

**ALA Councilor's Report-6**  
**Charles Pace**  
**September 7, 2005**

**I had the opportunity to attend the ALA Conference in Chicago from June 24-28 for the first time as a representative of NDLA. The Chicago conference is always well attended and this year was no exception with more than 27,000 in present. There were some logistical problems in the convention center, at some points the crush of people almost became dangerous. The weather was also quite unpleasant as the temperatures hovered in the high 90's to close to 100 degrees. Nevertheless I felt the conference was a success and was pleased to see such a high turnout. Because of the abrupt nature of my appointment as ALA Councilor I did not have time to change my travel plans and I was therefore only able to attend the first general council session.**

**Most of the Council session I attended focused on various reports and financial data from ALA sections and the organization as a whole. Basically, ALA revenues have been flat for the past five years or so and there was considerable discussion of why that was the case and what might be done to boost overall revenues. There was also quite a bit of argument over whether or not we could keep adding programs and speakers year after year if the association revenues are not growing at a commensurate pace. We may have to look at freezing or slightly decreasing the number of programs if these trends continue.**

**I found it to be very interesting to note the way the ALA Council functions and the various aspects of parliamentary procedure. It can all be a little overwhelming for a first time visitor. I was fortunate to be taken under the wing of one of the Executive Board Members, Nann Blaine Hilyard (some of you may remember Nann from her days as Director of the Fargo Public Library). Nann introduced me to a number of the other Councilors and explained some of the workings of this body to me. I am very grateful for her assistance.**

**The Council also passed a number of resolutions on such issues as the war in Iraq, and workplace speech. Rather than recounting each of these actions I would direct you to the ala website at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) the news section will have more detailed information on all council resolutions and actions.**

**I have also received materials for the NDLA meeting in Grand Forks and plan on spending at least a few hours at the ALA table in the conference. If any one would like more information about ALA or any of its affiliates please feel free to drop by and chat or email me at [cpace@cityoffargo.com](mailto:cpace@cityoffargo.com). Thank you to the Executive Board and membership of NDLA for giving me the chance to represent North Dakota on the ALA Council.**