



American Association of School Librarians
a division of the American Library Association

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President’s Report to the Membership and ALA Council

Susan D. Ballard

May 2013

The activities of AASL align with the four goal areas of our current Strategic Plan: Guidelines and Standards, Professional Development, Advocacy, and Community.

Publications



AASL released a variety of titles designed to support advocacy and standards and guidelines implementation:

[The Power of Data: An Introduction to Using Local, State, and National Data to Support School Library Programs](#), written by **Sandra Andrews**, guides school librarians through the effective use of data in order to influence school library program stakeholders.

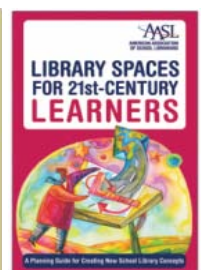
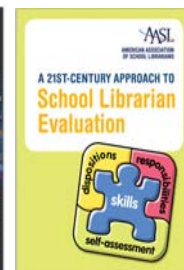
[A 21st-Century Approach to School Librarian Evaluation](#), written by **Patricia Owen**, provides school librarians an opportunity to engage in rigorous self-evaluation and shape school administrator evaluations.

[Library Spaces for 21st-Century Learners: A Planning Guide for Creating New School Library Concepts](#), written by **Margaret (Peg) Sullivan**, focuses on planning contemporary school library spaces with user-based design strategies.

These titles are available in both print and e-book formats, as well as in a print/e-book bundle.



Additionally, contributors continued to “grow” our **[Standards for the 21st-Century Lesson Plan Data Base](#)** moderated by **Kathy Lowe** and a team of expert school librarians.



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Professional Development

In this area, AASL provided multiple opportunities - online, face-to-face and in collaborative and social media environments - for members to access quality professional development.

Online Learning opportunities



AASL's innovative [eCOLLAB](#) is a repository of AASL professional development and resources that has been developed for AASL members and subscribers. Included in e-COLLAB is [The AASL e-Academy](#), designed to create leaders via online learning in a variety of four-week courses. Among e-Academy offerings launched in 2012-13 were:

[BYOL: Bring Your Own Lessons Into The 21st Century](#) with **Liz Deskins and Christina Dorr**, in which participants learn about AASL's Best Websites for Teaching and Learning and how to put them to work with an inquiry unit and submit it to AASL's *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* Lesson Plan Database.

[Common Core: Moving from Complex to Calm, Cool, and Collected](#) with **Paige Jaeger** where participants are guided through how and why inquiry-based instruction supports the Common Core State Standard (CCSS) and learn how to repackage current research projects into CCSS aligned efforts that foster higher level thought.

In addition, numerous **webinars** were provided to members as well as non-members and included:

Wanted: Information Literacy Skills in a World of Google & Wikipedia - presented by **Emily Gover** of EasyBib who shared findings on the status of plagiarism, research methods and citation practices and cross-referenced these results with data pulled and analyzed directly from EasyBib.

How to be a Ninja Warrior Filter Fighter! - presented by **Gwyneth Jones** in connection with Banned Websites Awareness Day and focused on how overly restrictive filtering affects student learning and what school librarians can do to fight restrictive filtering in their schools.

Opening the Space: Libraries as a Site of Participatory Culture was the first *Knowledge Quest* webinar for the 2012-2013 editorial year, and presenter **Andy Plemmons** explored participatory culture.

Worlds of Learning with Inanimate Alice - with presenter **Laura Fleming** explored the place of transmedia in learning and how transmedia storytelling exemplifies learning in the 21st century using the website [Inanimate Alice](#), an interactive digital graphic novel set in the early years of the 21st century.

Making the Most of Professional Learning Communities - presented by **Sandra Hughes-Hassell, Amanda Brasfield and Debbie Dupree** based on their November/December 2012 *Knowledge Quest* feature.

Aligning Graphic Novels to the Standards - a *Knowledge Quest* webinar presented by writer **Katie Monnin** guided attendees through aligning graphic novels to various national standards, including the AASL learning standards and the Common Core State Standards.

A 21st-Century Approach to School Librarian Evaluation based on the AASL publication of the same name - **Patricia Owen**, walked participants through the workbook's suggested readings, action tips, and evidence collection to help them engage in rigorous self-evaluation and to shape school administrator evaluations.

Join the Common Core Conversation - **Kristina Holzweiss** introduced participants to professional social networking using Edmodo and illustrated its use in establishing nationwide connections relating to the Common Core State Standards.

