

**Social Responsibilities Roundtable
Councilor's Report—ALA Midwinter
January 14-19, 2010
Boston, MA**

(when referring to dollars, K = thousand, M = million)

Council sessions at the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston, MA were relatively calm and sedate. Two of the three Council sessions ended early and there was decidedly little debate on all on the few resolutions brought to the floor.

ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session (Sunday, January 17, 2010)

Reports

Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) Report; Jim Neal, Chair (ALA CD #33, #33.1)

Happily, ALA's budget ended FY 2009 in the black. With this good news setting the stage, Council was informed that it was unnecessary to utilize any of the Board reserve funds (\$436K) previously authorized to balance the budget. A one-time, year-end payment of \$200K was distributed to ALA Staff to help offset the furlough reduction earlier in the year.

The first quarter of FY2010 (beginning Sept 1) showed revenue of \$11.1M (\$665,447 more than budget) and expenses \$11.4M (\$1.2M less than budget). In addition, Cash and Investments are at \$18.5M (down \$2.5M from last year) but the Endowment Fund is at \$28.4M (up from \$22.4M, increase of 26.8%). Lower revenue in the areas of publishing, conferences and dues, as well as increases in benefits have resulted in a *projected* budget shortfall of \$1M. Plans to deal with the shortfall include the use of furloughs, reduction of expenses and services, use of reserve and unallocated funds.

Endowment Trustees Report to Council (Long-term investment fund); Dan Bradbury, Chair (ALA 2009-10 CD #16.0)

The long-term investment fund was, overall, a much better picture than six months ago. While, clearly, the economic situation is not optimal, we have witnessed "strong market advances since March 2009;" improving economic conditions worldwide; "inflation still under control;" and the Federal Reserve "continues to maintain an interest-rate-friendly environment." The chair reported that all the portfolio managers reported positive results for the 2009 calendar year. Nearly all fund managers were performing above their benchmarks, with the highest returns coming from Ariel Capital (returns at 63.0%), one of the Socially Responsible Investments. Active management of the fund helped it grow by than \$5.2M, a 23.8% increase, to \$28.7M.

2015 – ALA Strategic Plan, Paul Meyer, Tecker Consultants, Discussion Facilitator (ALA CD #36)

Paul Meyer of Tecker Consultants led Council in a small-group activity to provide feedback on ALA's 2015 Draft Strategic Plan. In spring 2009, ALA members were invited to provide feedback on the draft strategic plan, the results may be found here: http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/missionhistory/plan/2015/survey_analysis.pdf. Currently the draft plan is being distributed to divisions, roundtables and chapters for review. In March 2010, a second draft plan will be distributed to the membership for comment (see ALA | 2015 Strategic Plan, <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/missionhistory/plan/2015/index.cfm>).

The plan will be taken to the Executive Board at its April meeting, then to Council in June for "ultimate review and adoption".

ALA Council I (Sunday, January 17, 2010)

Reports of ALA/Council Committees:

Nominating Committee Report; Nancy Allen, Chair (ALA CD#26-ALA CD#26.1)

The chair outlined the committees work to date and provided a list of candidates for President-Elect, Treasurer and Councilors-at-Large (as of Sept 15, 2009). The report offers an analysis of 81 Council candidates, showing that the slate of 81 candidates is made up of Academic Librarians (47%), Public Librarians (33%), School Librarians (7%), and Other

(11%). The slate is 40% male and 60% Female. The geographic distribution is relatively even, with 20% in the Northeast, 25% in the Southeast, 25% in the Midwest, and 30% in the West. Twenty-one percent of the candidates are *likely* people-of-color.

Candidates for president are Sara Kelly Johns and Molly Raphael. Candidates for Treasurer are Alan Kornblau and Jim Neal. Videos of the Presidential and Treasurer Candidates Forum January 16, 2010 can be found here:

<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/content/ala-presidential-and-treasurer-candidates-forum-presidential-candidates-opening-statements>.

