

Report of the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries Of All Kinds Committee (RNTLOAK)
2015 Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA
June 29, 2015, 1-2:30 pm
Moscone Convention Center 226(S)

Submitted by Miriam C. Nauenburg, Chair 2014-2015

Committee members: Chair Miriam Nauenburg, Megan Beard, Catharine Cook, Yunfei Du, Jessica Jones, Liana Juliano, Teresa Runnels (PLA Representative), Fallon Bleich (intern), Stephanie Eames (intern), Sarah McHone-Chase (COL Representative), John Sandstrom (OLOS Advisory Representative), Gwendolyn Prellwitz (staff liaison)

Accomplishments:

The committee coordinated a joint presentation at our 2015 annual program. In the first half of the program, a tribal college librarians' panel organized by Mark Holman of the Sitting Bull College Library provided an overview of tribal librarianship and diversity projects underway at panelists' libraries. In the second half of the program Patricia Brown of the Haines Borough (Alaska) Public Library discussed the Chilkoot-Chilkat Storyboard, an interactive exhibit planned by elders, youth, and technical consultants to preserve the Tlingit language, place names, and cultural information using photos, film, sound, and historical documents.

The committee also scheduled a presentation by Rosemarie Fan, USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration) Community Relations Officer for the San Francisco District, at our Annual business meeting. Ms. Fan discussed USCIS library resources, with an emphasis on citizenship materials for rural libraries, such as the Citizenship Toolkit.

Planned Activities:

No activities planned at this time.

Issues that affect the committee's work and their implications for the future:

The committee recognizes that many rural and tribal librarians work in library systems for which conference travel may be cost-prohibitive. Communication with AILA and ARSL membership is very important to the success of the committee's charge. A possible future topic for committee discussion is whether scholarships or financial assistance should be offered to RNTLOAK program speakers, as well as the possibility of extending this benefit to all ALA presenters who work in rural or tribal libraries.

Interactions with other units within ALA:

The FCC's E-Rate Modernization Order of December 2014, which expands broadband access and funding for rural libraries and schools, will have a positive effect on many of the libraries

for which RNTLOAK advocates. An idea from the committee's Midwinter 2015 meeting discussion was to establish mentoring relationships between librarians experienced in the E-rate application process and librarians who are applying for the first time. This suggestion would have possibly involved the PLA Technology Committee and other ALA units. The idea was placed before the committee for discussion, but further investigation was postponed when a free OITP/PLA E-rate webinar was published soon after the Midwinter meeting.

Relationship of the committee's work to the ALA strategic plan:

The committee's charge is to review issues and challenges facing rural, native and tribal libraries of all kinds; to collaborate with other ALA units addressing the needs of rural communities; and to serve as an advocate for and partner with libraries serving rural, tribal and native populations. Much of the committee's work this past year is subsumed under three action areas of ALA's Strategic Plan: Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession, Equitable Access to Information and Library Services (hence our discussion of the new E-rate regulations at Midwinter), and Diversity.

Current level of committee members' involvement:

Our committee had fewer members this year than it had in the past, which presented some challenges with respect to participation. Therefore the RNTLOAK mailing list was used for time-sensitive requests and announcements.

Committee self-check on its value and viability:

At RNTLOAK's Midwinter business meeting it was mentioned that the American Indian Library Association (AILA) was not aware of RNTLOAK's charge. Future chairs should continue the process of reaching out to AILA, as well as the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL), regarding solicitation for Annual program speakers and notification of relevant ALA-sponsored events. The committee charge and structure do not require changes at this time.

Other issues:

None at this time.