Calling all Library Staff: Ride the Wave to Empowerment!

Did you know that the ALA Annual Conference now has specialized programs designed just for you—the technical processing clerk, the reader's advisor, or the circulation desk assistant? Are you ready to attend one of the most important educational opportunities available to library staff at your level? The Empowerment Conference is THE national event for library support staff! Take a look at some of the great programs on work-life balance, ergonomics, handling difficult people, workplace safety, and customer service. The keynote address will feature Disney professionals sharing their secrets of great customer service!

With over 250 participants, the Empowerment Conference provides you the opportunity to network with other library staff in similar positions. Two food functions and other no-confrontation times provide the opportunity to:

- Meet new people in library support staff roles.
- Learn how others tackle those everyday challenges.
- Share ideas and successes with colleagues.
- Explore the world’s largest library vendor showcase with more than 900 exhibitors! With everything from books to databases, integrated library systems to library security, and architects to furniture suppliers, there is something for everyone to see!
- Meet authors and obtain a vast and varied amount of giveaways.

Register now to:
- Attend 8 out of 19 programs including a keynote breakfast and the ALA Opening Session.
- Look at new materials, find out about new services, and visit more than 900 exhibits.
- Attend special events like the Scholarship Bash on Saturday night at Disneyland (extra fee) or the LSSIRT Night Out at Buca di Beppo (extra fee).

Better yet, Empower Yourself in ALA! Join ALA and LSSIRT for $52 and save $23 on the conference registration. Either way, register for the Empowerment Conference TODAY, and find yourself in the same place with the best and brightest in the library profession.

Register online at: http://tinyurl.com/yq82jf
Mini-minutes from the LSSIRT Steering Committee meeting Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008; 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- Nancy Bolt, former Colorado State Librarian, gave an updated report on the Library Support Staff Certification Task Force and their three year plan. Dorothy Morgan and Sandy Olson are serving as members of this task force. You can view FAQs on their website:
  - http://www.tinyurl.com/2s68v

- Membership in LSSIRT has dropped to 750 members, from 846 in 2006. For those leaving the organization, an exit survey was discussed to find out why. However, we grew to the point that we now have our own ALA Councilor; Jennifer Kutzik was elected to serve a three year term.

The Bylaws amendment was addressed to make the ALA Councilor a voting member of the Steering Committee. This amendment will go to the Constitution committee and be voted upon at the Annual meeting in June in Anaheim.

The Empowerment Conference during the Annual Convention in Anaheim, June 28-29, 2008 is going strong. Denise Zielinski reported on the latest plans for this conference within a conference. LSSIRT is also cosponsoring a session called “Valuing Staff: Employee Relations and Recognition Programs.”

The Evening Out was discussed and will be held June 29, 2008 from 6:30-9:00 PM at a cost of $37 per person.

The LSSIRT Steering Committee meeting at ALA Annual will be scheduled on Monday morning, for June 30, 2008 from 8 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Full DRAFT minutes will be posted to the LSSIRT website in the near future.

Karen Turner
LSSIRT Secretary
ALÁ President Candidate Statement: Camila Alire

To My LSSIRT Colleagues:

First, please accept my sincerest apologies for not being able to meet with you today. I don’t want my absence to indicate that I am not a strong supporter of LSSIRT or of library support staff. I am very disappointed that I am missing your meeting.

I want to thank Dorothy Morgan for allowing me to present this statement and thank Teri Switzer for finding the time to read my statement.

I am running for ALÁ president. For those who have worked with me can tell you that I am a strong supporter of library support staff. I continue to encourage support staff’s involvement in library service and professional service. Every administrative position I held, I encouraged and pushed library support staff to get involved in local and national library association activities and other external library-related activities. This included giving support staff release time for this involvement. I started or increased the funding to allow all this to happen. For example, I suggested and strongly “encouraged” Jim Hill, past LSSIRT chair, to work with other library support staff to organize the first Denver metro library support staff conference, and I helped to support that conference financially. This successful conference led to the formation of the Metro Area Library Parapros’ organization.

