Office of Literacy and Outreach Services Activities Update

There was a thorough review of the Literacy Clearinghouse and a discussion of OLOS programs and meetings that were relevant to the Committee on Literacy. The Committee continued to stress the importance of a Literacy Clearinghouse and committed to reviewing and commenting on it.

Committee Handbook

A link to the Committee on Literacy New Member Handbook was sent to committee members; it was dated 2011-2012 and many Committee members were unfamiliar with it. The Committee discussed the content and a focus was the “Statement on the Definition of Literacy” which was adopted by the Committee in 2005; the Committee stressed building on this definition. Alys Jordan distributed a document that she had prepared with definitions of literacy, as well as a list of the categories of literacies. The Committee discussed the range of literacy, including Basic, Financial, Health, and Information, among many others.

There was some discussion about the need to update the Handbook.
The list of subcommittees was carefully reviewed. They include: Program Planning Subcommittee; Research to Practice Discussion Group; Literacy Resource Development Subcommittee; Strategic Planning Task Force. The purpose of each was explored and Committee members were asked to volunteer for the subcommittees. The volunteers were:

- **Strategic Planning Task Force:** Sara Kelly Johns; Dinah O’Brien; Gwenn Weaver
- **Literacy Resource Development Subcommittee:** Hadi Dudley; Tim Ponder; Matt McLain; Gwenn Weaver
- **Program Planning Subcommittee:** Beth Ponder, Tim Ponder
- **Research to Practice Discussion Group:** Beth Ponder, Jessica Shira Sender

**Literacy Assembly**

Many of those attending representing Divisions or Committees had been present during the Committee on Literacy meeting and participated actively, contributing many valuable ideas and viewpoints. The representatives were asked to share specific literacy objectives and activities from their Divisions or Committees.

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Representative**

This representative made a presentation to the committee to discuss USCIS efforts to expand the outreach of citizenship services to U.S. libraries; he also distributed relevant information. His presentation was well received by the Committee.

**Strategic Planning Discussion**

With the assistance of Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Executive Board liaison and Committee member, the ALA Strategic Plan was reviewed and discussed. The Committee examined the initiatives of the ALA plan and how to support them with the work of the Committee.

The Committee agreed that literacy is the basis for the focus of many of the initiatives of ALA. A Strategic Planning discussion was started and should be continued in some depth at the Annual Conference. In addition, the subcommittees should meet separately at the Annual Conference to address some of the issues that are pertinent to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Czesak
Chair