



LSSIRT

Library Support Staff Interests Round Table

Newsletter

President's Column

It is with a heavy heart that I am assuming the position of your President earlier than my expected term would begin. My sincere thoughts and prayers go out to Sandy Olson and her family, and I'm certain that all LSSIRT members share the same sentiment. I need also to thank everyone for allowing me to serve once again as your President.

I had just put down the *American Libraries* April 2008 magazine when Jennifer Kutzik, one of LSSIRT newsletter editors asked if I could write a short President's column for the May newsletter. I had finished reading the article written by Julie Andrews enti-

tled "Seven Special Days." Ms. Andrews recognized National Library Week and thanked all of the LIBRARY WORKERS OF THE WORLD. I was inspired by her dedication and commitment to libraries and as an advocate for literacy. It helped me to prepare a few words.

I'll begin by saying that I'm ready for the journey that we all must take together in developing our Roundtable to be the biggest and greatest of them all. Managing our reputation is by far our greatest asset and requires skills and time that may seem outside of our scope, but it isn't really. Everyone on the Steering Committee as well as our entire



membership, I am sure is up for the challenge. As I re-read our mission statement I couldn't help but to realize how critical maintaining our reputation really is.

The mission of LSSIRT is:

1. To provide an arena within ALA for addressing a wide variety of issues of concern to library support staff, including but not limited to basic training programs, education, career development, job duties and responsibilities;

LSSIRT
2008

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ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition

Anaheim, CA

June 26-July 2, 2008



President's Column, cont.

- 2. To foster communication and networking among all people working in libraries; and
- 3. To be responsible for the timely dissemination of information to local, regional, state, and national support staff organizations.

We need to start by continuing to identify our roundtable's key stakeholders and the issues most important to them. I don't think I'm talking just about library support staff, but everyone involved, interested, and in support of our issues. What are our stakeholders thinking? We need to ask them directly whether it's by focus groups, surveys, media audits or Internet mailing. Once we know who

are stakeholders truly are and what they are thinking, we can identify and prioritize the issues. Finally, we will undertake an ongoing evaluation of our progress.

We have to work on setting our reputation up, then developing and implementing our plans. This will allow us to establish an ongoing reputation with our regional, state, and national leaders. Maybe what I'm talking about is a sound and fiscally manageable strategic plan.

I would like to summarize by stating our Strategic Plans and Goals that will help to assure LSSIRT's reputation now and into the future.

- To promote the value and importance of the contributions and skills of library support staff within the Association and the profession
- To provide relevant resources, opportunities, and services to LSSIRT members, other support staff workers and the profession
- To encourage an environment of openness and inclusiveness among all library workers
- To increase membership and recruitment

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Morgan
LSSIRT President

LSSIRT At The Pavilion: It's Our 15th Birthday!



Please join us in the Anaheim Convention Center Exhibit Hall at the ALA Pavilion on Sunday, June 29th, at 2 p.m. for a 20-minute informational program about ALA's Library Support Staff Interests Round Table!

LSSIRT will be celebrating our 15th birthday, and you get the presents! There will be cake and giveaways!

Come support LSSIRT and celebrate with us; we look forward to seeing you there.

ALA Annual Conference -- Selected Events for Support Staff

Empowerment Conference

All sessions to be held at the
Anaheim Convention Center,
Rooms 207-209

Saturday, June 28

7:30 am - 10:00 am
Welcome Breakfast and
Conference Kickoff

10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Concurrent Sessions

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Exhibit No Conflict
Time/Lunch On Your Own

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Concurrent Sessions

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Concurrent Sessions

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
ALA Opening General Ses-
sion with Ron Reagan

Sunday, June 29

8:00 am - 10:00 am
Concurrent Sessions

10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Concurrent Sessions

12:15 pm - 2:00 pm
Lunch - Speakers and Inter-
active Conversations

FOR A FULL DESCRIPTION
OF ALL SESSIONS, VISIT:

<http://tinyurl.com/6y3dzv>

LSSIRT Night Out

Sunday, June 29, 6:30-
9:00 pm

Come join LSSIRT for
dinner at Buca di
Beppo Restaurant and
enjoy networking with
your colleagues.

Tickets: \$37.50
Event Code: LS1

ALA/ProQuest Scholarship Bash

Saturday, June 28, 7:00
pm until parks close. Grab
your Mouse Ears, we're
going to the *Disneyland®
Resort!* Every year the
ALA Scholarship Bash is a
rousing good time and this
year will be no different,
as the Bash heads to *Dis-
ney's California Adven-
ture®* Park and *Disney-
land®* Park for a magical
night. Remember, pro-
ceeds go towards MLS
scholarships!

