

**AASL Affiliate Assembly Sharing Session – 20 Jan 2007 –
ALA Midwinter Meetings – Seattle**

Session #1 (10:30 am)

Group focus: How do we get them to tell our story? (Advocacy – teachers, administrators, students, parents, community)

Valerie Edwards, Manova Wisconsin, Becky Robinson, ILSLA

Linda Weatherspoon – MASL (MO) – Turn it around “What would be missing without us?” that is the question that is asked. Take libraries for granted.

Janet Roche Salisbury HS (Conn.) – Digital world is our friend and bigger challenge – in Conn. joint conference with Instructional technology folks, take a different approach to looking at conferences.

Discussion ensued regarding name change to align with national organization at local organization level (use term teacher-librarians in name) – Ann Ewbank (Az.) – alignments with ALA organizations and affiliate technology organizations

Legislative issues – using conduit to ALA lobbyists through local organizations or hiring lobbyists to promote agendas by local organizations to tell story – look at organizational efforts like Florida (FAME).

Need for strong legislative lobbyist at every level.

Becky Robinson (ILSLA) State Boards of Education lobbying on behalf for digital library funding, School Board Conferences, Principal and Superintendents,

Linda Weatherspoon, “MASL Speaks” power point program used with pre-service teachers in University settings, hard to break into process of speaking to classes – need to become partners.

Legislative breakfast with photographs of new school library facilities – great idea.

How do you get new members locally? With no centralized (central office) folks, CEMA Board Liaisons distribute to HS Librarians and then disseminate information about membership from there.

ILLA did a magazine and put together a major spread on school libraries. State Library did edition on school libraries including State Survey results and anecdotes from student’s perspectives.

Session #2 (11:15 am)

Kathryn Halsey – Ohio – get students to tell your story, tied into Ross Todd study, simple data shared with all advocacy training sessions, sheet posted outside of library telling

their story (5/6th grade bldg.) – newsletter that goes out to the community “Bits and Bites” – go to actual classroom – advocacy newsletter that comes out at state level on state organization listserv.

Share newsletters with other schools and provide each other with articles - great time saver for all.

Mary Moyer – NJSLA – severe budget issues – lots of lobbying using “student voices” essay contests for students.

All organization newsletters have go to area superintendents, all other groups, legislators included, web pages, communication pieces - Ida Thompson, SoCarolina (ScASL) Richland School District --- include other folks on district-level library media advisories must be provided – must meet twice during the school year (become advocates) – ScASL.net – target members with legislative alerts – give talking points (bookmark “Strive for 25”).

Some organizations hire lobbyists to help with upcoming issues. Wisconsin libraries have a lobbyist, Campaign: “Have every legislator visit a library in their district” – very targeted (Annette Smith, President of WEMA).

Session #3 – (11:40 am)

Jodi Howard (Colorado SLA) – work with Colorado State Library – Survey – to hire qualified school library media specialists – short survey – re: certification – advocacy with AASL.

“Five of eight rule” categories – Ohio.

Jane Shakra (ILSLA) – Illinois provisions – 18 credit hours required certification (now 24 credit hours) – do have to have a media program but not certified staff – Lance study – in schools that have libraries, etc. 6.2 % in ACT scores, 16-19% increases at Elem and MS level – given to everyone and disseminated widely but ignored – IL State BOE – SLM specialists sent to scheduled budget hearings – with study results, discussed how to improve -- line item added for \$5 mil. for databases as a result – share stories of success from students

TennASL – certified lms in each building – certification has been changed – co-sponsor of Tennessee Library Legislative Day with Tennessee Library Association.

Session #4 –

Jackie Pearson (NCSLMA) – w/Dept. of Public Instruction - IMPACT guidelines for media and technology, administrators come in a day ahead of conference, offer free registration – what makes up a quality media program, principals have a better understanding and advocate for their programs, libraries part of Instructional Technology Legislative Day – parents become big advocates – PTA affiliations – also affiliations w/

County organizations – “telling the story” encourage school libraries to do local videos and show at PTA meetings and local school board meetings (site based).

Sally Daniels, New York State – Key legislators met with Ross Todd, Barbara Stripling and looked at Scholastic research compilation – resulted in a huge increase in budget for this coming year (07-08).

Jo Carr (Wisconsin) – State Library Legislative Day – have a virtual library legislative day for school librarians to send e-mails and make phone calls – legislative retreat day – representatives from other education organizations (pay travel) – come to agreements – both organizations agree not to fight each others initiatives – had about 15 reps involved – developed advocacy web site “We Matter.” -- WEMAonline.org

State Legislation Day (Lynn Carruthers) –

Sandy Kelly – MSLA (Massachusetts) – Set-up students work in legislative hall and invite parents to attend who become advocates for school libraries.