Nominations for the Council Executive Board Election, Roberta Stevens, Committee on Committees, Chair (ALA CD#11)

The Committee nominated four councilors for election to the Executive Board: Kevin Reynolds (TLA Chapter Councilor, SRRT Member), Annemarie Roscello (Councilor-at-Large), Patricia Wand (Councilor-at-Large), and J. Linda Williams (Councilor-at-Large, SRRT Member). Nominations from the Council floor included Ling Hwey Jeng (Councilor-at-Large). Two of the five are to be elected.

President's Report; Camila Alire, ALA President (ALA CD#21)

President Alire reported on two Presidential initiatives, *frontline advocacy initiative* for multi-type libraries, and *advocacy for family literacy initiative*. Frontline advocacy toolkits are available for each type of library at <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/index.cfm> and family literacy projects are being developed with the five ALA ethnic affiliates, and will be rolled-out "soon after Midwinter."

President Alire has also appointed a special committee to review ALA's constitution and bylaws to look for inconsistencies and obsolete language, not to change substance – their work should be completed by ALA Midwinter 2011. Norman Horrocks will serve as Chair, members include Jim Rettig, Nancy Davenport, Kathleen Degyansky, Eli Mina and JoAnne Kempf will serve as a staff liaison.

President-Elect's Report; Roberta Stevens, ALA President-Elect

President-Elect Stevens reported on her work with the Committee on Appointments (COA) and the Committee on Committees (COC). The report included details on the Nominating Committee for 2011 which will be chaired by Robert Newlen and includes members representing AASL, ACRL, ALCTS, ALSC, ASCLA, ALCTS, GLBTRT, LLAMA, PLA, RUSA, SORT, SRRT, YALSA, Emerging Leaders, Spectrum Scholars and two ethnic caucuses. Stevens also reported on her initiatives, which include frontline fundraising and using popular authors as advocates for libraries. Frontline fundraising activities include a fundraising toolkit focus, fundraising speakers at ALA Midwinter 2011, planned giving, and a panel at ALA Annual 2011 to provide top donors perspectives on fundraising and what they are looking for. "Our Authors, Our Libraries" is a program to be developed over the next six months and launched after ALA Annual 2010. The goal is to have approximately 12 prominent authors become advocates for libraries, highlighting the "key role libraries and librarians play in the economic, social and educational fabric of our nation." Another goal is to create a contest for you people to communicate why libraries are needed now more than ever. Titled "Why I Need My Library" - this video contest will be directed at youth with the winners directing where prizes will go.

Executive Director's Report; Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director (ALA CD#23)

The report noted a 2.7% drop in membership; however, according the Fiels, the decrease may be largely attributed to the cleanup of ALA's membership database, including the removal duplicate entries.

The Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) program via the ALA-APA will begin on January 25, 2010 (<http://www.ala-apa.org/lsscp/>). ALA has received a \$750K grant from Dollar General for a two-year continuation and expansion of the *American Dream Starts @ Your Library* program -- which gives one-time \$5,000 awards to public libraries to support literacy services for adult English language learners. Finally, he reported that 49 states (including DC) are participating in

CapWiz, legislative software used by ALA-Washington Office that enables members and library supporters to quickly send messages to legislators and governors.

Review of Executive Board Actions since the 2009 Annual Conference; Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director (ALA CD#15)

Fiels reported on the Executive Board's approval to establish "a task force that will identify strategies and actions for ALA [units] to be more responsive to the young librarians... with a goal of increasing retention rates" (EBD #12.62).

Implementation of the 2009 Annual Conference Council Actions; Keith Michael Fiels, Secretary of Council (ALA CD#9 – ALA CD#9.1)

Noted that audio proceedings of Council sessions will be made available online shortly after the conference. The print "Current Reference File" of ALA policy is available and searchable online, ALA | The ALA Policy Manual, <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/policymanual/index.cfm>. ALA is still in negotiations with the organization with which they will be contracting to provide ethics education.

