President’s Corner

Seems like just yesterday we were in Washington D.C. attending ALA’s annual meeting and celebrating the one year anniversary of the Library Support Staff Certification Program. How appropriate that this program would debut under Camila Alire’s ALA presidency. Camila has always been supportive of library staff.

Wow. We HAVE come a long way since COPE3. In addition to the certification program, LSSIRT members have been appointed to various ALA committees and we just elected our 2nd LSSIRT representative to ALA council. Accomplishments to be proud of? Yes. These accomplishments also bring new challenges. How can LSSIRT support the certification program and the support staff enrolled in it? How do we continue to foster growth and retain members when many libraries and library staff are struggling with the difficult economy? A percentage of personal ALA members must belong to our roundtable in order for us to retain our councilor position. How do we encourage library staff that are unable to attend ALA to join LSSIRT? Addressing the challenges allows LSSIRT the opportunity to continue on as a vital and valued player within the ALA arena. Budget cuts have made it even more difficult if not impossible for many library support staff to attend ALA. But you can still be supportive of ALA and LSSIRT by continuing your membership, participating in committees and recruiting new members. We need members willing to serve on LSSIRT’s by-laws committee, membership committee, and nominations committee. These committees will use email or conference calls to accomplish their goals. Attendance at the midwinter or annual meetings is not required of committee members. It would be great to see more than just the steering committee members and ALA staff at our next business meeting in San Diego this January. Please contact me if you have questions about LSSIRT, would be interested in working on a committee or running for a LSSIRT office. I can be reached at 307.777.5913 or by email at tpallu@wyo.gov.
LSSIRT Mini-Minutes from Annual

LIBRARY SUPPORT
STAFF INTERESTS
ROUNDTABLE
STEERING
COMMITTEE/
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SATURDAY, JUNE 26,
2010
Renaissance,
Washington, D.C.,
Room 07
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Meeting was called to
order; Trish Palluck as
Incoming Vice President
was introduced as
facilitator. AnnaMarie
Kehnast sent a
resignation letter to the
board prior to the
meeting. We had
several guests that were
introduced to the group.
Minutes and Treasurer’s
Report with budget
discussion were
accepted as read.
- ALA Councilor,
  Jennifer Kutzik,
  informed the
  Steering Committee
  about the motions
  she was going to
  endorse at Council
  Meetings early next
  week.
- Karen Strege,
  LSSC, gave an
  update on the
  National Certification
  Program, LSSCP and the future plans
  with the new grant
  from IMLS.
- Joseph Eagan, as
  the ALA Board of
  Directors Liaison to
  LSSIRT, reported on
  membership of the
  ALA. As of Nov.
  2009-62,865
  included 59,423
  personal
  memberships, 3208
  organizational
  memberships and
  234 corporate
  memberships.
  LSSIRT
  membership went
  from 598, Nov. 2008
  to 617, Nov. 2009.
- Trish Palluck,
  Kareen Turner and
  Valeria Fike
  volunteered to be on
  the Program
  committee to help
  create a LSSIRT
  track at
  conferences.
- Board Reports were
given from
Nomination and
Membership
committees.
- Under New
Business, Anita
Kosinski has started
work on the Dining
Out in New Orleans
for Annual, 2011
with the help of
Darlena Davis, ALA
Liaison.
- A new strategic
planning committee
was formed. Trish
Palluck is the Chair.
- The LSSIRT
Steering Committee
meeting at ALA
Midwinter will be
scheduled for
Saturday morning,
on Jan. 24, 2009
from 8 A.M. to 12:00
Noon.
- Discussion was held
to have a discussion
  group session at
  both Mid-Winter and
  Annual conferences
  for LSSIRT so
  LSSIRT would show
  up in searching the
  programs for
  significant functions.