Tickets: Advance: \$40.
Onsite: \$45

Event Code: AL1

LSSIRT Steering / Membership

Monday, June 30, 8 am - 12:30
pm in the Anaheim Convention
Center room 205-B

All ALA conference attendees
are welcome to attend.

ALA and ALA-APA Council Meetings

All sessions to be held at
the Anaheim Convention
Center Ballroom B/C

ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Infor- mation Session

Sunday, June 29, 9:00 am -
10:00 am

ALA Council I

Sunday, June 29, 10:45 am -
12:15 pm

ALA Council II

Tuesday, July 1, 9:15 am -
12:45 pm

ALA Council III

Wednesday, July 2, 8:00 am
- 12:30 pm

ALA-APA Info Session

Sunday, June 29, 10:00 am -
10:30 am

ALA-APA Council

Monday, June 30, 10:15 am
- 11:15 am

ALA-APA Angels Reception: Celebrating Five Years of Progress

Friday, June 27, 7:30-9 pm
ALA-APA is celebrating its 5th
anniversary by honoring the
people and organizations that
have helped it grow and flour-
ish over the last five years.
ALA-APA was established to
certify individuals in specializa-
tions beyond the initial profes-
sional degree and support of
pay equity initiatives to im-
prove the salaries and status of
librarians and other library
workers.

Tickets: Advance: \$25. Onsite:
\$30.

Event Code: AP1

Dude, Where Is My Retirement?



This program at ALA Annual focuses on pensions and health care reform, and will feature a book signing. Entitled, "Dude, Where Is my Retirement?" the AFL-CIO-ALA Committee on Library Services to Labor Groups' program for the annual conference of the American Library Association focuses on retirement income (in)security, a subject that regularly occupies the public, especially as the population ages. Pension plans once taken for granted are evaporating. Along with pension reform, the program will address the need for a fundamental reform of our health care system. Scheduled for **10:30 – 12 noon on Monday,**

June 30 at the Anaheim Convention Center, the program features **Thomas Mackell, J.D., M.A., Ph.D., Chairman of the Board of Directors, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Steven Wallace, Ph.D., Associate Director, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and Professor, UCLA School of Public Health.**

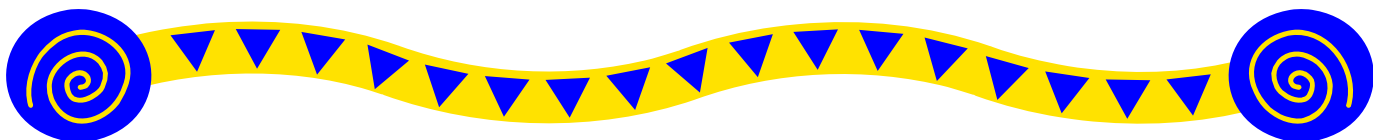
In, *When the Good Pensions Go Away: Why America Needs a New Deal for Pension and Health Care Reform*, published in April 2008 by Wiley Press, Dr. Mackell warns that pension plans once taken for granted are evaporating and will disappear, along with affordable access to health insurance - leaving tens of millions of retirees vulnerable, destitute, hungry, sick and willing to take matters into their own hands. "In the brave new world of outsourced jobs, short-term gigs and on-again, off-again health care coverage, American workers cannot rationally plan their economic futures. It is like being placed in a lifeboat without oars with the desire to row to a safe haven," he wrote in a chapter entitled, "The Frac-

tured American Retirement Dream." The book seeks to help Americans retire with dignity and inspire a collective call to action to hold political leaders accountable for finding a viable solution before a major collapse in the economy occurs. Drs. Mackell and Wallace will discuss the looming crisis and the reforms that are sorely needed.

Dr. Mackell will be available to sign copies of his book immediately after the program. Any questions about the program? Contact Joint Committee co-chairs Pamela Wilson, pwilson@dpeaflcio.org or Mary Parker, m-Park1@umn.edu.

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it."

—Alan Kay



AnnaMarie Kehnast, Former LSSIRT President, Joins the Library Support Staff Certification Project Task Force

AnnaMarie Kehnast, Coordinator of Library Serials and User Services at Gloucester County College Library (NJ) has joined Dorothy Morgan, current LSSIRT President, on the ALA Library Support Staff Certification Project (LSSCP) Task Force.