PBS LearningMedia™ Launches Blended Literacy Lessons - with **Carol Studebaker, Charlotte Hodges and Carolyn Jacobs** provided an in-depth look at middle school literacy tools available from PBS LearningMedia™.

A School Librarian's Role in Preventing Sexting & Cyberbullying - presented by **Laurie Nathan** from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) addressed ongoing safety issues affecting children.

Envisioning New Library Spaces with writer **Margaret (Peg) Sullivan** and based on the AASL publication of the same name focused on building library spaces for 21st-century learners.

A School Library Month (SLM) Advocacy Committee Series consisted of three webinars designed to be a concise overview of available tools and resources to observe SLM:

- **Quantity vs. Quality**, presented by **Judi Repman**, assisted school librarians in helping stakeholders understand the difference between internet access and information skills.
- **A Space vs. A LEARNING Space**, presented by **Rebecca Morris**, focused on helping school librarians justify the space their school library program needs.
- **Strong School Library Programs Build Strong Communities**, presented by **Andrea Ange and LeeAnna Mills** explored tools AASL offers to demonstrate why a school librarian is essential to empowering the community leaders of tomorrow.

Face-to-Face opportunities

Fall Forum



AASL Fall Forum was held Oct. 12-13, 2012, in Greenville, SC, with satellite sites in Doylestown, PA, Homestead, PA, Richardson, TX and San Jose, CA. The Fall Forum is designed as a multi-day national institute focused on one topic of importance to the profession. The topic explored this year was [Transliteracy and the School Library Program](#). **Henry Jenkins**, renowned author and media studies scholar, served as the opening and closing speaker as well as primary facilitator. Joining Jenkins as facilitators were **Kristin Fontichiaro**, clinical assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Information, and **Barbara Jansen**, chair of educational technology and library services and upper school media services director at Saint Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, TX. Together they provided a

comprehensive overview of complex concept of transliteracy - the ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms, tools and media.

National Conference

In anticipation of our 16th [National Conference and Exhibition](#) slated for 11/14-17, 2013 in Hartford, CT, the National Conference Planning Committee, co-chaired by **Terri Kirk and Ken Stewart**, solicited proposals for pre-conference workshops and concurrent sessions to be presented at the conference. Proposals were focused on one of the conference content strands, including Common Core State Standards; leadership; literacy and reading; program administration; teaching and learning; or authors. The AASL national conference committee evaluated proposals for clarity, originality and timeliness and have put together a spectacular program which includes general session speakers [Tony Wagner](#) and [Peter Bregman](#), Author Banquet speakers [Libba Bray and Shane W. Evans](#) and Author Breakfast participants [Faith Erin Hicks, Jennifer and Matthew Holm, Jarrett Krosoczka and Raina Telgemeier](#) which will focus on the graphic novel genre.



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Social Media and Networking Opportunities

AASL maintains an active discussion list via [AASLForum](#) where informed discourse and lively debate advance our mission.



The [AASL Blog](#), co-managed by **Carolyn-Jo Starkey** and **Frances Reeve**, provides a format for providing information about programs, conferences, projects, resources, and activities of interest to AASL members and others in the K-12 library community.

Essential Links, chaired by **Vicki Buita**, is a wiki comprised of a working bibliography of essential resources for librarians, principals, parents, charter school organizers, library para-professionals, government officials, and college instructors. Books, journal articles, websites and other media are included. All are invited to contribute and edit.



AASL maintains an active [Twitter](#) feed and [Facebook](#) presence as well as a number of active communities in [ALA Connect](#)



Observances and Initiatives



To raise awareness of the overly restrictive blocking of legitimate, educational websites and academically useful social networking tools in schools and school libraries, AASL designates one day during Banned Books Week as [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#). In conjunction with its second annual observance, AASL released a white paper written by **Diane Cordell**, **Su Eckhardt**, **Judy Hauser** and **Nancy McGriff** covering the appropriate use of educational technology in schools. The paper

addresses the topics of filtering practices, acceptable use policies (AUPs), apps, social media, bring your own device (BYOD) and other related subjects and can be read via the AASL website at www.ala.org/aasl/educational-technology.



