

Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT)
Steering Committee/Membership Meeting
Marriot at the Convention Center, Blaine Kern E
New Orleans, Louisiana
June 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Trish Palluck, Incoming President of LSSIRT, at 8:14 A.M.

Those present were: Trish, Kareen Turner, Secretary; Kerrie Stramler, Treasurer; Karen E. Coleman, Member at Large; Jason (J.P) Pendleton, Member at Large; Nina Manning, Member at Large; Valentin Colon, Member at Large; Valeria Fike, LSSIRT Councilor; Marilyn Jack-Brown, Member at Large; Anita Kosinski, Member at Large and Sarah Kartsonis, Member at Large, Jennifer Kutzik, LSSIRT Webmaster and chair of LSSIRT Communication committee. (New Members-at-Large are Karen Coleman, Secretary, Danville Public Library, Danville, VA and Valentin Colon, President of Local 1930, New York City Public Library, NY; New Candidate for Vice President/President Elect is JP Pendleton, Head of Circulation and Reserves, Library Associate II, Auburn University, currently a Member-at-Large.)

Guests included Lorelle Swader, ALA Liaison; Joseph Eagan, ALA Executive Council Liaison; and Nancy Bolt and Karen Strege, LSSCP Project Co-Directors, and John Cratzka, Membership Director; Ian Lashbrook, LSSCP staff; Marsha Arrighi, Louisiana State University; Leslie Monsalve-Jones, New Mexico.

The minutes were approved and will be posted on our website.

Nancy Bolt gave us an overview of the last 6 months concerning the Library Staff Support Certification Program. There are 182 applications, with 144 active candidates. She also broke down the diversity in the enrollment. There is one graduate, Melisa Dellihoue, from Louisiana. There are 5 graduates from the Western Council of State Library Practitioner Program that was comparable to the LSSCP and were accepted as meeting the competencies. They are offering three webinars per month and have made 63 in-person presentations. They have been working with Library Technical Assistant (LTA) programs and three programs have signed agreements with LSSC. 16 more programs are in various stages of review processing. 43 Registration Assistance Awards (RAA) have been offered. They are also offering course subsidies. The cooperation with LSSIRT and State Associations has been met with some success. A recommendation was made to continue this cooperation and offer LSSIRT 50 more RAAs. They intend to continue offering RAAs in multiple venues. They propose to offer RAAs to State Librarians and state CE consultants, ALA chapters when attending the Chapter Relations Committee at ALA 2011, ALA divisions and Urban Library Council. Kareen made the motion to continue the partnership with LSSC in offering and publicizing the RAAs. Valeria made the second. The motion was passed. More discussion followed.

Under committee reports:

Kerrie Stramler, Treasurer, reported we have a fund balance of \$21,543.00. In May, we showed a deficit. We have a reserve which will probably be used to cover it. The 2012 Budget

has been turned in. Trish announced that Kerrie and she had a conference call with Lorelle Swader and Darlena Davis, concerning our annual budget. They had several recommendations: scratch sessions, delete breakfast, and send the new members/dropped members' lists electronically. There will be costs for mailings, roster list for newsletter (comes quarterly) and lost members mean lost revenue. Discussion followed which included partnering with other roundtables/divisions to sponsor sessions. 384 letters @ 44 cents postage went out, so Anita made a motion to go as paperless as possible. Nina made the second; motion passed.

We have 436 personal members as of May 2011. This is a drop of 19.26% from same time last year. We need 150 members to keep the ALA councilor position. We plan to focus on recruiting and retaining membership. Jennifer and Anita will be attending the Membership meeting on Sunday, June 26th. Discussion followed on membership as it is down overall. COLT members still need to be targeted. Discussion followed involving Each One, Recruit One, ALA corporate membership vs. personal membership and webinars, and the benefits of a membership. A committee was formed: Valeria, JP as Chair, Trish, Sarah and possibly Jennifer, to look into various possibilities for a variety of methods for communications and meetings. Jennifer and Karen will work on a Facebook page.

Cards were being sent to Dorothy Morgan and AnnaMarie Kehnast. A short break followed.

