

2008-2009 ALA CD#57

2009 ALA Annual Conference

Resolution to Expand Electronic Participation

Whereas, The ALA Council passed a "Resolution on Expanding Council Transparency" at the 2008 Annual Conference; and

Whereas, The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all; and

Whereas, Technologies are available to permit transparency of the stewardship of the ALA Council; and

Whereas, Council has been apprised of fiscal and legal implications of several options by the Executive Director; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, ALA Council directs the Executive Director:

1. To implement the most cost effective solution to provide transparency and access to Council activities for the benefit of ALA members; and
2. To continue to monitor methods of improving Council transparency; and
3. Begin providing member electronic access to Council meetings for Midwinter 2010.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, July 15, 2009
In Chicago, Illinois

Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary

**This Resolution was adopted by the ALA Council
Tuesday, July 1, 2008
Anaheim, CA**

2007-2008 ALA CD#58
2008 ALA Annual Conference

**Resolution Concerning ALA Policy Opposing Sweatshop Labor and Support Union
Businesses**

WHEREAS, The American Library Association (ALA) has broad social responsibilities (Policy 1.1); and

WHEREAS, ALA and its divisions, round tables, and other various units purchase all kinds of products for distribution to membership, such as tee shirts, conference bags, etc; and

WHEREAS, A large proportion of those available products are produced in sweatshop conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA) and its divisions, round tables, and all other units should purchase all products for distribution to membership from sweatshop free producers; and that this resolution and information about how to comply with it shall be distributed to all ALA divisions, round tables, all other units and ALA staff.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, July 1, 2008
In Anaheim, California

Resolution in Support of Women as Caregivers in the Workforce

WHEREAS, An informal or family caregiver is anyone who provides unpaid assistance to someone else (spouse, child, other relative, non-relative) who is, in some degree, incapacitated or needs help; and

WHEREAS, Women are more likely to be caregivers and to provide more hours of care, to provide more care over longer periods, and to care for more than one person; and

WHEREAS, Women comprise 46% of the total U.S. workforce but 61% of caregivers; and

WHEREAS, 80.9% of ALA members are women; and

WHEREAS, Most caregivers are employed; and

WHEREAS, Significant numbers of women caregivers have decreases in work hours, change from full- to part-time employment, and quit or retire early with long-term effects from wage reductions, and lost retirement benefits, training/promotion/assignment opportunities, and stress-related health problems; and

WHEREAS, Working women caregivers may suffer economic hardships due to caregiving, being 2.5 times more likely to live in poverty when they become elderly than women who had never been caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Caregivers have significant impacts to physical health compared to non-caregivers, such as increased risk of high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, immune system compromise, and death; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association recognizes the responsibility of libraries to help all employees that are family caregivers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association will form a task force to study and recommend to the Council of the American Library Association specific programs that libraries can use to support their employees who are family caregivers.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, January 16, 2008
In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and
Secretary to the ALA Council

A Tribute in Honor of Barbara Walden

Whereas, Only a handful of individuals have been active in WESS during the entire course of its history. Barbara Walden is one of them, and she like few others has also influenced that course. Going through the annals of our organization, Barbara's name recurs with the regularity of a leitmotif in Wagner's Ring: chairing a committee or task force, as an invited speaker or panelist, even as the appointed WESS historian. It was Barbara, for the WESS Conference at ALA in New Orleans in 1999, who was asked to chart WESS's history from its origins, in the swirling mists of prehistory in 1973, to where it had evolved two and a half decades later; and

Whereas, One of Barbara's signal accomplishments over her decades of service was to initiate an annual presence of American academic librarians at the Frankfurt Book Fair. She wrote and submitted the first application for ACRL funding of this initiative, and the result was for many years a recurring ACRL budget line--totally unprecedented for an international event--to fund travel by WESS librarians to this biggest book fair of the world. At Frankfurt in 1999, Barbara was part of a small WESS group that met with then US ambassador John Kornblum, a meeting which led to an annual symposium bringing together German and American academic librarians during the Frankfurt Book Fair, now entering its 8th year. Barbara herself has been an active presenter in Frankfurt; and

Whereas, Throughout her career, Barbara has been a creative and forceful advocate for the development of resources supporting Western European Studies at American universities, and has always led with her own good example. She can look back now with pride on her many contributions, as we do with gratitude; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, On behalf of the entire membership, the ACRL/WESS Executive Committee wishes to congratulate Barbara Walden on her retirement, and to extend our sincere appreciation for her leadership and exemplary contributions to the field of Western European Studies librarianship.

*Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, July 2, 2008
In Anaheim, California*