann would like to be notified if something is going on in region so there can be a two-pronged effort – state organization plus national support.

Ann Martin reported on the statements of concern which were brought to the ALA Executive Board after last year's meeting at ALA's Annual Meeting.

- 1) Action requested was to establish a task force that would develop a rapid response process for addressing program cuts, develop sample communication tools, leverage AASL's leadership in the 21st Century Partnership... Ann talked with Deb Logan after Anaheim regarding this issue; she wanted something for members by Oct. 1st. Deb Logan and her advocacy committee worked all summer on toolkits that affiliate assembly members will be trained on Sunday. There is the Health

and Wellness and Crisis toolkits. The board thought these toolkits would address the critical need addressed in this concern.

- 2) Related to NB certification for library teachers. Asked for task force to promote attainment of National Board certification to increase publicity of what NB certification is and why it should be a goal for all certified library media specialists. Online source for information - FAQs, resources, application process and coordination and dissemination on mentor programs. The Executive Committee thought AASL was doing this. There was a special committee in the past to do this. There is a presence on the website now for this. Each year letters are written to every National Board certified teacher in library and ribbons are provided for National Board certified librarians at conferences. Also thought about virtual community of practice where these activities could take place such as ALA Connect. The National Board is getting ready to revise library standards. National Board listened to the concerns about the perceptions of what school librarians are and they added information stating the importance of school librarians in this year's press release.
- 3) Concern that AASL is not a part of ASCD and other national administrative organizations. Request was to create a task force to investigate ways of partnering with ASCD and other national organizations. The task force would be charged with the following: determine thematic content of ASCD journals. Request that ASCD publish an article on the impact of school library media specialist on student achievement, etc. The Learning4Life plan has a stated objective that funnels resources towards school administrators as well as other stakeholders. The Executive Council felt that the launch of Learning4Life would address a good many of the issues addressed in this concern.
- 4) An examination of ALA directory of library diversity organizations demonstrates that AASL has less of a presence within ALA on issues regarding diversity in collections, services, and members than other divisions. Region III feels that this lack of presence sends a message that AASL not welcoming to diverse populations in its membership, leadership or populations. Requested a task force to explore opportunities for participation in groups listed in the ALA directory of library diversity organizations and identify strategies to development of leaders and members between AASL and groups. Report findings to AASL board and integrate strategies into AASL plan. There is a diversity task force so all these concerns were folded into their charge and a report will be forthcoming as they address these issues.
- 5) Pursue collaboration between AASL and ISTE regarding standards, advocacy, conference planning and other issues relating to information and literacy in education. There was a request to establish a task force and approach ISTE to establish a bridge document between our standards. Ann reported that there are no formal plans to have a crosswalk with ISTE as it comes to standards since there are many informal pieces in place to cover this. The Executive Council didn't see where crosswalk would be of benefit to membership.

AASL President-elect Cassandra Barnett encouraged everyone to go back to their regions and ask people to volunteer to be on committees. She wants good people and good representation. She will be making another plea on Sunday. Go to the AASL website, fill out form and she will do her best to put people on committees of their choice.

Nancy Dickinson suggested that affiliate assembly members post this request to their listserv and tell people to apply to be on a committee. Each state should request members volunteer.

AASL Executive Director Julie Walker was not able to be at the meeting.

Jen Habley stated that to streamline things for Sunday she made packets for each delegate with agenda, update from AASL, advocacy book, handouts, etc. In each of the region folders there's an affiliate update form that needs to be checked and updated. Please collect the updated forms and return to Jen. Jen also mentioned that she had made changes to the website and she asked for feedback on the changes. It was also discussed that the plan for affiliation is ten years old and there are some points on the form that are not considered. Is that something that the Executive Committee wished to review?

Cassandra Barnett stated that when there was a reorganization, the plan for affiliation is what they wrote up. An Ad hoc committee of affiliate assembly created the document which was then checked by the bylaws committee but this was a number of years ago. She recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to look at this and maybe ask the chair of the bylaws committee or someone who's on the committee and has experience to run it by bylaws.

