

Affiliate Assembly II

Sunday, June 26, 2005
8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Palmer House Hilton Empire Room

Rosina welcomed everyone at 8:30.

David Burns from TLC was introduced and thanked for his company's generosity in providing the lovely continental breakfast enjoyed by the group.

Candidates for Affiliate Assembly Chair-elect and secretary were introduced and invited to make a brief presentation.

Mary K. Biagini presented a power point on the 12th national conference to be held in Pittsburgh in October.

Dawn Vaughn addressed the Assembly. She addressed the importance of Affiliate Assembly as the group who brings information to the AASL Board and how we help keep support the association by bringing our concerns to the attention of the Board.

Dawn also reported that the AASL Board has been working on the Strategic Plan, which will hopefully be approved tomorrow. The Strategic Plan addresses the following major goals: standards and guidelines, advocacy, professional development, influence within ALA, and community.

She also reported that though we helped to elect many people to ALA Council we need to encourage more SLMS to run. She encouraged each of us to consider running for Council so that we can continue to have a presence and a voice in the organization. She described the ways to apply.

Ballots were collected and counted by Cathy Agarwall, Rosina Alaimo and Diane Chen

Committee reports:

Connie Champlin – AASL Web Advisory Committee

Connie asked for ideas to improve the AASL website. She wants to know what needs to be changed, improved, or kept the same to make the site more user-friendly. Some suggestions follow:

- Remove links that do not work since the reformatting.
- Create an affiliate assembly listserv
- Include talking points and questions for discussions at the state level.
- Include a link to Affiliate Assembly on the AASL homepage.
- Include Sample toolkits for teacher collaboration, information literacy, assessment, etc. These can come out as concerns from AA or from the committees.

She asked for volunteers to serve on the website advisory committee and stated that the committee

will include virtual members. If you are interested, please complete a volunteer form and submit it to Linda Williams.

Barbara Stripling - ALA presentation on ALA Strategic Plan

Barb presented ALA's strategic Plan -- ALA Ahead to 2010. There is a new emphasis in ALA in local advocacy. ALA has set up a new task force on school libraries. Barb has been appointed chair of this task force. The first report will come in January.

1. The plan has an increased emphasis on research.
2. Recognition for support staff and their roles.
3. Increased attention to international policies that affect libraries.
4. Increased emphasis on the importance of membership.

Nancy Everhart – Nominating Committee

Nancy discussed the need for candidates to run for the AASL Board. AASL needs a few good candidates for the following offices: President-elect, Member at large, and Director-elects for several regions. If interested, please email Nancy at

< everhart@ci.fsu.edu >

Rosina presented the packet of Commendations that were submitted and suggested strongly that absent clear guidelines to guide the membership when writing up the statements, that we approve the packet in its entirety as presented.

A motion was made to accept both the commendations as written and the additional ones that were not printed. There was discussion because some statements were not included because either they were not received by the chair in a timely manner, were not submitted in a timely manner, or the honorees were merely fulfilling the responsibilities of their jobs and therefore not eligible. Some of this controversy was the result of the changes at the AASL office which contributed to confusion, the vagaries of email systems that fail and miscommunication by the members as to whom is ultimately responsible for submitting the Commendations and to whom.

Therefore, the group voted to establish an ad hoc committee to establish criteria to guide affiliates as they think about worthy honorees and to clarify the process for submission of these documents. Volunteers to this committee include: Floyd Pentlin, Joanne Proctor, and Hilda Weisberg.

Time was allowed for groups to continue the caucus sessions from Friday evening.

Vote on concerns:

Each of the Statements of Concerns was taken up individually. The following 4 Statements of Concern were approved:

Funding Concern - submitted by 4 regions.

- The federal accounting structure for which states are held accountable which classifies school librarians and libraries is outdated. By listing "library services" as "instructional

support staff” rather than “instructional staff”, teacher- librarians are in jeopardy of being eliminated due to the demand to increase classroom spending based on the current accounting structure.

Currency of National Standards - submitted by one region:

- The national Informational Literacy Standards for Student Learning and guidelines for school library programs need to be updated to reflect current practice, the latest research and current vocabulary.

Impact of Library Center Program on student learning – submitted by 4 regions:

- Teacher and administrator training programs do not recognize the valuable role of School Library Media Specialists and information literacy in teaching and learning.

Apathy – submitted by one region:

- Although efforts were made in 2005 to encourage members of AASL to exercise their voting rights, there is still a concern about the low voter turnout by AASL members in ALA elections. A possible reason for this low turnout is that the average AASL member knows little about most of the candidates for national office.

The new Affiliate Assembly officers were introduced:

Secretary-elect – Karen Love

Chair-elect – Carl Harvey

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.