

**American Association of School Librarians
Affiliate Assembly II Meeting Minutes
American Library Association Annual Conference
Sunday, July 12, 2009
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Grand Ballroom F**

Irene Kwidzinski called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked TLC (The Library Corporation) for being the breakfast sponsor. Gar Sydnor was invited up to give a short speech. Irene Kwidzinski again thanked TLC for the breakfast and suggested people stop by booth 1434 to see their library products.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Read for the Record for providing the copy of an Eric Carle book for each of the tables. Someone from each table would take the book home with them.

Irene Kwidzinski called on Jay Bansbach to talk about the AASL National Conference in Charlotte.

Jay Bansbach gave highlights of the AASL National Conference plans. Over 800 people have signed up to attend and that number is ahead of registration for Reno and Pittsburg. Pre-conference sessions are set. All the delegates received a pre-registration packet and those were also sent to 83,000 library media specialists throughout the country. Everyone got a copy of Knowledge Quest which has a number of articles and the program book. The staff of Knowledge Quest and Sara Kelly Johns were thanked for keeping everyone on task to get this done.

Pre-conferences are lined up and there will be a number of author events. Charles Smith, Laura Halse Anderson, Linda Sue Park, Richard Peck and James Patterson are just some of the authors that will be at the conference. There will be over 20 regional authors interlaced throughout the exhibit floor in what is being called pit stops. There is a first timer's orientation, Exploratorium and a general session with danah boyd. There will also be exhibits, an opening reception, storytelling extravaganza, and a closing session with Marco Torres (CA teacher of the year in 2006), the closing Gala at Imaginon, 100+ concurrent sessions, one book, one conference with the book "Born Digital." Tours of schools, NASCAR Valley, Biltmore and more. The tours are filling up. Registration is open. Extra articles from Knowledge Quest that didn't make it into the print edition are available online. Graduate credits are available through the University of Colorado. Exploratorium and concurrent sessions are all posted. August 10th is the launch date of the Web 2.0 presence. Wonderful web presence full of web 2.0 tools. Jay Bansback acknowledged the committee. Ann Marie Pipkin is the co-chair, Allison Follos and Ellen Rubin are the author co-chairs, Joyce Valenza and Robin Williams are the technology co-chairs, Ernie Cox and Lisa Hathcock worked on concurrent sessions, Terri Kirk is working on the Exploratorium, Brenda Dreier and Kelly Bishop from ALA and AASL. Sandra Andrews is handling local arrangements. See you in Charlotte!

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Jay Bansbach for the update. Linda Williams, chair of nominating, was invited to speak to the group. Linda Williams said good morning to everyone. She asked for people to step up and be more of a leader in AASL and ALA. She talked about the two main offices the committee is

looking for which is president elect and member at large. There will be a complete slate with also section representatives and regions. Regions 2, 5, 8 and 9 are electing their director-elects this year. The region makes the decision about the two candidates that are put up for their region. There are also opportunities in the Supervisor's Section, Independent Schools Section and the ELMSS section. These sections need to submit names but names can also be given to Linda Williams and she will pass them on to the sections. Linda Williams said more school library media people are needed on council. The only way to get things changed or create an awareness we want to create is to have councilors who will speak up for school libraries. If you've run for council you will need to fill out a petition but if you've never run before you can get your name submitted by the nominating committee. There is also a need for a representative to the International Federation of Library Associations. There is no support from AASL for travel so representatives would need to pay for their own travel.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Linda Williams. The next speaker was Deb Levitov.

Deb Levitov said she was going to talk about an initiative of the new ALA President is commandeering called libraries, the heart of all communities. The focus is to address front line workers in our communities. How do we bring our clerks, paras, secretaries, techs, and parents into the fold. Each table had about three copies of Camila Alire's initiative that will provide an overview. Deb Levitov and other members of the committee put together ten action steps for building advocacy with front line workers. A Q&A sheet was also prepared. A resource list school library media specialists could use when thinking about putting together an advocacy plan. Last thing is the advocacy institute that AASL offers which will also be offered in Charlotte. The advocacy institute helps participants put together an advocacy action plan. She asked those who had attended the AASL Advocacy Institute in the past to stand and then told the rest of the group that they could talk to these people for an idea of what it is about. The institute is available for affiliates to bring to their states as well. The resources that are being put together for the front line workers will be available before Charlotte and possibly posted in October.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Deb Levitov. Connie Champlin was next on the agenda but she was not present. Cindy Pfeiffer spoke in place of Connie Champlin. They are both on a joint committee with AASL, YALSA and ALSC. The green paper on the tables was to remind members that this committee was founded in 2004 and one of their big tasks was to create a place on the website for school library cooperative programs. There are sections for different things, assignment alerts to let school inform public library when there's an assignment, etc. Members were asked to spread word about website in their states and to invite people to submit their own programs.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Cindy Pfeiffer. Nancy Dickinson encouraged everyone to run for an ALA committee or office. Greater representation in ALA is needed in order to increase influence in ALA. Members have gone from being representatives on the state level to the national level of AASL by being part of the affiliate assembly but now people need to go to the big level of ALA. Jen Habley has the form electronically and you can email her for the form at jhabley@ala.org.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Nancy Dickinson. Irene mentioned that there is an all-committee meeting from 2:30-5:00 on Monday in room 185 of McCormick West where people could get a better idea of what different committees do.