In the library work environment, I empowered library support staff to reach their potential within our library organizations. I worked to change the tone for all staff by refusing to allow support staff to be treated like second class citizens by library faculty. For me, professionalism is a state of mind not a class of library employees.

One of my strengths I bring to the ALÁ presidency is my passion for advocacy. I can say that this advocacy included advocating for support staff in every library I led. Examples of this support include:

- Advocating for support staff promotions based on their skills and not their library classification; and,
- Advocating for support staff involvement in library committees and taskforces as well as their involvement in university-wide service.

If elected as ALÁ president, I will:

- Continue to support the mission of LSSIRT;
- Work hard to get LSSIRT representation on committees and other ALÁ activities;
- Continue to support ALÁ-APA’s efforts to improve the status of library support staff by pressing for the approval for the Library Support Staff Certification Program when it is finalized;
- Continue to be involved in the 2008 Empowerment Conference. (I was a presenter in the historic first conference); and
- Continue to walk the walk supporting library support staff.

I want to conclude by telling you what else I would bring to the ALÁ presidency. I bring - Vision! Vitality! And Voice! This includes my vision for advocacy, marketing, literacy, diversity, equity of access and other efforts. My vitality includes a high level of energy, contagious enthusiasm, and passion for libraries. My voice includes a strong voice for libraries and library employees. Also, my voice will be strong in defending intellectual freedom and First Amendment rights.

I look forward to continuing my work with LSSIRT. Thank you for your time.

Camila Alire

[Camila Alire is a member of LSSIRT]
Library support staff is essential to the functioning of our libraries, ensuring that all library operations are accomplished. Regardless of our role, none of us should overlook the value of library support staff, but appreciate their contributions from managing our libraries to performing daily routines. The range and complexity of the work support staff perform varies from library to library, but regardless, they allow the library to reach its goals and serve its’ patrons. Everyone who works in libraries has something to contribute to the overall program.

I have followed the emphasis on recruitment of support staff by the ALA from the first combined, reduced dues rate brought to the ALA Membership Committee when I was Chair, to the introduction of an actual support staff dues category, to the establishment of the ALA-APA as the organization that advocates for America’s library workers and the issues they face. ALA has played an important role in increasing the awareness of support staff. It has been rewarding to see the work accomplished by this roundtable and the acceptance by ALA, so that now we have programs and continuing education for this membership category through the Empowerment Conference within a conference and the ALA-APA national certification program for library support staff that is currently being developed.

During Midwinter in Philadelphia, I met with the LSSIRT Steering Committee and thoroughly enjoyed the dialogue and the questions put forth. I followed up on the expressed desire to have a support staff member included in the Emerging Leaders program. It seems to make sense that LSSIRT should be able to nominate a candidate to the program, however the guidelines at the moment only provide for those with an MLS to be included. As President, I would work for the inclusion of all library workers in the association’s initiatives and programs, as indicated in my platform. As part of my tenure, I intend to maintain an ongoing open dialogue with all the divisions and roundtables regarding their concerns and their needs.

I believe in a collaborative approach to establishing and achieving our goals. We need to join together, working better together, supporting each other and advocating for each other -- and collaborating with all stakeholders, within and outside the association. I would foster a variety of opportunities for engaging the divisions, roundtables and other ALA units to work together for everyone’s benefit. Our common goals and shared values keep us together as an organization and as President I would foster this communication and collaboration among all ALA units. By forging meaningful coalitions within the Association, we can bring about an understanding of our separate areas and promote our individuality while working together. Facilitating communication is the first step in addressing concerns and accomplishing the challenges ahead. This is where you play the largest role, because it is from your voice that the association receives direction.

I invite you to go to my website http://www.electlindawilliams.org to see my complete platform and learn more about my vision for the association.
Candidate for V.P./Pres. Elect: Julie Kent

Previous Positions: Clerk, Cleveland Public Library, 2002-05.

