On the June 16, 2015, conference call, the Executive Board took the following action:

**Voted to** approve Louisville, Kentucky, as the official location for the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) 2019 National Conference & Exhibition on the dates of November 11-17, 2019. (See attached 2014-2015 EBD #12.35)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AASL Conference Site Approval</th>
<th>Young</th>
<th>Feldman</th>
<th>Stripling</th>
<th>Gonzalez</th>
<th>Banks</th>
<th>Hepburn</th>
<th>Hudson-Ward</th>
<th>Johns</th>
<th>Moorman</th>
<th>Neal</th>
<th>Persichini</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Y = Yes, N = No, P = Presiding Officer (does not vote), A = Abstain, NP = Not Present
TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: AASL 2019 Conference Site Recommendation – Louisville

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:
At the ALA 2015 Midwinter Meetings in Chicago, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Board of Directors unanimously approved Louisville, Kentucky as the official location of the AASL 2019 National Conference & Exhibition.

Per the ALA Policy Manual section A.4.3.4.9 Policies of the American Library Association in Relation to its Membership Divisions the AASL Executive Director and President are submitting these decisions to the ALA Executive Board.

Policy A.4.3.4.9 Division National Conferences, Pre-conferences, and Related Activities [VIII]

Proposals for Division National Conferences should be made to the ALA Executive Board at least two years in advance of the anticipated meeting date following a prescribed proposal outline. ALA state and regional chapters in the geographical area of a proposed conference shall be notified in writing of a desired conference prior to submitting the request to the Executive Board. Such notice shall seek the cooperation of the chapters with respect to scheduling and programming to the extent feasible. The Division shall contact the host Chapter prior to determining date availability with the host city. The Division shall contact the chapters in the geographical area immediately after determining date availability with the host city. In the event of a conflict with the ALA state or regional chapters and the proposed divisional conference, the ALA Executive Board shall make the decision in consultation with the chapters.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:
Terri Grief, AASL President
Sylvia K. Norton, AASL Executive Director

CONTACT PERSON:
Sylvia K. Norton, AASL Executive Director
Office Phone: 312-280-4388
Cell Phone: 207-671-2690
snorton@ala.org

DRAFT OF MOTION:
The ALA Executive Board approves Louisville, Kentucky as the official location for the AASL 2019 National Conference & Exhibition on the dates of November 11-17, 2019.

DATE: June 11, 2015

BACKGROUND:
The AASL National Conference & Exhibition is the primary continuing education activity of the division. Starting in 1980 in Louisville, Kentucky, the AASL National Conference has provided
quality professional development and networking opportunities for school librarian professionals. When asked the reasons for attending AASL Conference, the top 3 reasons given were Programming, Networking Opportunities, and Exhibits.

Requests for proposals to host the AASL 2019 National Conference & Exhibition were issued in July 2014. Per AASL’s policy on site selection criteria, AASL is committed to a geographic rotation of its conference location to afford more members the opportunity to attend. For 2019, staff looked at cities in the Southeastern U.S. Staff researched sites that had the appropriate meeting and exhibit space, adequate hotel rooms within walking distance of the convention center, easy accessibility for air and ground transportation, reasonable rates for meeting space and hotel rooms, and date availability.

After identifying suitable sites based on the above criteria, AASL also looked at ALA and other division conferences and meetings to avoid scheduling too closely to those conference locations. The schedule of locations for ALA and its divisional conferences is below.

Based on each city’s proposal, site visits by AASL staff, availability, and costs, Louisville, Kentucky was recommended to the AASL Board of Directors as the official location for the AASL 2019 National Conference & Exhibition.

