



August 2014

Newsletter

President's Corner

Good day LSSIRT,

I want to say greetings and introduce myself. My name is Valentin Colon; but everybody calls me Val. Currently I am the President of the New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930 and in my capacity as President I wear many hats; I represent the unionized members of the New York Public Library and for the next 12 months, I will proudly wear the hat as your President. While my presidency is a short one It's my hope to try and help LSSIRT grow. I am hopeful that many of you will be able to attend the 2015 Mid-Winter and Annual conferences. I would like to extend an invitation to the LSSIRT membership to communicate with me about your feelings, concerns and aspirations for the future of LSSIRT. I can be reached through my email at valcolon@aol.com. I am looking forward to hearing from you, especially those of you who have been unable to attend the LSSIRT meetings or program at Mid-Winter and/or Annual. In order for LSSIRT to grow, the group needs the participation of the membership. And if LSSIRT is to continue growing it will need new members and a renewed interest in our cause. Please let me know what you think LSSIRT needs to do or try, to improve the membership and to further our cause and participation in ALA?

I am sincerely hoping to hear from you, our membership.

Yours truly,

Val



**LSSIRT President
Valentin Colon**



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LSSIRT Minutes at Annual 2014



Las Vegas, Nevada

Library Support Staff Interests
Round Table
Membership and Steering
Committee Meeting
Las Vegas Convention Center, Las
Vegas, Nevada June 25, 2014.

Present: Kerrie Stramler, Kareen
Turner, JP Pendleton, Valentin
Colon, Valeria Fike, Nina
Manning, Jennifer Kutzik,
Jennifer Dale, Ian Lashbrook,
Miguel Magas, Jennifer Gallant,
Dora Ho, Sara Kelly Johns, Jo
Pinder and Lorelle Swader.

Roundtable Councilor Jennifer
Gallant mentioned how the
conference registration was
going very well; over 18,000
attendees and 5,600 exhibitors.
The number of student members
in ALA is on the rise. There are
currently over 9,000 student
members. Even with these
numbers, however, the overall
ALA membership is still
decreasing, mostly because of
the decrease in Library
employment due to the effects of
the recession.

The FY 2015 budget includes a
2% increase in salary for ALA
staff. This has been a long time
coming.

Strategic planning is on the way,
now through August 2015.
Members, committees,
roundtables, chapters and
affiliates alike are coming
together to work on Advocacy,
Information Policy and
Professional and Leadership
Development.

A proposed change would mean
each Roundtable would have a
Councilor and the possibility of
moving the Councilors' meeting
to Sunday.

Discussion centered on the use of
the word "Librarian" in ALA
communications rather than
library worker or support staff.
Councilor Gallant will share this
with ALA staff.

There was a discussion on
whether to shrink or expand Mid-
winter meetings. General
consensus was to keep
Midwinter for meetings and
planning purposes.

A proposed scholarship to help
LSSIRT members attend
conference was discussed. Some
type of outside financial support
is needed.

Ian reported the Library Support
Staff Certification Program is
moving ahead. Since 2014
Midwinter meeting there has
been 15 graduates and 7 new
participants. Three graduates
were from the same library and
they used social media to
celebrate their graduation and
the full support of their library
administration. The number of
graduates has doubled since the
beginning of the program. The
IMLS grant funding has ended,
but the program will continue for
now. Perhaps more support
could come from individual
libraries.

Submitted by Nina Manning,

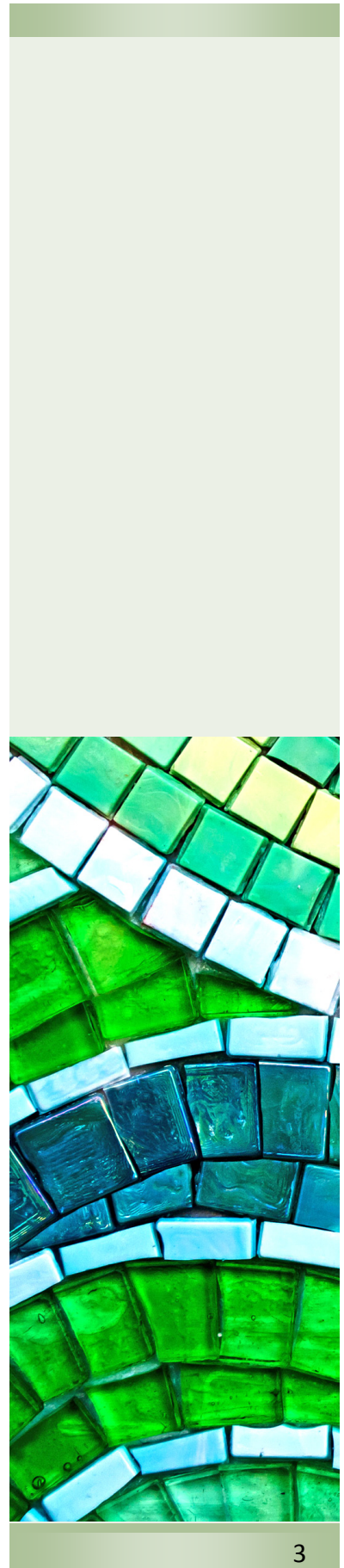
ALALSSCLIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMALA-APA

