



LSSIRT Newsletter

December
2007

President's Corner

Hello everyone! Welcome if you are new to LSSIRT or you've been a member of our group for a while, we appreciate you reading our newsletter.

The ALA midwinter meeting is approaching quickly in Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 11-16, 2008. If you are planning to attend this conference, please make plans to drop by the LSSIRT Business/Membership meeting, in Room 105A at the Convention Center. Light breakfast refreshments will be available, so why not visit us to see your roundtable in action.

A ballot has been submitted for 2008 election of Steering Committee members; however, we can still add others onto the ballot at midwinter if anyone else would like to run for office. If you are a member in good standing with ALA & LSSIRT, the distribution of electronic ballots will begin March 17, 2008 and the polls will close April 24, 2008. When you receive your e-mail instructions for the ballot, please participate in the voting process. Your votes do make a difference!

Mark your calendar for the ALA annual conference in Anaheim, California June 26-July 2, 2008. There are so many things being planned for this conference, including another Empowerment Conference, it should be one of the best yet.

The LSSIRT Night Out will be at a fabulous Italian restaurant; scheduled for Sunday, June 29th at 6:30-9:00 p.m. The details are being finalized at this time, but please remember to look for this event when you complete your registration form.

Also on the schedule will be an ALA-APA program session titled; Valuing Staff Employee Relations & Recognition Programs. This program is being sponsored by LSSIRT and LAMA that will feature Maureen Sullivan as the speaker/moderator who will be leading a panel discussion group on recognition programs.

I would like to create a detailed list of all programs that may be available in our country and/or internationally for all library workers. The list would be used as a handout at

the session or made available upon request through e-mail. The purpose of this information may aid others in understanding the details of how to start a recognition program; to know what it would entail to maintain; or may help improve or expand on existing programs. If you have any information you want to share with others about this type of program @ your library, state or regional association level, please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail at:

knoches@etsu.edu.

Thank you for the continued support and confidence you have shown in ALA and LSSIRT by becoming a new member or renewal of your annual membership in our roundtable.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding LSSIRT, or to volunteer and become more involved in this group, please contact us.

Sue Knoche
Past President, ALA-LSSIRT

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Check out Philadelphia!

If you are heading to Philadelphia for ALA Midwinter, there is a lot to see and do for foodies, shoppers and history buffs!

The "City of Brotherly Love" has numerous historical points of interest such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell—not to mention the house of Betsy Ross! If you have 75 minutes you can go on a [Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia](#). "No visit to Philadelphia is complete without taking a Constitutional Guided Walking Tour, a 75-minute, mile and a quarter stroll that puts 15 historic sites, from Independence Hall to the National Constitution Center, and Ben Franklin, in perspective". - *The Chicago Tribune* (3 Sep-

tember, 2006) You can also visit the [National Constitution Center](#), the only museum dedicated to the U.S. Constitution.

Check out the [Official Visitor's Guide](#) which was featured in a recent ALA Direct. It is a very handy virtual guidebook for entertainment, shopping and dining. Also the [Philadelphia Visitors Bureau](#) website is a useful site that contains a calendar of events, FAQ and more. Also featured in ALA Direct was a link to the website [Philly Fun Guide](#) which allows you to search for activities by date, type and location. Once again this site has tasty restaurant suggestions and other helpful trip planning aids. So make sure to check out what's on the Web for more useful Philadelphia information!



From our past trips, we would recommend a visit to the Reading Terminal Market for fresh cannolis or Philly cheesteaks, running up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art (a la Rocky Balboa) or strolling the cobblestone streets in the Olde City.

See you in Philadelphia!

"Though we travel the world to find beauty, we must carry it with us or we find it not."

—Emerson

ACRL Funds Ten Support Staff Scholarships



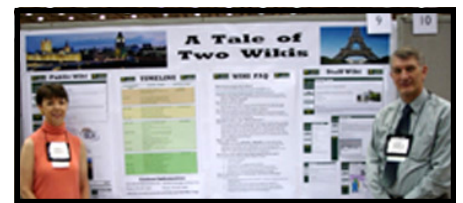
The Association of College and Research Libraries funded 10 scholarships for support staff to attend the ACRL 13th National Conference held in Baltimore, MD (March 2007). The scholarships provided opportunities for support staff to attend the premier event for academic and research libraries personnel. The scholarship winners for 2007 were:

- Marlene Ballou, Norfolk State university
- Joanne Canales, Bronx Community

College

- Jason Coleman, Kansas State University
- Joann Eichenlaub, Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Karma Gaines Ra, Norfolk State University
- Harish Maringanti, Kansas State University Libraries
- Motoko Spikes, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Carrie Tobey, Jonathan Bourne Public Library
- Andrea Wallace, Cleveland Public Library
- Melissa Witcher, Catholic University of America

Congratulations to all the winners! Scholarship applications for the 14th National Conference, "*Pushing the Edge: Explore, Engage, Extend*" (Seattle, WA, March 12-15, 2009) will be available on the ACRL website in the fall of 2008: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/>



Jennifer S. Kutzik (LSSIRT Councilor) and Don Albrecht (Colorado State University Libraries) presented a poster session at the 13th National ACRL Conference in Baltimore, MD in March 2007.

Mary Nation : Member-at-Large and Membership Chairman



Mary Nation, Administrative Assistant for the Alexandrian Public Library, has added a three year term as Member-At-Large for the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) of the American Library Association to her extensive list of accomplishments and duties. She was one of two candidates elected to represent the interests of Library Support Staff. At the ALA Annual

Meeting in Washington, DC, Mary was appointed Chairman of the LSSIRT Membership Committee.

