

ALA Midwinter 2007, Seattle, Washington
ISS Meeting, January 20, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 by Patt Moser.

Present were: Patt Moser, Courtney Lewis, Alison Ernst
Anne Macdonell, Susan Williamson, Linell Ela, Steve Matthews, Nancy Highiet, Laura Pearl and Aimee Patterson.

Patt handed out an agenda in the form of general categories for discussion.

Web Presence:

- Ernie had updated content, removed dated items
- We, as members, need to promote the use of the ISS website by members
- Question arose about a photo component. There seems to be a bit of confusion about whether written permission is required or just a verbal OK will suffice.
- Patt will check about the need for permission to post photos on the website.
- Laura Pearl suggested one person would continually update ISS activities such as meeting times, social activities etc. on the AASL blog
- It was also suggested that a blog would get information about ISS out to AASL in general and not be directed toward ISS members in particular
- It was suggested that it could be difficult to find the ISS page from AASL's homepage. Perhaps we should look into the possibility of having a link directly from the AASL homepage.
- Other ways to get the word out about ISS: Blurb in AL Direct about ISS, perhaps featuring a particular member library. This to be done monthly or quarterly. Courtney volunteered to look into this.
- Showcase DC libraries before the summer meeting.
- Several members pointed out the ALA was about to revamp the content of the site
- Patt will email ISS graphic to Laura
- Membership for ISS was 830 a few years ago. Susan will get updated list from Kathy Agawarl.
- Suggestion that we should send out an email each time something new is added to the website.
- To be determined: Are we Independent Schools Section or Independent School Section?
- We need a drive through local groups (regional groups) to increase ISS listserv subscription.

DATA Committee:

- Ellysa Cahoy is continuing work on her article, hoping to have a draft by May or June
- Susan pointed out that the questions on the AASL survey were very similar to those on the ISS survey

- Ellysa will try to find out which schools did not respond to survey. It would be good to put something on the list serve or blog to encourage ISS members to respond to the survey.
- Questions were raised about the validity of some of the questions on the AASL survey.
- Dorcas compared our membership list with those who responded to the survey, it appears when had about a 50% response rate.
- Patt will email Lance to ask him about information from the survey will be disseminated.

Programs

- Question was raised about who arranges programs since there is no AASL program chair at the moment
- Laura suggestions putting an article in KQ about ISS activities in June, or at least getting something on the KQ Website. Laura needs information as soon as possible.
- It was suggested that there be an ISS representative on every Conference Program planning committee.
- Patt will email Julie Walker regarding ISS program since she has not had a response from her last email to Brenda Drier. She had sent an email on June 30 to Brenda Drier, organizer for AASL and ALA events, but had received not reply. (See below regarding lack of communication)
- We learned that AASL had planned the evening reception, school tour and workshop with consulting any ISS committee members.
- Be sure to share any good programming ideas, any ways to make the reception warm and friendly and to encourage new membership.
- Maybe we need a professional “mingler” or come up with some interesting ice breakers. Consider flashing light pins or other ways to set members or greeters off from the rest of the group.
- Perhaps we could each bring one thing from our various school stores with school logos on the items to exchange.
- Laura and Courtney will work on planning the reception.
- Consider ways to promote ISS to NAIS. Important for us to work with NAIS
- Allyson submitted program to NAIS but suggestion rejected
- Laura has a friend on accreditation committee, she will contact her.
- Perhaps suggestion a session entitled “do We Really Need a Library?”

Nominating Committee

- While the blog and listserv cannot openly endorse candidates, we can mention “ISS” friendly candidates.
- Update from Linell Ela on candidates for office.
- Candidates for Chair:
 - Catherine McKenzie, Georgetown Day High School, Washington, D.C.
 - Elizabeth Burke, Georgetown Visitation preparatory Upper School, Washington, D. C

- Candidates for Secretary:
 - Aimee Patterson, St. Francis Episcopal Day School, Houston, TX
 - Courtney Lewis, Wyoming Seminary, Forty Fort, PA
- Susan Williamson will continue chair of the data committee. Steve will stay on committee too.
- Steve is ending his term on the ALA Council. We have no ISS person to run for his seat. He discussed some of the duties of council representative.
- Given that there seems to be confusion regarding how AASL is organized, it might be a good idea to include “little lessons” on the listserv.

Member Outreach

- Dorcas Hand has come up with a list “Top Ten Reasons to Join ISS”. Patt will post on the wiki the Top 10 Reasons to see if we get suggestions.
- Advertise at the state level; try to get one person from each state to take back flyers about ISS membership.
- Flyers to be distributed at local events.
- Do we have a membership Outreach committee?
- Linell will work with Marion to get a committee together
- Patt will check with Marion to see if she is still interested in chairing the committee.
- Pat will send out wiki info again and try to get the group interested.
- Discussion about AISL arose and whether or not we are in competition with that group. The consensus seemed to be that they serve more of a networking function. It was felt that AISL should be looked at more as a complementary organization than a competitive organization.

The meeting ended at 3:30.