

Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL) Midwinter 2019 Report

Committee Charge:

To officially represent the diversity of women's interest within ALA and to ensure that the association considers the rights of the majority (women) in the library field. To promote and initiate the collection, analysis, dissemination, and coordination of information on the status of women in librarianship. To coordinate the activities of ALA units that consider questions having special relevance for women. To identify lags, gaps, and possible discrimination in resources and programs relating to women. To help develop evaluative tools, guidelines, and programs in cooperation with other ALA units designed to enhance the opportunities and the image of women in the library profession, thus raising the level of consciousness concerning women. To establish contacts with committees on women within other professional groups and to officially represent ALA concerns at interdisciplinary meetings on women's equality. To provide council and membership with reports needed for the establishment of policies and actions related to the status of women in librarianship, and monitor ALA units to ensure consideration of the rights of women.

Committee Members:

Ms. Apryl C. Price (Chair, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019)
Mrs. Devon Lee Abejo (Member, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019)
Ms. Razina Akhter Akhter, Sr. (Member, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020)
Dawn Behrend (Member, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019)
Melissa I. Cardenas-Dow (Member, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020)
Julia Eisenstein (Member, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019)
Mrs. CeCe Fuoco (Member, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019)
Cotina M. Jones (Member, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020)
Sarah E. Sheehan (Member, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019)
Tracy Reid Sumler (Member, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020)
Mrs. Melissa Marie Poole (Committee Associate, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019)
Ms. Amy Tureen (Committee Associate, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020)
Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada (ALA Executive Board Liaison, July 1, 2017, to August 1, 2020)
Beatrice Calvin (Staff Liaison, May 11, 2018, to June 30, 2024)
Lorelle Swader (Staff Liaison, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020)

Accomplishments:

- Met virtually on December 5, 2018 and January 14, 2019
- Reviewed and approved the Women's History Month press release
- Established communication with Feminist Task Force

Planned Activities:

- Secure a speaker from the National Women's History Museum
- Present a Women's History Month webinar in March 2019
- Publish Women's History Month press release in March 2019

COSWL Conference Call Meeting Minutes

January 14th, 2019

<u>Members in Attendance</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
Ms. Apryl C. Price	Ms. Razina Akhter Akhter, Sr.
Mrs. Devon Lee Abejo	Dawn Behrend
Julia Eisenstein	Melissa I. Cardenas-Dow
Sarah E. Sheehan	Mrs. CeCe Fuoco
Ms. Amy Tureen	Cotina M. Jones
Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada	Mrs. Melissa Marie Poole
Beatrice Calvin	Tracy Reid Sumler
	Lorelle Swader

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Women's History Press Release
 - a. 2018 press release <http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2018/03/coswl-celebrates-national-women-s-history-month>
 - i. Apryl has reviewed past announcements; in general they are similar to one another. Additionally, links used in the 2018 announcement are still active and up to date
 - b. Must be completed before March 2019 (Women's History Month)
 - c. After a discussion of possible amendments to the statement (inclusion of #MeToo, women impacted by the government shutdown, etc), the committee determines the best course of action is to repost the 2018 announcement.
 1. Beatrice will post the statement online in March
3. Discussion about other possible events of work
 - a. National Women's History Museum Program at ALA Annual in DC
 - i. Too late to submit in-person programming, however it might be possible to still submit webinar content
 - b. National Women's History Museum webinar in March
 - i. It might be helpful to collaborate with the National Women's History Museum in DC in advance of Annual.
 - ii. A webinar event was proposed
 1. Apryl will follow up with stakeholders at the National Women's History Museum to determine interest and feasibility
 - c. Women's Discussion Group at ALA
 - i. A discussion group on women's issues is held every year at ALA, with the hosting duties rotated between three women's groups
 1. COSWL hosted last year, this year the host is the Feminist Task Force
 - a. The Head of the Feminist Task Force contacted Apryl and indicated she does not enough members and needs "help."
 - i. What sort of help is needed is not clear, however Beatrice indicated the help might be fielding panelists for the "Pitfalls of neutrality: What does inclusivity mean in libraries?" event at 9am on June 19th (see email forwarded by Beatrice)

1. Apryl will try and get additional information

4. Upcoming meetings and schedule

a. If the group doesn't elect to host a webinar, the next meeting will be at Annual

Meeting time: 25:50

Date and Time	December 5, 2018 4:00PM – 5:00PM EST
Location and Instructions	Conference Call
Attending	Dawn Behrend, Julia Eisenstein; Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, Apryl Price, Lorelle Swader
Absent	Devon Abejo, Razinam, Akhter, Melissa I. Cardenas-Dow, CeCe Fuoco, Cotina Jones, Melissa Poole, Sarah Sheehan, Tracy Reid Sumler, Amy Tureen
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll call. • Dawn took minutes. • Reviewed agenda. • Reviewed committee charge and history of the committee. • Discussed relationship of COSWL to Feminist Task Force and Women & Gender Studies (ACRL). COSWL was noted to be a committee of Council. Every 3rd year COSWL hosts a women's discussion group with these two entities. The leaders of these three groups are encouraged to maintain communication. • COSWL relationship with the National Women's History Museum was discussed. • Important resources maintained by COSWL were reviewed. It is unclear how social media postings will be managed relative to possible changes by the Director of Communications and Marketing. • Women's History Month is in March. COSWL always releases something for this event, such as a press release. It was suggested that planning for this begin at the virtual ALA Mid Winter meeting and that something be ready by the end of February. • Lessa shared updates from the Fall Executive Board meeting held in October.
Action Items (Members Responsible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorelle will find out more information about whether COSWL will host a meeting with FTF and Women & Gender Studies in 2020. • Apryl will work to establish communication with the leaders of FTF and Women & Gender Studies. • Lorelle will seek more information and guidance regarding social media postings going forward. • Apryl will put out a Doodle Poll to schedule the next meeting.

