

**American Association of School Librarians
Affiliate Assembly Executive Committee Meeting
American Library Association Annual Conference
Friday, July 10, 2009**

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Grand Suite 3

Present: **Irene Kwidzinski**, Affiliate Assembly Chair; **Sandra Andrews**, Affiliate Assembly Chair-Elect, **Jay Bansbach**, Affiliate Assembly Past Chair; **Deb Christensen**, Recording Secretary; **Ann Perham**, Director-Elect Region I; **Sally Daniels**, Director-Elect Region II; **Karen Lemmons**, Representative from Region III; **Allison Roberts**, Director-Elect of Region IV; **Deb Svec**, Director-Elect of Region V; **Maribel Garza-Castro**, Director Elect Region VI; **Lorrie Monprode**, Director-Elect Region VIII; **Linda Roberts**, Director-Elect, Region IX; **Sara Kelly Johns**, Past President AASL; **Jennifer Habley**, Manager, Program and Affiliate Relations for AASL; **Ann Martin**, AASL President; **Rosina Alaimo**, Director Region II; **Robbie Nickel**, Director Region VII; **Nancy Dickinson**, Director Region IV; **Marilyn Joyce**, Director Region I; **Valerie Diggs**, Director-Elect Elect from Region I.

Irene Kwidzinski welcomed everyone to the meeting at 5:50 p.m. She asked if everyone had picked up their copy of the minutes from ALA Mid-Winter. Nancy Dickinson asked everyone to introduce themselves and introductions were made.

A motion was made to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved.

AASL President – Ann Martin

Ann Martin stated she wanted to share some items from the productive board meeting she had just gotten out of. A mega issue was identified for this year and it is “How can AASL insure visibility for school library media specialists (SLMS) in the current movement towards 21st Century Skills?” The board moved that AASL move forward to ensure visibility and viability of SLMA in two ways: Influencing common core of state standards and ensuring specific recognition of the instructional role of SLMS within the language of ESEA. It was decided that the affiliates would be the best vehicle to move this forward. There is a lack of understanding as to what is meant by common core state standards. There is not enough information out there for affiliates and members to understand what that movement is. Affiliates and members are asked to educate themselves on what is meant by that. It is going to be a fast moving initiative. Jay Bansbach agreed and mentioned that during NECC in D.C. there was a meeting with representatives from each of the governors and technology folks on that same issue. Ann Martin stated that the key people in this are the governors, state CEFOs and state superintendents. State affiliates need to develop relationships with their state departments of education and try to influence when the writing of the standards come back to promote inquiry based learning using a variety of resources and inserting some of our standards that we have and concepts into the common core in state standards. Maybe inserting inquiry and cognitive learning into the standards so that we become important. The other key element besides educating ourselves, besides developing relationships with the state department of education, AASL board would like some form of reporting back. What is happening in the states to move this initiative forward? Irene Kwidzinski asked if there

was a timeline. Ann Martin stated that the Board has done a good job of working continually and we can't be an association that takes a hiatus for the summer. This is a fast moving issue. The national level makes you aware but the people in states who make the difference.

Jay Bansbach reported on the test of national assessment for educational progress. They are in the process of developing a skills assessment for technological literacy. A huge piece of this is ICT. This is on a fast track as well. There is a whole piece of this that SLMS have a definite impact on and those media literacy, visual literacy, information skills, etc. are all part of that. This is so broad that it's capturing a lot of the STEM related technologies too. This is on a fast track and there is a real big push through the Department of Education.

The other thing that's on a fast track is the new national technology plan for education. Looking for feedback right now, the wiki is up and they are asking for comments. Short turn around on that too and comments must be submitted by July 12th. There is so much cross over there that we can't ignore it as an organization. Be aware of what the implications are for both of these issues.

Ann Martin asked what recommendations Jay Bansbach had. Jay Bansbach stated that a notice should go out to members about both of the initiatives. Affiliates should contact state departments of education. It would probably be in their technology offices or instructional technology departments at the state level to find out what the implications for both of those are. There's a huge ICT part of that NAEP. He was aware several months ago about the discussion of this but it wasn't until right before NECC that more information was received.

