

President's Corner

My Fellow LSSIRT Members -

Excited! Eager! Ready! Just a few words to express what I am feeling.

Excited - to begin my term as your President of **ALA's Library Support Staff Interests Round Table**. For the next year, you and I will take our Round Table to new levels. We will take on areas most important to us in improving and creating a more Professional status to our Support Staff positions in libraries. And we will stand united and strong in knowing that our numbers in the profession grow daily.

Eager - to make change, to take on new directions, and to work with each of you in assuring that our Round Table is for us, about us, and still falls under the purpose of what the American Library Association stands for. To step out of our comfort zone and challenge ourselves to go even further each day with the work that we do within our RoundTable.

Ready - to take on the challenges of breaking barriers that still exist in our field, especially in terms of recognition of the term "Support Staff" at all levels of ALA and in the library profession when speaking of library employees. To be acknowledged and understood for the positions we hold and their importance in the daily operation of our libraries, and to demand inclusion in being a part of the decision making process in the directions that our libraries take in the future.

I won't be able to do this alone. I need each and every one of you to stand with me and show your commitment to our continued existence as an important ALA Round Table. To step-up however you can, big or small, and to participate at any level that you can spare time for. Membership will be my ultimate goal for the year.



LSSIRT President
Miguel Magos

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“The most important asset of any library goes home at night – the library staff.”

Timothy Healy

**President, New York Public Library
1989-1992**

President’s Corner cont.

involved. What is our most important first step at this time? I ask that each one of you continue to renew your Membership not only in ALA, but in our RoundTable and to share this importance with other fellow colleagues in pushing them to become new members of our Round Table – strength in numbers to show others of our importance in the ALA organization.

In words that I have shared with you before, please join me throughout this year in feeling proud of our positions, in the work that we do, and in how we serve daily as Professionals - **Library Support Staff Professionals!**

Miguel Magos ALA LSSIRT President, 2016-2017
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Be a Part of the LSSIRT Program at ALA Annual

I hope you have enjoyed your summer as well as ALA annual 2016 conference. As our President Miguel has stated we’re looking for more involvement and participation from you, you and you. For annual 2017 we are planning a program showing the connections between Librarians and Support Staff. We’re putting a panel of various types of Libraries together. We’re looking to make this program show Libraries from the Library worker’s view. This isn’t to taking away from anyone’s profession or title, but to show the importance of each role we all as Library workers play in providing service Excellence.

If you are a staff from an Academic, Law, Private or a library not mentioned (with the exception of public) and willing to join the panel please feel free to contact me ninamanning@nypl.org . Better is Here, but Greater is Coming.

Nina E Manning-Past President, LSSIRT



LSSIRT – The Work Begins - Making Strong Committees

Here's where I ask you all to think seriously about your involvement in LSSIRT and how you can help to make a huge difference during the next year. As mentioned before, my #1 Goal for the year is to boost our membership, and to bring members in to the fold of the work that we do, whether it be by attendance at our Mid-Winter & Annual Conferences, or assisting through committee work virtually.

Because I will be looking at inclusion by our Steering Committee Members in more detailed work for the year, I am beginning a search for volunteers who would like to become more involved with LSSIRT in some of the following areas:

Membership

Publications/Communications – Newsletter, Facebook, etc.

Conference Planning

Constitution & Bylaws

Strategic Planning

Nominations

Web Support – ALA



Much of the beginning task of each of these areas will be to review charge of their individual area, to review need for the committee or blending of committees, to set direction and development of long term goals, and forwarding these items to the Steering Committee for review and consideration. The Membership Committee, being my highest priority for the year, has specific charges which we need to begin immediately to hold our current members, as well as beginning an outreach to areas we have not tapped in to in the past.

Please consider becoming involved. Most committees will only put in a few hours of work per month and will always have connection with myself as your current LSSIRT President, to assure that the group moves forward in their direction. Almost all work will be done virtually, so no attendance at conferences is mandatory.

Below is my contact information – email always works best, but a phone call can be set-up as well. Looking forward to seeing more inclusion by all!

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ALA LSSIRT President, 2016-2017



ALA President's Conference Highlights

ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition – Orlando 2016

ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Final Report

By Miguel Magos

The ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion submitted their final report to the ALA Executive Board and ALA Council at the recent ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. This very important document was the result of many hours of work, surveying of members, and Task Force meetings, to address issues within the ALA organization around equity, diversity and inclusion, and in particular, areas that surrounded concerns with the selection of Orlando, Florida as the venue for our Annual 2016 Conference after the much debated “Stand Your Ground” law of that state.

