

**American Association of School Librarians**  
**Affiliate Assembly**  
**Sunday January 13, 2008**  
**8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Marriott Philadelphia, Ballroom A**

The meeting was Called to Order by Chair Jay Bansbach at 8:15am. Jay thanked Linworth for sponsoring this morning's breakfast. Marlene Woo-Lun (Linworth representative) addressed the Affiliates. Paula Jackson (also from Linworth) offered to provide sample magazines and books for seminars and conferences. University faculty may request copies for their classes. Linworth will start a Webinar in February to feature authors.

Jay reminded the Director-Elects that the re-affiliation paperwork was in their packets, and to please distribute this to the affiliates represented today, to return the remaining information to Jen Habley for distribution by mail. Jay thanked Jen for all of her hard work in gathering and producing documents for these meetings and in general for her support and help.

**AASL President Sara Kelly Johns** reported on the actions taken on the Commendations and Statements of Concern that were discussed at the fall 2007 board meeting. Letters of Commendation will be sent to the South Carolina and New Jersey. Task Forces will be created in response to the following Statements of Concern 1). AASL lacks an updated position statement on the library media specialist's role in teaching reading comprehension strategies and engaging students in pleasure and recreational reading; 2). NEMA requests that AASL assist affiliates in reaching out to parent and community organizations that can advocate for school libraries; 3). We are concerned about the future of our profession regarding recruiting a more diverse workforce. There is a need to attract new and dynamic members to the profession and AASL as a professional organization; 5). NET standards are imbedded in NCLB but do not show the essential role of the library media in implantation and student achievement of those standards (AASL is pursuing a joint Task Force for this concern. For Concern #4 "Currently there is not a centralized location for affiliate organizations to post/warehouse publications in a variety of formats that other organizations could utilize/customize for their audiences. Power Point presentations, video, assessments, programming ideas, organizational policies, presentations, podcasts, and evaluations", it was noted that ALA has software that can be utilized for these purposes (such as the online communities).

Sara also noted that the AASL Standards for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners were a beginning point and that there is more work being done with them and to support them.

Sara reported that Senator Kennedy will introduce a bill to reauthorize NCLB (No Child Left Behind) and that we need to ask our senators and representatives to include the Skills Act in the proposed legislation.

The ALA/AASL elections are coming up soon. Affiliates were reminded to help "get out the vote" by posting to their state listservs and reminding members to vote.

School Library Media Month (April) is coming up. A task force has been created to increase the emphasis on the month. A specially designed poster is available for purchase through the ALA store.

The AASL President's program at ALA Annual will feature Susan Katrone, the author of "A Higher Power of Lucky." She will appear with a panel discussing Intellectual Freedom.

**AASL President-Elect Ann Martin** thanked everyone for their efforts at the local, state, and national levels. She encouraged people to volunteer for AASL committees and for ALA committees. The completed form will be held as a database for current needs as well as future openings. Committee members can be traditional or virtual. Nominations for Director-Elects for the 2009 ballots are sought for Regions I, III, VI, and VII. Affiliates were encouraged to use the listserv to share ideas for promoting School Library Media month.

### **Information Sharing (Announcements for committees, etc.)**

**Keith Curry Lance** reported that over 5000 **Longitudinal Study** surveys were returned in the first year (2007). 16 states had over 100 responses each. Keith encouraged further participation in the study which can be accessed at [www.aaslsurvey.org](http://www.aaslsurvey.org). The survey will be live from January 11 to March 15, 2008. There are approximately 20 items on the survey which covers collection size/copyright date, staffing, hours, computer accessibility, budgets, usage, etc. He will add "Hot Topics" questions also. Suggestions for hot topics can be sent to John West at [jwest@ala.org](mailto:jwest@ala.org).

**Lesley Farmer** was not able to attend this meeting. There is a flier about the California Video Conferencing—Community of Practice Initiative.

**Hilda Weisburg** reported that the ALA office is seeking nominations for council. The forms must be received by the ALA office by January 30, 2008 to be eligible.