Reports of Special Committees

Report of the Spectrum Presidential Initiative; Betty Turock and Liz Bishoff

Bishoff and Turock reported on the Presidential Initiative to raise \$1 million in 12 months for the Spectrum Scholarships. Achieving this goal will allow twice as many scholarships to be given, add two new doctoral scholarships, and allow for an endowment component. The initiative focused on raising \$500K from external businesses, and \$500K from librarians. Bishoff added the exciting news that Betty Turock and the Turock family has giving an incredibly generous \$100,000 lead gift to kick off the campaign. **More important than \$ is achieving 100% participation.**

New Business

Resolution Declaring and Promoting 2010 As the Year of Cataloging Research (ALA CD#34, PASSED)

Councilors Diane Dates Casey and Janet Swan Hill, the resolution states:

Resolved that the American Library Association acknowledges the importance of outstanding research in the area of cataloging and metadata and declares 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research; and

The American Library Association promotes 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research throughout the association, among professors of library and information studies and to other library associations.

ALA-APA Council (Sunday, January 17, 2010)

Reports of Officers

ALA-APA Executive Director's Report; Keith Michael Fiels (APACD #4)

Reported that the Library Support Staff Certification program begins on January 25, 2010; program directors are Nancy Bolt and Karen Stage; ALA-APA submitted a second IMLS grant in December to expand the program with 4 objectives: 1) increase the number and diversity of LSSC candidates, 2) increase the number of approved courses and expand the number of competency sets, 3) cooperate with state libraries and Library Technical Assistance Programs (LTA) in community colleges to explore certification reciprocity and other cooperative activities with the LSSC program, and 4) evaluate the impact of LSSC on service in public and academic libraries. There is great hope that the LSSC will help reduce some financial strain within ALA-APA. "The State Library of Louisiana, Lincoln Trail Library System (IL), Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), Highline Community College (WA), and University of Wisconsin-Madison have approved courses thus far." Council was encouraged to help promote the new program far and wide.

Treasurer's Report; Rod Hersberger, ALA-APA Treasurer (APACD #4.1)

It was reported that in FY2009, ALA-APA experienced financial loss, and could not make its interest payment on the loan from ALA, and that an increase from \$250,000 to \$275,000 was made. ALA-APA has only one staff person now, Director Jennifer Grady, whose time commitment to ALA-APA was dropped to 50%.

Reports of ALA-APA Committees

ALA-APA Certified Public Library Administrator (CPLA) Program Certification Review Committee Report; Cal Shepard, Chair (APACD #10)

With the acceptance of two new candidates, the program totals over 125 participants thus far. Of those 125, three have graduated and one is pending. To date, thirty-one course completion forms have been submitted. The next deadline for candidate and provider applications is March 12, 2010. (See <http://www.ala-apa.org/certification/cpla.html> for more information).

ALA-APA Committee on Salaries and Status of Library Workers; Christina Ramirez and Suzanne Sager reporting (APACD #8)

National Library Workers' Day is Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Several programs will be offered at the 2010 Annual Conference including: Union 101 for libraries; Not-so-extreme makeovers; Effective ways to promote mental health in the workplace; Getting back into the game: Advice for laid off, Insecurely employed, and mid-career slump; Negotiation: What else is on the table?; and Professional integrity and library workers: What's the connection?

ALA-APA Salary- and Status-Related Policies; Christina Ramirez and Suzanne Sager reporting (APACD #8.1Rev)

Key element in report that was pointed out to Council refers to ALA Policies 54 Series: Library Personnel Practices 3.d. A Workplace Without Discrimination. *Sexual orientation, gender identity or expression* were added to the policy statement.

ALA Council II (Monday, January 13, 2010)

Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC) Report; Janet Swan Hill, Chair (ALA CD#17)

Several action items were brought forward, including: incorporating items passed at the 2009 Annual Conference and others standardizing language concerning gender identity throughout policy. The chair noted that the Policy Reference File is now online (see: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/policymanual/prf/index.cfm>). The report closed with a note that several non-urgent items, from Annual Conference 2009, are still pending (roll call votes, electronic signatures, and deadline for revision of Council minutes).

Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Report; Kent Oliver, FTRF President (ALA CD#22)

The FTRF President welcomed Barbara Jones as the new Executive Director of the Freedom to Read Foundation. Reports on legal challenges to the USA PATRIOT Act, litigation challenging censorship (*ACLU of Florida v. Miami-Dade School Board*), and cases supporting First Amendment rights (Valerie Plame Wilson case, *US v. Stevens*). Finally, Oliver reported that the FTRF is offering free membership to recent graduates of LIS programs.

ALA Treasurer's Report; Rod Hersberger, ALA Treasurer

Among the information relayed was the caution that ALA needs to give proper attention to staff benefits so they do not consume all the association's revenue in the future. Issues confronting the 2011 budget include "library budgets tend to lag the general economic recovery by 18-24 months, there is only one scheduled national division conference, there is no compensation increase, no budgetary inflation increase and anticipated revenue softness in conference revenue."

Also outlined were broad objectives for the Campaign for America's Libraries, including: "increase awareness, support for libraries by increasing their visibility, and communicating why libraries are both unique and valuable; update the image of libraries, librarians and library staff; bring renewed energy to the promotion of libraries and librarians; and bring library messages to a more diverse audience; develop a branded campaign that represents and is useful to all types of libraries; create tools, resources, materials that could be utilized by all types of libraries; and provide an opportunity to share public relations/marketing/advocacy best practices within the library community." Between 2006-2009 contributions of approximately \$600,000 were received and used to help achieve these objectives.

Additionally, the treasurer outlined the budget and Return On Investment 2006-2009 of the Office for Library Advocacy.

The FY2011 programmatic priorities were outlined in ALA CD#13 (PASSED):

The ALA Council approves the following programmatic priorities in line with the ALA Ahead to 2015 strategic plan and as a guide in the preparation of the FY2011 budget: Diversity; equitable access to information & library services; education and lifelong learning; intellectual freedom; advocacy for libraries and the profession; literacy; and organizational excellence.

Resolution Concerning the Drafted Event Planner (DEFERRED TO COUNCIL III, WITHDRAWN AT COUNCIL III), Larry Romans and Charles Kratz.

Romans moved to defer the resolution to Council III; the motion passed despite much argument/debate about withdrawing it altogether. (Note: there was much discussion at the first Council Forum concerning the wording and views of this resolution. It seemed there was some confusion on what it was asking for. Michael Golrick vigorously supported bringing it forward because it was simply asking for accountability and support.)

Resolution in Support of National Health Care (FAILED), introduced by Tiffani Conner (SRRT councilor) and Mary Biblo:

Resolved that:

1. The American Library Association (ALA) strongly urges the United States Congress to include a public option of "Medicare for All" provision in the current legislation; and
2. The ALA Executive Director charges the ALA Washington Office to vigorously lobby Congress in support of this position.

The resolution failed to pass Council because of a) a similar resolution passed at ALA Annual 2009 that did not direct a specific program, b) the lack of direct library references or library concerns, and c) the impression at the time that "it was too late" and "ALA would look stupid". In addition, some notes about why this would not pass included: "vigorously lobby" means asking for human resources, which involves money; directing the ALA Washington Office: needs to go through COL; lacks "library services".

ALA Council III (Tuesday, January 14, 2010)

Several memorials and tributes started the Council III session. Eleven Memorial resolutions were passed for Ken Davenport, Sallie Farrell, John Charles Fox, Eliza Atkins Gleason, Mary Alice Hunt, John Clifford Mortimer, Effie Lee Morris, James Raymond Przepasniak, Walter Reandeau, J. Michael Rothaker, and Judith Serebnick. Two Tribute resolutions were passed for Jeanne Sugg and Sonia Sotomayer.

