



# LSSIRT

Library Support Staff Interests Round Table

## NEWSLETTER



### ALA Council 101

December 2009

#### Greetings from your LSSIRT Councilor

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the first-ever LSSIRT Councilor. My term began in July 2007 and will end after ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC, in June 2010. Many ALA members ask about the role of a Councilor and what ALA Council does. This column will attempt to answer those questions and hopefully encourage several of you to run for election as our next LSSIRT Councilor.

**Who is on ALA Council?** There are currently 182 members of Council. The ALA President presides over all Council meetings. There are representatives from the 54 Chapters (or specific geographic associations), and Councilors from the eleven divisions (such as PLA,

RUSA, etc.) There are several Councilors from the larger Round Tables (those having a membership above 1% of the total personal membership of ALA) and eight members of the Executive Board (including Treasurer and Past-President). There are 100 elected "at large." All Councilors serve three year terms.

**Why does Council exist?** In addition to several specific duties set out in the Constitution and Bylaws of ALA, Council sets broad Association-wide policies for ALA.

**What goes on at Council?** Council sessions are held at both ALA Midwinter Meeting and ALA Annual Conference. Council actions shape our Association, in collaboration with divisions, round tables, assemblies, committees, task forces, chapters and affiliates, by implementing organizational goals

and values. Councilors bring member concerns about critical issues to the attention of Council and ALA staff. Resolutions are brought to the body for discussion, revision and voting.

#### Why is an LSSIRT Councilor important?

Discussion regarding Council business continues year-round. Each Councilor monitors the Council listserve and can offer information pertaining to proposed resolutions via e-mail to the Council membership. At Midwinter and Annual, each Councilor represents the interests of their membership by reviewing the resolutions. Many resolutions are crafted and presented during the course of Midwinter and Annual, so having representation on Council is critical for timely attention. I have worked to ensure that the language in [Continued on page 2]



LSSIRT Councilor Jennifer S. Kutzik



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## ALA Council 101 (continued)



*“The LSSIRT Councilor position remains a critical building block for our future in ALA.”*

Jennifer S. Kutzik,  
LSSIRT Councilor

resolutions was inclusive of support staff and mindful of our concerns. The LSSIRT Councilor position also increases our visibility within the Association and insures that the many ALA support staff members have a voice in our governance.

**What would a candidate for LSSIRT Councilor need to do?** Any ALA member who is also a member of LSSIRT can run for LSSIRT Councilor.

The successful candidate’s term would run from July 1, 2010 to July 2, 2013. Attendance would be required at the following conferences:

- 2011 Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, CA: January 7–11, 2011
- 2011 Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA: June 23–28, 2011
- 2012 Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, TX: January 20–24, 2012
- 2012 Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA: June 21–26, 2012
- 2013 Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, WA: January 25-29, 2013
- 2013 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL: June 27- July 2, 2013

LSSIRT has many challenges and opportunities facing us: recruiting new members, increasing member partici-

pation, promoting certification, and advocating for libraries and library staff members. The LSSIRT Councilor position remains a critical building block for our future in ALA. We need one or more LSSIRT members to step forward now! Make a commitment to a continuing voice for support staff on ALA Council. For more information on becoming a candidate for LSSIRT Councilor, contact Dorothy Morgan by e-mail at “dot@lpl.org” or by phone at: 315-457-0310, ext. 103. The deadline for submission of candidates is January 20, 2010.

## Hot “Chowda” and Cold Beans in Boston



The last ALA Midwinter Meeting held in Boston was in January of 2005. Library professionals were greeted with fog, ice, snow, and sub-zero wind chills. Bowls of steaming hot “chowda”

delivered welcome thawing while merchants hawked all manner of head coverings to guard against cold “beans.”

Let’s hope for warmer weather in January 2010, but come prepared! Average high temperature for January is 37 degrees and average low is 22. You’ll want waterproof

boots, warm coats, head coverings and gloves.

As a soft snowfall flutters down on Beacon Hill, enjoy a picture postcard, New England scene!





## Events and Meetings at 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting



Coming to Boston for ALA Midwinter Meeting?

Attend meetings and events of interest to support staff:

- LSSIRT mixer: Friday, Jan. 15, 7:30-9 p.m. at ALA Council suite, Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, 606 Congress Street. Call for info: 970.690.2159.

- LSSIRT Business meeting, Saturday, Jan. 16, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC)-160A
- "Advocacy on the Frontlines: How to make a difference from where you sit." Panel moderated by ALA President Camila Alire. Saturday, Jan. 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m., BCEC-

- 260.
- Library Support Staff Certification Program Q&A Session, Sunday, Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m.-noon, BCEC-260.
- Midwinter Special Events site: <http://tinyurl.com/ycht5uc>  
Featured speakers include Al Gore, Elizabeth Gilbert, Julie Powell (Julie & Julia), and Tracy Chevalier.