Next representatives from Massachusetts School Library Association gave a brief presentation to get the members ready for mid-winter in Boston next January.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Massachusetts School Library Association for their presentation and said she looked forward to seeing everyone in Boston for Midwinter.

Julie Walker, Executive Director of AASL, was invited to speak. She reminded everyone that the delegates are our pipeline into the states and vice versa. AASL has made an enormous investment of time and money in participating in the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. State organizations need to move if they hear that negotiations are going on in their state. The National Education Association and ASCD are members. There have been discussions with the P21 staff regarding the possibility of webinars to let people know what P21 is and what the possibilities are. Make connections with your state NEA and ASCD affiliate since their groups are getting the same message you are – that all three organizations need to work together within the states. Illinois is one of the newest partnership states. Hilda Weisburg is on New Jersey's advisory board for Partnership for 21st Century Skills and she talked about the importance of having library media specialists on the boards. She suggested that those that do get on the board bring a copy of the new AASL standards. Julie Walker thanked Hilda Weisburg for the testimonial.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Julie Walker and asked for AASL President Ann Martin to say a few words.

Ann Martin said that Affiliate Assembly is where she started with real activity within AASL. The L4L initiative is so important to what we are and even the P21 that Julie was talking about. Many states were at the training on Thursday and there will be some follow-up on ALA Connect. Make sure to identify the person who is the L4L representative for your state and that they are plugged into ALA Connect. There is a movement nationally for common core content standards, otherwise known as National Standards for the Content Areas and it is extremely important that school librarians are a part of that. States were asked to research this movement when they got back to their states. A link will be sent out with more information as it is received. This will be very fast moving. The standards will be written, there will be some review opportunities and then the assessment people are waiting in the wings to go in and provide assessment. Part of this arose from the fact that in the United States students cannot be compared to students in other countries because we have 50 states and 51 different assessments and standards. *AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner*, *Standards for the 21st Century Learner in Action* and *Empowering Learners* are all published and all these pieces now replace Information Power. This is what we hope will move our library programs into the 21st Century. Make sure everyone is aware of these documents. Ann Martin also said that she hoped to see everyone in Charlotte. There is also a virtual component to the annual conference this year. Everyone that registered for the conference can log into this virtual part of the conference after we leave. Members

were also asked to keep using the advocacy tool kits and to start building a grass roots group of supporters who can help school library programs by writing legislators, etc.

Irene Kwidzinski asked Susan Ballard and the rest of the L4L members to stand and be recognized for their work. Next Cassandra Barnett was invited to speak.

Cassandra Barnett informed the group of her new email address: Cassandra.Barnett@fayar.net. She said she was excited about the coming year and the opportunities to address challenges. The theme of her year is advocacy and some specific areas to focus on include a big push to get the new standards and guidelines out to the building level person. The L4L initiative is the avenue perfect for us so need to keep it moving. The standards and guidelines will have a profound effect on learners. She acknowledged the tough times we are in and that librarians are losing jobs or have staff and budget cuts but stated that we can't make this about us, it has to be about what's best for the students. There have been questions about the copyright of the standards. Members were assured that they could put standards in lesson plans. There is permission to use them that way. She said that you cannot take a whole document and dump them into another publication. Give credit for the work that was done by the volunteers. States and districts were encouraged to use the standards. The SKILLS Act is not dead but healthcare has to be addressed first. It is anticipated that the SKILLS Act will come up again after the health care issue is solved. There is a chance that the SKILLS Act may be repackaged and AASL will be asking states to mobilize and rally support for the SKILLS Act. Affiliates were asked to go back and remind their members that not all the committees have been filled and task force appointments will need to be made after all the Board Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings are over. Go to the AASL website, fill out the volunteer form and provide as much specific information as possible about what you are interested in working on and what your experience is so people can be put in the right places.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Cassandra Barnett. Elections were next on the agenda and the meeting was turned over to Sandra Andrews.