[School Library Month](#), chaired by **Cassandra Barnett**, is a national celebration of the essential role that strong school library programs play in a student's educational career. Each year in April, School librarians are encouraged to create activities and events that involve their school and local community. The 2013 theme was "Communities matter @ your library." Information and resources can be found on the AASL website at www.ala.org/aasl/slm. This year we were honored to have the NBA's all-time leading scorer and New York Times best-selling author, **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, serve as the official spokesperson for the 2013 celebration of School Library Month.



The Advocacy Committee, chaired by **Judi Repman**, presented a series of 20 minute webinars in conjunction with School Library Month. The archives are available for viewing as part of [eCOLLAB](#).

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In addition, AASL sponsored a "**Communities matter @ your library**" **Student Video Contest**. Contestants were urged to let loose their creativity and use humor, drama, music and/or special effects to illustrate how the school library program fosters a sense of community in their school. Three ranked winners were selected based on scores awarded by a panel of judges. The winning entries are:

1st Place

[The Library Community](#)

Town School For Boys
San Francisco, CA

2nd Place

[Town School Community](#)

Town School For Boys
San Francisco, CA

3rd Place

[The Mystery of the Missing Seven Habits](#)

Hallowell Elementary School
Horsham, PA

All contest entries can be seen via AASL's 2013 [School Library Month SchoolTube Channel](#).



[School Libraries Count!](#) is the division's National Longitudinal Survey of School Library Programs which aims to gather data on changes in the field in order to gain understanding of the state of school library programs nationally. While national estimates are developed on the basis of

survey responses from public schools, all K-12 schools, public and private, were invited to participate on a voluntary basis. In addition to annual survey questions, starting in 2008, AASL began adding supplemental questions to address a current issue within the field. In 2012 AASL focused these questions on filtering. Data on this and previous School Libraries Count! Longitudinal studies can be found at www.ala.org/aasl/slcsurvey.

New Committees, Task Forces and SIG's Launched

AASL has created a new **Best Apps for Teaching and Learning** recognition and a Task Force, chaired by **Melissa Jacobs-Israel**, to oversee the process. The task force has identified a list of top 25 apps that AASL will recognize as being the best of the best for curriculum development. The list will be presented as part of AASL's programming at the ALA 2013 Annual Conference.

The **Common Core Implementation Assistance Task Force**, chaired by **Deb Levitov**, has been charged to research and develop recommendations and identify existing AASL resources and link to such resources as well as identify additional resources and activities for AASL members on how to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in their states and local communities including collaborative efforts with other divisions, educational organizations and agencies.

The **Financial future of AASL Special Committee**, chaired by **Blanche Woolls**, will study and report on the long-term financial future of AASL.

We have recently tasked a new work group to **create a crosswalk to align our learning standards with the recently released science standards**.

The **Repurposing and Managing the Brands Task Force**, co-chaired by **Judi Repman and Marlene Woo-Lun**, has been charged to determine what the brands "school librarian" and "L4L" and "@your library" mean to our customer base and stakeholders in current and potential new communities/markets (charter schools, home schoolers, etc.) and what additional strategies are needed to further define and develop the brands as a means to create value for them by differentiating ourselves and our services from competitors.

The **Status of Staffing of School Libraries Task Force**, chaired by **Deborah Jesseman**, is tasked to research, investigate and provide suggestions and recommendations for appropriate action regarding the current status of staffing of school libraries and certification requirements for school librarians (and) to determine whether other staff are assuming school librarian roles/responsibilities and/or if school librarians are assuming additional responsibilities outside their traditional purview.

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The **Toolkit for School Library Programs Revision Task Force**, chaired by **Jami Jones**, is working to revise the @your library Campaign for America's Libraries *Toolkit for School Library Media Programs*.

The AASL Board of Directors approved the **creation of a new special interest group (SIG) for school librarian students. The Students Special Interest Group** will give students working toward a degree in school librarianship an opportunity to network with colleagues in person and virtually. This ties in to a Board action to authorize the President-elect to create a **Presidential Initiative** and President-elect **Gail Dickinson's** is focused on an **induction process for students** entering the field.

In addition, through the organizing efforts of **Irene Kwidzinski**, the **Retirees Special Interest Group** was launched this year and is an active community for those retired, anticipating retirement or who want to advocate for retiree activities in AASL to gather, connect, and continue to be actively engaged in a profession they love and value. **Ann Marie Pipkin** was elected to chair the group.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Carol Gordon**, as well as the Appointments Committee, morphed into the **Leadership Development Committee**, chaired by **Sharon Coatney**, which has a broader charge to "provide recommendations on furthering leadership development of AASL members within the division and within ALA."