**Locations of ALA and Division Conference, 2017-2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ALA</th>
<th>AASL</th>
<th>ACRL</th>
<th>PLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Midwinter: Atlanta &lt;br&gt;Annual: Chicago</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Midwinter: Denver &lt;br&gt;Annual: New Orleans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Midwinter: Seattle &lt;br&gt;Annual: DC</td>
<td>Louisville (proposed)</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Midwinter: Philadelphia &lt;br&gt;Annual: Chicago</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nashville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In accordance with the ALA’s “Organizational and Operational Practices,” Policy A.4.3.4.9, AASL contacted in writing ALA state and regional chapters, as well as AASL affiliate organizations, in the geographical areas of the proposed conference and sought the cooperation of these chapters in respect to programming and scheduling. Below is a chart of chapter and affiliates that responded to the request. The letters of support are attached.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>ALA Chapter</th>
<th>AASL Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ILLINOIS</td>
<td>Illinois Library Association (ILA)</td>
<td>Approves under ILA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIANA</td>
<td>Indiana Library Federation (ILF)</td>
<td>Association of Indiana School Librarian Educators (AISLE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENTUCKY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kentucky Association of School Librarians (KASL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>Approval Notes</td>
<td>Affiliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSOURI</td>
<td></td>
<td>Missouri Association of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Librarians (MASL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHIO</td>
<td>see below</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TENNESSEE</td>
<td>Approval sent through TASL</td>
<td>Tennessee Association of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Librarians (TASL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST VIRGINIA</td>
<td></td>
<td>No AASL affiliate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIRGINIA</td>
<td>Virginia Library Association (VLA)</td>
<td>Approves under VLA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ohio Educational and Library Media Association (OELMA) chose not to support the conference being held in Louisville, KY. They are concerned about the effect the conference’s close proximity to their state conference will have on revenue. The letter is attached for review. AASL has responded to OELMA’s concerns and that letter is attached for review.
Tuesday, 28 April 2015

Sylvia K. Norton
Executive Director
American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2729

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you for informing the Illinois Library Association about the possible selection of Louisville, Kentucky, as the site of a future AASL National Conference. On behalf of the Illinois Library Association’s Executive Board and our members, ILA is pleased to support the selection of Louisville, Kentucky, as the site of the 2019 AASL National Conference and Exhibition, November 11-17, 2019.

Louisville is a great city. It is also a reasonable drive for most Illinois’ school librarians, particularly those who live in the southern half of the state.

Wishing you the best in your upcoming AASL conferences.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Doyle
Executive Director
Illinois Library Association
Dear Melissa:

On behalf of the ILF board and AISLE board, we are in support of the location of Louisville, Kentucky to hold the 2019 AASL Conference. Locating the 2019 AASL Conference in Louisville would allow many of our members to attend their first national conference. In a recent poll, conducted by AISLE (Association of Indiana School Librarian Educators), our members stated that distance was one of the top three reasons for not attending conferences. Since Louisville is being considered, we will do all we can to help promote it and we can assure you that Indiana school librarians will attend!

With kindest regards,

Beverly Gard, Indiana Library Federation President
941 E 86th St., #260
Indianapolis, IN 46240
ph 317.257.2040
www.ilfonline.org

The mission of ILF is to foster the professional growth of its members and to promote all types of libraries in Indiana.
Dear Melissa:
On behalf of the KASL board, we support the location of Louisville, Kentucky for the 2019 AASL National Conference. Locating the 2019 AASL National Conference in Louisville would allow many of our members to attend their first national conference. Due to the reduction of professional development funds, our members use their own money to attend our state conferences. To have the opportunity to attend a national conference in our own backyard is more than a dream come true. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I feel certain that every librarian in our state will take advantage of the 2019 AASL Conference being in Louisville. The experience of attending a national conference is invaluable to a school librarian.

With kindest regards,

Thank you for your continued efforts to provide a dedicated school librarians’ conference on the national level. If our association can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Lisa Hughes
Library Media Specialist
Co-Chair of the AASL Presidential Initiative Task Force
KASL President
ESS Coordinator
Lone Oak Intermediate School
300 Cumberland Ave
Paducah, KY 42001
270-538-4143
May 1, 2015

Melissa Jacobsen
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. Jacobsen,

The Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) is writing you to voice its support for hosting the 19th National AASL Conference and Exhibition in Louisville, KY. In addition to being located relatively close to Missouri, which is beneficial for Missouri school librarians, Louisville offers conference attendees a number of great opportunities set in a culturally diverse and thriving city, which is beneficial for all.

MASL appreciates AASL’s notifying its affiliates of the potential location. We hope other chapters and affiliates will also support the national conference being located in the Bluegrass State.

