October 9, 2007

TO: The ALA President, Executive Board, and Council

FROM: 2008 ALA Nominating Committee
W. Lee Hisle, Chair
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SUBJECT: Report of 2008 ALA Nominating Committee

The 2008 Nominating Committee began its work at ALA Midwinter 2007. At this meeting, we discussed the best strategies to achieve our goals of identifying two outstanding ALA presidential candidates and at least 53 nominees for Councilor-at-large. The committee decided to do the following:

- Seek as broad a diversity of candidates as possible.
- Contact chapters, divisions, roundtables and caucuses to solicit interest.
- Meet twice at the 2007 Annual Conference and arrange conference calls as needed.
- Not nominate any sitting councilors because of the ability to run by petition.
- Use the Potential Candidate Biographical Forms for identifying candidates.
- Each committee member agreed to take a responsibility to contact chapters, divisions, roundtables and affiliates.
- Ask then-ALA Staff Liaison Elizabeth Dreazen to send the committee a report on the current Council composition by type of library representation and a report on ALA membership statistics by state and type of library. Lois Ann Gregory-Wood provided able assistance to the Committee upon Elizabeth Dreazen’s departure.
After our Midwinter meetings, committee members immediately started contacting individuals who would be good potential candidates for President and Council and solicited ALA chapters, division, roundtables and affiliates for name of potential candidates. The Committee also contacted unsuccessful Council candidates from the 2005, 2006 and 2007 elections. The Committee approved an announcement prepared by Elizabeth Dreazen, former staff liaison to the Nominating Committee that was sent to American Libraries and to all ALA units.

At the same time, members of the committee sent flyers to various ALA groups via their electronic lists, provided flyers at the annual conference, made contacts with their officers and attended their meetings at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Committee had a conference call before the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. We used this time to plan our work and to do a preliminary review of potential candidates. At our Annual Conference meetings, we discussed the necessary qualifications for the presidential positions and reviewed the potential candidates who had submitted Potential Candidate Biographical Forms. At that time we continued our efforts by contacting the ALA groups and targeting individuals who we thought would be valuable members of Council.

For the presidential nominations we made a strong effort to contact potential candidates who had a strong record of service to ALA and an excellent record of leadership, among other qualifications. By the middle of August, we had identified an excellent pool of candidates for the presidential positions. The online Potential Candidate Biographical Form worked very well.

In August, the Committee had its second conference call to review Potential Candidate Biographical Forms. By mid September, we had identified two outstanding presidential candidates and 63 council candidates. In the end, we feel that both presidential candidates have strong professional as well as leadership experience in ALA and will be excellent candidates for ALA President.

The Council nominees are professionally and geographically diverse and represent 26 states and the District of Columbia. The final list of 63 candidates is composed of:

- Academic Librarians ..................40%  (25)
- Public Librarians .....................25%  (16)
- School Librarians ....................10%  (6)
- Trustees ..................................3%  (2)
- Library Educators ....................10%  (6)
- State Library/Cooperative ...........8%  (5)
- Network/State Associations ........3%  (2)
- Vendor ................................. 2%  (1)

The names of our nominees are included on a separate attachment.

Applicants found the online candidate form easy to use because it gives the flexibility to go back and complete their data as needed.
The final composition of the 2006 Council slate includes the following:

**Gender:**

Female 54% (34)  Male 46% (29)

**States:** 26 states:

Arizona (1); California (5); Colorado (1); CT (2); Florida (4); Georgia (5); Illinois (6); Indiana (2); Kentucky (3); Louisiana (1); Massachusetts (2); Michigan (4); Missouri (2); North Carolina (2); New Hampshire (1); New Jersey (3); New York (4); Ohio (1); Oklahoma (1); Pennsylvania (3); Rhode Island (1); Tennessee (2); Texas (2); Utah (1); Virginia (1); and Washington (3).

Mid-Atlantic (11); Midwest (13); Northeast (6); Southeast (17); Southwest (4); and West (12).

Finally, it should be noted that, although we were ultimately successful in recruiting a pool of Councilor-at-large candidates, we were challenged to field a slate. As late as early September only two thirds of the candidates needed had agreed to run, forcing a three week extension of the deadline for application. Some of the responses from the members when asked to run for Council were:

- Attendance at both Midwinter and Annual meetings requires extra travel time and expense. This commitment is not institutionally supported.
- Not a good time, please consider me in future years.
- Belief that the work of Council is sometimes ineffective.
- Belief that name recognition was inadequate for a successful election.
- Length of required 3 years service on Council.
- Already served on Council.
- Reputation of Council as a body that bickers over issues incidental to the library profession.

We would like to thank ALA Staff Liaisons Elizabeth Dreazen and Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, along with Alicia Bastl and JoAnne Kempf, for all of their excellent support and assistance and for arranging all our meetings and conference calls.

Finally, we want to thank President Loriene Roy for giving us the opportunity to make this important contribution to our association.
2008 ALA CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

Nancy H. Allen, Dean and Director, University of Denver, Penrose Library 2150 E. Evans Ave.,
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