Other Committee and Task Force Work in Progress

The **Senior Project/Capstone Project Task Force**, chaired by **Gail March**, has made great strides in completing their task to gather examples of exemplary implementation of student-centered Capstone/Senior Projects which involve librarians as integral to information literacy process.

The **Educator Pre-Service Task Force**, chaired by **David Schuster**, has also made progress toward their charge to develop a toolkit and essential links to assist in training pre-service teachers and administrators about school librarians and school library programs.

Members of the **Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force** (AKA Learning4Life/L4L), chaired by **Karen Gavigan**, held a four session E-Academy for the **L4L state coordinators**, followed by a half-day, face-to-face pre-conference session at Midwinter. The training sessions were: Overview of previous L4L training (Presenter - **Nina Kemp**); Planning Guide for Empowering Learners (Presenter – **Ed Hockersmith**); Lesson Plan Database (Presenter - **Kathy Lowe**); Evaluation workbook (Presenter - **Audrey Church**).

The **Bylaws & Organization Committee**, chaired by **Becky Pasco**, is hard at work to develop a process for regular review of all committees, including examination of their charges and functions in relation to responsibility as well as developing a process for review of all position papers and a three to five year policy review schedule.

A work group, chaired by **Sue Kimmel**, has submitted a draft of a **position paper on Quantitative Standards**.

A work group, chaired by **Dorcas Hand**, has submitted a draft of a **position paper on eBook/Digital Content**.

The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) is merging with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) to form the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). As part of this transition, all member organizations have been asked to make recommendations for the newly forming committees that will do the work of CAEP. AASL created a work group led by NCATE Coordinating Committee Chair, **Mary Berry**, to **locate volunteers willing to have their names put forward to ALA and then to CAEP**.

The AASL Intellectual Freedom Committee, chaired by **Annalisa Keuler**, continued to provide a monthly blog post about issues related to IF and are in the process of updating IF materials for Essential Links. A special ALA Annual 2013 **pre-conference workshop *Beyond Words: How to Recover from a Disaster in Your Library*** is designed to help attendees evaluate their program's current disaster preparedness plan to identify gaps and build solutions to overcome them. Attendees will also hear from the two newly named recipients of the first catastrophic disaster relief grants offered as part of the part of AASL's **Beyond Words Grant**, funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.



Additionally we look forward to announcements at ALA Annual from the **Best Websites for Teaching and Learning** Committee, chaired by **Donna Barrata**, of the top 25 Internet sites that we will recognize as being the best of the best for curriculum development and from the **Association of American University Presses (AAUP) Book Selection** Committee, chaired by **Merlyn Miller**, with their choices of titles for secondary schools.

AASL Representatives

In addition to the specific work of the division, AASL is represented in an official capacity on ALA and other outside committees and Boards. This year the AASL Executive Committee created a process and protocol to ensure regular [online reporting](#) by these representatives in order to improve communication and provide support.

AASL Representatives to ALA by-virtue-of AASL position

Advocacy Coordinating Group - **Judi Repman**; ALA Appointments - **Gail Dickinson**; ALA Conference Coordinating - **Peg Sullivan**; BARC - **Karen R. Lemmons**; Carnegie/NYT I Love My Librarian Award - **Carl Harvey**; Committee on Education - **Jody Howard**; Education Assembly - **Mary Berry**; ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee - **Annalisa Keuler**; Legislation Assembly - **Connie Williams**; Membership Promotion - **Merlyn Miller**.

AASL Representatives to ALA by appointment

ASCLA Accessibility Assembly - **Lesley Farmer**; Cataloging of Children's Materials Committee - **Allison Kaplan**; Digital Content Working Group - **Christopher Harris**; Digital Literacy Task Force - **Frances Harris and Wendy Stephens**; Freedom to Read Foundation - **Ann Martin**; PLA IMLS Digital Literacy - **Katie Bertrand**; Jaffarian Award - **Annalisa Keuler and Nancy Keane**; Literacy Assembly - **Doc Roth**; Professional Ethics - **Jami Jones**; ALA New Member Round Table – **Annemarie Roscello**; Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds - **Barbara Ray**; Web Advisory - **Cathy Jo Nelson**.

