

**Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT)
Steering Committee/Membership Meeting
Dallas Convention Center – Room D222
Dallas, Texas
January 21, 2012**

Attendees present were: Trish Palluck, President; Jennifer Kutzik, Webmaster; Kareen Turner, Secretary; Kerrie Stramler, Treasurer; J.P. Pendleton, Vice-President; Nina Manning, Member at Large; Valentin Colon, Member at Large; Valeria Fike, LSSIRT Councilor; Marilyn Jack-Brown, Member at Large.

ALA staff members present were: Beatrice Calvin, Human Resource Development and Recruitment/ALA Staff Liaison; Ron Jankowski, ALA Membership Director;

Guests present were: Melanie Allen, Crawford County Public Library, Van Buren, AR; Dan Riordan, On-Tech Consulting, Inc.; J. Linda Williams, ALA Executive Board; Ian Lashbrook, ALA-APA Research Associate; and Marsha Arrighi, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 AM with introductions made by everyone. Minutes from the Annual 2011 in New Orleans, LA were approved with one correction about the Night Out in New Orleans. They will soon be posted on the website.

REPORTS to the BOARD:

Treasurer's Report by Kerrie Stramler. She announced that ALA has created a new format for the budget reporting. There was some discussion about going to the BARC meeting to understand better the function of that office. The first draft of our new budget is to be submitted by Jan. 31, 2012 to become effective September 1, 2012.

Vice President Report by JP Pendleton, gave a list of nominees for this coming year:

Kareen Turner, Vice President
Nina Manning, Secretary (2 year term)
Kerrie Stramler, Treasurer (2 year term)
Sarah Kartsonis, Member at Large (3 year terms)

We discussed the issue of attendance and the By-Laws say requirements are that you must attend one meeting per year. We also talked about having more virtual meetings through several modes, including Skype. Voting can be done electronically. Discussion followed about updating the By-Laws with Valeria, JP, and Kareen serving on that committee.

There was some discussion of continuing the Night Out; details will be in the next newsletter for ANNUAL in Anaheim later this summer. There was a general discussion about using the Councilor's suite for an evening get-together.

ALA Executive Representative by J. Linda Williams. As Linda is also a member of BARC, she combined reports. She mentioned the Advocacy for School Libraries petition. We need 25,000 signatures. The polling booth is on the Exhibits Floor. Please stop by and sign the petition. She also said that a E-Content Task Force committee has been created. The committee is working on summarizing the results and they have a web site:

<http://www.ala.org/pla/tools/technotes/econtent>

She talked about the general membership of ALA, and registration for Mid-Winter. We had 4,823 registered; this includes 95 international attendees (San Diego, last year, had 5,180), with 3269 exhibits, from 430 exhibiting organizations. LSSIRT went from 471 to 446. Overall membership is down 2%

She announced the Virtual Meeting on June 5th, 3-4:30 PM CDT.

We are continuing the Spectrum Scholars; over 700 Spectrum Scholarships! Spectrum Scholars have now been in attendance at over 50 library schools. See more information from their website: <http://www.ala.org/offices/diversity/spectrum/spectrumscholars>

There was a press release, Dec. 23, 2011, to announce that Neal-Schuman Publishers will become part of ALA Publishing. Full story can be found at:

<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/neal-schuman-publishers-join-ala-publishing>

On Monday, Jim Neal, ALA Treasurer, will report on the acquisition of this Publishing company. Linda then asked for any questions.

Communications/newsletter by Jennifer Kutzik and Kerrie Strammler. They talked about updating the webpages and the budget. \$100 is marked for membership lists that are published 4 times a year. They sent out the newsletter electronically to all those listed on these lists.

ALA Concilor Report by Valeria Fike. She mentioned the resolution that she would like to show support for Lois Ann Gregory.

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2012mw_douncil_docus/tribute_2_lois_ann.pdf

She also mentioned the Occupy Wall Street's "People's Library and the destruction of it. Of the estimated 4000 books seized, only 1,273 books were returned and of those, only about 800 were still usable. She talked about the PROTECT IP Act of 2011 (S. 968), or PIPA and the "Stop Online Piracy Act," (SOPA). There is much interest within the ALA Committee on Legislation and among some Council members to develop a resolution around SOPA – including the copyright, access and the privacy problems in the bill.

She also mentioned Black Wednesday, January 18, 2012, which was when webmasters and site owners protested against proposed U.S. "piracy" legislation aimed at preventing theft of intellectual property. She talked about Digital Content/E-Books. Virtual meetings were discussed. She expressed astonishment at the number of divisions/groups that are using Webinars for discussions/meetings. You can read it in detail in the forthcoming newsletter.

ALA Liaison Report by Beatrice Colvin. Beatrice Calvin introduced herself as our new Staff Liaison from ALA HRDR. Lorelle Swader will still be working with us alongside Beatrice. She announced that ALA is reprinting the LSSIRT brochure. If we need any, please contact Beatrice.

Ron Jankowski introduced himself as the new Membership Development Director. He and Beatrice both discussed ways for them to help us and methods for retaining and recruiting members.

LSSCP Report by Ian Lashbrook, Research Associate, American Library Association-Allied Professional Association. He gave an update on the LSSCP, Library Support Staff Certification Program. They are publishing a newsletter on the LSSCP website: <http://ala-apa.org/lssc/2012/01/13/lssc-breaking-news-january-2012/> Then click on <http://ala-apa.org/lssc/files/2012/01/BREAKING-NEWS-January-2012.pdf>

They have given out over 100 Registration Assistance Awards. 30 have been claimed. They have applied for a new grant that will cover more registration assistance and course subsidies. Priority will be given to LSSIRT members, but approximately 80% are non ALA-members. Latest news is that LSSC now has 11 graduates of the program. Discussion followed about communicating and getting the word out about the RAA. We decided to post to ALA-LSSIRT Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was discussion of doing a survey, addressing the reasons for joining ALA-LSSIRT and reasons for dropping the membership. The link to the 1996/1997 survey is at: <http://www.ala.org/lssirt/lssirtstratplan/issuessurvey/issuessurvey> In 2003, ALA conducted another survey on certification. We would like to use some of the questions from both of these. and reword to target current members of LSSIRT, general ALA members and other support staff across the nation/world. Trish, JP and Kareen have offered to serve on this committee. Format was discussed, with the decision to be 1 page. Should we give an incentive to take the survey? We would post the link to the survey for a month before tabulating the results and publishing them.

The links from our webpage to state associations/chapters support staff groups is being updated by Sarah Kartsonis.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion on how to use Facebook and Twitter to get news broadcasted.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.