LSSC Program Update

The Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program is currently in the middle of its fifth active year and continues to enroll and graduate candidates from across the country. Over 350 candidates are currently seeking their certification, while almost 100 library workers have achieved certification, becoming Certified Library Support Staff (CLSS)! The CLSS that complete the LSSC program are incredibly proud of their achievement and always have such great things to say about their experiences. Because of this, the LSSC Program began posting photos of graduates wearing their CLSS pins on the LSSC Facebook Page. The response has been incredible! To see some of these photos and comments about the program from the graduates, head over to the [LSSC Program Facebook Page!](#)

The LSSC Program has also continued its work with [Library Technical Assistant](#) (LTA) and other similar library programs at community colleges and universities, allowing for graduates of partner institutions to be immediately eligible for certification. 14 programs currently have recognition agreements with the LSSC program with more currently in the process of matching their curriculum with the LSSC competency sets.

To learn more about Library Support Staff Certification, check out the [LSSC Program website](#). You can also watch archived informational webinars on the [LSSC Program YouTube Channel](#). If you have any questions, please contact Program Officer, Ian Lashbrook, at ilashbrook@ala.org.





Highlights from the LSSC CRC Meeting at Annual Conference

LSSC Certification Review Committee

ALA Annual conference
Las Vegas Convention Center
Sunday, June 29, 2014
Meeting highlights

1. Jennifer S. Kutzik represents LSSIRT on this committee. ALA-APA Staff present: Lorelle Swader, ALA-APA Director; Ian Lashbrook, Research Associate.

2. Lashbrook shared recent statistics. As of June 29, 2014, the LSSC Program has certified 90 support staff and 368 candidates are active in the program. Fifty-nine are LSSC graduates and 31 are LTA Recognition Program. Lashbrook asked for additional marketing ideas as the registrations have plateaued after the grant-funded subsidies ended.

3. Lashbrook stated the online portfolio evaluator was approved at the 2014 Midwinter meeting. This will replace the process used by the previous LSSC Board, during the development of the Program. Lashbrook is soliciting a few more evaluators to replace retirees. The Program currently has 41 evaluators. All have an MLS and at least 5 years' experience in their area of

competency.

4. Lashbrook named Spokane Community College and the University of Maine-Augusta as the newest LTA programs recognized by LSSC. This brings the total to 14. San Bernardino Valley College in California is in the pipeline for approval. Lashbrook noted a trend for LTA programs to offer in-state tuition to online students.

5. The following pricing structures regarding approved courses and LTA Recognition Partners were approved by the CRC:

- Approved Course (4 years):
New - \$100; Renewal - \$100
- LTA program (4 years):
New - \$400; Renewal - \$200

These changes will take effect September 1st.

6. The ALA-APA fundraiser at 2014 ALA Midwinter (Philadelphia) brought in \$2200. Plans are being finalized for a Saturday fundraiser at 2015 ALA Midwinter (Chicago), probably a Happy Hour event at the McCormack Center.

LSSC

What is the LSSC P?

The program is designed to recognize the value and accomplishments of Library Support Staff. The LSSC Program is managed by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA).

Who's it for? LSSC is directed towards those who work in positions in libraries that do not require a graduate degree in Library Science.



The NLA/LSSIRT Meet & Greet at the Clark County Public Library, Las Vegas. From the Left: Valeria Fike, J.P. Pendleton, Johnny Parker, Claudia Arche, Kareen Turner, Kerrie Stramler, and Jennifer Kutzik



J.P. Pendleton LSSIRT Past-President and Mary Ann Venner, Head of Access Services, University of North Texas Libraries and speaker for the LSSIRT Program at ALA Annual Las Vegas.



Full house at the LSSIRT Program "Getting Staff Involved: Creating Opportunities for Staff Development, New Services and Increased Productivity by Mary Ann Venner

Jennifer S. Kutzik accepts the Norman Horrocks-Scarecrow Press Annual Conference Award from the Retired Members Round Table



World's Tallest Ferris Wheel called the High Roller opened in Las Vegas in March of 2014.



Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas!

**ALA LIBRARY SUPPORT
STAFF INTERESTS ROUND
TABLE**

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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 an e-mail to Lorelle Swader at...
lswader@ala.org with your ALA membership
number and ask to be subscribed.