Ann Martin stated that it takes all our eyes and ears to stay on top of some of these national initiatives that are taking place in order to continually keep us positioned as librarians to be a part of those initiatives. We know we can't force ourselves on them; we have to be the solutions to their problems. Show them that whatever they are looking for show them that we are the solution. That is important for the Affiliate Assembly to know about

Ann Martin stated that another part of a mega issue is ESEA (ESEA came before No Child Left Behind-CLB). During the legislative update it was mentioned that the way NCLB would be reintroduced was as ESEA. The thought is that this issue will come up sometime in September or October. When health care issue exits news education comes next. Follow national news and will see what next issue will be NCLB reauthorization. The hope is that school librarians will be inserted into that language very specifically. Huge concern is that we position ourselves from the state so that our constituents and the supporters from states know of the importance of school libraries before September and October. Emphasize fact that affiliates need to begin, whether through electronic means or what, have people sign on to support school libraries and importance in their state. Have supporter sign a petition, etc. Need to show that we have supporters. Oregon and Washington State do this electronically. If we wait until September it will be too late. Ann Martin believes that next year will be worse than this year economically. We cannot sit around wait and try to support positions that are being eliminated because by then it's already too late. The efforts this year might have saved one position. The same database that is created can be used to support the SKILLS Act and other issues that come up down the road. We need to

garnish support for school libraries across the state. Unfortunately or fortunately legislators do look at numbers. We need to drill down to local level the way ALA Washington does for us. As much as we don't like to be politically active we have to be because it's our survival right now.

Jay Bansbach mentioned that YALSA had sponsored an event called 28 days of Advocacy. People wrote stories that illustrated the value of school libraries. A PDF of all the submissions is on their wiki for anyone to look at and maybe something like that could be replicated.

Ann Martin asked again to have some kind of reporting back since we need to know the states are following up on it. Once states understand importance, they should get on board.

Jay Bansbach mentioned that most SLMS don't think globally, they think locally and we need to broaden the picture for everyone.

Ann Martin stated that she felt sure that AASL will continue to support school based requests for help but it would be better if we could eliminate that need.

Sandra Andrews stated that it sounded like there are several items we want states to report back on. The common core standards issue is the most pressing. Elimination of jobs and cutting back in the school system is another issue.

Ann Martin stated that we are trying to build support so there is some overlap. If through the common core standards we build support out in the states then that support is going to come to our assistance further down the road. Critical though is to get grass roots support for every issue that we deal with. There's a different level of expertise that will go into the common core standards. Whatever states do for that will help us with ESEA or NCLB. It would help if everyone could start working on some kind of a state grass roots program. Another thing, the task force who was charged with coming up with some definition of what our role is in reading has completed work but it has not been posted on the website yet. Please watch for that because there is an amazing amount of information. There is a position statement on the librarians' role in reading toolkit with PowerPoints. This is to address issue of librarians being asked to be reading coaches, etc. We had best websites task force which chose best websites and they came up with a list. More information will be forthcoming on that. The corporations and sites were notified they were chosen by AASL as the best in educational websites and were given logo to put on their website. Jen Habley said that the organization instantly started getting messages from these corporations and sites. Organizations said they were so honored and that they knew librarians were our main supporters. The list is of the twenty-five best websites for teaching and learning which will be changed every year. They also selected twenty one landmark websites that have shown a consistent history of being a resource. One of the requirements is that the website be free.

Ann Martin stated that there will be further development on the AASL website related to that with lesson plans and connections to these websites.

Jay Bansbach stated that this idea came out of Affiliate Assembly. Ann Martin said that is the exciting thing. Look at work accomplished and it starts with Affiliate Assembly. There are great ideas and there

is amazing work by volunteers in the organization. One example is the release of the third piece to promote the new standards - *Empowering Learners*. Everyone was encouraged to attend the standards and guidelines launch celebration at 9:30 in the morning at McCormick West, room 184. Following that will be president's program.

Sara Kelly Johns stated that the parent's outreach task force came out of Affiliate Assembly as well. That group will be finishing up their work here on Sunday. An emerging leaders group is working on this.

Valerie Diggs asked how we can go about gathering names at state level. Is there a way to do that?

