

**American Library Association  
Fall 2013 Executive Board Meeting  
Report of President, Barbara Stripling**

**Projects and Initiatives**

**Declaration for the Right to Libraries**

The Declaration for the Right to Libraries campaign has several goals:

- Increase public and media awareness about the critical role of libraries in communities around the country
- Inspire ongoing conversations about the role of the library in the community
- Cultivate a network of community allies and advocates for the library
- Position the library as a trusted convener to help in the response to community issues

The Declaration campaign has developed on a number of fronts since it was initiated at Annual Conference through the efforts of Marci Merola, my graduate assistant Stephanie Prato, and my advisory team (Maribel Castro and Patty Wong, co-chairs):

- Several different sizes of the declaration are available for downloading from the ALA website (<http://www.ala.org/declaration>), the I Love Libraries website (<http://www.ILoveLibraries/declaration>), and my presidential website (<http://www.barbarastripling.org/declaration>). The Declaration will be available in the ALA Store as of October 18.
- Translations in several languages are completed or in the works: Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Korean, Italian, and Vietnamese.
- An appeal has been sent to state Chapter Councilors and state librarians to name statewide coordinators who will help libraries throughout the state to hold signing ceremonies. Don Wood is keeping track of the state coordinators.
- Marci Merola facilitated the development of a toolkit that is now online.
- The ALA IT department developed a system for online signing and it is now available. In addition, they have made it accessible to the visually impaired. As a bonus, they developed a badge that can be added to library websites.
- A social media committee is actively engaged in contributing to the Facebook page, tweeting, and using their networks to send out messages. There is a Flickr account where images are being added.
- The official kickoff was held in July at the Nashville Public Library with public and school librarians, as well as public officials and library board members. At the same time, the Texas

Library Association held its state legislative assembly where the Declaration was signed by all the participants and plans were made for a statewide campaign for signatures by the public.

- Other signing ceremonies are being held across the country. The Advocacy Office is trying to keep track of them.

The signed Declarations will be presented at a ceremony at the Summit on the Future of Libraries in May; they can be used as evidence of public support by those who are visiting their legislators. More importantly, libraries across the country will have used the Declaration to start important conversations with their community members about the role of the library in each community – school, academic, public, or special.

### **Summit on the Future of Libraries**

A National Summit on the Future of Libraries will be held in May 2014 in Washington, DC.

The two day summit will explore the following:

- What are the societal and technological trends that will influence and shape the communities and society that libraries of all types serve?
- What do these trends mean for libraries of all types in light of our values as educators, librarians, and community members?
- How can we build public will to help achieve a better future based on these values?

Participants in the Summit will begin the process of envisioning the most effective actions for libraries and community members to take. Any such actions require consideration of two questions:

- How do we involve the broader public and key decision makers in shaping a future that includes the values we cherish, such as lifelong learning, intellectual freedom and the preservation of our cultural heritage?
- What are some of the specific steps that we need to take to help build public support for the role that libraries and other cultural institutions play in creating a better future for individuals and for communities?

### **Summit Outcomes:**

It is envisioned that one of the products of the summit will be a white paper designed to increase public awareness of the issues raised at the summit, and to stimulate further discussion involving the ALA membership, the broader realm of cultural institutions and interested members of the public.

Additional outcomes will depend on the conversations and actions developed during the Summit.

ALA has committed to long-term sustaining of the dialogue begun at the Summit:

- A discussion of trends shaping the future of society will help shape thinking related to the Center for the Future of Libraries, a new initiative of the American Library Association which will be in its formative stage at that point.
- The Summit outcomes will provide the foundation for ALA's next strategic planning process, scheduled to begin in 2014.
- The discussion will continue following the summit through face-to-face and virtual conversations. In this way, the summit is designed not to answer questions, but to stimulate thinking and discussion and to start a national dialogue.

## Webinars

The innovation strand of *Libraries Change Lives* involves developing plans to enable libraries across the country to highlight their library's innovative practices and the opportunities that they offer to community members to pursue their own innovative ideas (for example, through makerspaces). We will be collecting stories and fostering the use of the TEDx model and network to help libraries share their innovative ideas and successes. We have tentatively planned a series of webinars to feature many of the outstanding models in all types of libraries. Here are our plans to this point:

<b>Month and Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>September 9/23/13</b>	Declaration Signings: Info and how to
<b>November 11/18/13</b>	TedX: How to do a TedX event in your library
<b>December: Making Series</b>	Winter Making Series: Introduction to making
<b>January: Making Series</b>	Winter Making Series: Making = Strategic Partnerships
<b>February: Making Series</b>	Winter Making Series: What's Next – Assessment and Opportunities
<b>March: Making Series</b>	Winter Making Series: International Making Movement
<b>March: Library Partnerships</b>	Strategic partnerships between libraries
<b>April:</b>	Literacy Innovations: Digital, financial, school and college readiness, family and adult
<b>May:</b>	STEM/STEAM Learning in Libraries
<b>Early June</b>	Community Engagement

## Continuing ALA Initiatives

The final strand of *Libraries Change Lives*, community engagement, is designed to sustain and amplify ALA's community engagement focus from the last several years. ALA has submitted a grant proposal to fund the continuation and further development of the initiative begun under the presidency of Molly Raphael and formalized under the presidency of Maureen Sullivan – *The Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities*. ALA is collaborating with the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation to develop a yearlong professional development effort that includes initial training and mentoring. An initial training session for teams or individuals will be held October 28-30 in Washington, DC. In addition, community conversations will be held at Midwinter and Annual conferences.