Darlena Davis, graduated on
May 27, 2010, cum laude,
with a Bachelors of Arts from
Chicago State University.
Her minor was in Criminal
Justice with strong interest in
Sociology.
LSSIRT sponsors Pat Wagner, Pattern Research

LSSIRT sponsored a well-attended session by Pat Wagner, Pattern Research (Denver, CO), on “Communication skills for front line library staff.” Pat focused on practicing “WORDS THAT WORK” to turn a negative response into a positive opportunity for communication. Instead of “I can’t” use words like “What I can do is…” Instead of “I don’t know” use “I will find out.” Pat Power words like “next, instead, and despite” will turn a “NO” into a possibility. Read Pat’s full handout at: http://tinyurl.com/28ahe83 and made available to members.

ALP President Roberta Stevens, Keith Michael Fiels, Jennifer Kutzik (past LSSIRT ALA Councilor), and Camila Alire (past ALA President)

1. Frontline Fundraising
2. Our Authors, Our Advocates
3. Why I Need My Library contest

Pat Wagner at ALA Annual Meeting. LSSIRT sponsored this well-attended session on communication.

ALA Presidential Initiatives

Roberta Stevens, ALA’s 2010-2011 President, is the Library of Congress Outreach Projects and Partnerships Officer and Project Manager of the National Book Festival. During her term as President, Roberta has identified 3 major initiatives:

1) Frontline Fundraising: This initiative will provide tools that can be used by every size and type of library who needs to supplement the budget from their jurisdiction or institution with additional support. The primary focus will be on the development of an online toolkit and webinars that can be broadly accessed by ALAs members. President's programs at the 2011 Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Conference are also planned. These programs will be taped and made available to members.

2) Our Authors, Our Advocates: This initiative will focus on well-known, articulate and impassioned authors to highlight the key role libraries and library staff play in the economic, social and educational fabric of our nation. This initiative will celebrate these individuals through interviews, posters, podcasts, publications, and other media support. Additionally, “Our Authors, Our Advocates” will be used as a model for creating advocates for libraries at the community level through the toolkit “Cultivating Your Local Notables.” The toolkit will provide guidance on identifying and enlisting local "celebrities" as your library's advocate.

3) “Why I Need My Library” Contest: This initiative takes Camila Alire's member-driven, grassroots advocacy and Jim Rettig's experimentation with social networking a step further with the aim of adding to the arsenal of techniques for frontline advocacy and engaging a new constituency in supporting libraries. The products will be short videos by children and young adults made available on YouTube and the ilovelibraries and @yourlibrary websites. The winners will identify either their school or local public library as the beneficiary of cash prizes for the best videos in the contest. For more information and updates on these initiatives, visit Roberta’s web page at: http://robertastevens.com

Pattern Research, Inc. Tools for Explorers

We must free ourselves of the hope that the sea will ever rest. We must learn to sail in high winds.—Leif Smith

Roberta Stevens, ALA's 2010-2011 President, Keith Michael Fiels, Jennifer Kutzik (past LSSIRT ALA Councilor), and Camila Alire (past ALA President)
Selected ALA Council actions taken during Annual Conference, June 27-29, 2010, Washington, D.C. The full text of all actions may be accessed at: http://tinyurl.com/2axjv7y; the related documents may be accessed at: http://tinyurl.com/26f7hup

APPROVED, The FY2011 Total ALA Budgetary Ceiling of $57,162,413 (ALA CD#13.3, ALA Treasurer’s Report)

ADOPTED, ALA CD#19.3, Prisoners’ Right to Read: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights.

ADOPTED, ALA CD#20.11, A Resolution to Ensure Equitable Access to Library Services for All People Regardless of Immigration Status.


ADOPTED, ALA CD#47, Resolution on Ensuring Summer Reading Programs for all Children and Teens, which read: “That the American Library Association (ALA): Urges library directors, trustees, school board members, and supervising government bodies to ensure that libraries are provided adequate funding to support summer reading programs for all children and teens.”

