

Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT)

Steering Committee/Membership Meeting
San Diego Convention Center – Room 24C
San Diego, California
Jan. 8, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Trish Palluck, President Elect at 8:05 AM. Members present were Kerrie Stramler, Treasurer; Jennifer Kutzik, LSSIRT Webmaster; Sarah Kartsonis, JP Pendleton, Marilyn Jack-Brown, and Nina Manning, all members-at-large; and Kareen Turner, Secretary. (Dorothy Morgan, Carol Thomas-who announced that New Orleans will be her last meeting as she's retired, and Anita Kosinski were unable to attend.) Guests included Darlena Davis, our ALA Staff Liaison with Lorelle Swader; Joseph Eagan, (ALA) Executive Board Liaison; John Chrastka, ALA Director of Membership; Karen Strege, LSSC Task Force; along with Julian Clark, Georgetown Law Library, Karen E. Coleman, from Danville, VA., and Valentin Colon, President of Local 1930, New York Public Library.

Minutes from the 2010 ALA Annual in Washington DC were approved and are posted on our website.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Treasurer's report was given and Kerrie reported our fund balance was \$21,543.00. Kerrie extended a big thank you to Lorelle Swader and Darlena Davis for their assistance. The new budget is to be submitted by Jan. 29th. Kareen made the motion to accept the report as presented. Sarah seconded. Discussion followed with line adjustments being able to be made through July 1st. Motion was passed and the Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership report showed that we have 481 members reported at the end of last reporting period. This is down (We need to watch our 1% total personal ALA memberships to keep our councilor, who's on board until 2013, so numbers need to be counted in Aug. 2012) Discussion followed as to how we could build our membership. A suggestion was made to have a committee being formed in New Orleans.

Nominating Committee announced candidates for Members-at-Large: Karen Coleman from Danville, VA and Valentin Colon, President of Local 1930, New York Public Library, New York City, NY; JP Pendleton, currently a member-at-large, has been approached to run for Vice President.

ALA Councilor, Valeria Fike, went over several resolutions, including two memorials, which were going to be presented at Council meetings:

CD#32 RESOLUTION ON NOTIFYING CONFERENCE AND MEETING ATTENDEES OF HOTELS NAMED ON "DO NOT PATRONIZE" LISTS

Important to let attendees know if there are issues so they can decide whether they wish stay at/be affected by potential interactions with union/non-union staff.

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association Executive Director, to the extent known at the initial announcement of conference registration and prior to the conference taking place, will inform attendees of conferences and exhibitions if a

hotel is on the “Do Not Patronize” list of the local labor body during an ALA event, or is the object of a boycott because of the unfair labor practices of the hotel.

CD#34 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REQUIRING THE RIGHT TO CANCEL CONTRACTS WITH HOTELS WITH ACTIVE LABOR DISPUTES

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association Executive Director:

1. Will inquire as to the union status of hotels at the time of booking and the expiration date of any collective bargaining agreements at the hotel, and require that the hotel provide updates regarding the start of any future collective bargaining discussions;
2. To the extent feasible, will make every effort to use as main convention hotels only those in which a majority of the hourly workforce is represented by one or more labor unions; and
3. To the extent feasible, will insert a clause in its contracts with hotels asserting the right to cancel its contract to use a hotel if that hotel is placed on the “Do Not Patronize” list by the local labor body, or is the site of a boycott, because of unfair labor practices, called by an organization which represents, or is seeking to represent, the hotel’s employees.

CD#36 RESOLUTION ON THE REMOVAL AND CENSORSHIP OF ARTWORK FROM THE SMITHSONIAN’S NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA)

1. Commends the National Portrait Gallery for its inclusion of materials that reflect the diversity of our society, including those related to religious viewpoint, specifically as presented in the Hide/Seek Exhibition;
2. Commends the National Portrait Gallery for its inclusion of materials that reflect the diversity of our society, including those related to sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, specifically as presented in the Hide/Seek Exhibition; (ALA Resolution on Threats to Library Materials Related to Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation);
3. Condemns the censorship of the Hide/Seek Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery;
4. Urges the Smithsonian Institution to immediately reinstate the video artwork by David Wojnarowicz to the Hide/Seek Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery;
5. Urges the Smithsonian Institution to refuse to remove or censor other works of art from any exhibition or collection; and
6. Urges the Smithsonian Institution to fight censorship of works of art or collections dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religious viewpoint in its national galleries, museums, archives and libraries.