She brings an ideal blend of knowledge, skills and abilities to this appointment. AnnaMarie has a long and illustrious history with ALA and LSSIRT. She began serving on ALA committees in 1989, and her appointments have included the Education, Continuing Education, Awards and SCOLE Ad Hoc Committees. From 1990-1994, she served as the Co-coordinator and Chairperson of the Membership Initiative Group (MIG) which produced the Support Staff Interests Round Table (SSIRT, later renamed to LSSIRT) in 1993.

AnnaMarie served as president of SSIRT from 1995-1996. In 2008, she began serving on the ALA/APA Standing Committee on the Salaries and Status of Library Workers. AnnaMarie has also been active in COLT (The Council on Library/Media Technicians), the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants (NJALA) and the New Jersey Library Association. She is currently serving as the Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsville Public Library. She has also authored numerous articles and presentations on support staff issues.

AnnaMarie earned an AAS degree from Delaware Technical & Community College, a BA degree from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) and is working towards a degree in computer Graphic Arts

from Gloucester County College.

AnnaMarie is a former cheerleader and coached cheerleading for over 15 years. She holds memberships in numerous Historical Societies, and she is a prize-winning quilter. Watch for her in Anaheim at the ALA Annual Conference in June, 2008. You may find her leading the LSSCP in a rousing cheer, reminding the Task Force members of our long history in ALA or assisting in "piecing together" the library support staff certification program.

<http://www.ala-apa.org/certification/supportstaff.html>

Reported by Jennifer S. Kutzik, LSSIRT Publications Committee Chair

ALA Election Results



Camila A. Alire, is the incoming President-Elect for ALA.

LSSIRT results:

- * Vice President/President Elect - Julie A. Kent
- * Secretary (2 yr term) – Kareen (Anna) Turner
- * Treasurer (2 yr term) – Kerrie Ann Stramler
- * Member at large (3 yr term) – Sarah L. McQueeny
- * Member at large (3 yr term) – Anthony J. Pendleton

Adoption of proposed by-laws:/ approved (97.1%)

All terms of office will begin at the close of the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, June 2008.

ALA Midwinter Council Highlights From Your LSSIRT Councilor



Loriene Roy, ALA President & Jennifer S. Kutzik, LSSIRT Councilor

I was officially seated on January 13, 2008 as the first LSSIRT Councilor. I will strive to diligently monitor and represent the best interests of all LSSIRT members with regard to Council actions.

The following are highlights of actions taken by ALA Council at the Midwinter meeting, Jan. 13-15, 2008 in Philadelphia:

ADOPTED: That terminology denoting the library professional in the *ALA Policy Manual* be regularized, to the extent possible, to "Library and Information Studies," and that PMC [Policy Manual Committee] bring specific recommended changes to Council at Annual Conference.

ADOPTED: Resolution to reaffirm the federal government's responsibility to provide no-fee access to federal government information in formats most appropriate to the public's needs; and that the ALA urges

Congress to fully fund the United States Government Printing Office appropriation for FY 2009 at the level requested by the Public Printer.

ADOPTED: The following revisions to the *ALA Code of Ethics* as identified in ALA CD#38:

* Article III: "We protect each user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired, or transmitted."

* Article IV: the proposed version reads: "We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders."

* Article V: "We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions."

ADOPTED: To establish an Advocacy Committee to support the efforts of advocates for all types of libraries; to develop resources, networks and training materials; to work with ALA offices, committees and external groups to integrate advocacy into the planning, priorities and ad policies of ALA.

APPROVED: the FY2009 programmatic priorities for the ALA:

- Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession
- Diversity
- Education/Lifelong Learning
- Equitable Access to Information and Library Services
- Intellectual Freedom
- Literacy
- Organizational Excellence

ELECTED: To a three-year term (2008-2011) on the Executive Board: Em Claire Knowles, Boston, MA; Joseph Eagan, Olney, MD, and Diane R. Chen, Nashville, TN



For a full list of Council Actions taken at the 2008 Midwinter meeting, visit this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/3tbk45>

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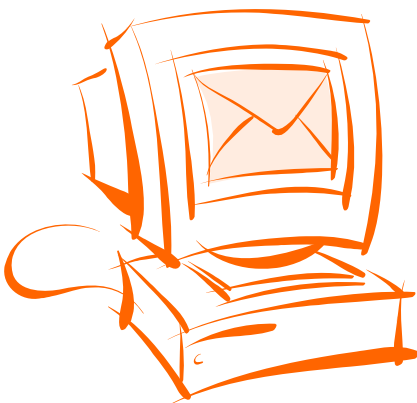
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Our mission is to provide an arena within ALA for programming, communication and networking for library support staff.

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