Jo Kirkbride (Michigan) – building bridges with State Librarian – video for web site (vignettes from school libraries) on school libraries and revision of standards, accrediting organizations.

Comments regarding AASL Affiliate Assembly Sharing Session:
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Yes great – would it be possible to have another timeslot – or add to Saturday session more time for regions to get back together as a group (to meet and debrief).

“Very positive” – great to hear what is working in other states!

I got a lot of great ideas.

Made lots of contacts and can now put together names with faces.

Time Saturday morning may make our business meeting more productive on Sunday by spending more time together sharing with each other.

AASL Affiliate Assembly Discussion Group – Collaboration Saturday, January 20, 2007

Session I

Many affiliates maintain positions/representatives/liaisons on their boards from various state professional organizations. Some of these include:

- State library representative. In some states this liaison is only involved with regard to state database information.
- DOE representative These exist in some states, but concern for maintaining or gaining position on board is strong amongst many states. In many states this liaison is assigned other duties in addition to school library media services. (KY invited their state superintendent to a luncheon at their state conference. This proved to be very positive in making changes to the additional duties assigned to this person/people).
- State technology association representative/liaison in a couple states
- State reading association representative/liaison in some states
- State Administrator (NY) There is a concern that once this person retires, the position may not be replaced.

Other issues regarding collaboration involved:

- Colorado's CLIC committee: This group is headed up by the technology and education departments of the CO State Library. It provides in-services to educators
- Virginia's strand of workshops presented at their annual State Department of Education Technology conference. This is a way to show that school librarians are key in training the public library users of the future.
- Ohio was asked to sit in on the AASL partnership with 21st century political education philanthropic group. This was done with a focus on incorporating 21st century skills in their curriculum and standards. This coalition building is being done state by state. 21stcenturyskills.org
- KSMA (Kentucky) and KLA have a joint conference. Several other states conduct joint conferences.
- New York is working with state teacher's union to gain support for library materials funding

Session II

- Virginia conducts an Administrator's Day at annual conference. This is free of charge to administrators and includes an invitation to the opening session (guest speaker), exhibitor's pass, and participation in an administrator's roundtable discussion group. This panel consists of administrators (at building and district levels), guest speakers, and school library media specialists (at all levels).
- Maine has a joint legislative committee. They also have support money for a lobbyist a school librarian is on all state curriculum committees.
- Pennsylvania's State Library falls under the PA State Department of Education. They have a supervisor at the state department that oversees school libraries. Professional development for school libraries is heavily supported by state funds. The PA State Center for the Book co-sponsors a poetry award that is presented at the PSLA conference.
- Connecticut is looking for ways to collaborate with administrators and superintendents. They hold an administrator's breakfast at conference. They share data with administrators and also present an administrator's award. They sponsor workshop for strategies to work on standardized testing and ways school library media specialists can collaborate with teachers to help improve test scores.
- Michigan (Ross Todd) is looking at holes in standardized testing to see how we (school library media specialists) can help with filling holes. State legislators are invited to the administrator's/luncheon at the state conference.
- Tennessee looks at holes in standardized testing at the elementary level in order to assess how school library media specialists can help.

- Missouri State Library has helped with supporting a state secondary library consultant. They received funding for summer reading program materials. This showed that summer school reading was a key factor in student achievement.
- In both Pennsylvania and Missouri, school board members are invited to state conference.

Session III

- New Jersey has a member that is a liaison to the state reading association and state library. There is no longer a representative on the board from the department of education. They have an outreach committee whose charge is to make connections with outside organizations. This year they are working on PTA and the state education association. New Jersey is co-sponsoring an award with the NJ State Reading Association. NJASL holds an administrator's breakfast where legislators are invited and an award is given.
- Indiana is making inroads with the state PTA and will be speaking at the PTA state meeting. They hold a summer workshop and invite administrators. They will be holding a joint conference with ILA for the first time. This is currently only a 2 year commitment in order to assess the financial status of such a joint venture.
- South Carolina has a school administrator's association within their organization. They (SCASL) present at the SC administrator's conference. SCASL pays for a representative/liaison's membership to the administrator's association.
- Wisconsin holds a legislative breakfast every other year and invites administrators and legislatures at no charge. They are working on reorganizing board structures, bylaws, policies and procedures. This will be voted on this spring.

