

**American Association of School Librarians
Affiliate Assembly Executive Committee Meeting
Friday January 11, 2008
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Marriott Philadelphia, Room: Franklin 13**

The Executive Committee of the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians met from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Friday January 11, 2008 at the Marriott Philadelphia in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Committee members in attendance were: Rosina Alaimo, Jay Bansbach, Cara Cavin, John Chrastka, Maribel Garza Castro, Diane Chen, Nancy Dickinson, Gail Formanach, Leslie Forsman, Dee Griffith, Jen Habley, Carl Harvey, Sarah Kelly Johns, Debra LaPlante, Ann Martin, Robbie Nickel, Ann Perham, Cyndi Phillip, Julie Walker, and Hilda Weisburg.

Jay Bansbach, Affiliate Assembly Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Philadelphia. Committee members introduced themselves and stated their positions on the Committee. The minutes from the Annual Conference meeting in Washington D.C. were discussed and any changes were given to the Affiliate Secretary, Leslie Forsman and to the Past Secretary, Dee Griffith. Diane Chen moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Rosina Alaimo seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements by AASL Officers:

AASL President Sara Kelly Johns reported that the AASL Board has reviewed the Commendations and Statements of Concern that the Affiliate Assembly brought forward in June 2007. The Board met the weekend before AASL Conference in October 2007. Task Forces will be created in response to the following Statements of Concern 1). AASL lacks an updated position statement on the library media specialist's role in teaching reading comprehension strategies and engaging students in pleasure and recreational reading; 2). NEMA requests that AASL assist affiliates in reaching out to parent and community organizations that can advocate for school libraries; 3). We are concerned about the future of our profession regarding recruiting a more diverse workforce. There is a need to attract new and dynamic members to the profession and AASL as a professional organization; 5). NET standards are imbedded in NCLB but do not show the essential role of the library media in implementation and student achievement of those standards (AASL is pursuing a joint Task Force for this concern. For Concern #4 "Currently there is not a centralized location for affiliate organizations to post/warehouse publications in a variety of formats that other organizations could utilize/customize for their audiences. Power Point presentations, video, assessments, programming ideas, organizational policies, presentations, podcasts, and evaluations," it was noted that ALA has software that can be utilized for these purposes.

AASL President Elect Ann Martin reported that she is looking for committee volunteers to fill over 400 positions. Also several regions will need to submit at least two names as possible Director-Elects for their region. ALA committee members will be appointed beginning on Saturday January 12, 2008. Those not named to committees for this year may be placed into a database of possible committee members for future years and for possible task force members.

Julie Walker, AASL Executive Director, reported that several states have joined in the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, and that Kansas, Iowa and New Jersey might become members very soon.

John Chrastka, AASL Director of Membership Development, reported that there will be some changes in the membership booth at ALA Annual in Anaheim 2008. There is a stage type setting in the pavilion area which can be used to host “mini AASL 101” sessions. These sessions could last about 15 minutes and could be scattered throughout the conference dates. It was noted that when there is an activity going on during an ALA/AASL “show” (in the exhibits area), conference attendees will stop to watch. (This does not occur at other professional organizations’ conferences according to a demographics/traffic patterns study.) It was also suggested that the full length “AASL 101” session be held twice during the ALA Annual conference since it was so well received at the AASL conference in Reno. John will need to have proposed session schedules in May to be able to incorporate them into the Annual conference schedules. Carl Harvey, Past Affiliate Assembly Chair agreed to work with John on the session(s) for Anaheim.

Other Reports:

The Executive Committee was reminded that the procedures and timelines for submitting Commendations and Statements of Concern have been revised. These procedures and timelines are listed in the Affiliate Assembly Handbook. All commendation requests and statements of concern must be received in the ALA office by May 15th to be considered at ALA Annual in June. The statements of concern need to represent regional or national level issues and need to be things that AASL/ALA can respond to/take action on (“do-able”). Commendations may only be awarded to programs and events; they may not be awarded to individuals. Affiliate organizations are encouraged to use their listservs to discuss and refine items before submitting them.

The Affiliate Assembly Handbook also has the list of Presidential rotations and information about the listservs and the online communities. Jen Habley will set up regional listservs as requested. There was a short discussion of whether the listservs should be open or closed. No decision was recorded.

The paperwork containing the re-affiliation procedures will be distributed at the Sunday morning Affiliate Assembly meeting. They will be given to the Director-Elects, who are asked to give them to those states which are represented on Sunday; those states not present on Sunday will receive their information in the mail.

It was suggested that there should be a larger outreach program to those states who are not affiliates to encourage them to become members and to share with the national organization.

The agenda for the Sunday morning meeting was approved. Linworth will sponsor a breakfast for the affiliates. There will be a section of Sunday morning devoted to discussing the “mega-issue” -- “How do we maximize our influence/collaborations with the educational/professional community?” The delegates will be asked to examine four prongs to this question: 1) If AASL can only focus on partnering/collaborating with one of the following

three groups—parents, administrators, or curriculum content organizations—which one should it be and why? 2) Which of these three would provide the greatest chance of success based on your perception and why? 3) What successes have you had at the state level with coalitions/collaborations/partnerships with similar organizations? 4) What would success look like in these partnerships (goals, expectations, etc.)?

The Celebrate Conference presentation at AASL in Reno 2007 was very well received. The number of attendees far exceeded the expectations. There was not enough food for all, but the tickets did state that refreshments would be on a first come/first served basis. It was suggested that sponsors could be asked to donate larger amounts of food, or perhaps to not offer food, but rather to offer door prizes, etc. instead.

The Executive Committee was reminded of the importance of attending this meeting as well as Affiliate Assembly and the conferences in general so that they know what is planned and will be ready to assist as needed. It also allows them to disseminate information to their regional associations.

Committee members were reminded to help “get out the vote!” for the AASL/ALA elections. To be eligible to vote one must be a personal member of ALA/AASL by January 31, 2008. While those who hold elected positions within AASL cannot endorse candidates, they may inform potential voters that there are candidates who represent school librarians on the ballot.

Regional Directors were asked to come early to the Sunday morning Affiliate Assembly meeting so that they can pick up their packets and distribute information to their regional members.

Adjournment:

Gail Formanach made the motion to adjourn, Debra LaPlante seconded the motion. The Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.