LSSIRT Newsletter

American Library Association's Library Support Staff Interests Round Table

LSSIRT President’s Corner

Hello everyone!

Welcome if you are new to LSSIRT or if this is the first time reading our newsletter.

The ALA elections are approaching (March 15-April 24) and at our midwinter meeting in Seattle we had the opportunity to meet the ALA Presidential elect candidates. We issued a list of questions in advance to each candidate. If you were unable to attend the conference, the responses will soon be posted to the website or listserv for your information.

Sandy Olson, LSSIRT VP/President-elect is running on the ALA ballot for a regular seat on the Council. I’m sure she would appreciate your vote. In addition to the ALA ballot you will be asked to complete a ballot for LSSIRT to choose; a VP/President elect (2 candidates); 2 members-at-large (3 candidates); and a new position to be a council representative for LSSIRT (2 candidates). No matter who you vote for, I encourage everyone to participate -- Every vote really does count!

The ALA annual conference (Washington, DC, June 21-27) is right around the corner and I hope you can make plans to attend. The Empowerment Conference this year promises to be better than ever. The LSSIRT Night Out will be at City Lights of China, an award winning Chinese restaurant located in the DuPont Circle area. Cost is only $35 per person, on Sunday, June 24th. Registration is available through the ALA website or if you have already registered for the conference, an addition to your registration can be done.

How are we doing at LSSIRT? Do you have any ideas or suggestions for - programs -- issues within ALA -- developing new and/or additional methods of communications -- to establish through electronic modalities staff development or web conference educational programs? If so, let’s talk -- contact me at knoches@mail.etsu.edu - and who knows, perhaps your ideas can be turned into actions.

Sue Knoche, President
LSSIRT: Reviewing our past and charting our future

Accomplishments:

1. Support Staff participated in the ALA 3rd Congress on Professional Education: Focus on Support Staff (COPE III) meeting in May 2003.
2. Special membership rates for support staff. The establishment of special initiative programs of combined membership with divisions/groups in ALA and/or some state associations.
3. Assisted in the creation and adoption of an ALA Resolution on inclusive language and mutual respect among all library workers.
4. ALA Presidential appointments to major ALA Committees, such as Membership, HRDR Advisory, Nominating Committee, and Committee on Education.
5. Assisted in the development of the "Advocating for Better Salaries and Pay Equity Toolkit" through ALA-APA.
6. Create networking opportunities for support staff during midwinter and annual conferences.
7. Created the LSSIRT newsletter via paper to keep members informed, and changed over to electronic format with quarterly distribution.
8. Created website online.
9. Supported the ALA Resolution for Round Tables that have a membership base that meets or exceeds 1% of the overall total ALA membership will have a seat on the ALA Council for 3 years.
10. Created, published and continue to update the national Directory of Library Support Staff Organizations.
11. Supported the establishment of the Library Journal Paraprofessional of the Year Award and the yearly efforts to encourage nominations from the membership.
12. Supported efforts to create and promote a National Library Workers Day that is celebrated within the traditionally National Library Week.

Goals:

1. Support representatives appointed to the new ALA Support Staff Certification Task Force. If a certification program is established, to promote and support the efforts of ALA to initiate it.
2. Support and promote the current ALA joint membership initiative and continue to expand this program
3. Support and continue to provide programming proposals for the Conference within a Conference & Empowerment Conferences
4. Encourage and support LSSIRT members to volunteer for a Presidential appointment to major ALA Committees.
5. Continue new formats and electronic distribution of newsletter.
6. Create and maintain the LSSIRT website online.
7. Support and promote LSSIRT members running for ALA Council.
8. Encourage LSSIRT members to write/publish articles on support staff issues in national publications such as Library Mosaics (currently ceased publication), American Libraries or Library Journal.
9. Continue to support Library Journal Paraprofessional of the Year Award
10. Develop new ideas and suggestions from membership

“Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt
LSSIRT’s Mini Minutes from ALA Midwinter in Seattle