Sandra Andrews said there were two candidates for recording secretary -- Melissa Garder and Cindi Pfeiffer. Both recording secretaries gave their speeches. Sandra read a biography of Nancy Dickinson and then Nancy gave a short speech.

Sandra Andrews said the voting would take place during the regional caucus time.

Irene Kwidzinski recommended a 10 minute break. Members were instructed to be back at 9:30. Irene called the meeting back to order.

The Affiliate Assembly looked at the concerns. The Executive Committee did a wonderful job on Friday night to make this easier for us today. The committee went through all seventeen concerns and the council eliminated some that should not be brought forward to the Affiliate Assembly. The group went over the concerns that were eliminated first.

Concerns 10 and 11 had the start of an idea but were not completed so they were sent back to the region to fill out more information and then they can be resubmitted next year.

- 15) "Legislation about developing digital literacy standards AB 836 sponsored by Hon. Tom Torlakson, State Assembly. State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery>." This concern was not approved to move forward from Executive Committee because AASL is already working on this, it's already in progress. A representative asked to clarify the concern and stated that they were looking for a letter in support of CSLA so they could get a seat on this committee. Jay Bansbach recommended that the AASL President be asked to write a letter in support of this.
- 12) "Proposal made by Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle to use \$90 million of federal education stimulus funds to close state budget deficit by restricting the state's contribution to the education budget by the same amount. This jeopardizes the continuation of education reforms." The Executive Committee did not approve sending this concern forward because it is illegal for a state to use the stimulus money in this manner and it will be policed at the federal level.
- 7) "Urban school libraries are in dire straits. Specifically, as one District of Columbia public school librarian bemoaned, "some school libraries don't have books; ours don't have shelves." Urban schools need funding for instructional materials, staffing, technology and facility upgrades. Too many high schools are graduating functional illiterates." This concern was sent back for clarification. There was discussion among the Executive Committee that this was not only an urban school library issue. The suggestion was to rewrite and include other areas that are also in trouble. It was also recommended that the affiliate look at working with the urban schools group to see how they can work together.
- 4) "Time is spent re-considering previously submitted Concerns & Commendations. Having an archive of submitted and acted upon Concerns & Commendations available and easily accessible on the AASL website would benefit Affiliate delegates in their work. We believe this would be a time-saving measure for all." There is an archive and three members of the Executive Committee volunteered to assist Jen Habley in making these document accessible through the website.
- 3) "There has been talk of national educational standards by the Secretary of Education. It is imperative that school librarians be included in the planning and implementation of this initiative if it goes forward." This was not approved to be presented to the Affiliate Assembly because it is already happening, it is in progress. AASL is working on this.
- 17) "As an organization, the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists (OASLMS) is concerned about the development of charters and/or other governing contracts or legislation for schools and school districts which can impact school library media centers." This was sent back for clarification but the region has asked us to discuss the issue. Buffy Edwards stated that the concern by Oklahoma is that this issue could come up again. The charter school bill gave schools the option to not have a school librarian. Other regions said they would be appreciative of a white paper or some other strong statement in support of school libraries, something that could be handed out. Other regions stated that they had issues with charter schools as well.

Buffy Edwards asked that the concern be reconsidered and approved for discussion. Irene Kwidzinski moved on to other concerns and then tied 17 in with those discussed next.

Concerns 5, 6, 9, and 16 all deal with librarian job loss. Delegates were advised to keep in mind what had just been said regarding concern 17 from Oklahoma and to see if there was a way to combine suggestions from all of these concerns and make it into one strong concern that the AASL Board could act on. What is the role of the school library media specialist and what is being asked of the AASL Board? If the regions work on this together they can come up with even better strategies that we can ask AASL to consider. Representatives from the affected regions came up with a plan to work together and revised their concern.

Concerns 1 and 8 are both about teacher training. These were both approved by the Executive Committee and we would like to see if the regions could get together and combine these into one concern.