Offices Held outside of ALA: Northeast Ohio Regional Library System: Member, Website Advisory Committee, 2007-Present; Northeast Ohio Regional Library System: Member, Technology Advisory Committee, 2007-Present; Ohio Library Council: Member, 2008 Support Staff Conference Planning Committee, 2007-Present; Ohio Library Council: Assistant Coordinator, Supportive Staff Division, 2006-Present; Greater Cleveland History Digital Library Consortium: Member, Newspaper Digitization Committee, 2006-Present.

Candidate Statement: “As a library assistant and support staff member, my goals are to positively contribute to the library community, as well as draw attention to and address issues of concern to support staff members. This is exemplified by my involvement and leadership roles within the library community, and particular focus on support staff groups.”

Candidate for V.P./Pres. Elect: Leslie Monsalve-Jones

Greetings from the state of New Mexico — “the land of enchantment”

Hi, my name is Leslie Monsalve-Jones and I am running for the board position of Vice-President/President Elect for LSSIRT. It would be a great honor for me to serve on this board. LSSIRT is a vital part of ALA organization. Paraprofessionals have an important voice in ALA democratic society and one that must be heard clearly. Paraprofessionals should be proud of this organization for their advocacy for freedom to read, for intellectual freedom, and the right to privacy and pay equity for all library workers. We need more paraprofessionals, who are leaders in their technology; and with the skills to serve a new and diverse community. When new members join LSSIRT, they will bring new energy and voices to this association.

If elected to serve as Vice-President/President Elect for LSSIRT, Leslie is prepared to devote the time and energy necessary to do the job and be a voice for library workers.

Leslie has been an active member of ALA and LSSIRT for a number of years. Her commitment to service is driven by a passion for libraries and librarianship.

Leslie believes in the importance of education for development of all library personnel and hope that her background will allow her to make a positive contribution to LSSIRT.

Leslie Monsalve-Jones currently serves as the Library Director at Southwestern College. Leslie is currently enrolled at Emporia State University in the Information Studies program via online. Leslie was awarded the EDI scholarship this year through ESU. Currently, Leslie is serving on ALA/Diversity Council Member for American Indian Library Association. In 2005, Leslie was awarded the Library Journal Movers and Shakers Award. Leslie has been an active member for ALA/LSSIRT since 2003; American Indian Library Association since 2005 and REFORMA since 2000.

You can find Leslie resume and activities at http://lesmonsalvejones.spruz.net
Or Google “Leslie Monsalve-Jones.”
Thank you for your consideration.
Candidate for Secretary: Kareen Turner

Kareen earned a B.S. in Elementary Education at the University of the Ozarks (formerly College of the Ozarks) in Clarksville, AR. She also completed several post-graduate courses in Adult Education at the University of Arkansas.

Kareen has over 23 years of library experience in public schools, college & university, military and public libraries. She also brings 6 years experience in retail book sales in the United States and Europe. She joined the University of Arkansas Interlibrary Loan Department in 1997. After serving as an active member of the Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals since 1998 (as Chair and Conference Committee Co-Chair), she joined LSSIRT in 2006.

She considers herself an expert at book ordering and interlibrary loan programs. She has also taken classes to become computer proficient in online services, office software, graphics and desktop publishing.

Her community activities have included the The Officers' Wives and Spouse Clubs at Ellsworth AFB, SD; RAF Greenham Common and RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom; and, Landstuhl, Germany.

Kareen would like to see support staff receive recognition for all their contributions to libraries throughout the nation and the world. She feels a certification program would be one way to achieve that recognition.

Candidate for Treasurer: Kerrie Stramler

Kerrie Stramler is a Library Information Analyst at the University of Arizona. She has worked at the U of A for over 17 years as Library Support Staff beginning as a Library Assistant in 1991 in the Physical Processing and Bindery section of the Technical Services Team.

Kerrie has served for over 3 years on the University of Arizona Libraries Staff Governance Association as a Member-At-Large and as a Technical Services representative as well as the SGA Representative to the Libraries Cabinet in 2005.