Session IV

- North Carolina has a Department of Instruction representative on their board. They also have 2 state library members, an LSTA children's library representative from the state library and an independent school section representative on their board. North Carolina conducts an administrator's forum as a pre-conference session and is free to administrators.
- Connecticut will have a joint conference with their technology association this coming fall at the Convention center in Hartford. They are looking at potentially 1400 people in attendance.
- Illinois members receive (3) one day complimentary conference registrations from their technology association. The Illinois State Library website has an article on administration. The site also has an article on Becky Robinson, President of ISLMA

Suggestions for future Affiliate Assembly Roundtable Discussions:

- Announce topics prior to conference so people can be prepared with handouts/urls/ questions, etc.
- Post on Affiliate Assembly Listserv requests for topics a month or so ahead to better assess the needs

Notes from the Building Future Leaders Roundtable at AASL Midwinter Affiliate Assembly – Saturday Session

Discussions in each group took off quickly with participants sharing successes in their own states as well as discussing where they thought more work was needed. Discussions in each group varied greatly, but these three common ideas reoccurred in all three sessions.

1. Affiliate Associations need to gain access to new media specialists while they are still involved in their preservice school librarian programs.
2. Affiliate Associations need to form partnerships and develop programs that collaborate with higher education to promote the role of media centers in preservice teacher and school administration programs.
3. State, regional, and local conferences are great venues to offer programs and workshops aimed at beginning and new media specialists.

Several specific programs, tips and ideas were discussed during the roundtables. Several states provided details of their own programs. In no specific order:

- ◆ Several states provide scholarships to new media specialists attending their conferences for the first time.
- ◆ In South Carolina the Preservice Committee is standing committee established to set up partnerships with universities. They make presentations in classes, talk about conference and the state organization. This committee is run by volunteers. Members are pulled from across the state. One focus of this committee is collaboration.
- ◆ Several members suggested setting up a better way to share ideas, documents and programs aimed at preservice media specialists, teachers and administrators.
- ◆ Kansas shared that they find their efforts at collaborating with universities are more productive if they can establish a liaison within the university faculty and staff.
- ◆ In Wisconsin, one university partners preservice teachers with preservice librarians to develop common units during their course of study.
- ◆ In South Carolina some universities have education classes taught by faculty in the school library media programs.
- ◆ Colorado has a state requirement for preservice teachers to show collaboration with related arts teachers, which includes the school media specialist.
- ◆ The second roundtable group emphasized the power and need of the personal touch. We explored the importance of making phone calls and personal invitations to new members.
- ◆ In several states the Affiliate has regional contact positions that are responsible for maintaining a database of active school librarians and sharing information at the state level.

- ◆ Wisconsin has a committee in their state association that actively works to identify future leaders of the organization. They hold special sessions at conference for these people. Also, free membership is offered for one year to library students.
- ◆ Several states indicated that their leadership “training” ground has historically been centered around the planning of conference. Many of the eventual state leaders were identified through their volunteer participation in planning either regional or state conferences.
- ◆ North Carolina spends a considerable amount of money to send media specialists, including new media specialists, to various conferences. They are asked to present, take a leadership position or follow up with some type of activity following the conference.
- ◆ Several states indicated that they have programs they fund for new media specialists. This may include special pricing at conference for first-time attendees, sponsorship to conferences and programs, or special workshops aimed at future leaders.
- ◆ In all groups the use of applications for various programs was raised. Two groups pointed out that these applications could be carefully constructed in a way that would provide the existing leadership with information that would help identify future leaders.
- ◆ Several states discussed how they hosted leadership summits for current and future leaders of the state associations.
- ◆ Massachusetts reported favorably on their use of the AASL Leadership Institute. Their sessions focused on working collaboratively at the building level. Attendees had the option of earning graduate credit.
- ◆ In Colorado some universities give credits to graduate students who attend annual conferences. At least two states, Nebraska and New York, mentioned that some of their university professors waive textbook fees in exchange for the students joining the state association.
- ◆ Several minutes were spent discussing the idea of “bringing” a new media specialist along. These discussions ranged from simply inviting a new media specialist to an event, to more formalized mentoring programs that paired up veteran media specialists with newly hired school librarians.

Professional Development discussions:

Almost all states hold an Annual Conference (either single or multi-day), with keynote speakers and multiple concurrent sessions:

- equally divided between fall and spring.
- may be part of a larger professional gathering (librarians, teachers, technology, etc), or a separate, independent event.
- usually organized and run by volunteers. Massachusetts association has hired a conference manager to handle all operational details (everyone else is envious), and recommends it.
- try to make connections to bring in administrators and other stakeholders to conference

Additional PD activities, in various states:

- monthly or quarterly regional meetings, usually hosted at a school.
- one-day mini-conference or seminar in spring or fall on specific topic.
- 2-3 day summer leadership/refresher workshops on college campuses
- video conferencing
- 1 or ½ day workshop this summer

Common themes for PD activities:

- advocacy
- technology
- new resources (print and online)

Common problems:

- cost, funding
- time out of school/district
- accountability -- ongoing PD required for certification
- booking space too far in advance can cause problems down the road

Web 2.0 Discussions

Sandra Andrews, North Carolina, David Warlick's Landmark Project has great information on how to use social network tools in classroom. UNC teaching teachers and administrators to integrate Electronic Resources for Youth. Wiki, collaborative project, blog on subject (content rich), Second Life (virtual community) has island called Info Library with library's and schools with buildings on this island. Coursework taking avatars to the island to participate with students in real time with students. Take field trips within 2nd Life. Mia Farrow talking about Darfur. Had panel of experts online in the virtual world. Sandra's avatar name is Katie Zeevi rabbit ears. Teen area for 18 years old and under blocks adults from entering. Very specific teen regions. Imagine9 Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Australia's National Library has a site and has developed many resources there. Institute of Health sites. Also, they do extensive online gaming like the economics course that is entirely online and entirely through the game. Undergrads are taking this.