AASL Representatives to Outside Organizations

National Adolescent Literacy Coalition (NALC) - **Audrey Church**; National Center for Literacy Education (NCLE) - **Cara Cavin**; ALA Representatives to Outside Organizations Recommended by AASL; International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) - School Libraries and Resource Section - **Gail Bush**; ALA Representative to National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) - **Audrey Church**; United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) - **Wendy Stephens**.

Joint Ventures

AASL/ALSC/YALSA has created two task forces to address mutual area of concern. The first is working via the **School/Public Library Cooperation (Interdivisional) Committee**, chaired by **Julie Bartel (YALSA)**, to address the phenomenon of student loss of academic skills, motivation, and knowledge that happens over the summer. AASL members include **Betty Marcoux, Elizabeth Pollicino Murphy and Ann Marie Pipkin**. The **Interdivisional Task Force on the Common Core**, chaired by **Kathryn Roots Lewis**, is considering how school and public libraries can work together to address the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

We also collaborate with the ACRL via the **AASL/ACRL Interdivisional Committee on Information Literacy** which focuses on how to prepare K-20 students to be information literate and provide a channel of communication to the respective divisions. This group is **co-chaired by Lesley Farmer (AASL) and Scott Mandernack (ACRL)** and includes AASL members **Della Curtis, Mary Keeling and Ken Stewart**.

The **ALA Presidential Task Force on School Libraries**, which I had the honor to co-chair with **Pat Tumulty** (Chair of ALA Committee on Library Advocacy), was comprised of a representative cross-section of ALA divisions and staff. We delivered a proposal to the ALA Executive Committee at Midwinter that provides a comprehensive strategy for a campaign to address current challenges faced by school librarians and school library programs.



Partnerships



The **U.S. Department of Education** declared August **Connected Educator Month** (CEM) and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) signed on as a participating organization. CEM was celebrated with four-plus weeks of online events and activities, including forums, webinars, guided tours, open houses, contests, badges and more. Visit the [Connected Educator Month](#) website for more information.

AASL has joined 30 other stakeholder groups representing educational, school and community leaders in support of the [National Center for Literacy Education \(NCLE\)](#). As a result of this collaboration, AASL members have the opportunity to join two networks focused on working collaboratively to strengthen literacy practices and professional learning.

Through its free [Literacy in Learning Exchange](#), NCLE provides examples of participating schools' innovative literacy education efforts. The website also hosts commentary from experts, research and helpful insights on how those visionary practices can be adapted in other schools. The website provides a clearinghouse for educator teams and schools engaged in innovative literacy education practices to share and learn from one another. As a stakeholder, [AASL maintains a group](#) in the exchange and posts resources for educators.



AASL celebrated the picture book during the month of November as a partner of the second annual **Picture Book Month**. Founded by author and storyteller **Dianne de Las Casas**, Picture Book Month is an international literacy initiative that celebrates the print picture book in an increasingly digital age. More information can be found on the initiative's website at www.picturebookmonth.com.

AASL partnered with the **Carnegie Science Center: Girls Math & Science Partnership** (GMSP) to inspire girls to see themselves in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers through gaming and online activities. More information on the Can*TEEN Career Exploration initiative can be found at www.canteengirl.org/library.



Once again, AASL joined the **Alliance for Excellent Education** and other national educational associations and organizations in celebrating the second annual **Digital Learning Day** on Feb. 6, 2013. Digital Learning Day is a nationwide celebration of teaching and learning through digital media and technology that engages students and provides them with a rich, personalized, education experience. School librarians were encouraged to participate in events and contribute resources through the Digital Learning Day website located at www.digitallearningday.org. Nine lesson plans featured as part of "[Digital Learning: Lessons in Action](#)" were created by school librarians or as part of school librarian and teacher collaboration.

In 2006, **Dollar General**, in collaboration with AASL and the National Education Association (NEA), began sponsoring **Beyond Words**, a school library disaster relief fund for public school libraries in states served by Dollar General. To date, more than more than \$1.2

million dollars in grants have been awarded to more than 130 schools. Grants can be used to replace or supplement books, media and/or library equipment and offset costs by schools who have numbers of new students displaced by disaster. **Don Adcock** serves as the **Chair of the Grant Award Jury**.



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Responsiveness to Affiliates, Members and the Profession



Moving on recommendations made by the **Affiliate Assembly**, chaired by **Pam Renfrow**, AASL **commended 11 programs** based on their support of the school librarian profession. The programs align with AASL's learning standards and program guidelines as well as the principles expressed in AASL mission and value statements:

Kansas Summer Institute: Nominated by the Kansas Association of School Librarians for their work in developing leaders in the school library community.