Washington Convention Center, Room 206
Saturday, January 20, 2007
8 a.m. – 12 noon

LSSIRT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
· Sue Knoche
· Sandy Olson
· Jennifer S. Kutzik
· Jack Fitzpatrick
· Nina Manning
· Carol Thomas
· Trish Palluck
· Kerrie Stramler
· Valerie Fike
· Leslie Monsalve-Jones
· Jim Hill

ALA STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
· Lorelle Swader, Director, Office for Human Resource Development & Recruitment (HRDR)
· Darlena Davis, Project Coordinator, HRDR
· John Chrastka, ALA Membership Marketing Manager

TREASURER’S REPORT
LSSIRT has a fund balance of $12,883.13.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
LSSIRT has 839 members, as of December 2006.

OLD BUSINESS
Recent changes in the Steering Committee were reviewed: Valerie Fike was appointed to fill the remaining year of Sue Knoche’s Member-at-Large (MAL) term. Carol Thomas was appointed to fill the remaining year of Sandy Olson’s MAL term. Kerrie Stramler was appointed to fill the remaining two years of Nina Manning’s MAL term.

ROUNDTABLE COUNCILOR
Mary McInroy, our ALA Roundtable Councilor, congratulated LSSIRT on its recent growth in membership. Mary encouraged participation by LSSIRT in the Round Table Coordinating Assembly and BARC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Library Support Staff Certification Project: Sandy and Dorothy Morgan represent LSSIRT on this Task Force, chaired by Nancy Bolt. They met for over 6 hours on Friday. Their next meeting will take place in Chicago on March 23-24. LSSIRT has committed up to $750 each in travel monies for Sandy and Dorothy to attend this meeting.

National Paraprofessional Directory: A committee has been formed to contact the 33 state associations in this document to be updated. A suggestion to make this a more interactive format will be considered upon completion of all current information. Also, the name will change to "Directory of library support staff organizations."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Past LSSIRT President, Jim Hill, announced the nomination slate:
· Valeria Fike and Jennifer Kutzik, ALA Council
· Mary Nation and Anita Kosinski, Members-at-Large
· Dorothy Morgan, Vice-President/President-Elect

Strategic Planning Committee: Jim reported on the recent committee meeting attended by Jim, Valeria, Sandy, Sue, Trish and Jennifer.

NEW BUSINESS
Leadership Handbook: Sue showed a prototype of the leadership handbook that each LSSIRT Steering Committee member will receive. Contents of the notebook include mission statement, conference planning calendar, officer duties, constitution and bylaws, meeting minutes and newsletters.

ALA-RELATED BUSINESS
· Empowerment 2007: Denise Zelinski, Chair, presented information on the 2007 Empowerment Conference (formerly known as the Conference within a Conference). In response to evaluations from past Conferences, the sessions will be shorter and there will be several tracks (service, teamwork, ergonomics, etc.) Registration will include two networking.

Cont. on Page 4
Empowerment 2007 Conference:
“Mama said there’d be days like this” (but I didn’t believe her)

This year’s Library Support Staff Empowerment Conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24, 2007 in Washington, DC, during the 2007 ALA Annual Conference. This conference is being co-sponsored by LSSIRT and the ALA Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment (HRDR).

The 2007 Empowerment event will offer library support staff a variety of programs, which will address topics such as Career Paths and Transitions, E-Learning, Wellness, Safety and Security, and Diversity. Attend the Author Breakfast with up and coming authors as well as those you may already know and admire. Enjoy networking opportunities with colleagues from across the nation. Tour the world’s largest library exhibition. Hear dynamic speakers at these sessions as well as the ALA opening general session.

Get inspired at the opening Breakfast while gaining valuable tips for making the most of your conference experience. You’ll come away rejuvenated, refreshed ready to conquer those days Mama warned you about!