**Debbie Abilock** asked the affiliates to help her brainstorm potential topics for the **Knowledge Quest** magazine for the coming year. Ideas suggested included: equitable access to information; safe practices; assessment tools—comparing those available to evaluate research skill and information literacy skills; the "must have" new technologies; policies on Web 2.0 and including it in Acceptable Use Policies; parent/community contacts/involvement; leading teacher in-services; the AASL learning standards and how they compare with other standards sets. Other ideas may be shared with her at [KQ@abilock.net](mailto:KQ@abilock.net).

**Susan Ballard** reported on the **Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force**. She reported that the group is "fired up and ready to go." Several members sat in on the AA discussion groups on Saturday January 12 and they will incorporate this information as necessary in their efforts to promote the new AASL standards. The standards are "like an unearthed raw diamond, they need to be refined, polished, and shown off."

**Alice Yucht** reported on the **AASL Blog** which is now 2-1/2 years old. She is always looking for members to help post to the blog and keep the information current and relevant. The blog will eventually have an RSS feed for AASL reports/newsletters/etc. the format is being updated so that it will be more “user friendly.” Alice also noted that although YALSA’s blog is newer, it is much more active and she challenged the affiliates to post reports to the blog.

**Deb Logan** spoke on **Advocacy**. This group began as a “special committee” but it is now a regular standing committee. An Advocacy Institute was launched at AASL Reno and is available for the affiliate states to use—be sure to ask for the AASL Advocacy Institute for School Library Media programs so you will get the AASL version not the ALA version. Their intended minimum outcomes include increased use of the [www.ilovelibraries.org](http://www.ilovelibraries.org) site and updating the advocacy toolkit (it will use the “wellness model” format). Communications need to become more uniform, consistent and coordinated. Julie Andrews is the Honorary Chair of National Library Week 2008. There is an active group of parents working to save/re-establish school libraries in the state of Washington (“The Washington Moms”). The SKILLS Act brought out the need for a database of contact information for all types of libraries. Affiliates were asked to compile the contacts lists for their states and to submit those lists to Deb at [jdlogan@bright.net](mailto:jdlogan@bright.net).

**Bob “Doc” Roth** spoke about **Legislative Issues**. He presented a map that documents and presents where the legislative contacts have been made from, the darker the state’s color, the more contacts have been initiated. This chart showed the responses supporting the Skills Act.

**Leslie Forsman** noted that most of the **AASL Awards** nominations/applications are due February 1, 2008. Many awards have very few nominees/applicants.

**Sandra Andrews** is looking for comments on the **Quantitative Standards**. She can be reached at [sdandre2@uncg.edu](mailto:sdandre2@uncg.edu).

**AASL Executive Director Julie Walker** reported on the **Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Act**. Six states currently have leadership roles in this project, and three more will soon join the group. “P21” has launched “Route 21” and information about the projects can be access at [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org) and at [www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21).

**Chair Jay Bansbach** reported that the AASL 101 session at AASL Reno was very well received and will be repeated at ALA in Anaheim. He also noted that the pavilion setting in Anaheim has a stage area which can be utilized to present mini AASL 101 sessions throughout the conference. Carl Harvey and John Chrastka will be coordinating the volunteers for AASL’s presence at ALA.

Director-Elects and affiliates were reminded of the changes to the Commendations and Statements of Concerns processes. The changes and timelines are outlined in the delegates’ handbooks. All commendations and concerns must be received in the ALA office by May 15 to be considered at the Affiliate Assembly at ALA Annual in Anaheim. Commendations are for groups and projects, not individuals. Concerns should relate to things larger than just the local areas and should present possible actions that are “do-able” by AASL/ALA.

The paperwork for re-affiliation is in the Director-Elect's packets. If the completed paperwork is not submitted to the ALA office by the end of Affiliate Assembly in ALA Anaheim, the affiliate organization will be dropped after that conference. Jen Habley will accept the paperwork at ALA Anaheim if necessary and if it is complete. Affiliates must renew their membership every other year.

AASL will host a Candidates Forum beginning at 12:00 noon today in this room. All affiliates are encouraged to stay.

The next AASL conference will be held in Charlotte NC in 2009. Jay Bansbach and Anne Marie Pipkin are the co-chairs. They are currently working on developing a theme for the conference, suggestions are welcome.