ADOPTED, ALA CD#20.6, Resolution to Increase Funding for the Improving Literacy through School Libraries Programs to a $100 Million, which read: “That the American Library Association (ALA): Urges Congress to commit a minimum of $100 million designated specifically for school libraries in FY2011 and beyond to the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program to establish a population-based state grant program that provides students in every state the opportunity to increase reading achievement and master 21st century skills.”

ADOPTED, ALA CD#45, Revised, A Resolution on Non-Discrimination in Conference Contracts, which read: “The American Library Association (ALA): Shall change Policy 7.1.1 to this text: “7.1.1—Non-Discrimination in Conference Contracts There shall be no discrimination, including that based on race, origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, creed or disability, in the use of any facilities used by the American Library Association. This policy shall become a part of ALA contracts for the use of space. The ALA will avoid entering, whenever possible, into convention center contracts with Secondary Education Act, as amended to read: “The American Library Association (ALA): Conveys to the President, the Secretary of Education, and the Congress of the United States the urgent need to require that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) have a goal requirement that every public school have a library staffed by a state-certified school librarian.”

Outgoing ALA LSSIRT Councilor, Jennifer Kutzik

“My great honor and privilege to serve as your first LSSIRT Councilor”

Jennifer Kutzik

Continued on Page 5
Thank you, Jennifer, for your valuable contributions as LSSIRT Councilor.

LSSIRT Councilor’s Report (continued)

organizations and legal bodies in cities, counties, or states that by law discriminate against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people.”

ADOPTED, the following action item contained in ALA CD#27.2, Committee on Organization (COO) Report: Action Item #1. Establishment of a Retired Members Round Table. “The establishment of a Retired Members Round Table, supported by petition by ALA members, addresses both a growing interest and a growing demographic within the Association. The proposal came to COO with draft bylaws and a statement of purpose in place. The statement reads as follows: The Retired Members Round Table (RMRT) shall exist to develop programs of particular interest to retired persons from all types of libraries and all forms of library service, including formal opportunities for continued involvement and learning; a variety of leadership training and opportunities for mentoring; lifelong professional involvement and networking; and, active engagement in the American Library Association and the profession of librarianship.”

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve as your first LSSIRT Councilor. I appreciated the support of all the LSSIRT members and of my fellow Councilors. Please, welcome our incoming Councilor, Valeria Fike. She may be contacted at: College and Career Information Center, College of DuPage Library, 425 Fawell Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 or by email at: fikeva@cod.edu or phone at: (630) 942-3874.

LSSIRT Members Receive Awards

LSSIRT secretary Kareen Turner has won the Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award for 2010. First awarded in 1996, the award recognizes distinguished Paraprofessional library service in Arkansas libraries. The name was changed to the Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award in 2002 in memory of Lorrie Shuff. Nominations are open to any member of the Arkansas Library Association. Nominees must be employed in an Arkansas library as a paraprofessional at the time of nomination.

The award criteria was based upon the role of the individual in promoting staff development, the issues of concern to paraprofessionals, and participation in the Arkansas Library Association Paraprofessional Roundtable.

Jennifer Kutzik, outgoing LSSIRT ALA Councilor, was recently elected Chair-Elect of the Colorado Association of Libraries Paralibrarian Division. She continues to serve on the ALA Membership Committee.

Congratulations to Kareen and Jennifer!
Library Journal’s Paraprofessional of the year award reception.  Left to Right:  Kareen Turner, Dorothy Morgan (past recipient),  Allison Sloan, and Trish Palluck (past recipient)

LSSIRT’s Night Out at the Capitol City Brewing Co.

Trish Palluck and Dorothy Morgan cutting the cake to celebrate the success of the Library Support Staff Certification Program.

LSSIRT’s informal Friday night gathering.  Left to Right.  Carol Thomas,  Valeria Fike, Trish Palluck, Kerrie Stramler, Trevor Stramler (center), Dorothy Morgan, Jennifer Kutzik, Kareen Turner, and Nina Manning

Kareen Turner and Anita Kosinski handing out LSSCP materials at LSSIRT’s station at the ALA Pavilion.
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.

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**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.