- 14) "In *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs*, AASL encourages the creation of a flexible 21st-Century learning environment and notes that "the use of multimedia and global resources can help create authentic learning experiences that teach 21st Century skills and connect what students are learning to the outside world." However, the reality is that in many schools, access to resources and experiences for students and teachers in the digital world are limited due to restrictions (filters, firewalls, bandwidth, etc.) imposed by technology coordinators without consultation or input from educators, especially from state credentialed school librarians." This concern was approved to be presented today and it stands alone so it can be discussed and voted on. Hilda Weisburg motioned to approve and Lorrie Monprode seconded. Region I led the discussion about the issue. The motion passed.
- 13) "What's in a name? We are both teachers and librarians, and our job title must be clear and up-to-date. Neither administrators, educators nor the public understands the term "media specialist"; it does not say what we do. In some states, it puts us in the same category as guidance counselors and literacy coaches. "Media" is an antiquated term dating back 30+ years and causes misperceptions by others. Many states have taken "media" out of their association's name, using the model of AASL and also in an effort to look to the 21st Century. Let us celebrate our expertise in curriculum frameworks and instructional design with a title that is clear and indicative of our role in promoting student achievement." This issue is actually scheduled to be discussed at mid-winter in 2010 as a mega issue. Fred Tilsley made a motion to approve. Barb Bahm seconded. Motion passed.
- 2) "Librarians need to be included in the regional/national accreditation standards as essential instructional staff, rather than support or administrative staff. For example, in the SACS/CASI guidelines media specialists are grouped with guidance and administration as an option." It was agreed by the Executive Committee that the staffing model from 1991 definitely needs a revision. Becky Jacman made a motion to approve. Debbie Maddy seconded. Motion passed.

Irene Kwidzinski requested that Regions IV and III look at the teacher training concerns and combine them and then report back on their suggestions. Regions II, IX and VIII with Oklahoma get together to

discuss combining their concerns. There was a suggestion of thirty minutes to work on combining these concerns.

After 30 minutes Regions IV and III came forward with their revised concern that was a combination of the two originally presented.

The concern that combined Nos. 1 and 8 reads as follows: "Our concern is that there needs to be training of pre-service and current teachers and administrators to further the understanding of the library role and student achievement and teacher success. Integrating knowledge about the role of the school library media specialist into the professional preparation of teachers is an ongoing challenge. AASL has addressed this issue through the AASL/ACRL Interdivisional Committee on Information Literacy and through past conference programs; however a more direct and systemic approach to future teachers, future administrators, and current teacher educators is needed. This is important both to enable teachers to understand their collaborative role with the school library media specialist and as a way in which to recruit future teachers into school librarianship." Fred Tilsley moved that this be approved. Melissa Gardner seconded. The motion passed.

The group combining the job loss concerns asked for 5 more minutes to finish their work. Concern number 7 was reworded and was considered as well.

7) "Urban school libraries are in dire straits. Specifically, as one District of Columbia public school librarian bemoaned, "some school libraries don't have books; ours don't have shelves." Urban schools need funding for instructional materials, staffing, technology and facility upgrades. Too many high schools are graduating functional illiterates. Illiteracy breeds criminal behavior." The action requested of AASL now reads: "We are requesting the establishment of an urban library task force that would consult with the Urban Schools Association. This task force would

- Conduct a study and produce a current report on the state of urban school libraries
- Report to the AASL Board and the Affiliate Assembly
- Request that the AASL Board work with the ALA Diversity Committee and the ALA Literacy Committee to address the content of this report for further action.
- Prepare a tool kit for urban school libraries
- Work with the ALA Conference Planning Committee and the ALA Washington office to develop a focus group for the ALA Annual 2010 and invite the Secretary of Education and other Washington leaders and stakeholders
- Coordinate the 2010 ALA Work Project with DCASL"

Andre Taylor moved to accept. Marg Foster seconded. Motion passed.

From Regions II, VI, VIII, IX and Oklahoma the revised concern now reads: "Research proves that where there are certified SLMS, facilities, personnel and funding, student achievement scores can be as much as 18% higher; therefore, as an organization we are concerned that the elimination of SLMS allows for the elimination of library programs or the exemption from statutory requirements thus lowering standards which would compromise the quality of school library programs and adversely affect student achievement." The action requested from AASL is now: "Create a Task Force to:

- Work more closely with the Washington Office to get the SKILLS Act passed
- Update information on the Instructional Classification Toolkit and develop a plan for support
- Partner with other organizations to support the roles of the SLMS in the instructional program (ASCD, NEA, Natl. PTA, P21, PLA, organizations representing Charter Schools, etc.)
- Develop promotional materials for school libraries in conjunction with ALA's National Campaign
- Develop a Position Statement regarding the negative impact on all types of schools when school library media specialists and school libraries are eliminated or do not exist
- Work with PLA to define differences between tasks of public library and school libraries and impact upon student achievement/instructional programs ”

There was discussion about the wording of the revised concern and much editing was done. The text above represents the final copy. Fred Tilsley moved to accept the revised concern. Gerri Fegan seconded. The motion passed.