Irene asked for volunteers to be on this committee. The following people volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee: Lorraine Monprode, Ann Perham, and Jen Habley.

Items for discussion:

Legislative Committee: Jay Bansbach gave an update on the Consumer Protection Safety Act. The act that was passed in the Senate is looking at the whole issue of toys being exported from other countries and the lead content in toys. Books were somehow lumped in with this and would have meant that anyone serving students would have to have books certified by someone. Contact Commissioner Moore – email: tmoores@cpsc.gov, phone: 301-504-7902. Technically all books would need to be removed or tested before students could be allowed to enter. There needs to be an exemption for libraries. Schools or other libraries that have plasticized books or other things that children may put in their mouth may still need to be pulled. A lot of people do not know about this issue. State legislative liaisons should know as well.

Sara Kelly Johns mentioned www.ala.org/additup, a new toolkit site from the advocacy office. This is a positive public piece but we need to let people know about. The site has information about the impact of public and school libraries.

Election of chair elect will be coming during the meetings. There is a nominating form in the back of the Affiliate Assembly handbook. Nominate a chair elect now and a secretary in the summer. Both the chair-elect and secretary will be elected in the summer.

Cara Cavin asked about funding for directors and directors-elect to attend state conferences. Jen Habley replied that each region is allotted \$1000 to travel to two regional conferences. The decision as to who goes where should be made between the director-elect and director. There is \$250 for travel and \$250 for housing and the forms are on the AASL website. Fill out the request for reimbursement and the forms to Jen. This is just for state conferences. The registration cost is not covered but the assumption is that the region will comp the registration. It was asked if there is a process for reporting back to AASL about who attended what conferences. There hasn't been but it was stated that it was a good suggestion. It provides accountability.

It was suggested that the funding information be added to the Affiliate Assembly Handbook. There is a note on pages 8 and 9 about funding but there are no details. Nancy Dickinson stated that affiliates need to know to invite the director and director-elect to their conferences.

Jen Habley mentioned that the reimbursement form will ask for flight information even if it's arranged by ALA. It also asks for any hotel folio, tolls, mileage (indicate a mileage), and they will pay maximum per diem - \$50 per day (breakfast, lunch and dinner). No receipts for meals need to be included.

Sara Kelly John said directors and directors-elect should ask state affiliate presidents for information regarding the dates of their conference. It was suggested that state affiliates be prepared to comp the registration, meals, and room if possible for the director and director-elect travel. It was recommended that this be put out on the Affiliate Assembly Executive Committee list so everyone has the information. Sandra Andrews took notes on this and will put the information in the Affiliate Assembly handbook for the future.

The next item was to review the procedure and timeline for concerns and commendations which is in the Affiliate Assembly Handbook on page 21. Page 22 gives the criteria for concerns and commendations. All of these steps will be reviewed in Chicago in July. The timeline is on page 24. Directors-elect should receive the concerns and commendations by May 15th so they can submit them by May 30th.

Nancy Dickinson stated that so many concerns and commendations were not done correctly and were not submitted to the affiliate assembly members. All affiliate delegates should read the information regarding the process very carefully.

Appoint task force to present AASL 101 session at Annual in Chicago – Jay Bansbach has already talked to Andrea Parker who proposed some times and Irene said she'd be willing to help plan the session as well. Sandra Andrews will join this group too. Last summer's session was too far away and only three people attended. There was a conversation last year about broadening the 101 session to have more of a presence.

The last item was to review and approve the agenda for Affiliate Assembly I. Irene Kwidzinski stated the need to push everything up a little due to Verizon's need to arrive later than planned. Linworth is going to be the breakfast sponsor. Irene stated that she is pleased that there are two meetings that have substance to them where affiliates have the opportunity to bring information back to their states.

Irene Kwidzinski adjourned the meeting at 10:00