Irene Kwidzinski opened the nominations for Affiliate Assembly chair. They will remain open until February 1, 2008. As of the end of this meeting there were two candidates for chair.

Jay Bansbach introduced ALA office workers Kelly Bishop, Brenda Dreier, Jen Habley, Andrea Parker, and Jonathan West and thanked them for their assistance on various projects.

The delegates were given some time for their regional caucuses.

### **ALA Presidential nominees**

Claudette McLinn spoke as a proxy for **Camila Alire** who was unable to attend this meeting due to a conflict with another meeting.

**J. Linda Williams** addressed the affiliates.

### **Mega Issues**

The regions were asked to discuss the "mega issue" items and to record their discussions – (see questions sheet and discussion).

### **Announcements**

Sara Kelly Johns reminded everyone to vote in the ALA/AASL elections.

Regions were asked to submit their discussion notes to the Recording Secretary for inclusion in the minutes.

Affiliates were reminded to be sure they had signed in on the attendance sheets.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am by Affiliate Assembly Chair Jay Bansbach.

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**“How do we maximize our influence/collaboration with the educational/professional community?”  
Discussion responses**

**1). If AASL can only focus on partnering/collaborating with one of three groups (parents, administrators, or curriculum), which one would you choose and why?**

Region I would begin with parents because they have the ear of legislators and administrators, have the tax dollars and hold the purse strings. PTO/PTA are generally district-wide now, difficulty to get parents involved in some urban areas. Parents have the greatest vested interest because it is their kids. National PTA stands for children nationwide.

Region II would begin with the administrators because they control the “purse strings” and they are the decision makers. Also, the administrators can influence both the parents and curriculum organizations. While parents can be influential with administrators, vocal parents can be seen as radical.

Region III would start with the administrators because they have the power, their influence can be powerful—statewide—local levels could be different.

Region IV had mixed response. Those from NC would start with parents because they can influence administrative decisions, businesses and parents can work together. The parents have a “trickle down” effect. They need to be educated about what we do, what our roles is/can be. We should work with the National Association of School Boards. Those from TN would start with the administrators because they felt that librarians were being “eeked out”, not included, marginalized. We need to get back together with the administration; administrators are caught between the teachers and the school boards. However some of their representatives suggested working with the curriculum groups (IRA in particular, since they look for our endorsement) might be the quickest, strongest impact. In some states the parents are more transient, but they try to be involved with their children’s schools. Parents start the grassroots movements, and will rise up if there is an issue that concerns them. We should be affiliated at the national level with the PTA. The VA representatives felt that we should start with the parents, enlisting them to “champion our cause for the good of their kids”. People listen to parents. To work with curriculum groups, we need to present with those teachers at their conferences. The SC representatives felt that we should present parent programs in the library to help with collaborations. Others felt that we should begin with the parents because they have the ability to be impactful in ways we in the school systems cannot, they are the taxpayers and voters.

Region VII was split between starting with the National Association of School Boards and starting with the parents because parents react quickly when programs are cut. It was noted

that some administrators still have the concept that technology can replace the librarians and libraries. This needs to be corrected!

Region IX was also split as to which group to begin with. Administrators are a logical place to start since we need the support of those who supervise us. Parent organizations need to be informed about the importance of school libraries. Parents can be very powerful advocates, and they vote. At the national level, a toolkit could be developed with ideas for outreach and communications with parents. Programs should be offered to parents on cyber safety, checklists of things to look for in their child's school library. Presentations could be done at parent conferences (in typing this I am not sure if that means at parents teacher conferences or at national/state PTA/PTO conferences.)

The Texas representatives felt that the Curriculum groups were the best way to be successful "cut down on marketing". Information Skills are within the curriculum, but not the role of the school librarian. School librarians need to have a presence at curriculum conferences—providing workshops and presentations. School librarians need to utilize the universities' education programs to include school librarianship as a resource. If school librarians/libraries are imbedded in the curriculum, administrators will have no choice but to have them in their buildings!

Administrators: they make the decisions, with curriculum you get lost in the text. If there's no recognition, there's no implementation of curriculum. Texas holds a conference within a conference for school administrators at TLA to hear about librarians being pivotal in schools.