I am committed to building strong collaboration and seamless transitions among “the presidents” (immediate past president Maureen Sullivan, president Barbara Stripling, and incoming president Courtney Young). We will work together to continue ALA initiatives on e-books (through the Digital Content Working Group – DCWG), community engagement (the Promise of Libraries initiative), and advocacy for school libraries.

The Digital Content Working Group is continuing its strategic e-book work under the guidance of ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy and the leadership of co-chairs Robert Wolven and Sari Feldman. Besides the ongoing DCWG work, a delegation comprised of Barbara Stripling, Maureen Sullivan, Keith Fiels, Bob Wolven, and Alan Inouye visited Simon and Schuster and Penguin/Random House and met with editor Jeremy Greenfield from Digital Book World on a visit to New York City on September 30-October 1. Alan has published an article about the results in *American Libraries*.

**School Libraries**

The situation for school libraries across the country is not getting better. Instead, we keep hearing about additional instances when school libraries have been closed, school librarians have lost their jobs or been transferred to the classroom, or libraries are “maintained” by volunteers or paraprofessionals. A School Library Think Tank, chaired by Gina Millsap and Terri Grief, has developed messaging for several stakeholder groups, including administrators, teachers, students, parents, local decision makers, and national legislators. The advocacy materials will be unveiled at the AASL National Conference in Hartford, CT, in early November.

The school library advocacy efforts will also include building partnerships with national organizations and targeting specific constituencies (like school administrators, classroom teachers, parents, and school boards). This partnership work has not been pursued intensively yet, but will become a high priority once the messages are finalized. Increased advocacy with national legislators will be guided by the Washington Office.

I will repeat my message from my report to the Board at Annual Conference: **The bottom line for our school library campaign is our shared understanding that all types of libraries form an ecosystem that really does impact the success of whole communities and the individuals within them. We must stand together and demand strong school libraries. No child in America should be deprived of that right.**

**Travel and Presentations**

I have made the following presentations since Annual 2013.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY/TOPIC
7/22-24/13	Common Core Workshop – GST BOCES – Elmira, NY	Three-day workshop on Common Core and school libraries
7/30/13	Nashville School Libraries @ Nashville Public Libraries – Nashville, TN	Keynote – Resource sharing partnership between public and school libraries; Public launch of Declaration for the Right to Libraries
8/2-3/13	Nebraska School Libraries Institute – Omaha, NE	Two-day workshop on Common Core with Marc Aronson
8/10-16/13	Thailand – Bangkok, Thailand	Speech – Trends in U.S. Library and Information Science Education; Keynote – Digital Storytelling; Informal Talk – Reading Activities in USA; Informal Talk with Thailand Library Association Board; Visit to libraries

8/17-23/13	IFLA – Singapore	Representation of ALA
8/24-25/13	IASL – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Keynote on Declaration for the Right to Libraries – International Perspective
8/26-8/30/13	IASL – Bali	Plenary speech – School Libraries Change Lives
9/11-14/13	Kentucky Library Association & Kentucky Association of School Librarians – Louisville, KY	Keynote speech
9/20-22/13	Harwood Public Innovators Summit – Park City, Utah	Participation
9/23/13	ALA Webinar	Webinar presentation on Declaration
9/24/13	East Carolina University	Online presentation and chat with ALA Student Chapter
9/25-28/13	NYLA – Niagara Falls, NY	Breakfast speech and panel – Libraries Change Lives: Innovation, Literacy, Community Engagement
9/28-9/29/13	SLJ Summit – Austin, TX	Keynote speech
9/30-10/1/13	NYC – ALA Delegation to publishers (e-books)	Conversations with publishers, Digital Book World editor
10/1-3/13	University of Missouri library school / Missouri Library Association – St. Louis, MO	Speak to grad students / Keynote speech
10/16/13	SLJ/LJ Digital Shift Virtual Conference	Panel presentation – Reinventing Libraries
10/16-18/13	North Carolina Library Association – Winston Salem, NC	Ogilvie Lecture
10/18/13	South Central Regional Library Council – Ithaca, NY	Keynote
10/19/13	Library 2.013 Virtual Conference – San Jose State	Presentation
10/23/13	ALA Virtual Town Hall	Facilitate town hall session on e-books

### Future Travel and Presentations

I have the following presentations scheduled between the fall Executive Board meeting and Midwinter in Philadelphia.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY/TOPIC
10/31/12	COSLA Conference – Savannah, GA	Presentation on Declaration
10/31-11/2/13	U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy – Washington, DC	Panel presentation
11/4-5/13	Southern Westchester BOCES – Scarsdale, NY	Two-day workshop – Use of primary sources and technology
11/12-17/13	AASL National Conference – Hartford, CT	Conference participation – Remarks

11/20-22/13	Michigan Association for Media in Education conference – “School Librarians @ the Core” - Kalamazoo, MI	Keynote; Concurrent session
12/4-12/9/13	Library Association of Republic of China – Taiwan	Keynote – ALA and Professional Development for Librarians; Keynote – School Librarianship in the Digital Era Round Table Discussion – School Librarians Presentation – LIS Education in the United States
12/17/13	I Love My Librarian Award Ceremony – New York City	Welcome speech; presentation of awards
1/24-1/28/14	ALA Midwinter – Philadelphia	

I continue to try to be strategic on accepting invitations so that ALA can be represented in areas where they have not had someone from ALA recently. I will try to maintain a degree of flexibility in my schedule so that I can respond quickly to emerging needs and issues.