Oklahoma Teaching with Primary Sources Project: Nominated by the Oklahoma School Librarians for their work in utilizing primary sources to build inquiry-based learning activities.

Southern Kentucky Book Fest: Nominated by the Kentucky School Media Association for their work in fostering a love of reading to the students of Kentucky.

Leap into Reading with Read-it!: Nominated by the Minnesota Educational Media Organization for their work in fostering a love of reading to the students of Minnesota.

TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute: Nominated by the Texas Association of School Librarians for their work in fostering leadership capabilities in school librarians in Texas.

Reading Rocks in Richland One: Nominated by the South Carolina Association of School Librarians for their work in fostering a love of reading to the students of South Carolina.

Radical Readers Pilot Program – Read Across Maryland: Nominated by the Maryland Association of School Librarians for their work in fostering a love of reading to the students of Maryland.

Team Read & Hit - A Homerun Reading Program: Bowie Baysox Minor League Baseball Team; Keys for Reading Program: Frederick Keys Minor League Baseball Team; Hit the Books Reading Program: Delmarva Shorebirds Minor League Baseball Team; and Hagerstown Suns Reading Challenge: Hagerstown Suns Minor League Baseball Team: Nominated by the Maryland Association of School Librarians for their work in fostering a love of reading to the students of Maryland.

The Board also addressed the following **concerns** sent to them by the Affiliate Assembly:

Dewey vs. Genre In response to stated concerns, the Board appointed a **working group**, led by **Hilda Weisberg**, to develop a Midwinter Panel Discussion event and the **Knowledge Quest Advisory Board**, chaired by **Judi Moreillon**, plans to devote an entire issue of KQ to address the topic.

Development of an effective induction process for affiliate assembly delegates – Chair **Pam Renfrow** revised and updated the affiliate handbook which has addressed most areas of this concern. In addition, the board agrees that communications with delegates is very important, but as each affiliate has a different protocol on how delegates are selected, it is difficult to develop standard communications; however, AASL will endeavor to do a better job of keeping delegate information up-to-date.

Creation of a comprehensive school library studies' database - AASL was asked to create a portal to gather and provide access to research related to school libraries. The board was concerned about the scope and cost with limited staff, where a portal would reside and ongoing maintenance. Before the board explores these bigger questions it has asked the **Research Committee**, chaired by **Jody Howard**, to work with the **Educators of School Librarians Section**, chaired by **Michelle Kowalsky**, to come up with a list of scientifically based materials and research and distribute this through *School Library Research Online*.

Visits to Affiliates



As AASL President I attended affiliate conferences in **Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Rhode Island** as well as the conference of the New England Association of Independent School Librarians in **Vermont**. These events were among the high points of the year for me as I was able to connect with so many outstanding school librarians and I am grateful for their hospitality and professionalism.

The **AASL Legislative Committee**, chaired by **Connie Williams**, produced an incredible **infographic** on the value of school libraries. This was designed by a talented student, **Samantha Lamos**, from Petaluma (CA) High School. In a year when we encountered ongoing school library closings, layoffs and reassignments of school librarians the Spring release of the infographic was timely as we worked with the **AASL staff, the ALA Office for Library Advocacy, the ALA Public Information Office and the Washington Office**, to continue to get our message out and increase awareness for the value of school library programs staffed by credentialed school librarians. At **ALA Legislative Day** we were able to focus our message on the key points expressed in the infographic:



- Strong School Libraries Build Strong Students
- School librarians provide the blueprint for teaching students research skills, digital citizenship, safety online, and information communication skills
- School librarians provide the scaffolding for reading success
- School librarians provide 21st century professional development to their teaching colleagues.



The AASL Board added a **non-salaried/unemployed dues category** to membership rates. The category, which includes librarians earning less than \$25,000 per year or not currently employed, allows those eligible to pay a discounted rate of \$25 for division membership. We also encouraged members to **“get involved”** through **participation in short- term projects**.

Milestones

Julie Walker, executive director of AASL, will retire in July after 16 years with the association. It is because of her efforts that we find ourselves well-positioned to face the future. She has had immeasurable influence during her tenure and in particular helped AASL make great strides in developing connections to and undertaking collaborative initiatives with other organizations. In particular, thanks to Julie’s efforts to help us to build a knowledge-based association, we are in a position to have a good sense about the future of our profession, what our members value, want and need and insight into how to use our resources to best accomplish our work.