There are so many places to access these things. How do we manage this? Blog sites, RSS, more and more comes in. Building level people say they are overwhelmed with the physical people.

Kristen: How do you make the choice on what you participate in?

Jackie: Inequities across the state of Massachusetts so some have access. Wants base-level knowledge by librarians.

Sandra Digital Native, Digital Immigrants issue across campus. We'd better hurry up and do it.

Kristin, Wants librarians to help teachers use new tools to match up with students' needs. Not just being impressed with the latest whiz-bang technologies.

Diane: Podcasts with cellphones using gcast. Students voices recorded. Students and parents can access. Not everyone. Participatory does not mean it's open to everyone. You can still choose who participates.

Kristin: Podcasting. Text editing tools when they read aloud they find more mistakes. Imbed in writer's workshop. Record conversations of students to help parents understand when lower ELL students come to the library. Captures spontaneous conversations because she keeps her device in her pocket. Uses blog for parents with directions. Doesn't use iTunes for podcasts because she wants the context to be included so parents know why they have these podcasts as part of instruction.

Jackie went to workshop and received a device Phillips GoGear 1 GB MP3Player, radio, Microphone, flash drive approximately \$150. Receives daily announcements, progress reports, etc.

Group 2

David Bilmes Book Review Blog on screen as kids came in at the beginning of the year. Hasn't pushed a lot. Has about 40 posts. Teacher newspaper project using wiki's and blog's. Excited about the challenge. Wants it to look good because the teacher is experienced and wonderful.

Sally Roof 21 over 2 day period 5th and 6th graders on Library Advisory Committee started a wiki to say what they are talking about. They are considering building a second floor to the library so they can make it more like a public library. Plexiglass kind of cage so no one falls. Great discussion. They are creating drawings about how they want it to look and discussing fund raising. Issues and how to accomplish things. PR thing within the school. Started in November. Hasn't received many parent responses.

Kathy Lehman in VA high school says there are lots of fear about blogs and wiki's. Library students who receive English credit for library class. Created brochures about online safety. Blocking them from it is not educating them at all. Modeling how to use social network sites safely for one year. Talkthis.com forum. Book club forum. Afterschool club. Created to talk about books. Kids are interested in being creative: poetry, stories, etc. Kathy and a student monitors periodically to eliminate inflammatory language, to make sure those students don't give too much information and that they don't list Myspace accounts, etc. Still feels that her hands are tied behind her back due to restrictions by non-educators. Kathy has some students creating Myspace accounts to publicize their creative products.

Jane Sharka – teachers with Blackboard accounts can run these activities. Wrestling with issues on public vs. private. Parent and student discussions. Outside of school or through blackboard are the only ways to participate. Must take a class on blackboard technology first.

Ways teachers can participate:

Content management system.

Front page as a product.

Blackboards.

Internal network (LAN).

Has some teachers with accounts in Myspace. Interactivity occurring outside school day. School finally becoming even with the technology available in homes.

Sally Roof. No email at school. No iPod at school. No cell phones. No DVD players. Allowed to bring them, but not use them. If they are stolen, tough luck.

Group 3

Sherry Crow because Colorado has a blog, she went ahead and posted about what was happening. Kept working on it until she mastered it.

Annette Smith local control of filtering has created great problems in allowing teachers access to their professional association blog

Becky has started a blog on the Grapes of Wrath. Still in beginning implementation. Conference blog. Developing a new habit of checking.

Marsha's state listserv charges for messages. Blogs might provide more conversation.

Conversation on Blogs, wikis, youtube.

Annette conversation on podcast. Students listen to her lectures before they come in.

Group 4

Therese says she is probably a complete novice, but Maine has a technology initiative for all Middle schools to receive ibooks. She is their teacher leader for this project for the past 3-4 years. They use the technology. There is a lot of potential we aren't using yet. Kids use cameras, videotaping. Podcasting has not been utilized.

Margaret Hashauer talked about how she took ideas after a Joyce Valenza workshop to implement blogs. She suggested you take one new idea and try it out.

Enjoyed this networking session. Liked the format. Hope the word gets out and others realize what they missed.