Reports of ALA/Council Committees**Report of the Tellers; John DeSantis, chair**

Desantis reported on the results of the Executive Board election. J. Linda Williams and Kevin Reynolds were elected to three year terms on the ALA Executive Board. **Both are members of SRRT!**

Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC) Report; Tom Wilding, Chair (ALA CD#PASSED)

The chair reported on the recent application by the Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc. for ALA affiliation. He moved that Council endorse their application contingent on their including "sexual orientation" in their non-discrimination policy. There was much discussion on this motion. One councilor argued that the committee's duties were to bring forward a recommendation to accept or not, but that was not what they were doing, instead they were bringing forward a "contingency" resolution. There seemed to be much consideration on the part of Councilors as many people spoke to the motion. In the end, the motion for contingent affiliation passed. As of January 25, 2010 AJL's affiliate status has been confirmed based on evidence that they do *not* discriminate based on sexual orientation.

Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Report; Martin Garnar, Chair (ALA CD#19-ALA CD #19.1)

The chair welcomed Barbara Jones, the new Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom. The Traditional Cultural Expressions resolution did not end up coming to the Council floor, although it was mentioned. An exchange of emails documents problems with the document, according to some:

A draft was sent to councilors in November 2009. A new draft that circulated at Boston, January 2010. Pat Wand brought the issue to the first Council forum, but only had a few copies of the resolution and the FAQ. Nothing more came to the second Council Forum. There was much confusion about various drafts, and there was no final draft available. Councilors did not ask questions.

IFC report covered the launch of the new privacy initiative, *Choose Privacy Week*, May 2-8, 2010, materials available at the ALA Store, <http://alastore.ala.org/>; made possible by a seed grant from the Open Society Institute. The *Intellectual Freedom Manual* will be released during the 2010 Annual Conference, with web-based documents to supplement.

Lastly, the chair moved the Resolution in Honor of the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund's Fortieth Anniversary (ALA CD#19 PASSED):

Resolved, that the American Library Association congratulates the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund on its fortieth anniversary, commends the Merritt Fund for its continued dedication to supporting librarians who are experiencing discrimination or fighting for the cause of intellectual freedom, and urges its members to financially support the Merritt Fund.

Committee on Legislation Report; Mario Ascensio, Chair (ALA CD#20-ALA CD#20.4)

The chair reminded everyone of the *Library Advocacy Day* (June 29, 2010) during ALA Annual conference. An invitation was extended to all ALA units to attend the Legislative Assembly meetings at each conference.

Three resolutions were brought before Council for consideration:

Resolution on Transparency and Openness in the Federal Government (ALA CD#20.1 PASSED):

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Commends the President of the United States and the Office of Management and Budget for improving the federal government's policies and capabilities for making government information available to the American public in an open, timely, participatory and transparent manner.
2. Calls upon the Obama Administration to support federal agencies providing services already in place that assist the public in their access and use of government information, including federal agency libraries, the Government Printing Office, the National Technical Information Service, and the General Services Administration's Office of Citizen Services.

Resolution to Support Digital Information Initiatives at the U.S. Government Printing Office (ALA CD#20.2 PASSED):

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Work to ensure that the government fulfills its obligations to create, authenticate, collect, disseminate, and preserve government information.
2. Thank GPO for the work that has been done in FDSys development and urges that GPO demonstrate its capacity to ingest both access and preservation copies of digitally born and digitized historic collections into FDSys.
3. Urges GPO to establish partnerships to conduct demonstration projects for systematic gathering and accessing digitally born content.
4. Urges GPO to establish partnerships to conduct demonstration projects for creating and accessing digitized historic collections.
5. Urges Congress to reaffirm no-fee public access to, dissemination of, and preservation of authentic government information by providing sufficient and sustained funding to the GPO to support Cataloging and Indexing, and the Federal Depository Library Program for systematic gathering of digitally born and digitized historic collections.
6. Urges Congress to provide sufficient and sustained funding to the GPO to support FDSys.

