From the Chair

Aimée C. Quinn

Although this is my last column, I would like to try something new by having our chair-elect, Bill Sleeman, add some of his own thoughts regarding GODORT and the direction it is moving. To many members, ALA is overwhelming and frustrating. I have heard that some of you feel that GODORT echoes ALA, and I think that some of the frustration is driven by how we schedule and coordinate our meetings. GODORT is a more formally organized round table than some others. Because of this formality, we usually work well within the ALA structure. Recently two smaller round tables, after they missed ALA deadlines and were unable to schedule rooms, contacted me for help with organizing their programming. As a result, one round table decided not to hold a formal program but discuss the issue of better structure over dinner; the other is still trying to work out the direction they wish to go. Thanks to the Program Committee’s hard work, GODORT met the ALA deadlines and has a very good program titled *What Difference Does It Make What Congress Published? American History in the Earliest Congressional Documents* coming up this summer in Washington, D.C. In addition we have scheduled an outstanding preconference on *International Documents in an Electronic Age the Open Internet and Beyond: Challenges, Tasks, and Tools for All Libraries.*

These activities, along with other work we are developing, are available on our web site at www.ala.org/ala/godort. Along with our web site is our new wiki, where members can work on issues from home and still contribute. At Midwinter, I agreed to develop a blog, which is now available at godort-chair.blogspot.com.

I thank each member for your hard work and dedication. It has been a privilege to serve as your chair.

From the Chair-Elect

Bill Sleeman

I want to thank Aimée for the chance to drop in a few comments here. Normally, the chair-elect’s first column isn’t out until ALA Annual, but as there is often work that needs to be accomplished ahead of time, this can sometimes be too late. One project that I want to draw your attention to is ALA’S Day on the Hill, scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, 2006. There are many important issues—GPO funding, EPA libraries, DOPA—that our membership can and should take the lead on. I have been in contact with ALA, and I hope that GODORT can have a strong presence that day. Look for more information forthcoming on our web site and the wiki.

Another important initiative just getting underway is our strategic planning effort. As Aimée and I mentioned, GODORT’s structure can serve us well when we are dealing with “Big ALA,” but we also understand that, for some, our round table can be far too time-consuming. Many of our members serve in a variety of professional roles beyond government information, and have a need to get to more than just GODORT events at ALA. We are alert to that, and I hope that in the coming year Aimée and I can address some of this in the scheduling, and that the strategic plan will help us to more fully resolve this challenge for the future.