## LSSCP BEGINS ACCEPTING CANDIDATES JANUARY 2010



The Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program will accept candidates for certification in January 2010. The LSSC Program is managed by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA), a companion association to the American Library Association (ALA).

LSSC will provide the following benefits:

### To Library Support Staff

- Recognition for learning and competence
- Portability from library to library

### To Libraries

- Assurance that an LSSCP graduate has a specified body of knowledge & skills
- Standardization of expectations for support staff

### To the library user

- Library users served by support staff with enhanced skills and abilities
  - Support staff confident in their ability to serve users
- For more information and to apply, visit the website at:

<http://www.ala-apa.org/lssc/>

General Inquiries  
Email: [lssc@ala.org](mailto:lssc@ala.org)  
Jenifer Grady,  
ALA-APA Director  
312.280.2424  
Email: [jgrady@ala.org](mailto:jgrady@ala.org)

*"National certification is going to make a bigger difference than many folks realize. This portable standard of excellence will obviously benefit support staff. We are valuable assets to well-functioning libraries."*

- Linda Pierro, Retired Library support staff



## HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ALA CONNECT?



<http://connect.ala.org/>

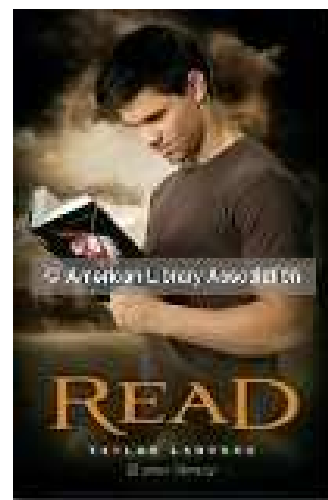
Here's a quick list of ways that ALA Connect can assist you:

1. Log in using your ALA website username and password to personalize your account. Add your

- photo or avatar.
- 2. Easily access all your divisions, committees, sections and round tables.
- 3. Find a community to join or start a new one! It's easy and fun.
- 4. Curious to find friends and colleagues? There are

over 62,000+ people in Connect. Use the member search tool to find others.

- 6. Turn on Email from important groups and you'll be notified when content is added. Enable "Email preferences" in right-hand column.
- 7. Plan your schedules for ALA Midwinter and Annual meetings, including events and social activities!



## 2010 ALA AND LSSIRT ELECTION NEWS

### CANDIDATES FOR ALA PRESIDENT-ELECT:

**Sara Kelly Johns**, Library Media Specialist, Lake Placid Middle/High School, Lake Placid, NY

**Molly Raphael**, Director of Libraries (Retired), Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR

### CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER:

**Alan Kornblau**, Library Director, Delray Beach

Public Library, Delray Beach, FL

**James Neal**, VP for Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University, NY, NY

### LSSIRT CANDIDATES:

**Trish Palluck**, Vice-President/President Elect  
**Kareen Turner**, Secretary  
**Kerrie Stramler**, Treasurer

**Anita Kosinski**, Member-at-Large

**Valeria Fike**, Member-at-Large

### CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR LSSIRT

**COUNCILOR** (deadline for nominations is Jan. 20, 2010—see story on page 2)

Voting will begin March 18, 2010.

### NEED GIFTS?

Check out the ALA Store for all your gift needs. Books, posters, clothing, bookmarks, stickers, toys — the ideas are endless!

<http://www.alastore.ala.org/>



**ALA Staff Liaison information:**

Darlana Davis  
ALA/LSSIRT  
50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Email: [ddavis@ala.org](mailto:ddavis@ala.org)

**Please send questions regarding  
LSSIRT Newsletter content to:**

Kerrie Stramler  
Email:  
[stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu](mailto:stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu)

[http://  
www.ala.org/  
lssirt/](http://www.ala.org/lssirt/)

The **LSSIRT Newsletter** is the official publication of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) of the American Library Association. It is distributed free to members of LSSIRT and is published three-four times a year.

**LSSIRT Officers:**

**President:** AnnaMarie Kehnast

Email: [AKehnast@gccnj.edu](mailto:AKehnast@gccnj.edu)

**Secretary:** Kareen Turner

Email: [akturmer@uark.edu](mailto:akturmer@uark.edu)

**Treasurer:** Kerrie Stramler

Email: [stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu](mailto:stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu)

**Membership:** Anita Kosinski

Email: [WolfN85@aol.com](mailto:WolfN85@aol.com)

**LSSIRT Councilor:** Jennifer S. Kutzik

Email: [Jennifer.Kutzik@ColoState.Edu](mailto:Jennifer.Kutzik@ColoState.Edu)



*Our mission is to provide an arena within ALA for programming, communication and networking for library support staff.*

## Sign-up for the LSSIRT Members-Only E-list!



For timely updates and for networking with LSSIRT colleagues, be sure and sign-up for the very low volume LSSIRT e-list.

To sign-up, send an e-mail to Martha Parsons at [parsons@halcyon.com](mailto:parsons@halcyon.com) with your ALA membership number and ask to be subscribed.