Johan Koren asked to speak for a minute or two on the International Relations Task Force. Sara Kelly Johns created the International Relations Task Force. The group was charged to create a toolkit of how school librarians could be involved internationally. In McCormick place, Room 178 B there will be a program at 1:30 today. The toolkit will be available on ALA Connect after the conference is over.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked Johan and asked Sandra Andrews to give directions about the election.

Sandra Andrews asked all the delegates to please mark the ballots at their tables and they will be collected. Only delegates are allowed to vote – two from each state.

While the ballots were being counted the regions had five minutes to caucus at their tables.

Melissa Gardner from Region IV was elected the new recording secretary.

Irene Kwidzinski thanked the Affiliate Assembly for the privilege of being their chair. She will give a report to the AASL board tomorrow and will email it to the affiliates.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Affiliate Assembly II Attendance
American Library Association Annual Conference
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Region I

Marilyn Joyce	Region I Director, Maine (MASL)
Peg Becksvoort	Maine – MASL
Donna Chale	Maine – MASL
Ann Perham	Massachusetts
Gerri Fegan	Massachusetts - MSLA
Valerie Diggs	Massachusetts – MSLA
Susan Ballard	New England School Library Association, NESLA
Lucia Rafala	CT, CASL
Jackie Galante	CT, CASL
Mary Lou Cassotto	CT, CASL
Nancy Keane	NHEMA

Region II

Sally Daniels	SLMS/NYLA
Rosina Alaimo	SLMS/NYLA
Sara Kelly Johns	SLMS/NYLA
Judith Everett	NJASL
Pat Massey	NJASL
Hilda Weisburg	NJASL
Ang Crockett Coxen	NJASL
Jay Bansbach	MASL
Nancy (Smith) Latanision	PSLA
Marg Foster	PSLA
Carole Kupelian	SLMS – New York
Marilyn Kulkarni	DSLMA – Delaware
Andre Taylor	DCASL
J. Linda Williams	MASL

Region III

Jo Ann Carr	Wisconsin Educ. Media & Tech. Association
Vicki Builta	AIME, delegate
Jill Youngblood	AIME, delegate
Sarah Thornbery	OELMA, delegate
Marie Sabol	OELMA, delegate
Gail Janz	ISLMA, delegate
Randee Hudson	ISLMA, delegate
Maggie Newbold	MASL
Marianne Fues	Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL)

Lynn Gordon	MAME, delegate
Karen Appleton	Iowa Association of School Librarians (IASL)
Val Edwards	WEMTA, delegate
Kathleen McBroom	MAME, delegate
Karen Lemmons	MAME
Dawn Nelson	MEMO
Jan Presllat?	MEMO
Gayla Strack	MASL

Region IV

Fred Tilsley	KSMA
Melissa Gardner	KSMA
Becky Jackman	TASL
Bruce Hester	TASL
Terri Britt	VEMA
Nancy Silcox	VEMA
Kelly Brannock	NCSLMA
Deb Christensen	NCSLMA
Joseph Myers	SCASL
Amanda LeBlanc	SCASL
Allison Roberts	TASL, Director-elect
Nancy Dickinson	TASL, Director, Region IV
Sandra Andrews	Chair-elect
Karen Lowe	NCSLMA
Kathy Lehman	VEMA
Johan Koren	KSMA

Region V

Deb Svec	Director-elect, Region V
Lee Anna Mills	AIMA
Suzy Spiceland	AIMA
Cecelia Solomon	FAME
Idella Washington	LASL
Judi Repman	GLA
Lou Greco	FAME

Region VI

Jayme Seat	OASLMS
Buffy Edwards	OASLMS
Cindy Buchanan	TASL
Susan Geye	TASL
Tanya Tullos	TASL

Susi-Parks Grissom	TASL
Maribel Castro	TASL
Jana Dixon	Arkansas

Region VII

Robbie Nickel	NV-NSCLS, Director VII
Connie Williams	CSLA
Linda Kim	HASL
Susan Garvin	AZLA

Region VIII

Lorrie Monprode	WLMA
Dave Sonnen	WLMA
Linda Collins	WLMA
Ann Morgester	AKASL

Region IX

Barb Bahm	Kansas Association of School Librarians
Debbi Maddy	KS Assoc. of School Lib.
JoAnn Perry	Colorado Association of School Librarians
Susan Gilbert	Colorado Association of School Librarians
Linda Roberts	Region IX, Director-elect
Lori Umstead	Nebraska Educational Media Association
Gail Formanack	Region IX, Director
Marcille Retzlaff	Nebraska – NLY SCYP
Cindy Pfeiffer	Kansas ASL