Sincerely,
MASL’s 2014-2015 Board of Directors
May 12, 2015

AASL
Attn: Melissa Jacobsen
50 E. Huron St
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Melissa,

At the May 9, 2015, OELMA Board of Directors meeting, the AASL request to support the 2019 conference in Louisville, Kentucky was considered and voted upon. After a lengthy debate, the Board voted unanimously to not support the Louisville location for the 2019 AASL Conference.

The Board’s decision to not support AASL’s request are twofold. First and foremost, the Board is concerned that given the short driving distance between two major Ohio metropolitan areas and Louisville, attendance at our annual October conference will be jeopardized. The annual conference is a significant source of revenue. To thrive as an association we must have all OELMA members attend the state conference.

Secondly, while we are eager to have the 2015 AASL Conference in Columbus for all the attention it brings to school librarians in Ohio, it is imposing some severe economic hardship on our association because we are unable to hold an annual fall conference. The smaller, topic focused EduConferences that we intend to offer around the state will not bring in the revenue of an annual conference. In addition, we have seen a downturn in dues renewal for this year in part because we are not holding an annual conference that is seen by many as the main reason to join OELMA. Holding the AASL conference in Louisville gives OELMA only three years to recover financially from the AASL Conference in Columbus.

We know other states in Region 3 support the Louisville location; however, each state is different. OELMA, as the only professional
association for school librarians in the state, is independent of the public library and/or academic library associations. As a Board of Directors our first concern must be for the financial health of our association.

Thank you for contacting us. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Wojtecki
2015 OELMA President
angela.wojtecki@gmail.com
April 25, 2015

Melissa Jacobsen  
American Association of School Librarians  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2729

Dear Melissa,

I am writing on behalf of the TN Association of School Librarians to express our support for Louisville, KY to be the host city for AASL’s 19th National Conference & Exhibition. This was discussed at our quarterly Executive Board meeting on April 25th and we unanimously agreed this was an excellent choice. As our sister state, we fully support this location and are looking forward to having AASL somewhat close to home knowing it will be a great opportunity for all Tennessee librarians.

Thank you for your continued efforts to provide a dedicated school librarians’ conference on the national level. If our association can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lora Ann Black  
TASL President 2015  
LoraAnnBlack.tasl@gmail.com
May 26, 2015

Melissa Jacobsen
Meetings Manager
American Association of School Librarians,
a division of the American Library Association
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. Jacobsen,

As President of the Virginia Library Association, I am pleased to write in strong support of the American Association of School Librarians request to hold its 2019 National Conference & Exhibit in Louisville, KY.

I currently work with the newly elected President Elect of AASL, Audrey Church, and I lived in Louisville from 2003-2007 – so I feel doubly connected to this effort. Louisville is a marvelous city, especially with its new arena and other wonderful attractions in the downtown area near the convention center. I served on the planning committee for LOEX's 2005 conference in Louisville, and know first hand that attendees thoroughly enjoyed the city then – and that AASL attendees would love it in 2019.

Best of luck in your request!

Sincerely,

Suzy Szasz Palmer, President
Virginia Library Association
Dean of the Greenwood Library
June 11, 2015

Angela Wojtecki
President
Ohio Educational Library Media Association
17 South High Street, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 73215

Dear Angela and members of the OELMA Board:

Thank you for your letter of concern regarding the American Association of School Librarians’ decision to host its 2019 National Conference & Exhibition in Louisville, Kentucky. The Executive Committee of the AASL discussed OELMA’s concerns at length during our May Executive Committee meeting.

The Executive Committee decided to move forward with Louisville as the site for its 2019 National Conference. AASL received overwhelming support for its decision from the other states from which we sought support. We believe that compared to the other cities considered, Louisville offers a great location and an affordable conference experience for attendees.

I have spoken with the AASL Executive Director, Sylvia Knight Norton, and she has assured me that AASL is working with OELMA members and will continue to look at how to offset the burden AASL’s 2015 National Conference may cause your association. I hope that OELMA will continue to discuss these ideas with Sylvia and that we can work toward a solution that will support OELMA in 2015.

I hope that you know how much AASL values its relationships with the affiliates. We hope that we are able to support OELMA and its members in the future and work together on making school librarians powerful leaders in education.

Regards,

Terri Grief
AASL President, 2014-2015

Cc: Sylvia Knight Norton, AASL Executive Director