Ann Martin said that affiliates should check Fund our Future Washington for ideas. Affiliates can check with Washington State and Oregon.

AASL President-elect – Cassandra Barnett could not attend tonight but Sara Kelly Johns reported that Cassandra Barnett is still appointing people. The new email address is Cassandra.barnett@fayar.net. The organization needs good people. If you don't want to do it yourself you know there are leaders in your state that could help.

Irene Kwidzinski asked Jen Habley if there was any information to be shared by Julie Walker. Sara Kelly Johns mentioned that there was a new sponsor for the AASL Research Award. A couple of years ago Highsmith dropped their sponsorship of the research award but Heinemann-Raintree has just agreed to sponsor the award.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Statements of Commendation and selected those that would be brought before the Affiliate Assembly for discussion. The following actions were taken:

There were five commendations for reading programs Nos. 1,2,5,8 and 9.

- 1) "The William Allen White Children's Book Awards program of Kansas was the first state-wide children's choice award program in the United States." Motion to approve request to send a letter of commendation made by Linda Roberts, Deb Svec seconded. Motion approved.
- 2) "No Book Left Unread is a summer reading program offered by the South Carolina State Department of Education. It is open to all schools in South Carolina." Discussion about whether this is unusual enough to be considered. Lorrie Monprode moved to approve and Ann Perham seconded. The motion was approved.
- 5) "Nebraska Golden Sower Award - 66, 614 students across Nebraska voted for their favorite books from those nominated." Maribel Garza-Castro moved to "not approve" this commendation. The motion passed.
- 8) "The North Carolina Center for the Book is "a collaborative project of the community of the book to focus public interest on books, reading, libraries, literacy, print culture, and the literary heritage of the state..." Jay Bansbach moved that this commendation be approved. Others agreed and the motion was approved.

- 9) "Read 20 is a public/private partnership promoting literacy skills for early childhood, in an effort to create a community of readers, and in support of Hamilton County's community literacy goals." Allison Roberts provided some background information on this commendation request. After discussion about this program supporting funding classroom libraries, Allison Roberts moved that this request not be approved for consideration. The motion passed.

One fund or grant commendation request – No. 3

- 3) "Funds for Public Schools' Library REACH New York City retailers contribute to this fund. Competitive grants totaling up to \$10,000.00 per school have been awarded to school libraries." This commendation was approved to be presented to the Affiliate Assembly.
- 4) Commend the Office of Intellectual Freedom. "The Office of Intellectual Freedom, guided by Judy Krug for many years, has advised, informed and defended censorship challenges in schools across our country." Discussion about how to recognize OIF. There was discussion that AASL should do something to recognize the work this office has done over the years. The decision was made to not approve this commendation request and to seek an alternative way of recognizing the office. It was recommended that a letter of appreciation be sent from AASL. Irene Kwidzinski said she would write a letter and region 3 volunteered to help draft the letter if needed.
- 6) "Event to be Recognized: 'CASL Kickoff to TIE' The Colorado Association of School Libraries (CASL) board has joined efforts with Technology in Education (TIE) board, the Colorado ISTE affiliate, to jointly host workshops for teacher librarians during the TIE Colorado Conference." The discussion was centered on whether this was unique or if other states had similar collaboration. The majority was a thumbs down on this commendation. It was not approved to move forward.
- 7) "East Carolina University (ECU) has held a Librarian to Librarian Networking Summit for the past four years. This is a one-day event that brings together librarians from mainly the central and eastern regions of the state." No other states mentioned that they had universities doing something like this. It was mentioned that this kind of fostering of professional development at the university level should be encouraged. The vote was thumbs up and the commendation is being sent on to the Affiliate Assembly.
- 10) "Workshops and Membership: The Teacher-Librarian Division has been very pleased and excited with the workshops that have been provided by the Arizona State Library and Archives." The decision was made that this was not unique. The Executive Committee did not approve this commendation to move forward.
- 11) "NEASC/Commission on Public Secondary Schools: The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is the accrediting agency in Region 1 and is the nation's oldest accrediting association. NEASC's mission is the establishment and maintenance of high standards for all levels of education, from pre-K to the doctoral level. NEASC serves more than 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities in the six states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and American/international schools in more than 65 nations worldwide." Schools can lose their accreditation because of failings in their libraries. This would be an advocacy piece. This commendation request received a thumbs up approval and will move forward.

