

American Library Association
Spring 2014 Executive Board Meeting
Report of President, Barbara Stripling

Projects and Initiatives

Declaration for the Right to Libraries

The Declaration continues to be used by libraries of all types to increase public awareness of the value that libraries bring to the community and to leverage conversation and advocacy with a number of different stakeholders. Information about the Declaration initiative can be found at www.ILoveLibraries.org. The Declaration is available for sale from ALA Graphics, as are supporting materials. Libraries may also put a link to the online signature form on their library websites.

During April, School Library Media Month, a national campaign will be conducted for school libraries to engage members of their school communities in talking about and signing an adaptation of the Declaration, *Declaration for the Right to School Libraries*.

I have been to deliver keynotes about the Declaration and the value of libraries to change lives at several state and international conferences and other library events. I have made a second video about the Declaration to give an update about the initiative. The video will be posted to the ILoveLibraries website. A number of librarians have indicated their appreciation that the Declaration initiative will continue beyond my presidential year due to the support of President-Elect, Courtney Young.

The signed Declarations will be presented at a ceremony during Legislative Day in May; they can be used as evidence of public support by those who are visiting their legislators.

Summit on the Future of Libraries

The national invitational summit, *Libraries From Now On: Imagining the Future*, to be held in May 2014 in Washington, DC, is in the final planning stages. Under the leadership of co-chairs Julie Todaro and Pat Smith and coordinator Nancy Bolt, the Summit speakers and participants are confirmed and the agenda is taking shape. We are fortunate that the Library of Congress has agreed to host the summit in its beautiful Member Room. I am sure that being in that space and envisioning the future of libraries will be a provocative and fulfilling experience.

To remind us about the focus of the summit, the two day summit will explore the following:

- How do we think differently about libraries and library services?
- What are the societal, technological, and educational 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?

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 ALA’s Center for the Future of Libraries.
- The Summit outcomes will provide the foundation for ALA’s next strategic planning process, scheduled to begin in 2014.
- A continuing national dialogue through face-to-face and virtual conversations will leverage transformational thinking about libraries and their value to communities.

Webinars

My presidential advisory team, headed by Patty Wong and Maribel Castro, continues to plan and coordinate all of my presidential initiative activities. The yearlong series of webinars, planned by Sue Considine, continued with several webinars conducted this winter and others planned for the spring:

Month and Date	Topic
February 13: Making Series	Innovation and Community Engagement: Hosting TEDx Events in your Library
March 5: “Making” Assessment	Winter Making Series: “Making” Assessment and New Opportunities
March 24: Strategic Partnerships	Building Strategic Partnerships Between Libraries, Government, and Businesses
April 21:	Literacy Innovations: Digital, financial, school and college readiness, family and adult
May 19:	STEM/STEAM Learning in Libraries
Early June	Community Engagement

Continuing ALA Initiatives: Libraries Transforming Communities

With the support of a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ALA has launched a two-year project, *Libraries Transforming Communities*. Library teams had the opportunity to apply to be part of the Libraries Transforming Communities Public Innovators Cohort, an 18-month, team-based professional development opportunity for public libraries, developed by ALA and the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation. Applications were due in March and the selection process has begun.

The LTC professional development institute and coaching will enable library teams to turn outward to their communities and engage with community members in new ways; strengthen librarians’ skills in leadership, community empowerment, and convening; and build ALA’s capacity to support libraries of all types through this transformational process. Because of grant parameters set by the Gates Foundation, this project is directed toward public libraries; however, the new tools, resources, and support mechanisms developed through this grant will benefit all types of libraries.

Continuing ALA Initiatives: Digital Content

In June, the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group will reach the end of its appointment timeline. The DCLWG met at Midwinter to discuss the status of digital content and libraries and the need for continuing the task force. The task force recommended that a task force structure be continued with revised areas of focus and the opportunity to appoint new chairs and members. The Executive Board will discuss the issue at its spring board meeting.

