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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ALA COUNCIL 3

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005 - 8:00 a.m. -- 12:30 p.m.

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>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Good morning, Council. I'd like to call the third Council of the ALA Annual Meeting to order. Would all Councilors take the reserved seats at the tables in the front? At this meeting, we will follow the rules approved in the ALA Council 1 meeting. Please turn your cell phones off or to silent if you need to take a call, please leave the Council area. Please watch the motion screen to see what to vote on your voting card and please use only that descriptor. Your voting record is at your place and you should have a blue card for this morning's meeting. If you must leave before adjournment, and we will be sorry to see you go, please take your card to Lois Ann Gregory-Wood.

A quorum for Council meeting is 75 Councilors. We have well over 75 Councilors present and therefore we have a quorum. The Chair would like to ask that people submitting reports be as brief as possible since today's agenda is very full. Written reports should not be read and when resolutions are presented, only the resolved

**Council Document 62. Resolution on the Connection Between the Iraq War and Libraries.** This Resolution was also approved by the ALA Membership at its first meeting last Saturday. And I will read to you the resolved clause.

"Resolved that the American Library Association calls for the immediate and unconditional withdraw from Iraq of all U.S. military forces and the return of full sovereignty to the people of Iraq.

"Resolved that the American Library Association calls upon the United States Government to provide material assistance through the United Nations for the reconstruction of Iraq, including its museums, libraries, schools and other cultural resources.

"Resolved that the American Library Association calls upon the United States Government to use some of the funds saved by ending the occupation to support social services, including libraries in the United States.

"Resolved that this resolution be sent to all members of Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the President of the United States, and the press."

Microphone 7.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: SRRT Councilor. While, of course, you know that SRRT endorsed this resolution, I want to say a couple of things about arguments presented at the Membership Meeting and conclude with very brief comments.

In the Membership Meeting, one of the I think most persuasive arguments put forward is that, in fact, money is drawing up from our budgets at the state level and down to the local level for libraries and other kinds of public goods because of the war economy.

Also, another thing that was mentioned, our statement as libraries as an American value, is very relevant here because the war on terror, as it's conceived, has spawned things like the Patriot Act, which we're also concerned about and have to deal with all the time.

So we see how the war is causing problems in terms of our civil liberties. And if any of you saw the movie "Unconstitutional" that our President, Carol Brey-Casiano, arranged for us to see the other day, you can see the kinds of severe problems that we're facing.

Now, I want to say that there's been a real change in public opinion in the United States about the war in Iraq. And I think that the Membership Resolution is a reflection of the country, the people of the country. The latest polls show that about 60% of Americans are against the war in Iraq.

You can also see this in the Congress. John Coniers, Congressman John Coniers held hearings on the so-called Downing Street memo. And that's the memo that showed the disinformation that was foisted upon us about this war. And out of that hearing, 50 members of Congress formed an out-of-Iraq coalition caucus.

So there's a lot going on in the country. ALA needs to be part of the movement to get us out of this war. That is the way we're going to end this war. It's going to be from individuals, organizations, all kinds of civic activities that come forward to stop this war. ALA needs to be part of that. I urge your vote for this resolution.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> MELORA RANNEY NORMAN: **Maine Chapter Councilor. In response to some comments about wording at the Membership Meeting, I have drafted an amendment that I'm hoping will be friendly and noncontroversial. It is seconded by Ann Sparanese. And I believe it appears on the screen before you. Move the third resolved clause to second place and change it to read, "resolved that the American Library Association urges the United States Government to subsequently shift its budgetary priorities from the occupation of Iraq to improved support for vital domestic programs including United States libraries."**

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: And you have a second. Would you like to speak to your amendment?

>> MELORA RANNEY NORMAN: No, I'm all set.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right. Thank you. Any discussion on the amendment? Is this amendment acceptable to the body? Is there objection? Hearing no objection, we will declare that this motion is accepted by unanimous consent. It hasn't been seconded, I'm sorry. I can't tell by hand signals what that means. All right. Let's get it back on the screen. The amendment, I mean. If we could have the amendment back on the screen. I'm not sure if it was accepted or not. I have not heard whether there's objection or not for the amendment. I think we're waiting to see the amendment, correct?