Commendation Requests Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 are all for people. These are all for legislators. Commendations for people are not permitted according to the guidelines. None of these were approved because people are not honored. It was decided that a letter of appreciation could be sent to thank the legislators for their support of Washington State school libraries and that perhaps an award could be created in the future but research will have to be done to see if it needs to go through the awards approval process.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Statements of Concern and selected those that would be brought before the Affiliate Assembly for discussion. The following actions were taken:

Concerns 1 and 8 both deal with teacher training.

- 1) "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." Sara Kelly Johns mentioned that this came up as part of the visibility discussion for the AASL Board. It is not the Board's top priority but it will move up on the list if it comes out of the Affiliate Assembly.
- 8) "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." Region IV and Region II could work together to combine these during Affiliate Assembly. It was approved to send both concerns 1 and 8 to Affiliate Assembly for possible combining and discussion.
- 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 discussed that the AASL Position Paper on Staffing should be looked at again since it hasn't been updated since 1991. This concern received a thumbs up approval and was sent on for review.

Numbers 3 and 17 deal with National Education Standards.

- 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."
- 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."

Number 17 was not copied since it arrived after the other concerns were copied but it was submitted on time. Irene Kwidzinski read concern 17 so it could be discussed. It was thought that concern 17 dealt with more of a local issue. Concern 17 was not approved to move forward. It was sent back for more information and clarification from the state. Concern number 3 was not approved because it is already happening so no further action needs to be taken.

Concerns Nos. 5, 6, 9, 16 all deal with librarian job loss.

- 5) "The jobs of School Library Media Specialists are being eliminated and NCES still lists us as Support rather than Instructional staff."
- 6) "In light of budgetary restraints, many schools are cutting their accredited librarian's positions."
- 9) "Loss of school librarians at elementary, middle school, and high schools. Loss of support staff in school libraries. Loss of funding. School librarians being replaced with para-librarians. Administrators happy with para-librarian performance. Fixed schedules at elementary schools."
- 16) "There is significant concern about the drastic cuts in Teacher-Librarian positions in Washington State public schools."

This has been a concern for years. AASL cannot get librarians mandated. Ann Martin mentioned that this is why we need to have the grassroots movement in all the states. All four concerns were approved to move forward and perhaps be combined and edited.

- 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." Discussion about whether this is a unique situation or whether it applies to rural schools as well. There is an organization that serves urban schools and perhaps people from the state could meet with representatives from the urban schools group. The decision was made to ask for clarification and have the affiliate resubmit.
- 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 discussion was that spending the stimulus money the wrong way was a federal issue and not an affiliate assembly issue. The Hawaii Library Association was encouraged to get involved and have people sign a petition. The website ALA.org/knowyourstimulus has information on stimulus money. This concern was not approved to move forward.
- 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." Ann Martin mentioned that this was a mega issue that came out of strategic planning and it is scheduled to be discussed at mid-winter. This was approved to move forward so it would be on the record.

Concerns 14 and 15 deal with digital access.

- 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."

- 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>"

There was discussion about blocking of website and social networking tools in school and the negative affect this is having on students learning 21st century skills. Number 15 was not approved to move forward because AASL is working on this, it's already in progress. Concern 14 was approved to send forward.

- 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." Jen Habley said this already exists in an electronic form but the issue is how to get it on the website in a usable form. She needs help tagging the documents to make them searchable. Lorrie Monprode, Jay Bansbach and Nancy Dickinson volunteered to help with the tagging. This concern was not approved to move forward because the Executive Committee has a plan to work on this issue.

Concerns 10 and 11 are incomplete. They do not ask for any action on behalf of AASL. These concerns were sent back to their affiliates since they are incomplete so they will not move forward.

Irene Kwidzinski asked if anyone had any issues with the agenda for Sunday. Sandra Andrews mentioned that the elections need to take place and Irene replied that will happen during regional caucus time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.