Registration for Empowerment 2007 is automatically included with a full Annual Conference registration, or separate registration is available. Registration for LSSIRT members is $125 in advance, or $150 onsite. ALA members and anyone else can register for this two-day conference for $160 by January 5, $175 by March 2, $200 by May 18, or $260 onsite.
Support Staff Joint Membership Initiative

When Kerry Ransel and I first met with John Chrastka at a Southeastern Library Association meeting (at his instigation, by the way) we came away quite excited about the possibility of making a joint ALA/Alabama Library Association support staff membership package a possibility.

With a lot of luck, plenty of help from others, and a bit of elbow grease from us all, we were able to pull it off. After implementing the joint membership package, we felt the need to describe the process-to write a "practitioner" piece for others who may implement similar joint membership offerings. They might be able to gain from our experience.

Indeed, interested parties are welcome to get in touch with any of the authors for advice or clarification on any point. We were fortunate to have the Southeastern Librarian accept the piece for publication, and encourage you to read it. It is available online at:

http://sela.jsu.edu/SoutheasternLibrarian/SELn.htm.

The original abstract, which did not appear in the final article, follows:

The roles of all library workers have changed dramatically in the last few years. Library employees are performing increasingly more complex work, with many support staff accepting higher level responsibilities previously assigned to librarians. Throughout the years, support staff have been committed to the profession, but now, more than ever, it is viewed by them as a career. With current national efforts for staff recognition and the recommendations resulting from the 3rd Congress On Professional Education: Focus on Library Support Staff, the American Library Association (ALA) decided the time was right to implement new support staff membership initiatives. Our article describes the joint membership initiative between a state association, the Alabama Library Association (ALLA), and the American Library Association - a unique pilot program which is now beginning to spread to other states.

The article citation:


Contact the authors:

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Kerry Ransel, Human Resource Specialist III, Administrative Offices, Auburn University Libraries, ranseka@auburn.edu, 334-844-1757

John Chrastka, Manager for Membership Development, American
As a support staff person myself, I am most passionate about achieving recognition for all library workers for their contributions to libraries and the library profession. All those who work in libraries need to be acknowledged for their achievements, accomplishments, and the job quality they perform every day.

Pay equity, career advancement, continuing education, and certification are common themes and goals among all of us who and focus, but first there needs to be a strong relationship among all library workers, from the clerical support staff, to librarians, to administrators, and to Boards of Trustees. We need a more work in libraries. These are the areas that need constant attention and focus, but first there needs to be a strong relationship among all library workers, from the clerical support staff, to librarians, to administrators, and to Boards of Trustees. We need a more holistic definition of a library professional, and we need to re dedicate ourselves to library workers' well-being. Another issue I'm especially concerned with is the closure of libraries around the country. Library workers need to strive together to address the funding and budget issues that are so important to libraries' survival.

Jennifer Kutzik for ALA/LSSIRT Councilor

I am running for the office of ALA Councilor for LSSIRT because I believe my experience and skills can best represent support staff interests. The Support Staff Interests Round Table (now called the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table) was born in July of 1993, preceded by 3 years of groundwork laid by a Membership Initiative Group (MIG). I attended MIG meetings in June 1992 at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco and in January 1993 in Denver. I became Membership Chair in 1994, and have held an appointed or elected LSSIRT office every year since then. I have published articles about support staff in Colorado Libraries, Library Mosaics and American Libraries. I have keynoted support staff conferences and provided career mentoring. I am proud to have been a library careerist since 1972. Nothing has brought me more joy than to witness support staff finding their professional home through the efforts of LSSIRT and ALA. As your Councilor, I will strive to effectively represent and give voice to support staff interests while serving on the governing body of ALA.

For more information about me, visit my web site at http://lib.colostate.edu/its/jk/

Dorothy Morgan for LSSIRT VP/President-Elect

As a support staff person myself, I am most passionate about achieving recognition for all library workers for their contributions to libraries and the library profession. All those who work in libraries need to be acknowledged for their achievements, accomplishments, and the job quality they perform every day.