Kerrie has been a member of ALA since 2006 and attended her first Mid-Winter Conference and discovered LSSIRT by attending their Steering Committee meeting out of curiosity. At that very meeting after discussion with then current president Sue Knoche, Kerrie was asked to work on an electronic newsletter.

The following year Kerrie was elected to serve as an LSSIRT Steering Committee Member-At-Large. She looks forward to continuing to serve both LSSIRT, the University of Arizona Libraries and ALA.
Candidate for Member-at-Large: Sarah McQueeny

Degrees and Certifications: Western Washington University, Cultural Anthropology with a Museology focus, 1990.

Experience: Kansas City Public Library 2002-2004, A.R. Dykes Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Kansas Medical Center, 2004 to present.

ALA: Current ALA and LSSIRT member

State and Regional Library Association Activities: Current Kansas Library Association and K-Place (the Paraprofessional section) memberships.

Statement of Concern: My interest to run for office as Member-at-Large for LSSIRT was piqued this past summer when I attended ALA in Washington D.C. I might not have gone had it not been for all the great offerings for the ALA Library Support Staff “Empowerment” Conference. I must admit, I thought the National Conference was for librarians and that funds would be reserved for them to go. My interest and involvement in Diversity, “Next Generation Libraries”, personality differences in the workplace and outreach initiatives here at “home” spurred me to ask for the funding to go. To my surprise, my request was granted! Once at ALA I was off and running and after a conversation with a LSSIRT member, who I later discovered was the incoming president… I knew I had to get involved. Following are my foci, should I have the opportunity to serve as MAL:

- As mentioned, I am extremely fortunate to work in an institution where the value of professional development for all library staff is very high. I realize that I am in the minority and would advocate for those who would like to play a role nationally but just may not have the funds or encouragement to do so.

- In my position as Manager of Public Services, I am given the opportunity to affect change and to grow - although it is defined as “Para” or “Support”. I find it stimulating to live and work in this role…it solidifies for me the undeniable fact that leaders are found in all areas of the workplace when given the opportunity to lead and participate in their home institutions. Such is my experience with libraries and Dykes Library in particular. And I know I am not the only one! My bid for Member-at-Large is reflective of this passion for sharing the experiences of and shedding light on Paraprofessionals as Supervisors- what this means, what the challenges are and what opportunities exist for growth.

- I am also passionate about the initiative to standardize the certifications of Paraprofessionals/Support staff. It is of paramount importance to me and to all LSSIRT members and I am excited to support this initiative in any way possible.

I would be humbled and proud to serve as your voice at the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table. Thank you in advance for your support.

Candidate for Member-at-Large: Anthony J. Pendleton


Statement: In the last few years, support staff issues have been increasingly at the forefront in many libraries. We as support staff and support staff advocates must continue find ways to continue this trend. As a group, we must continue to support efforts to further training, advancements, and salary improvements, while still maintaining the focus on customer service, staff work environment, and technology advancement needs.
Candidate for Member-at-Large: Denita Hampton

Hi! My name is Denita Hampton and I am the Manager of Access and Media Services at University Library at Georgia State University in Atlanta. I’ve worked in libraries most of my life. I started as a volunteer at my elementary school when I was 9. I worked at GSU Library for 27 years and I love it! I’ve worked in the Catalog Department, but have to admit my love is circulation… where I’ve been for 20 years!

The past 18 months the library has undergone a huge transformation! We added a learning commons, additional study rooms, an additional bridge that connects the two library buildings, and a coffee shop. Usage has doubled! The library is sometimes crowded! Hard to believe if you visited the library this time 2 years ago!

Being a support staff in my library, I’d like to see more professional support at the national level. I’m fortunate that the leadership in my library supports me attending professional conferences and workshops. I believe these conferences and workshops offer something for all staff. I think more professional development would aid support staff in performing their jobs successfully!

More recognition for staff is needed! Support staff are great in doing what they do! They are the backbone here at GSU!

Since becoming Manager, I’ve attended ALA conference in Chicago in 2005; New Orleans in 2006 and last year in Washington, DC. I look forward to Anaheim this year!