It is fitting that Julie **received an outstanding achievement award from the Family Online Safety Institute** during its 2012 annual conference in November. Nominated by the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, Julie was recognized for her exceptional work in the field of online safety.

Jean Donham and Carol L. Tilley, co-editors of AASL’s online journal, **School Library Research**, will step down at the end of June, having served since January of 2008. Donham is college librarian and professor at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

Tilley is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. AASL is grateful for their efforts on our behalf in continuing to ensure that SLR remains a highly-ranked and respected scholarly journal.



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Emerging Leaders

AASL sponsored two participants in the ALA 2013 [Emerging Leaders](#) (EL) program. **Kathleen Roberts** of Henrico, VA and **Amy Jo Southworth** of Sayville, NY participated in project planning workgroups; networked with peers; gained an inside look into ALA structure; and had an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers.



Spectrum Scholars

AASL also sponsored the attendance of two ALA [Spectrum Scholars](#), **Judith Guzman-Montes** and **Connie Thompson**, at the AASL 2012 Fall Forum. Guzman-Montes is a student at the University of British Columbia and Thompson is at the University of Washington.

Awards – The AASL Awards Committee was chaired by **Ric Hasenyaeger**.

The **North Carolina School Library Media Association** (NCSLMA) is the recipient of the 2013) [ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant](#), **Ed Hockersmith, Chair**. **Sponsored by ABC-CLIO**, the grant of \$1,750 is given to school library associations that are AASL affiliates for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional or local levels.



The “Make a Difference” project team from Scott Middle School in Lincoln, NE, is the 2013 recipient of the [Collaborative School Library Award](#), **Harriet Lapointe, Chair**. **Sponsored by Highsmith**, the \$2,500 award recognizes and encourages collaboration and partnerships between school librarians and teachers in meeting goals outlined in “*Empowering Learners: Guidelines for*

School Library Programs” through joint planning of a program, unit or event in support of the curriculum and using school library resources. The team consists of **Jean Hellwege**, school librarian, and sixth-grade teachers **Kim Ridder, Debbie Beran and Eric Nelson**.

Scott Bacon, principal of Blue Valley high school in Stilwell, KS, is the recipient of the [Distinguished School Administrators Award](#), **Paul Whitsitt, Chair**. **Sponsored by ProQuest**, the \$2,000 award honors an administrator who has made worthy contributions to the operations of an exemplary school library and to advancing the role of the school library in the educational program. Bacon was nominated by school librarian **Ken Stewart**, who wrote “*During Scott Bacon’s nine-year tenure as principal of Blue Valley High School, he has continually supported and promoted the library program for the value it brings to our students’ academic success and personal growth.*”



School librarians **Joseph Landor and Judy Russell** are the recipients of [the Information Technology Pathfinder Award](#), **Christopher Harris, Chair**. **Sponsored by Follett Software Company**, the \$1,500 award recognizes and honors two school librarians – one elementary and one secondary – for demonstrating vision and leadership through the use of information technology to build lifelong learners.



Rosalind Dennis, director of educational media and instructional materials for the DeKalb County (GA) School District, is the recipient of the [Intellectual Freedom Award](#), **Helen Adams, Chair**. **Sponsored by ProQuest**, this award is given for upholding the principles of intellectual freedom as set forth by AASL and ALA. The recipient is awarded \$2,000, and \$1,000 is awarded to the school library program of their choice.

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Two \$2500 [Research Grant Awards](#) sponsored by **Capstone, Nancy Everhart, Chair**, are given to school librarians, library educators or library information science or education professors to conduct innovative research aimed at measuring and evaluating the impact of school library programs on learning and education. This year's recipients are, "The Principals' Perspectives on the Value of School Librarians in Teaching and Learning Case Study" (Texas Woman's University, **Judi Moreillon**, assistant professor, school of library and information studies, and **Teresa Starrett**, assistant professor, department of teacher education) and "Bark If You R.E.A.D. in School Libraries: Can School Librarians with Therapy Dogs and Reading Support Skills Be an Effective Part of a School's Literacy Intervention Team?" (**Linda Robinson**, coordinator, library/media services, Mansfield CT Public Schools.



Amy Jo Southworth, school librarian at Bay Shore High School in Sayville, NY, is the recipient of the [Frances Henne Award](#). The \$1,250 award, **sponsored by ABC-CLIO**, recognizes a school librarian with five years or less experience who demonstrates leadership qualities with students, teachers and administrators.