We discussed state associations, with Sarah volunteering to be the coordinator and point of contact for state associations. We also discussed programs and budget for Anaheim 2012 with a poster session suggested for ALA Annual in Chicago, 2013. Some discussion of a Night Out was also done. (Future dates were mentioned 2013 dates are Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, WA: January 25-29, 2013 and 2013 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL: June 27- July 2, 2013)

Joseph Eagan, ALA Executive Board Liaison, gave his final update with us on the ALA Strategic Plan 2015, stressing two points from the Strategic 5 year Plan (2010-2015): transforming American Libraries and membership engagement. He informed us that ALA is working for more visibility. Registration prior to arrival in New Orleans was 11,270 (compared to 12,900 prior to DC last year-mentioned the locations of Boston to DC area are always higher than other locations). LITA is creating a toolkit that will stream meetings for members unable to attend. He said Keith Michael Fiels announced the loss of 10,000 employees throughout the profession in the past five years. He talked about the financial shape of ALA; the privatization issue in public libraries. At the ALA-APA board of directors meeting, there was a mention more publicity of the LSSCP and there was a Presidential Taskforce envisioning future governance of American Library Association. A report will be made to Council after the annual. There would be a Board of Directors and the council would be eliminated. The core function is now the certification program, so he wanted feedback on the LSSCP. Funding and publicity is a major concern for ALA-APA. ALA is urging more visibility; Kent Oliver sent out an email urging members to volunteer and get seen, forms needing to be filled by Sept. 2nd. (He later sent out an email saying he hoped we had an opportunity to discuss LSSIRT members becoming part of the ALA ballot for the 2012 Council election at conference. The ballot application is currently up on the website and the deadline for application is **actually August 15th, not September 2nd**)

Trish also said we might be having more virtual meetings and discussions. If the steering committee would be meeting four times a year, meetings at MidWinter and Annual might be shortened so we can take opportunity to attend other sessions.

Valeria Fike, our ALA Councilor, announced a memorial resolution for Linda Owen, one of our founding members, which will be presented at the Council meetings during the convention. She also discussed 2 of the Presidential Task Forces: Council Effectiveness Task Force was examining the Council's schedule, the structure of its sessions, and its operation and modes of communication. This task force will recommend ways for Council to be more productive and responsive to the concerns of membership; and the Future Perfect Presidential Task Force, "Envisioning ALA's Governance in the 21st Century", whose only charge is:

"If there were no governing body currently in place, what structure would you envision that reflects ALA's goal of an engaged and collaborative membership, the effective use of new technologies, and the changes in outlook and expectations occurring with the new generation of people working in libraries?"

Links can be found in her report in the September 2011 issue of the LSSIRT newsletter: <http://www.ala.org/lssirt/lssirtbenefits/benefitservices>

ALA Representatives:

Lorelle Swader, APA and HR, discussed the future of ALA/APA. She talked about a Strategic Plan and Budgeting issues. We discussed virtual steering committee meetings. Representatives are changing for Executive Council and BARC. Discussion followed with Darlena about programs for Annual. We can adjust revenues and amounts per lines to cover expenses. John Cratzka talked about marketing to state organizations and the future of COLT members. Could their membership be open up to support staff membership? We are the national voice for library support staff so we need to have the handouts available.

Library Journal reception for Gilda Ramos, Paralibrarian of the year is at Antoine's; 713 Rue St. Louis; The Paralibrarian of the Year Award is sponsored by **DEMCO, Inc.**, of Madison, WI, which underwrites the \$1500 cash prize and a reception to honor the winner at the American Library Association conference. The award recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians in providing excellent library service.

LSSIRT dining out had about 40 reservations for Tujague's Restaurant, 823 Decatur, at 7:30 P.M. Saturday Night, June 25, 2011. <http://www.tujaguesrestaurant.com> It was a good turnout, with a wonderful guided tour of Jackson Square afterwards. Many thanks to Marsha Arrighi, from Louisiana State University, who organized the tour with guides, Tom and Catherine Mungall. Nice evening for all!

Respectfully submitted
Kareen Turner
LSSIRT Secretary