

**December 2011**

**President's Corner**



**LSSIRT President  
Trish Palluck**

The LSSIRT Steering Committee and full membership meeting at Mid-winter will be held on Saturday, January 21 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. in room D222 of the Dallas Convention Center. If meetings were titled, I'd name this one "What's next LSSIRT?" The Steering Committee has agreed to survey library workers to help identify specific areas of concerns that LSSIRT should consider when setting goals and objectives for the 2012 – 2015 strategic plan. Discussion at the

Midwinter meeting will focus on creating the survey and the strategic plan. This is an open meeting and anyone interested in library support staff issues is welcome to join us. As long as we are on the subject of what's next, I'd like to remind you that spring elections will be here before we know it. LSSIRT's Secretary, Treasurer and three Member-at-large terms end at the conclusion of ALA 2012 annual. Please consider running for one of these positions. If you would like more

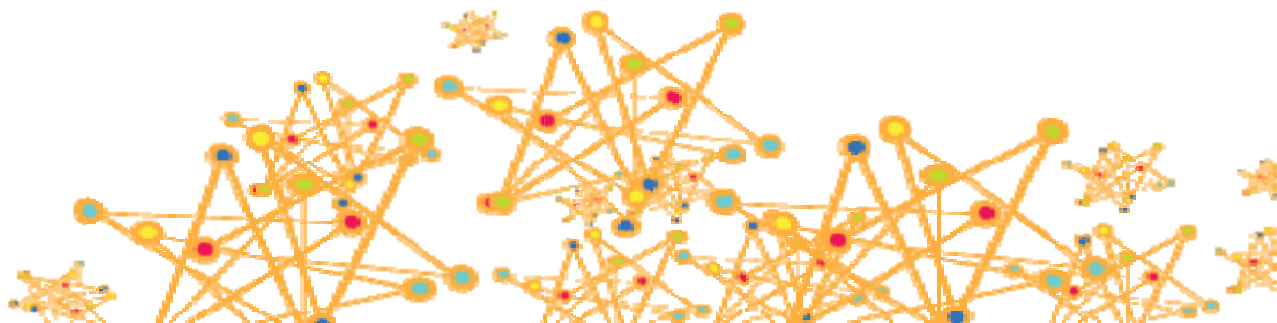
information about serving on the LSSIRT Steering Committee, email me at

[Trish.palluck@wyo.gov](mailto:Trish.palluck@wyo.gov)

In closing, I would like to wish each of you a safe and joyous holiday season and all the best in 2012.

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## What's Going on with the Library Support Staff Certification Program?

The Library Support Staff Certification Program (LSSC) has been pretty busy since the ALA's Annual Conference in June! We now have 191 candidates and 8 graduates in just under the two years since the program launched. We currently have 21 approved providers offering 78 courses, many of which are available online. The LSSC staff has also been hard at work on a couple projects aimed at providing potential LSSC candidates with financial assistance as well as enhancing the program as a whole.

### Financial Assistance

The Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT), in cooperation with LSSC, recently granted 81 Registration Assistance Awards (RAA) in December. The Awards are for \$175, one-half of the LSSC registration/application fee. Successful award recipients will pay the remainder of the registration fee with their own funds or funds obtained from other sources. We had 84 applicants for these awards. Six states also participated: The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC), Idaho Commission for Libraries, Louisiana State Library, Mississippi State Library, Washington State Library, and the Wyoming State Library. These states awarded an additional 29 RAAs, bringing the total number of awards to 113!

### Cooperation with Library Technical Assistance (LTA) Programs

LSSC has begun a new program of cooperative agreements with LTA programs. These agreements recognize that LTA program meet at least six of the LSSC competencies (including the three required competencies) and thus graduates of the program are automatically eligible for immediate national Support Staff Certification. This agreement also applies to graduates of the LTA program in the last two years.

Current agreements exist with: The College of DuPage, Waubensee Community College and Illinois Central College in Illinois, the Ivy Tech Community College in Indiana, and Palomar City College in California.

LSSC is currently working with these colleges to review their curriculum: Ohio's Belmont Community College, Three Rivers Community College in Connecticut, the Spokane Falls and the Highline Community Colleges in Washington, and Pasadena City College and Cuesta Community College in California.

Finally, LSSC is planning to initiate the review process with 11 more programs in 2012: the Community Care College in Oklahoma, NMSU-Dona Ana Community College in New Mexico, Central Carolina Community College in North Carolina, College of Lake County

in Illinois, Northampton Community College in Pennsylvania, Fresno City College in California, Georgia Perimeter College, Palo Alto College in Texas, City College of San Francisco, Pueblo Community College in Colorado and the Bluegrass Community & Technical College in Kentucky.

These programs and LSSC believe that college degrees or certificates coupled with the LSSC will benefit graduates, the library in which they work, and library users. Lorelle Swader, Director of ALA-APA, said, "LTA graduates will be recognized for their acquired skills and knowledge with this national certification, which is becoming a standard for our profession. The LSSC will show employers of these graduates that they are serious about their work and their future."

And to remind you about program details: to be eligible to participate in LSSC, applicants must have a high school degree or its equivalent and have worked for the equivalent of one year (1820 hours) as a library staff member or volunteer within the last five years. The LSSC Program is partially funded by a grant to ALA from the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and managed by the ALA-Allied Professional Association.