In Washington, WLMA—school boards, administrators booths at 4/5 key administrations for the visibility! This creates an opportunity to have a discussion.

Alabama is revising the guidelines for principals to target legislators. Success would be being part of the evaluation tool.

Parents: We need to get outside of the library--including the business community; doing tech presentations for parents. PTA in Washington are aligning with school libraries—same goals. They serve on school boards. The public libraries truly can survive on the coordination and advocacy of their trustees. Instead of "soccer moms", be known as "library moms"! There are more parents than administrators, capitalize on the power of parents. A "Washington Moms" for every state. Look at parents not just as volunteers, but as advocates.

In New Mexico, they have not had much success with administrators; they want to target parents.

**2). Which group of the three would provide the greatest chance of success based on your perception and why?**

Region I – There is no parent group on the ongoing list for partnerships and collaborations with AASL. Agreed unanimously that parents groups should be targeted.

Region II “answers to #1 same as to #2.”

Region III “depends on how you define success.”

Region IV “1 & 2 same answers”. Parents (PTA, library advisory groups, and parent committees) provide substantial base of support. If there’s a good job of educating the parents they’ll follow that lead at home. Often parents are those business/community supporters that can be in areas that educators cannot necessarily be involved in.

Region VII Parents are often able to make a difference in small numbers.

<b>3). What successes have you had at the state level with coalitions/collaborations/partnerships with similar organizations?</b>
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Region I Exchange of liaisons – parents on boards, librarians on theirs. Greatest chance for success – get state PTO to develop a statement in support of school libraries - “Good Things are Happening” - Joint statements: - 3 affluent communities had parent outreach - No existing parent groups in poorer districts – Parents went to decorate library.

Note: We need to encourage our members toward professional development / National Board Certification gives us credibility as educators so we will be prepped when SKILLS Act passes.

Region II In NJ they have had success doing programs with the school boards, they have a “leadership breakfast” with the administrators. PA invites the administrators to a presentation and puts out articles. Mansfield U has a course for administrators with scholarship credit.

Region III In MO, the Department of Education has written a model curriculum and LMS were on each of those teams.

Region IV In VA, they collaborate with the teachers to present at curriculum conferences, and with administrators at administrative conferences. Individual members have also done things. On the first day of their conference is for administrators, they have a keynote in the morning, administrators’ forum in the afternoon—at no charge. In SC they have round table discussions, they partner with the state AECT. In NC they collaborate with the department of education and with other departments in the state. In TN they partner with the TLA (other librarians). In other states the curricular associations are represented on the state school library association board and vice-versa. They invite leaders and presidents of the state PTA/parents groups to their state conference. They have a virtual library, the Augusta Baker Festival; the State Library provides funding for databases for school and public libraries. They collaborate with tech associations to plan their state tech conference; some have joint conferences with their state library associations.

Regions VII and IX no responses

#### **4). In partnering with your group of choice, what would success look like?**

Region I Success would look like -- “Massachusetts Power: A Parent’s Guide to School Libraries” (our parent power book in MA) – administrators wouldn’t cut libraries (wouldn’t dare), more financial support, no “disproportionate” cuts, library programs will be valued, exchange of liaisons (school library assoc. and PTO group), database of parents to “call to action” when needed to call legislators, continued communication with all constituents, parent representatives giving testimony at legislative hearings, improved student achievement and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

Region II There would be librarians in every school with support staff, budget, and flexible schedules.

Region III We are invited and expected to participate in administrators’ conferences and library conferences. We would see more schools with certified library media specialists, principals would encourage their staff to use the library media center and to collaborate with the library media specialist. Principals would be educated (while at the universities) about the role of the SLMS in the education process. Publications for principals on how to work with SLMS, evaluations would be tailored to the librarians responsibilities/job descriptions; collaborations with the SLMS would be included in the teachers’ evaluations. Specialized training for administrators at library conferences, also student showcases.