All right. You have the amendment before you. I think I will put this to a vote. So is there discussion on the amendment?

All right. All those in favor of the amendment, please raise your hand? Thank you.

All those opposed, please raise your hand? And the motion passes. Please mark your ballot CD 62, Amend.

Microphone 5.

>> TRINA MAGI: Trina Maggie, Chapter Councilor from Vermont. I think that is a very helpful amendment.

We live in a very wealthy country where we have very little trouble finding resources to support the war and other wars and at the same time very little resources to support libraries. And I believe our spending priorities are shameful for a country of our wealth. And this resolution calls for a shift of those priorities. And I think it's high time. And that is why I'm inclined to support the resolution.

Now, some ask: What's the point of ALA making a statement on this? Who's going to listen? What difference will it make what will come of it? And those are legitimate and good questions. They are, in fact, the same questions I asked myself some years ago when I organized librarians in my state of Vermont to send a letter to Congressman Sanders and to testify before the Burlington City Council to oppose the Patriot Act. And when my town of Burlington voted overwhelmingly to go against the Patriot Act, we were only the 17th town in the country to do so. And the Justice Department and others said so, big deal? It's just a handful of cities in liberal cities who are speaking out and towns have no authority to talk about federal law.

Now that almost 400 communities and seven states have gone on record, the Justice Department no longer says that. They say plenty of other things, but not that.

And two weeks after the vote in Burlington, Bernie Sanders called us to say he'd like to do something about the Patriot Act. So sometimes, not always, someone does listen. So that's why I'm also inclined to vote for this resolution.

Now, there are no doubt that there are lots of areas that we disagree with U.S. government priorities, so why say something about this? That's also a very fair question. I believe that there are times when things are so wrong that as many voices as possible must speak out. For me, our expenditures on an illegal, immoral and unnecessary war is one of those things, and that is why I will vote for this resolution.

(Applause.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> MICHELLE CLOONAN: Councilor-At-Large. And I'd like to support this.

Focusing on libraries for a moment, our current Administration has been anything but friendly to libraries and museums in Iraq. In fact, just the contrary. We've brashly and brazenly ignored the Hague

Convention, which is supposed to protect cultural heritage materials in time of war.

I would like to just call your attention to the fact that despite the fact that our government dropped the ball on so many initiatives to help our colleagues in Iraq, and especially after the CPA dissolved, that there are a number of efforts underway on the part of librarians and library educators around the world, and I just want to call your attention to the Iraq crisis, which is supported by the Middle East Librarian's Association and maintained at the Oriental Institute website by Charles Jones. And Jeff Spur of Harvard University just finished writing -- and it will be posted, if it isn't up already, on Chuck Jones' website -- information about all of the initiatives around the world that have been brought to bear upon this problem.

And I think it shows, once again, that librarians as activists can really make a difference in the world. Thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: I've been reminded by our parliamentarian, we have about three minutes left under our 15-minute guideline, but we will proceed with discussion. Microphone 8.

>> JAMES CASEY: Councilor-At-Large. Moving to end debate. I don't want to take any chances of finishing it.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: We have a motion to close debate. Do you have a second?

>> Second.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right. All those in favor, please raise your hand? Thank you.

All those opposed, please raise your hand? The motion fails.

All right we move to microphone 6.

>> JENNA FREEDMAN: Councilor-At-Large. I want to quote our incoming President-Elect Leslie Burger at something that she said in the Candidate's debate. I agree that our primary mission is to be the voice of America's libraries and librarians, but we're citizens of the world. There are times things happen that call for our 64,000-strong membership to take a position. I don't think we live in a world where we should say ALA should never be involved in issues that are controversial. We need to carefully weigh each and every one of those opportunities and use the deliberative form of ALA Council to evaluate whether that is something we want to take a position on. In this case, I think it is

absolutely something that we, as a body, have a great opportunity to make a statement to the country and the world. So I speak in support of the resolution.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Thank you. Microphone 3.