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Hi this is Mary Nation writing to you from “frigid” Southern Indiana. I am running for LSSIRT member at large.

I have worked for the Alexandrian Public Library as Administrative Assistant for 18 1/2 years. During that time I have come to appreciate Librarians as much more than a “lady with glasses, hair in a bun and a cardigan sweater while holding one finger to her lips.” I have come to appreciate, even more, how much work goes on behind the Librarian to assist him/her to do a better job for our patrons.

SUPPORT STAFF DO AN AWESOME JOB BEHIND THE SCENES and need to receive some recognition for their efforts.

As LSSIRT member at large I hope to create:
- more appreciation between the Librarians and Support Staff
- recognition for Support Staff from their Librarians as well as from ALA
- more Support Staff representation in ALA

With the support of my Library Board, I look forward to representing you and hopefully meeting you at ALA Annual in D.C. Thank you in advance for your support!

mickeymousenation@hotmail.com
Alexandrian Public Library

Hi, my name is Anita Kosinski and I am on the ballot for the position of Member-at-Large on the LSSIRT Board.

I have been working in the library field for 34 years. I have worked at following libraries in my career: The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Pa.), the North Plainfield Library (N.J.), the Scranton Public Library (Pa.), the Raritan Valley Community College Library (N.J.), the Somerville Public Library (N.J.) and the Somerset County Library (N.J.) were I am currently employed. I have worked in every department of the library from Acquisitions to Periodicals.

I have been actively involved in the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants for 14 years and have been President twice. I am very passionate about certification for Library Assistants on a national level. I have participated in the LSSIRT Board meetings when attending ALA and look forward to taking a more active role and meeting many of you.
Leslie Monsalve-Jones for LSSIRT Vice President/President Elect

Leslie Monsalve-Jones is currently the Library Director of the Quimby Memorial Library on the campus of Southwestern College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Prior to coming to Southwestern College she was a Library Technician at the New Mexico State Library responsible for the State Documents Collection.

As a library technician, Leslie was nominated for the 2004 Paraprofessional of the Year award. In 2005, Leslie was awarded the Library Journal Movers and Shakers Award.

In 2000, Leslie reorganized REFORMA de Nuevo Mexico - (The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking) and now a Special Interest Group with New Mexico Library Association, served as President in 2000-2001 and again for another year. Leslie is an active member for REFORMA National, served as Member at Large on their board from 2004-2006. In 2001, Leslie founded New Mexico Paraprofessionals - now a Special Interest Group for New Mexico Library Association and presents programs and leads meetings at Conferences. She is also a Member-at-Large Officer on the American Library Association / Library Support Staff Interest Roundtable. She is a current member of the American Indian Library Association. At the 2006 ALA Annual Conference, she was a panel member for AILA Conference program “Do You Know Any Indians?”

Leslie is an active member of ARMA (Association for Records Managers and Administrators) since 1989. She has worked as a Records Manager and in Medical Records

At the Southwestern College, I am constantly challenged and receive a great deal of satisfaction and accomplishment while working with the students. My focus is helping the students, faculty, and staff to enhance the learning and teaching experience.

I am currently attending classes working towards a degree in Library Technology.

Campaign Statement

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

Kareen Turner for LSSIRT Member-At-Large

Education: University of the Ozarks, formally College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, AR, B.S. Elementary Education, 1974; post grad work done in Adult Education, Univ. of Arkansas, 1999-2000

I have over 23 years library experience, including public schools, college/university and community libraries; Over 6 years experience in retail book sales: Expert at book ordering and interlibrary loan programs; I feel I am computer literate as I’ve taken classes that have included online services, word processing, spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations, CD Rom applications, graphics and desktop publishing.

State and Regional Library Association Activities: Arkansas Library Association, Member of the Executive Board, 2005, Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals, Chair, 2005, with membership on the Executive Council for 3 years; a member of the Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals since 1998.