Resolution on Universal Access to Broadband (ALA CD#20.4 PASSED):

Resolved, that the American Library Association urges federal, state and local governments to recognize that universal access to broadband is essential to support the basic right of unfettered access to information in order for the public to participate in the digital world and the global information economy; and be it further

Resolved, that federal, state, and local governments, as well as the public, support libraries as essential providers of broadband access for communities across America.

Resolution to Endorse the Statement “Librarianship and Traditional Cultural Expressions: Nurturing Understanding and Respect” (ALA CD#20.3 WITHDRAWN)**International Relations Committee (IRC) Report; Beverly Lynch, Chair (ALA CD#18-ALA CD#18.1)**

The primary item brought to Council from the International Relations Committee was the

Resolution on Rebuilding Libraries and Archives Damaged or Destroyed by the Earthquake in Haiti (ALA CD#18.1 PASSED):

Resolved, The American Library Association express its deepest sympathy to the National Library and Archives and the library community in Haiti; and

Resolved, That the American Library Association work in coordination with other U.S. Associations, IFLA and its members, and UNESCO on the international response to this disaster, and

Resolved, That ALA publicize and provide information to the international library community and the public on the importance of rebuilding damaged libraries and their collections; and

Resolved, That ALA publicize and provide information on how and where the library community and the public can contribute to these rebuilding efforts, and

Resolved, That ALA urges the U.S. Government and other NGOs to provide funding for the reconstruction and rebuilding of libraries and other cultural institutions in Haiti; and therefore be it

Resolved, That ALA act as a conduit for the receipt of funds to assist in the rebuilding of libraries in Haiti.

Committee on Organization (COO) Report; Jan Sanders, Chair (ALA CD# 27, REFERRED BACK TO TOLD);

The chair brought forth revised guidelines, at the request of the Training, Orientation and Leadership Development Committee (TOLD), for interns on ALA committees. The goal of the new guidelines was to make documents across ALA match one another. Council required more explanation as to the changes and several voices were heard on the floor, including many Councilors who started in New Members Round Table. The new guidelines included language about not having served on *any* committee previously, including ALA Divisions, Affiliates, Roundtables, etc. (raising many issues for councilors with NMRT affiliations), and a change in term length from 2-years to 1-year (calls for changing that back were loud, since several said it took them a year to figure out what was going on). Requests for overall clarification of intern duties were made.

Reports of Special Committees/Groups**Google Book Settlement Task Force; Jim Rettig, Chair**

The chair reported that the task force, assembled by President Camile Alire after the 2009 Annual Conference, held its first face-to-face meeting at Midwinter 2010 in Boston. Their plan is to keep Council informed of potential effects the Google Book Settlement may have on libraries, as well as offer programs at ALA 2010 Annual.

New Business

Resolution Concerning the Drafted Event Planner (ALA CD#37 WITHDRAWN because the ALA Executive Director and Executive Board had outlined steps to be taken to improve and monitor the effectiveness of the planner, including directing the ALA Librarian to develop a standardized coding system for ALA units), Larry Romans and Charles Kratz:

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA) Council urges the ALA Executive Director to present a preliminary report to the Executive Board at its Spring 2010 meeting on how ALA staff have implemented the Event

Planner and related scheduling suggestions, and why the others should not be implemented, and to present a final report on the same topics to Council before the 2010 Annual Conference.

Resolution in Support of the 2010 Spectrum Presidential Initiative (ALA CD#39 PASSED), Ismail Abdullahi and Virginia Moore:

Resolved, that the Council fully supports the 2010 Spectrum Presidential Initiative to raise \$1 million and urges ALA units, affiliates, caucuses, and members to donate or pledge their financial contributions to the campaign at the highest amount possible.

Before adjourning, Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels reported that attendance at the 2010 Midwinter Meeting, as of Monday, January 18, was 11,095, higher than Midwinter 2009 in Denver with 10,220 registered.