CD# 37 Resolution on WikiLeaks and Federal Agencies

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA)

1. Calls for the amendment of Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information (December 29, 2009) to exclude publically available information;
2. Calls for the amendment of any other executive orders, public laws, or federal regulations that forbid access to publically available information; and
3. Calls for all US government agencies to follow the example of the Library of Congress concerning access to WikiLeaks.

CD#38 Resolution in Support of Wikileaks

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association

1. Supports the rights of WikiLeaks to publish leaked government documents;
2. Commends the efforts of WikiLeaks to expunge from documents names and other material deemed potentially harmful to innocent people;
3. Commends WikiLeaks for performing a public service by making available important documents related to foreign and military policy;
4. Urges libraries to link their websites to the WikiLeaks website; and
5. Condemns the harassment of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, and other volunteers

CD#39 Resolution in Support of the DREAM Act

RESOLVED, The American Library Association

1. Urges members of the Congress of the United States to vote for the DREAM Act to provide green cards and then citizenship to immigrant children - brought to this country before age 16 and are under the age of 30 and have lived in the United States for five years - if they go to college or provide military service, and
2. Asserts that having this education or military service will provide these individuals greater success in life through higher lifetime earnings, higher income tax contributions, greater contributions to the economy, and less reliance on government assistance.

There was also more discussion concerning continuing to hold MW conference, and based on the Economy, discussion on ALA financial/budget issues, with staff suggesting taking two weeks furlough but in the end only took one, and attendance at conferences. Valeria also mentioned that there were two memorial resolutions concerning Loch Morrisey and Norman Hourcks.

OLD BUSINESS

Karen Strege, from LSSCP, reported the progress of the national certification program.

Since July, 2010, there are 124 candidates and she gave us the breakdown by states, race, and sex. There are 21 course providers with 53 courses (2 are in approval status). They gave out 40 registration subsidies. They have presented the program in various state conference presentations and they will be going to more state conferences in the Fall of 2011. With Jenifer Grady's help, they have developed 3 monthly Webinars (Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC): An Introduction; Preparing a Portfolio; and Using LIVETEXT Successfully) that are archived and viewable at any time by the candidates at the APA-LSSCP website: <http://ala-apa.org/lssc/for-candidates/>. Four have finished, but were brought in by the Western Council and their programs were accepted as they did more than LSSCP required.

In the next 6 months, there is discussion about the reciprocity with Junior Colleges who offer an Library Technician Associate's Degree or states who offer a state certification program. 42 colleges offer the LTA program. They also want to offer the registration subsidies to state associations who have state certification programs for library support staff. Working with the state associations they want to give \$175 registration subsidies, There are 9 states that may or may not with nominations/distribution through ALA-LSSIRT.

Kareen made a motion to work with LSSCP entitled, **Registration Assistance Awards** The LSSC Program would work with LSSIRT to develop the processes needed to administer the subsidy program. "Starting in February, we would work with LSSIRT to develop the application processes, including forms, and open applications for four-to-six weeks. After LSSIRT chooses the recipients, you would notify the LSSCP office. Of course, other details remain to be decided. We anticipate that

subsidies will also be available for LSSIRT distribution in 2012". JP seconded. Motion passed.
[Registration Assistance Awards.doc](#) A committee will be formed later.

