



American Association of School Librarians
a division of the American Library Association

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To: ALA Council
From: Carl A. Harvey II, 2011-2012 AASL President
Report of Division Activities

Major Projects

- White House Petition
 - This was a personal project of mine that had massive amounts of support from AASL, ALA, and all the divisions of ALA. In January, I posted a petition on the White House website and in a little less than 4 weeks, we collected the required 25,000 signatures for a response. A response was received in April, and while it may not have been quite as strong as I might have liked, it did put school libraries on the White House radar and the petition was an amazing example of the entire library community working together!
- ALA School Library Task Force
 - ALA President Molly Raphael appointed this task force at the beginning of her Presidency. AASL President-Elect Susan Ballard has been hard at work co-chairing this group with Patricia Tumulty. They have been looking at the issues facing school libraries in this country and determining how ALA can best help school library programs continue to flourish.
- Board Restructuring
 - At the Midwinter Board Workshop, the Board worked with Paul Meyer from Tecker Consulting to go through the process of looking at how the Board is structured. After that discussion, the Board voted to recommend a change to the bylaws. The biggest change was the elimination of the Director-Elect position. The membership approved this bylaws change in May and over the next few years the position will be phased out. This allows those elected to immediately join the Board rather than waiting two years as a Director-Elect.
- Leadership Development Committee
 - The other change the membership approved was changing the bylaws by transforming the Nominating Committee into the Leadership Development Committee. In addition to developing the slate, they will also be responsible for recruiting, keeping, and recognizing member leaders.
- The AASL Board has approved several new Task Forces or groups to begin working on several new projects. They include:
 - Best Apps for Teaching and Learning
 - Senior Projects / Capstone Projects
 - Quantitative Measures
 - Position Statement on Internet Access
 - Position Statement on Collection Balance
- eCOLLAB | Your eLearning Laboratory: Content, Collaboration, Community
 - In May, AASL launched eCOLLAB, a professional development repository complimentary to AASL personal members. eCOLLAB features webinars, podcasts, and resources from AASL online and face-to-face professional development. The latest *Knowledge Quest* issue is also available in a read only version. Subscriptions to eCOLLAB are available to non-members at \$199 per year.

- Retirees SIG

- At the 2012 Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, Texas, the AASL Board of Directors approved the formation of a retirees special interest group within AASL. The Retirees Special Interest Group will give school librarian retirees an opportunity to network with colleagues in person and virtually. Via the group's ALA Connect Community and meetings during ALA Annual Conferences, retirees can share their experiences and expertise and help AASL move towards the future of the profession.
- Get Involved Campaign
 - With the understanding that not all members have the time to commit to a committee appointment but knowing that more members want to be involved, AASL launched the Get Involved Campaign where small contributions add up. With this campaign volunteers fill out a simple form and indicate what type of projects they are interested in working on and throughout the year as projects come up those volunteers will be utilized.
- Knowledge Quest – Expanding the content for our journal by connecting to online resources.
 - 30 Second Thought Leadership
 - In conjunction with the release of the every current issue of *Knowledge Quest*, AASL has developed sets of podcasts from leaders within the school library profession. The “30 Second Thought Leadership” series feature school library experts delivering brief and practical advice based on the themes of *Knowledge Quest* issues.
 - KQ Webinars
 - AASL introduced KQ webinars, an ongoing series of webinars based on articles in issues of *Knowledge Quest*. The webinars offer AASL personal members the opportunity to explore the issue in depth and ask questions directly to authors of the journal.

Major Events

- AASL National Conference
 - AASL hosted the 15th National Conference & Exhibition in Minneapolis, MN in October 2011. Over 3,133 attendees and vendors attended this biennial event. This is the only national conference dedicated to the needs of school librarians and their role as educational leaders, and in these difficult times for school libraries the event brought professionals together to learn and share and celebrate the great things happening in school libraries across the country.
- Congressional Briefing
 - At the 2011 National Legislative Day, the idea was presented to AASL to consider doing a Congressional Briefing. A group of leaders from the Board, the Advocacy Committee and the Legislative Committee began to look at the idea. Working with the ALA Washington Office and an Advocacy Consultant, the idea became a reality on October 19, 2011. Administrators, parents, and school librarians all shared why 21st century school libraries are so essential to today's education ecosystem. The briefing was well attended and was a springboard to continuing discussions about getting school libraries into the reauthorization of ESEA.
- BWAD – 2011
 - AASL held the first Banned Website Awareness Day in the fall of 2011. The event was scheduled to highlight the impact of Internet filtering in today's schools. The one-day observance garnered several press interviews and librarians across the country participated with activities in their schools helping raise the awareness of their students and administrators.
- Presidential State Visits
 - Over 10 years ago, AASL began a rotation for the AASL President, President-Elect and Past-President visit a total of 10 state conferences each year. There is a rotation so that every 5 years every state is visited.

Publications

- Position Statement on the Role of the School Library Programs
- Position Statement on Labeling Books with Reading Levels



- Position Statement on Flexible Schedule
- Math Common Core Crosswalk – available online and now completes the matrix, matching the AASL Standards to the Common Core Standards.
- Spanish Translation of the AASL Parents Advocacy Brochures

Special Recognition

- AASL President Crystal Apple – Sen. Jack Reed

Awards

- Frances Henne Award - Alisa Auchmoedy-Finck; Stone Ridge, NY
- ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant - Iowa Association of School Librarians (IASL)
- Distinguished School Administrators Award - Mat McRae; Saginaw, MI
- Collaborative School Library Award –
 - Sara Oremland, Darren McNally, Corinne Berletti and Jessica Park; Albany, CA
- Innovative Reading Grant - Kristine Klopp; Madison, WI
- Information Technology Pathfinder Award - Elizabeth Kahn; Jefferson, LA and Sally Mays; New Hope, MN
- AASL Research Grant - Ann Dutton Ewbank; AZ and Daniella Smith; TX
- Distinguished Service Award - Sharon Coatney;
- National School Library Program of the Year Award –
 - South Texas Independent School District, Rio Grande Valle region
 - Hinsdale Township High School District 86, Illinois