To find out more about LSSC, please contact LSSC Program staff at [lssc@ala.org](mailto:lssc@ala.org) and visit the website at <http://ala-apa.org/lssc/>

## Volunteer Day at ALA's Annual Conference—a Must-Try Experience!

Kareen Turner didn't know what to expect, but she was going to be rooming with Marsha Arrighi (a friend from ALA Anaheim 2008, who always volunteers for this activity) so she thought it would be interesting and she would at least know one person! We were asked to list 5 projects in order of our preference, so we signed up for all library tasks, and we were assigned to the St. Bernard Project. According to the conference description, it included painting, landscaping and light skilled construction projects with the outcome being home-owners who are still trying to come back home, would have a finished, painted home or a beautifully landscaped yard. These tasks were exactly what Kareen and Marsha were trying to avoid! We were sorry we weren't working in or for a library, but we decided we were going to enjoy the day. We got to the bus stop at the Convention Center at 6:30 am, with glassy eyes and looking for caffeine or something to get us started. Thirty one people had been assigned, but only 19 volunteers showed up. Some of us had never been to New Orleans, while some had helped rebuild NOLA during two Volunteer Days during ALA in 2006. We would be split into 2 groups, depending on our "comfort zone" or capability to handle a

hammer, paint brush or lawn equipment.

On the drive to the site, we were astounded to see what had NOT been done since Hurricane Katrina. Around the Convention Center and the French Quarter, things appeared back to normal, but we couldn't believe the differences we were seeing from our bus ride. Some houses looked almost normal, but others still had boarded-up windows, lots of debris, as in fallen trees, crushed-in roofs, water markings from the flooding, etc. Houses all around us were in various stages of completion and some were inhabited. The bus stopped at our first house, which was a demolition project and the yard was completely overgrown with weeds. Nine people got off the bus to work on it. We wondered what our house would be like, but to our surprise, we drove up to a nicer looking house with a mowed lawn.

As we got closer, we could see water damage above the window panes under the eaves of the house. The family had lost everything after having over 7 feet of water in their home. They were committed to reestablishing their home, so began working on it as soon as they received the Road Home money. (All their insurance money was taken by the bank to

pay off the mortgage.) The family fell into financial troubles when the father died and the mother had serious health problems. Their 3 children are now old enough to work, so are helping a little, but the mother & other family are still living in a FEMA trailer. The mother went to the St. Bernard Project's office when she ran out of funds to finish her home and the organization began helping with materials and sending volunteers as they were available. If you are interested in donating or getting a group to help, here is their web address.

<http://www.stbernardproject.org>

We experienced sadness that stayed with us the entire day. It was heartbreaking to realize the family still was not in their home after so many years.

The good news? We were able to work with other ALA members from around the nation. The bad news? It was hot and humid—what else would it be in New Orleans at the end of June? But, we scraped, swept, painted and we had fun!

When we left, there was still much work to do on the house. Kareen bagged at least 12 black bags of garbage, that had been lying around in and out of the house. More groups of volunteers would be assigned until the job was completed. (Continued on page 4)

# Volunteer Day continued

We were hot, sweaty and covered in paint when we got on the bus to leave, but never felt so good! At least we had done something to help.

The lawn at the other house looked much better when we arrived to pick up the volunteers. They were much dirtier than us, but they were beaming! They had actually torn down walls inside the house. The owner of the house and his son came by to thank them for taking a day out to help. He was so appreciative that he broke down in tears. He and his son have been living in a pick-up truck since Hurricane Katrina.

Would we do it again? In a heartbeat!!! It is hard to understand the suffering and turmoil these families went through during the actual storm and what they have had to put up with since. Imagine 6 years later and still not together in one home! Yes, it would have been more "comfortable" to work in a library, but instead

we gave support to residents who needed to know we still care about them and someday they may be using our libraries.

### Marsha Arrighi

Head of Acquisitions Services

LSU Libraries

Troy H. Middleton Library

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, La. 70803

225-578-8539

marrigh@lsu.edu

### Karen Turner

University of Arkansas

University Libraries

Interlibrary Loan Lending

Supervisor

Fayetteville, AR 72701

479-575-6424

turner@uark.edu



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# ALA Midwinter: Dallas, Texas

This January 19-24th 2012, ALA Midwinter is being held in Dallas, Texas. It is the ninth largest city and part of the fourth largest metropolitan area in the nation. The ultra modern city attracts worldwide travelers, making the area the number one visitor destination in Texas.

There is so much to see and do

it would take several pages to tell you, so we'll simply provide you with the [Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau](#). Here you can see events, dining, shopping and entertainment information. They also have a section of "Free Things To Do in Dallas" for the budget conscious visitor. So check out the visitors bureau site on how

to get the most out of your visit to the city that lives large and thinks big.

Just in case you need to use public transportation while in the fair city of Dallas, here is the information for [Dallas Area Rapid Transit](#) or DART for short. Here you will find schedules, maps, fares and FAQs.

<http://www.dart.org/>



Dallas skyline

**"Dallas is a positive, get-it done city."  
— Laura Miller**



Old Red Courthouse



Pioneer Park, Downtown Dallas

**ALA's Library Support  
Staff Interests Round**

**ALA Staff Liaison  
information:**

Beatrice Calvin  
ALA/LSSIRT  
50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Email: [bcalvin@ala.org](mailto:bcalvin@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:** Trish Palluck

Email: [TPallu@wyo.gov](mailto:TPallu@wyo.gov)

**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:** Valeria Fike

Email: [fikeva@cod.edu](mailto:fikeva@cod.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.