I encourage you all to read the original charge the group was given, when it was first implemented, along with the final report document, both below:

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/officers/eb_documents/2015_2016ebdocuments/ebd5_2_tf_edi.pdf

<http://connect.ala.org/files/TFEDI-FinalReport-AccessibleVersion.pdf>

**“It is time
for parents
to teach
young
people
early on
that in
diversity
there is
beauty and
there is
strength.”**

**Maya
Angelou**





ALA President
Julie Todaro

Working Hand-in-Hand with Our New ALA President

By: Miguel Magos, LSSIRT President, 2016-2017

Our New ALA President – Dr. Julie Todaro, Dean of Library Services at Austin (Texas) Community College, was elected in to her position in 2015, first serving as President-Elect of the American Library Association during the 2015-2016 year. Serving now in her Presidential role for the 2016-2017 year, Dr. Todaro has already begun the work of continuing areas that her predecessors had established, including continued support and direction of the “*Libraries Transform*” campaign which showcases the importance of libraries not only in having them available to our patrons, but showing the necessity of libraries in all communities.

Dr. Todaro became the first community college librarian to be elected to serve as President of ALA, and comes from a strong library background. She has been an ALA member since 1972 and has served on several ALA Divisions, Roundtables, and Committees of the American Library Association. She is also the author of several books, including co-authoring *Training Library Staff and Volunteers to Provide Extraordinary Customer Service*, Neal-Schuman, 2006, a resource book still used today by many libraries in training Support Staff, Librarians, and Volunteers.

It was an extreme honor to be asked by Dr. Todaro, to serve as a member of her Advocacy, Leadership, and Management Sub-Committee in assisting to review and create competencies for all workers in the library field. My first meeting with the group, took place at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, where our focus for the day was on Advocacy Competencies. As the work of the sub-committee progresses, I will be asking our members for input, and to share thoughts and ideas that may be included in this most important work.

Working Hand-in-Hand with Our New ALA President cont.

Below, is a portion of the email sent to both Mario Ascencio, chairperson of our sub-committee, and cc'd to Dr. Todaro, after our conference meeting, to both express my gratitude for inclusion on this sub-committee and to share the vision I have for my upcoming year as President of LSSIRT:

"As I take on my Presidency of LSSIRT, at the same time as Dr. Todaro will be serving her Presidency, I am hoping to bring a new leadership role to LSSIRT in ways that past-presidents may not have believed we have the capabilities of doing. Many of the "stigmas" of working relationships between Administration, Librarians, and Support Staff, of having "walls that divide us in our work", of not being included in areas of the ALA Organization, are ones I want to challenge my constituents in working to break-down to show that we have just as strong of a role in the leadership and direction of our libraries. Library Support Staff Members make up a huge portion of the library field and should be as much at the forefront of the directions our libraries take in moving forward. I believe there is a huge role I can play in encouraging the Support Staff level of our library field in becoming true followers and supporters of the Advocacy Core Competencies we spoke about today, when they are completed, and in taking on our responsibility for being a part of this, rather than sitting back and expressing frustration at our lack of inclusion that many of my colleagues tend to stand behind. I see this as a true challenge and know that many people, including many within the ALA organization, believe that we only serve in our Support Staff positions, but don't have or desire to have, the involvement in this level of work in our profession. I believe a stronger leadership role in LSSIRT, which I hope to commit myself to, will show others that we must take the first step in order to show our belief and involvement in our profession,

I am a strong advocate for higher standards in our Support Staff level positions, believe in the professionalism of our status in the library field - if we can get our members to believe and push for this, and strongly believe that these Core Competencies have a strong relation to the work being done in the ALA-APA Professional Organization with the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) in improving the level of our work. (I have just been appointed to a three-year term to APA LSSC Certification Review Committee.)

I am excited and eager to do whatever I can to help you and this group in moving these Competencies forward and hope you will call on me if there are things I can do to assist."

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ALA Annual was held June 23rd-June 28th, 2016



Orange County Convention Center in Orlando



Nina Manning passing the gavel to incoming LSSIRT President Miguel Magos

ALA's memorial service for the Pulse victims was emotional and well attended



Val Colon, LSSIRT Member-At-Large, presenting at ALA Annual "Building Stronger Libraries Through Collective Action"



ALA Annual 2016 Opening session in Orlando

The LSSIRT Newsletter is the official publication of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) of the American Library Association. It is distributed free to members of LSSIRT and is published three-four times a year.

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Our mission is to provide an arena within ALA for programming, communication and networking for library support staff.

Join us on Facebook!

You can ask to join ALA's Library Support Staff Interests Round Tables Facebook site at...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/130614890392261/>



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.