>> RUTH NUSSBAUM: **Good morning. Ruth Nussbaum, Councilor-At-Large. I would like to make a resolution to delete the first resolved and substitute -- sorry.**

>> ELIZABETH ANN RIDLER: Councilor-At-Large. I also speak, I'm the seconder of this motion. And if this entire thing passes, if it doesn't pass, we're back to the former resolution, we will move the same thing. I think it's very important that we speak up on the issue of support for rebuilding Iraq's libraries, but I do not think it's appropriate to take our toys and go home when things get tough. I think we would leave a desert in which not only libraries but individuals would have no protection. So that's what we're moving.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: So we have a motion on the floor to delete the first resolved clause. That is all you are removing, correct? Microphone 5, are you speaking to the amendment?

>> LING HWEY JENG: **Councilor-At-Large. We just submitted pretty much the same amendment, but I would like to make a friendly -- suggest to delete the word "subsequently" in the second resolve clause.**

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: If you could hold that thought, Councilor Jeng, and then we will take action on this amendment first. Well, I am being told that subsequently makes no sense without the first one.

**We have been asked to take the word "subsequently" -- delete the word "subsequently" in the second resolved clause. There it is. All right. There is no objection from the original movers of the amendment. So we will take these two amendments together.**

All right. Is there discussion on the amendments? Microphone 7.

>> Actually point of order. I believe that first amendment reverse clauses two and three, didn't it?

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Yes, they have been reversed now. That's been done. That had been done before the amendment was placed on the screen.

Microphone 5.

>> ANN SPARANESE: Councilor-At-Large. If you delete the first resolved -- I'm speaking against deleting the first resolved. If you delete the first resolve, the rest of the resolution doesn't have any meaning. You can't shift your budgetary priorities from occupation if you're still in occupation. So I suggest that we as a

body need to reject this amendment and vote on the resolution instead of trying to make resolutions that render it illogical.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 7.

>> STEPHEN MATTHEWS: Councilor-At-Large. I support this change. I think it makes this something that really has to do with the American Library Association. While it pains me not to support something that would end this war, because I think it's abhorrent use of our resources and our people, and to see the 1700 soldiers that have already died and the number of chaos that has been brought forward is a disaster. But I do think that to say "immediate and unconditional withdrawal" is irresponsible of us as an Association. We need to focus on the fact that we want this money to be spent for something that's positive. We want this war to end, but to think that we can immediately wave a magic wand to get us out of this mess that we're in and everybody can immediately come home? Those troops that are there, they still need support. The people who are there supporting that effort or against that effort, they all need to be able to have some sense of how is this going to happen? To do it immediately, unconditionally is irresponsible. And I hope we pass this change.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: Member at Large. I do not support this amendment, but I do support ending the war. And to follow-up on Steve's comments, I would rather have us delete the words "immediate and unconditional" and still call for the withdrawal and then have the funds to redirect to other purposes. So I would urge that this amendment be defeated and then we try to amend it further.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right. Microphone 5.

>> TERRI KIRK: ASL division Councilor and ALA Executive Board Member. I'd like to move to amend by substituting this phrase. And it's been given to the projectionist.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: You're amending the amendment?

>> TERRI KIRK: Yes. "ALA urges an aggressive approach on the part of the United States Government to find a peaceful resolution to the war in Iraq." And seconded by Neal Wyatt --

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right. But this has to actually be decided by the body. So is there objection to that amendment to the amendment? Yes, there is. So we need to vote on that. And, quite frankly, I'm getting confused, too, because I cannot see the screen very well

from here.

We're asking to replace -- instead of deleting the first resolved clause, we're asking to replace it with the language that you see on your screen.

I'm advised that this is somewhat out of order and that we should vote on the first amendment, which was to delete the first resolve clause and delete the word "subsequently." So if we could have that back on the screen. The earlier amendment?

Unfortunately or fortunately, once an item comes to Council, it becomes a motion of Council. It no longer belongs to the people who moved it.

So we are now back to the original amendment. So I would like to vote on that. All those in favor, please raise your hands? Of the amendment you see on the screen, which is the deletion of the first resolved clause and the word "subsequently" in the second resolve clause.

All in favor, please raise your hands? Thank you.

All those opposed, please raise your hands? I think we're going to have to divide the house on this. All those in favor, please stand.

All right. Thank you. You may be seated.

All those opposed, please stand. All right the motion fails 66 no, 65 yes. Please mark your ballots CD 62 Amend 2.