Candidate for Member-at-Large: Valeria Fike


Statement: I will support and monitor ALA’s HRDR’s and ALA/APA’s work regarding Library Paraprofessionals’ and support staff issues including: identifying core competencies, establishing certification standards and credentialing avenues, continuing education and professional development, salary and pay equity, and inclusion within ALA, both in language and participation. I will work with LSSIRT to increase membership in ALA and the roundtable and to increase communication within the membership. I will continue to advocate for the recognition and inclusion of Library Paraprofessionals and support staff in all facets of ALA and speak up, in any venue, whenever library workers are all labeled Librarians.
Candidate for Member-at-Large: Nina Manning

Degrees and Certifications:

Previous Positions: Office Associate III, New York Public Library, 1979-Present;

ALA Activities: LSSIRT: Member, 2005-Present; Chair, Member-


Offices Held outside of ALA: AFSCME, DC 37, Local 1930: Secretary, Member, 2002-Present; AFSCME, DC 37, Local 1930: Manhattan Representative, Member, 1996-2002; AFSCME, DC 37, Local 1930: Trustee, Member, 1992-95. Treasurer, 2007-present.

Membership in Other Professional and Related Organizations: New York State Library Assistant Association, 2000-Present; CLUW-Coalition of Labor Union Women, 1996-Present; Coalition of Black Trade Unionist, 1994-Present.

New York State Library Assistant’s Association Conference

The 2008 New York State Library Assistants’ Association's (NYSLLA) 30th Annual Conference will be hosted by the staff of Liverpool Public Library, Liverpool N.Y. on June 4-6, 2008. Over 200 library assistants from public and academic libraries all across New York State will be attending.

Nationally-known and regional speakers will present 32 workshops covering a wide variety of topics for both professional and personal growth, including: computer skills, healthy lifestyles, long distance learning, and environmental issues.

We will be offering excursions to the Turning Stone Casino, a guided tram tour explaining the history of Onondaga Lake. Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois will also offer a tour of the French Mission, that once stood on the shores of Onondaga Lake.

Visit the Village of Liverpool, a delightful community on the north shore of Onondaga Lake with unique shops, spectacular restaurants and lovely lakeshore trails. This is the home of Liverpool Public Library which serves a community of 52,000 people.

Carousel Mall is available for your shopping convenience, only 3 miles away. Come see the model of the Destiny USA project featured inside the Carousel Mall.

(reported by Dorothy Morgan)
LSSCP: Library Support Staff Certification Program

In June, 2007, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded the American Library Association a 3-year $407,000 grant to pursue development of a Library Support Staff Certification Program (LSSCP). The project addresses the Library Support Staff community's need for a national certification program to help the profession standardize expectations for LSS; help support staff master critical job competencies; provide educators with guidance for training curricula; and help employers articulate job requirements.

During the project’s three year term the following tasks are planned:

Year 1 – Development of competencies to be used to certify LSS.

Year 2 – Development of policies and procedures to implement the LSSCP and development of methods to assess new learning and possibly prior learning gained from experience.

Year 3 – Field test the program in 5 sites: a state association, a state library, a community college, a regional cooperative, and an ALA division.

At the recent LSSCP Advisory Committee meeting in Philadelphia in conjunction with the American Library Association’s Midwinter meeting, the Advisory Committee reviewed final drafts of the 11 competency areas. The competency areas are currently divided into “core” and “elective” competency areas.

The “core” competency areas are:

- Foundations of Library Services
- Communication and Teamwork
- Access Services
- Reference and Information Services
- Technical Services
- Technology Services

The “elective” competency areas are:

- Public Programming Services
- Marketing Services
- Youth Services
- Reader’s Advisory Services
- Supervision and Management

The competencies will now be sent to a broad spectrum of academic and public librarians and library support staff to ask their opinion of the competencies; whether they are “not important”, “important”, or “very important”; and to make other comments as desired. The survey is expected to go out electronically in early March. People who do not receive the survey but would like to make comments, can contact Project Co-Director Karen Strege at kstrege@msn.com.