Panagiotis Stathopoulos's project, "Found in 'Translation': Reading, Writing, Critical Thinking, and Metaphrasis," is the recipient of the [Innovative Reading Grant](#), **Sabrina Carnesi, Chair. Sponsored by Capstone**, this \$2,500 grant supports planning/implementation of a unique or innovative program for children that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers.



Dr. Keith Curry Lance is the recipient of the [Distinguished Service Award](#), **Vi Harada, Chair. Sponsored by Baker and Taylor**, the award recognizes a member of the library profession who has, over a significant period of time, made an outstanding national contribution to school librarianship and school library development. Lance has devoted his statistical training to America's children by working with libraries and library organizations, primarily those relating to school and public libraries. He was founding director of the Library Research Service of the Colorado State Library. He continued to work as a consultant after retirement, independently and in association with the RSL Research Group. He has worked with library groups as a survey researcher, statistician, data analyst and conference/workshop speaker/facilitator.

The [Crystal Apple Honor](#) is given at the discretion of the AASL president to an individual or group that has had a significant impact on school library programs and students. This year's recipient is the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation**. Since 2006, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has funded the AASL Beyond Words grant program.



[National School Library Media Program of the Year](#), **Kathy Lowe, Chair - Sponsored by Follett Library Resources-** recognizes up to three school library programs that meet the needs of the changing school and library environment and are fully integrated into the school's curriculum. Each recipient receives \$10,000 toward its school library program.

Swan Valley High School, located in Saginaw, MI; **Kay Wejrowski**, school librarian.

New Augusta South Elementary School, part of the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township, Indianapolis, IN; **Lauren Kniola**, school librarian.

Pennsylvania Avenue School, Atlantic City, NJ, **Jennifer Jamison**, school librarian.

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In Memoriam

While no division is immune to loss, AASL is especially aware of the passing of the following members:



Dr. Genevieve "Kay" Bishop, a leader in the school library field whose research inspired and helped many. Her professional and research interests included student learning in the school library, the impact of technology on youth services in school and public libraries, and multicultural issues in children's books. Kay worked on the ground-breaking Library Power Project, funded by The DeWitt Wallace Foundation. She was an associate professor and former Director of the Library Media Specialist program in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo and had also been a faculty member at the University of South Florida, the University of Kentucky, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Murray State University.

eva efron, who at the time of her passing, was Chair of the AASL Supervisor's section and a candidate to represent the section on the AASL Board. eva was a former Chair of AASL's Affiliate Assembly and active on many AASL committees. eva was the school library services supervisor for the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in Westbury, NY. She had also served as president of the NYLA section of school librarians and as a Long Island Library Resources Council trustee.



Margaret "Peg" Hallisey served with distinction as President of the Massachusetts School Library Association and was honored in 2010 with their lifetime achievement award. Her work on coordinating efforts to revise learner and program standards for school libraries helped to improve practice state-wide. She served New England as Regional Director on the AASL Board and is highly regarded for her advocacy efforts. Peg most recently devoted her retirement energies to the New England School Library Association (NESLA) as editor of their newsletter, *NESLA Views*. In 2008, she was a charter inductee to the NESLA Hall of Fame.

Dr. Jackie Mancall, AASL President 1994-95, began her career at Drexel's College of Information Science and Technology in 1976 as a teaching assistant. She joined the faculty in 1979 as assistant professor and rose to professor in 1989 before retiring in 2007. Her research interests included the instructional role of the information specialist; programs and services for children and adolescents; the design of library collections and services based on communication behaviors; and management of information services. Her contribution as a leader in the library field was recognized in 1999, when she received the Distinguished Service Award from AASL.



AASL Leadership 2012-2013

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Back Row: Susi Parks Grissom - Director Region 6 , Valerie Diggs - Director Region 1, Karen L. Egger - Director Region 7, Deborah J. Christensen - Director Region 4, Robbie L. Nickel - Member At-Large, Bonnie Kelley – Supervisors Section, Valerie A. Edwards - Director Region 3, Audrey P. Church, Catherine E. Marriott - Director Region 2, and David A. Sonnen - Director Region 8

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Not Pictured: Louis M. Greco, Jr.- Member At-Large and Sara Kelly Johns – Division Councilor

Affiliate Assembly



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