For the preceding nineteen years, Nation has been employed as Administrative Assistant at the Alexandrian Public Library. She has served as a member of numerous Posey County volunteer organizations including: United Way, American Red Cross, and Homeless Shelter of Mt. Vernon. Her commitment to excellence earned her the Outstanding Volunteer award in the 2004 United Way Annual Campaign. In addition she was a member of the Posey County 21st Century Leadership Class and was acknowledged as a Hometown Hero by the *Mt. Vernon Democrat*.

As a member of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table, Nation will

be working directly with other library professionals energetically striving to assure libraries are capable of providing essential services to the public. All libraries - public, private, special and educational - are represented by the LSSIRT and members of the LSSIRT are constantly interacting with the over 65,000 American Library Association library professionals.

Nation has the full support of the Alexandrian Public Library board and staff as she assumes this new responsibility. Congratulations and best wishes on this exceptional honor.



More photos from ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC



Caitlyn Williams presents "Dress for Success" at the Empowerment Conference.



Ann Seidl, writer and director of the documentary movie "The Hollywood Librarian" which premiered at ALA Annual.

<http://www.hollywoodlibrarian.com/>



Shopping in the exhibits for altered books made into purses. Very cool!



Library of Congress Great Hall



Sampling a dessert of chocolate three ways - can you say "Yum, yum, yum?"

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Delivers His Message With Passion



That famous profile was unmistakable. As Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., waited for his cue to begin speaking at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference President's Program, my thoughts raced back to the summer of 1965. It was my first trip to Washington, D.C. His father, Robert F. Kennedy, was the Senator from New York, and one of many recognizable faces I saw from my perch in the Senate visitor's gallery. As RFK turned to whisper to a young aide at his side, he gave me a perfect view of his aquiline profile. And now I was staring intently at his namesake son, less than one mile from where I first saw his father.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is the Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and President of Waterkeeper Alliance. The Hudson Valley has long been considered the birthplace of the modern American environmental movement, and RFK, Jr. joined the Riverkeeper Organization in 1984.

Addressing the crowded Convention Center hall, he delivered an emotional indictment of the Bush administration's record in protecting the United States ecosystem. He charged that in just "six years of monumental arrogance and incompetence," many of the environmental laws of the last few decades have been systematically destroyed. He also declared that several of the worst polluters are now in charge of protecting the environment, appointments granted by Bush in return for political contributions.

An avid white-water rafter and master falconer, Kennedy talked lovingly of introducing his 6 children to the beauty and wonders of nature. But, he gave many examples of the encroaching environmental decay, from children consuming dangerous levels of mercury in mother's milk to one-fifth of the lakes in the Adirondacks becoming sterile because of acid rain from coal-fired power plants. He also blasted what he called the "indolent press" for not being more critical of the Bush policies and for not exposing the corporate cronyism that is running rampant. He cited this lack of investigative journalism as the reason for a disconnect between public perception

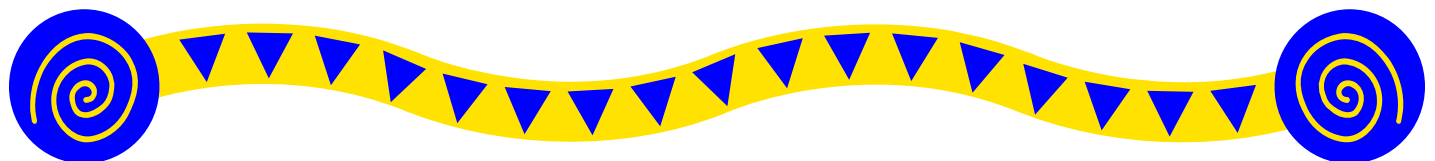
and reality.

He charged that the Bush Administration has eviscerated long-standing laws that have protected our nation's air, water, public lands, and wildlife, enriching the president's political contributors while lowering the quality of life for the rest of us. He brought many in the audience to their feet by concluding, "We cannot let this gang of thugs take [our future] away from us and our children."

Reported by Jennifer S. Kutzik,
LSSIRT Councilor

For more information:

Kennedy, Robert F., Jr. "Crimes Against Nature: How George W. Bush and His Corporate Pals Are Plundering the Country and Hijacking Our Democracy" (New York, HarperCollins, c2004)



ALA's Library Support
Staff Interests Round Table

ALA Staff Liaison information:

Darlena Davis
ALA/LSSIRT
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Email: ddavis@ala.org

Please send questions regarding LSSIRT
Newsletter content to:

Kerrie Stramler
E-mail: stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu

<http://www.ala.org/lssirt>

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Chair of Publications/Communications Committee:

Jennifer Kutzik

Email: Jennifer.Kutzik@ColoState.Edu

Co-Editor: Kerrie Stramler

Email: stramlerk@u.library.arizona.edu

LSSIRT Steering Committee:

President: Sandy Olson

Email: SandyO@uca.edu

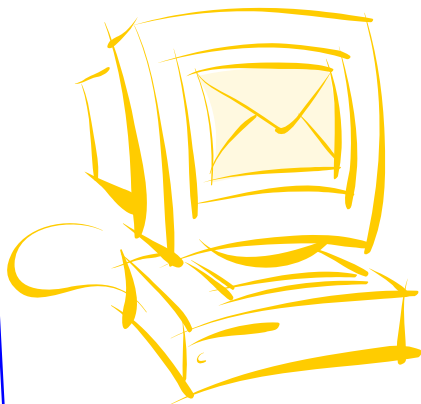
ALA Staff Liaison: Darlena Davis

Email: ddavis@ala.org

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 email to Martha Parsons at parsons@halcyon.com with your ALA membership number and ask to be subscribed.