We are now back to the main motion. Actually, we can now consider the second amendment that was put before you, if we could get that back up on the screen. That was the substitute motion for the first resolved clause.

Microphone 7? This is on the amendment as it appears on your screen.

>> TERRI KIRK: ASL Division Councilor, ALA Executive Board Member. I think if we would substitute this, it would be more palatable to most of us because demanding the immediate withdrawal of the troops is a problem, because that can't be done and we know that that can't be done. That it wouldn't happen. If we say this, I think it's more powerful, that we're saying we want it to be aggressive, we don't want them to wait around to think about it, but we realize that it can't be immediate because it just wouldn't happen.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Apparently people are having trouble with the color, if that could be changed to a brighter color, that would be helpful. Yellow is good. Our retiring eyes, I guess, are having trouble with the pink.

Also, the parliamentarian has advised me that the words

"resolved that" would go in the front of this resolved clause just as standard language, but that does not require action from Council.

Microphone 3.

>> JAMES RETTIG: Executive Board. I think that this proposed amendment would be very welcome by the government, that they would say this is exactly what they have been trying to do. And their approach has indeed been aggressive.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: I have an amendment in waiting to do as I suggested before, to drop the words "immediate and unconditional." So if this is voted down, then I will make the next motion.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: We'll take that under advisement. Thank you.

Seeing no one else at the microphones, we are ready to vote on this amendment. All those in favor, please raise your hands? Thank you.

All those opposed, please raise your hands? And the amendment fails. Please mark your ballots CD 62, Amend 3.

Microphone 3.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: Francis Buckley, member at large. I think we're going for a record here.

(Laughter.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Possibly.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: I have introduced an amendment, I hope you have a copy. It was taken over to the projectionist.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: I don't, but I'm sure the projectionists do have it.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: To delete the words "immediate and unconditional." "To call for the withdrawal of Iraq of U.S. military forces and return of full sovereignty to the people of Iraq." I have a second from Maggie Farrell.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right. Thank you. Discussion on this amendment? Microphone 3.

>> SUE KAMM: Councilor-At-Large, did we not just vote to delete the word "subsequently" from the second resolved clause?

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: That was part of the motion to delete the first resolved clause and that did not pass. Thank you for clarifying that. Microphone 4.

>> ELLEN ZYROFF: Councilor-at-Large. I'm learning,

finally. With regard to the new resolved clause, the second one, I don't believe that any of us that are here with government funds supporting us have the right to speak on this issue or not on this issue unless we're here on our own time talking about our own views.

The American public is completely split on the issue of the war. There are polls, 60% can be pulled out, I've seen one 40%, whatever. I feel it would be a very bad thing for the American Library Association to have the presumption, in this difficult time, to talk about this. I've been amazed that there hasn't been any serious discussion about the fact that we are at war and that we've been attacked and that we are all in danger.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Councilors, let me remind you, we are speaking only to the amendment at this point, the first resolved clause. Thank you. Microphone 3.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: Member at large. As a former government employee, I was not required to sign an oath that I would never speak out and give up my rights to free speech.

(Applause.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> NANCY BOLT: Colorado Chapter Councilor. I said last night at the Councilor's Forum that I was really torn by this, I agreed with the principle behind it. But I thought we were making the same response George Bush did, in not looking what the consequences would be if we had immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

I really like this amendment. It says what I want it to say. We should get out as soon as we can. But we need to make sure that we protect that full sovereignty and try and establish it and look at how we can, in fact, withdraw in such a way that the good we want to have happen happens and not bad that we don't want to have happen happens because we didn't think about it. I will also support this amendment and the resolution as it's currently written. I thank you, Francis. I think this is an excellent addition to it.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Thank you.

**We will now proceed to voting on the amendment. All those in favor, please raise your hands? Thank you.**

**All those opposed, please raise your hands? Thank you. The motion passes. Please mark your ballot CD 62 Amend 4.**

**And we are now ready to go back to the main motion as amended. Is there discussion?**

**All those in favor, please raise your hands? Thank you.**

All those opposed, please raise your hands? The motion passes.

(Applause.)

Please mark your ballot CD 62 As Amended.