At the meeting, the Advisory Committee also began a discussion of the policies and procedures that will need to be developed and the issue of assessing new knowledge and skills in relation to the competencies and also assessing prior learning gained by working in a li-

Additional information about the project is available at:

http://www.tinyurl.com/2myrwj

or by e-mailing Nancy Bolt or Karen Strege.

nancybolt@earthlink.net
kstrege@msn.com

Submitted by Nancy Bolt,
Co-Project Director
More ALA Conference Programs of Interest to Support Staff

Friday: 6/27/2008; 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Managers Who Have the "Union Advantage"
Tom Galante, Director, Queens Borough Public Library; Susan Veltfort, Children's Selection Librarian, King County Library System (WA); John Buschman, Associate University Librarian, Georgetown University Library (DC)
This program features library managers who will offer tips on how to achieve positive working relationships with unionized library staff.

Friday: 6/27/2008; 7:30 - 9:00 pm
ALA-APA Angels Reception: Celebrating Five Years of Progress The ALA-APA is celebrating its 5th anniversary by honoring the people and organizations that have helped it grow and flourish over the last five years. Come celebrate our past achievements and be a part of our bright future. ALA-APA was established to certify individuals in specializations beyond the initial professional degree and support of pay equity initiatives to improve the salaries and status of librarians and other library workers.

Saturday: 6/28/2008; 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Getting What You're Worth: Salary Negotiation Workshop
Jennifer Grady
This interactive session will give you the opportunity to learn the principles of salary negotiation during your interview and performance reviews and engage in mock negotiations.

Sunday: 6/29/2008; 7:30 - 8:30 am
SirsDynix - ALA-APA Better Salaries Breakfast: The winner of the Sirsi-Dynix - ALA-APA Award for Promoting Salaries will be honored at this breakfast. It is also an opportunity to network with colleagues who are interested in unions.

Sunday: 6/29/2008; 10:30 am - 12:00 noon
Lobbying for Operational Expenses
Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director, ALA Washington Office
Many of us know how to raise money for new buildings and materials, but what about raising the funds that pay operational expenses, like salaries and utilities? The techniques may be similar, but the messages to your potential funders (citizens, university administration, board members, etc.) will be VERY different.

Monday: 6/30/2008; 10:30 am - 12 noon
Toot Your Horn: Improving Your Image
Donna Cardillo, RN, is a nurse, career development "guru", professional keynote speaker, author, consultant, and coach. She knows that librarians, like nurses, don't get the status and credibility they deserve, so she'll tell us how to change that!

Monday: 6/30/2008; 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Becoming a Better Public Library Manager: Certification Works!
Darla Wegener, Director of Library Services, Lincoln Public Library (CA) Nanette Donohue, Technical Services Manager, Champaign (IL) Public Library Roberta Thomas, Administrative Librarian, Grayslake Area Public Library District (IL) Karen Jessee, Senior Librarian, Jacksonville Public Library (FL)
Welcome library workers who are interested in becoming certified, institutions and consultants that want to be providers, and division representatives who want to launch a program! Hear from CPLA candidates and providers.

Programs sponsored by LSSIRT—
Monday: 6/30/2008; 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Valuing Staff: Employee Relations and Recognition Programs Maureen Sullivan, Maureen Sullivan Associates Amy Paulus, Head of Access Services, University of Iowa Libraries Brian Keith, Library Human Resources Officer, University of Florida Libraries

How do you show your staff that they are the most valuable assets in the library? Staff at all levels will want to find out innovative ways to improve employee relations, and how to budget and change policies if necessary. Also sponsored by LAMA.
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.

**Chair of Publications/Communications Committee:**

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**Co-Editor:** Kerrie Stramler  
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**LSSIRT Steering Committee:**  
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**ALA Staff Liaison:** Darlena Davis  
Email: ddavis@ala.org  

Please send questions regarding LSSIRT Newsletter content to:  
Kerrie Stramler  
E-mail: stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu  

http://www.ala.org/lssirt

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 email to Martha Parsons at parsons@halcyon.com with your ALA membership number and ask to be subscribed.