School Libraries

ALA has developed a multi-faceted school library advocacy campaign to address the national crisis in school libraries. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness about the value of school libraries and school librarians that will lead to ongoing, sustained support among national and state policy makers, school districts, administrators, teachers, parents, and students. The Committee on Library Advocacy, chaired by Gina Millsap, has worked with the Office of Library Advocacy, headed by Marci Merola, to finalize the plan with the following components:

- Community Outreach
- “Crisis-Proofing” Initiative
- Declaration for the Right to School Libraries
- Digital Supplement
- Messaging
- National Partnerships
- Online Tools for Advocates
- Op-Eds
- Success Stories
- Vendor and Publisher Partnerships
- Web Portal
- Toolkit for Parents

School libraries are still struggling throughout the country with severe budget cuts threatening the jobs of school librarians and the very existence of school libraries. Under the guidance of the Office for Library Advocacy, I have sent several letters to superintendents, school boards, and other decision makers to try to head off crises.

Media Activity

Reporters continue to be interested in a number of topics about the future of libraries and their transformation in communities across the country: the new focus of creating in the library through makerspaces, video production centers and micropublishing; the integration of e-books; the unusual items checked out of the library (they are very fascinated by the human book); library value to its community; Pew Research Center reports; the FCC chair’s proposal on net neutrality; the Amicus Brief on privacy and cell phones; and the reinvention of library space and programming.

Travel and Presentations

I have made the following presentations since January 2014.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY/TOPIC
2/27-3/2/14	Alaska Library Association - Anchorage	Conference Endnote Speech
3/12-3/13/14	Public Library Association Conference – Indianapolis, IN	Welcome and Greetings from ALA
3/14/14	Southern Westchester BOCES – Scarsdale, NY	Workshop on Primary Sources and Technology
3/15/14	St. John’s Conference – Long Island, NY	Keynote
3/31-4/2/14	Oklahoma Library Association Conference – Tulsa, OK	ALA Forum Session; Legislative Luncheon Speech
4/4/14	Catholic University of American; DC Library Association	Lecture
4/9-4/10/14	Texas Library Association Conference – San Antonio, TX	Workshop
4/11-4/13/14	ALA Executive Board Spring Meeting – Chicago, IL	Presiding

Future Travel and Presentations

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.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY/TOPIC
4/14-4/15/14	Declaration Signing – Ann Arbor, MI	Speech
4/23/14	Emerging Leaders	Webinar
4/24-27/14	NYLA SLS Conference – Syracuse, NY	Welcome and Facilitation
4/29-4/30/14	11 th Congress of Latvian Librarians – Latvia	Speech and Declaration Signing
5/2-5/3/14	National Summit - <i>Libraries From Now On: Imagining the Future</i>	Welcome; Facilitation
5/5-5/6/14	National Legislative Day – Washington, DC	National Press Club speech
5/14-5/16/14	AMBAC Conference – Monterrey, Mexico	Speech to all participants Panel presentation – school librarians
5/28-5/31/14	Canadian Library Association – Victoria, BC, Canada	Keynote Panel presentation
6/5/14	Virtual Membership Meeting	Presiding
6/9-6/10/14	Empire Collaborations Conference	Dinner presentation Speech
6/26-7/1/14	ALA Annual – Las Vegas	
7/8-7/9/14	NYLA School Library Summit	Facilitation of professional development strand
7/22-7/23/14	Library Leadership Ohio	Speech
7/26-8/2/14	Japan – State Department	Speeches; visits to libraries

8/3-8/10/14	Korea – State Department	Speeches; visits to libraries
8/12-8/13/14	NY State Conference – Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core	Keynote
8/16-8/22/14	IFLA – Lyons, France	
8/25-8/30/14	IASL – Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia	
9/23-9/26/14	Brazil – State Department	Speeches; visits to libraries
10/4-10/7/14	Arkansas Library Association conference	Keynote
10/24-10/26/14	ALA Executive Board – Fall Meeting – Chicago, IL	
11/6-11/9/14	NYLA Annual Conference – Saratoga Springs	Pre-Conference
11/10-11/11/14	New York State Reading Association	Keynote