Region IV In NC Administrators, administrators associations, special interest groups and SLMS would all interact with each other. In TN we would “come up on the radar”, there would be someone at the state department of education; we would be included in planning professional development curriculum. In VA we would partner with ISTE. Overall, Influence with either parents or administration would be a winning situation. There would be stronger legislative support for school libraries at the local, state and national levels from the constituents (parents). There would be stronger involvement in the school library by parents. There would be strong, involved parent advisory committees for the school library.

Region VII there would be ongoing structure and contacts which would mobilize in an emergency. Also ongoing proactive relationships, encouraging more growth for libraries and achievement for... (unfinished thought...)

Region IX Success would look like---healthy budgets, full staffing, abundant parent volunteers, tools that help facilitate communication with parents.  
(This group is interested in knowing how the other groups felt about this. Please share this info at some point.)

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**Region I**

Marilyn Joyce—Director	MASL
Susan Ballard	NEEMA
Peg Beckvoort	MASL
David Bilmes	CASL
Valerie Diggs	MSLA
Irene Kwidzinski	CASL (AA Chair Elect)
Merlyn Miller	VSLA
Ann Perham	MSLA
Janet Roche	CASL

**Region II**

Rosina Alaimo	SLMS
Hilda K. Weisburg	NJASL
Nancy Smith	PSLA
Marge Foster	PSLA
Barbara Ruskowski	DSLMA
Janet Shaw	DSLMA
Marie Barron	SLMS
Laura Pearle	ISS
Pat Massey	NJASL
Sara Kelly Johns	SLMS (AASL President)
Margaret Shaffer	MASL (MD)
Patricia Goff	MASL (MD)
Dorothy D'Ascanio	MASL (MD)
Alice Yucht	(AASL Blog)
Jay Bansbach	MASL (AA Chair)

**Region III**

Jane Sharka	ISLMA
Kathleen McBroom	MAME
Judy Hauser	MAME
Cyndi Phillip	MAME
Kristin Fortichiaro	MAME
Annette Smith	WEMTA
Jo Ann Carr	WEMTA
Kathy Halsey	OELMA
Marie Sabol	OELMA
Marianne Cole Fues	MASL

**Region III (continued)**

Karen Lemmons	MAME
Vicki Builta	AIME
Karen Appleton	IASL (Iowa)
Robyn Young	AIME
Val Edwards	WEMTA
Cara Cavin	WEMTA
Carl Harvey	AIME
Leslie Forsman	ISLMA (AA Recording Secretary)

**Region IV**

Lynn Caruthers	TN
Bruce Hester	TN
Ida W. Thompson	SC
Valerie Byrd Fort	SC
Kitt Lisenby	SC
Sandra Andrews	NC
Kathy Lehman	VA
Deb Christensen	NC
Fred Tilsley	KY
Diane Chen	TN (Director Elect)
Ann Martin	VA (AASL President Elect)
Nancy Silcox	VA
Dee Griffith	VA
Nancy Dickinson--Director	TN
Ann Petersen	TN
Gail Dickinson	VA
Allison Roberts	TN (guest)
Randee Edmunds	SC (guest)

**Region V**

Melissa Johnston	GLMA
Margie Thomas	LA/LSU/SLIS

**Region VI**

Buffy Edwards	Okla. Assoc. of School Librarians
Barbara Ray	OASLMS
Alison Almquist	NMLA
Mary Jo Humphreys	TASL
Nancy Kubasek	TASL
Jackie Chetzon	TASL
Maribel Garza Castro	TASL (Director Elect)

**Region VII**

Debra LaPlante  
Robbie Nickel  
Sally Roof

Teacher Librarian Div. AzLA  
NSCLS—NLA (NV)  
Teacher Librarian Div. AzLA

**Region VIII**

Linda R. Collins

WLMA President (Region VIII Director Elect)

**Region IX**

Gail Formanach  
Sherry Crow  
Jody Howard  
Nance Nassar  
Cindy Pfeiffer  
Barbara Bahm  
Glenda Willnerd  
Deb Levitov  
Eugene Hainer  
Janice Ostrom

(Director Elect)  
AASL—CASL  
CASL  
Colorado—CASL  
Kansas—KASL  
Kansas—KASL  
Nebraska—NEMA  
NEMA  
CO  
(Director)