Joseph Eagan, ALA Executive Board Liaison, discussed the newly approved ALA Strategic Plan, 2015 and how it would affect our round table. ALA is developing a transformation of libraries into a more relevant in the 21st century, with an emphasis on diversity. They are also discussing member engagement and how to get members more involved. They want to know what ALA can offer them to keep them engaged and to get more funding for libraries. Over 6000 members contributed to the plan, but haven't finished the strategies. The Spectrum Presidential Initiative, a special one-year campaign to raise \$1 million for the Spectrum Scholarship Program, has had internal donors have reached 112% of their goal, and will be a major focus for external donations in the next year. Recruitment from within is very important. He announced that the San Diego registration in December was down 700 from Boston 2010 and that locations do affect attendance and revenues for ALA. Due to the economy, it's a bit better than expectations, but location does play a big part and they want to continue to move the conferences around the country. They have produced a White Paper on the status of Mid-Winter conferences' future, and you can see that on the ALA website,

http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/missionhistory/plan/implementation/white_paper_mw_12_29.pdf

It's possible that it will morph into more regional conferences and he announced a virtual membership meeting sometime this summer from Washington, D.C. From the ALA Office in Washington DC, the new director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is Susan Hildreth, former director of Seattle Public Library, and San Francisco Public Library, and former state librarian of California and past president of ALA-PLA. He congratulated ALA-APA for the Fiscal Year 2010, ending in the black for the first time in its history. ALA is committed to certification programs. They want to see ALA-APA to continue. He announced that CPLA had 35 graduates and has candidates enrolled in their program. There are 124 candidates in the LSSCP, from 28 states. We are hoping the LSSCP will be recognized in job listing preferences. Discussion followed, with feedback to be sent to Joseph.

We adjourned for a short break.

Special Report on Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA)

RTCA meeting was held on Friday, January 7, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm at the San Diego Convention Center Room 19. Nina Manning made the report: Round Tables overall membership is down with many reasons suggested that include layoffs, retirement, and economy. There was discussion of the general membership along with the round table membership. Suggestions were made about recruitment with both recruitment and retention being high priorities. We discussed a membership drive with a 5-year time frame. There was more mention the future of Mid-Winter conferences. Roundtables and Divisions are discussing various modes of communication, even using SKYPE. Dallas and Anaheim are the meeting places in 2012 with Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, TX: January 20–24, 2012 and Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA: June 21–26, 2012.

Danielle Alderson, ALA Staff Liaison to RTCA, had suggested that members who facilitate meetings read the handbook. The ROUND TABLE COORDINATING ASSEMBLY Handbook is posted online:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/rtca/Handbook.pdf>

Newsletter/Website Report:

Kerrie announced all good news for feedback. Please submit articles/information to Jennifer or Kerrie. Next deadline for Newsletter content is Feb. 15th. Jennifer reported that the website Content Management System is being replaced by Drupal. From ALA, "Drupal is an open source communications tool that will combine the work of the association with social networking capabilities, and provide a professional networking platform." Jennifer was notified to change format to be compatible. Drupal is easier to learn, almost like Wiki's. ALA Connect is using it now and Jennifer posts LSSIRT business on it. Jennifer announced that she would be retiring July 1, 2011, but would be continuing as the Webmaster for LSSIRT.

ALA Representatives reports:

Darlana Davis, from the ALA Human Relations Office, discussed using Virtual meetings for LSSIRT, one method being, OPAL, during conferences for business meeting and even committee meetings. This could be an option for those board members or others who are unable to attend every conference. She discussed the ALA Strategic Plan 2015. Another method might be to use EYELINK for webinars. She brought up the sessions that we suggested. (Could we get Steve Gehagans with Violence in the workplace to ALA? It was highly recommended.) Speakers need to be lined up by Jan. 21st, what could we offer for assistance.

Lorelle Swader, from the ALA Human Relations Office, came to discuss budget issues. Budget/Finance committee needs to meet with Lorelle; President, Treasurer, President Elect would be the members. Budget lines were discussed with Darlana and Lorelle Swader. Adjustments can be made by revenue and expense lines. ALA members can't charge for presentations. Adjustments can be done through the summer. Actual budget is set by September.