I’ve made some good friends over the years from all over the state and really have enjoyed the camaraderie with staff members here at University Libraries. I recently joined the ALA-LLSIRT round table as a member to get more involved with support staff issues at the request of our Dean of Libraries.

Community activities: Various positions in The Officers’ Wives and Spouse Clubs at Ellsworth AFB, SD; RAF Greenham Common and RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom; and, Landstuhl, Germany. Work included staff member for club monthly news brochures, liaison chairman with British military clubs, chairman for decorating club for special events and holidays, chairman for reservations for monthly luncheons and special events.

Statement of Concern: Would like to see paraprofessionals as support staffs get the recognition for what they do to contribute to libraries throughout the nation and the world. A certification program would be one way to achieve that recognition.
Over the last several years, I've had conversations with Library paraprofessionals and support staff from around the country. Their concerns echo those brought forth in the 3rd Congress on Professional Education: Focus on Support Staff (COPE III). (See "Recommendations," starting on p 11 of the COPE III Steering Committee Report at http://www.ala.org/ala/hrdrbucket/3rdcongressonpro/COPE3Final_Report.pdf). Even though change seems slow, since 2003 there has been progress in addressing these issues.

Some of the changes we can celebrate are:

- Implementation of an ALA membership and dues category for Support Staff (2004);
- Adoption of ALA Policy on Inclusiveness and Mutual Respect (2005) which holds ALA accountable, at the least, for the use of inclusive language in all communications and publications;
- Creation of the "conference-within-a-conference" for support staff -- the first in Chicago in 2005 -- and is now the Empowerment Conference, held each year at ALA Annual Conference; and
- Task forces are developing documents for a career ladder, national certification standards, and core competencies for Support Staff.

While some recommendations are being addressed, much remains to be done. LSSIRT and ALA members who are support staff need to be involved. An important focus for LSSIRT is to retain and add to our membership. Our past growth, along with a constitutional change which came from a COPE III Recommendation, has now given LSSIRT its own seat on Council - for three years. We have to maintain our percentage of ALA membership to hold onto this seat. There are opportunities for support staff to assume positions and have a voice within the ALA organization, yet volunteers for these positions are hard to find. Finally, as LSSIRT grows in numbers and finances, we can develop a plan to move from an ALA Roundtable to a Division.

My goal is to work with LSSIRT to increase membership in ALA and the Roundtable and to increase communication within our 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. As the topics of continuing education and professional development are tackled, I would like to see an educational track offered at ALA conferences. This track would include sessions, and perhaps between-conference activities, recognized as components of a career ladder or certification program and would be beneficial on many levels.

At COPE III, I was in a group that decided all library staff should just go-with-the-flow and adopt the public's perception that anyone who works in a library is a librarian. We got excited. However, I've had some time to ponder this idea. It's the roles that we fill and the attitude we have, not our degrees, that is important. While "everyone's a librarian" makes it easier for our patrons, I, personally, only want to be seen as a library professional.
If you would like to receive a paper copy of the LSSIRT Newsletter please email your newsletter co-editor Kerrie Stramler stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu to be placed on the mailing list.
Sue Knoche, LSSIRT President and Sandy Olson, LSSIRT Vice President/President Elect

David Dowell and Nancy Bolt at the Library Support Staff Certification meeting

Loriene Roy, ALA President Elect & Leslie Burger, ALA President

Jim Hill, Sandy Olson, and Dorothy Morgan

Lorelle Swader and Darlena Davis

Jennifer Grady ALA/APA Director & Denise Zielinski, Empowerment Conference Chair

Mary McInroy currently LSSIRT’s Roundtable Councilor

Nancy Davenport — candidate for ALA President

Katie Cargill, WALE President

Jim Rettig — candidate for ALA President

WALE/LSSIRT Meet & Greet at the Center for Wooden Boats

Martha Parsons, WLA President

Center for Wooden Boats

Washington Convention Center
The **LSSIRT Newsletter** is the official publication of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) of the American Library Association.

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