John Chrastka, Director of Membership, has offered to help us recruit and to help draft a letter to dropped members. Something along the lines of "Please come back to LSSIRT! Here's what we are doing! We miss you!" was suggested. Membership committee will consist of Anita Kosinski, Jennifer Kutzik, Valeria Fike, and Nina Manning and will meet via email with John. 6 states offer joint membership between ALA/LSSIRT and chapter (state) associations, Kansas, Alabama, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina and Louisiana. Utah is discussing the proposal. Arkansas would like to become #7 and John is willing to work with the Arkansas Libraries Paraprofessionals (ALPS) to present proposal. Kareen will talk to Arkansas's ALA Councilor, Ron Russ. Trish was contacted by Jackie Lakatos who said there was discussion concerning The Council on Library/Media Technicians (COLT). Should we try to pull their membership into LSSIRT? If anyone wants to ask questions, please refer them to Jackie Lakatos, Lemont Public Library District. Should we approach COLT members? We would like to see them stay active or send invitation to join the LSSIRT roundtable with a first year subsidy. Should we use virtual meetings with OPAL and use that method to get new members more involved?

NEW BUSINESS:

Library Journal announced the LJ Paralibrarian of the year in their March 1 issue. The winner is Gilda Ramos, Spanish Speaking Library Assistant, Patchogue-Medford Library, NY. A reception will be held Saturday night in New Orleans.

“This year marks the renaming of this award from the Paraprofessional of the Year to the Paralibrarian of the Year, in recognition of the inherent professionalism of these talented people. Special thanks goes to the 2010 award winner Allison Sloan for making the case and marshaling support for the name change. The Paralibrarian of the Year Award is sponsored by **DEMCO, Inc.**, of Madison, WI, which underwrites the \$1500 cash prize and a reception to honor the winner at the American Library Association conference in New Orleans, in June. The award recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians in providing excellent library service.”

ALA Event: LJ Paralibrarian of the Year, Sponsored by DEMCO, Honoring Gilda Ramos:
Antoine's Restaurant, Twelfth Night Room located on the 2nd floor, 713 Rue Saint Louis
New Orleans, (located in the French Quarter)
Saturday, June 25, 2011
5:30-7:00 PM

RSVP to: LJEVENTS@mediasourceinc.com

And type "2011 Paralibrarians RSVP" in SUBJECT line.

LSSIRT has been asked to officially accept the change of name in the award. Motion was made and passed to accept the name change.

Presidential candidates were unable to attend our meeting. The two running for President are:
Maureen Sullivan and Sue Stroyan.

Sue Stroyan, Information Services Librarian, Illinois Wesleyan University, Ames Library, P.O. Box 2899, Bloomington, IL 61702 See website: <http://www.suestroyan.com/>

Maureen Sullivan, Organization Development Consultant, Maureen Sullivan Associates, 3696 Thomas Point Road, Annapolis, MD, 21403 See website: <http://maureensullivan.org/about/>

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Trish suggested we use virtual meetings and get together more often to discuss membership, strategic planning, marketing, by-laws. Discussion followed about the ALA Strategic Plan 2015. Goals also apply to us as a round table. What can we offer to get people to join us? Offer webinars geared to those who can't afford to attend conferences pinpointing to support staff. Could we offer free to our members and minimal fee to non-members?

A committee needs to be developed to look at a membership retention/drive to work directly with Lorelle Swader. Also Strategic Planning Committee is being reestablished, volunteers are needed. Partnership with other RT or Divisions for future sessions was also discussed. (Possible members for SPC: JP Pendleton, Kareen Turner, Sarah Kartsonis, Jennifer Kutzik.)

Announcements: Get together with LSSIRT Councilor tonight. 7 PM-8:30 @ The San Diego Hilton, BayFront, Council Suite. Snack donations will be accepted. Beverages will be provided. Meet and mingle! Meeting is connected with the Colorado group.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Submitted by Kareen Turner, Secretary