

## North Dakota Chapter Councilor Report to NDLA - #6 July 1, 2007

There are a number of reports from various committees and officers included in this report from the ALA Annual Conference held June 21-27, 2007 in Washington, DC

- **Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC)**

Additional funds have been made available for advocacy. An Office for Library Advocacy has been established with the goal of integrating advocacy and value of the profession with education, public policy, membership and organizational excellence as been established. 16,530,585 is the budget ceiling – that is the largest budget ever. Net assets are 9% higher than last year. Budgets for Divisions and Roundtable budgets are expected to remain flat. This next year is projected to be one of several devoted to technology investments, system support, social networking, etc. Graduated dues study: following the ALA discussions, the taskforce during its work is making sure to not lose money, consider member salaries, attrition rate, predicted economic models and communicate to the membership.
- **ALA Endowment Trustees Report**

Endowment Trustees report to Council. (Long-term Investment Fund)  
Endowment now exceeds \$30,000,000. Goal is to reach \$50 million because they can diversify the portfolio with the goal of increasing opportunities for more scholarships, etc. They are evaluating the investment management company to ensure the most benefit is being obtained from ALA investments. ALA is using SRI portfolio managers Black Rock for a socially responsible portfolio which now contains \$540,000.
- **ALA President's Report, Leslie Burger**

Many positive results came from the projects. I love libraries web site <http://ilovelibraries.org> where libraries can share success stories. It gives a mechanism for advocacy. First class of emerging leaders met at ALA. She is thinking of a library agenda that could structure our communication with community and national/governmental decision makers.
- **ALA President-Elect's Report, Lorie Roy**

Work is progressing on LIS education practice, workplace wellness, circle of literacy, podcasting modules, national library camp, oral history project with retiring libraries.
- **ALA Executive Directors report**

On track to have a new web site to be released this fall. The planning for this is very different than the previous web development. American libraries' focus is another spin-off of what has been a success of AL Direct to be in contact with ALA officers.

Bibliographic Control is being monitored via ALCTS's Forum on Future of Bibliographic Control. Watching results from changing dues – not a large drop so far. Membership in April stood at 65,673 down 896 members.

Two resolutions from Midwinter will be discussed later in the meeting. Resolutions on Immigrants rights and the resolution affirming the role of librarians in e-government were followed up on. Press releases are going out regarding ALA resolutions. ALA has begun to initiate follow-up on implementation of ALA resolution.

Follow-up on resolutions traditionally by ALA has been to authenticate the resolution and any amendments. Transmittal letters are created and sent to appropriate ALA units. Reports are always given 6 months later at ALA but any action is really taken as soon as possible. E.g. it took 2 weeks to send information on ALA's

position on the Iraq War. The Committee on Legislation (COL) has full responsibility for legislation issues. The ALA legislative agenda is usually set in the fall before Congress starts. Still, how do we get informed when things actually happen? There is also the issue of how was the information taken by Congress; was there any press or action? Check the ALA Washington Office website and subscribe to ALAWON for daily updates. It is also Council members' responsibility to contact their legislators but we need to know when the information was sent to them.

- **ALA President - Hot Topics**

Ideas for hot topics: see CD#40.1 for responses to 2 questions: 1) what are some of the obstacles that prevent ALA members from running for a Council seat? 2) What specific suggestions do you have for overcoming these obstacles. Check out [wikis.ala.org/council](http://wikis.ala.org/council)

The document presented will be turned into an online survey.

- **Committee on Membership Meetings**

Letter about shared regional depositories not be distributed outside the association wherein ALA was asking about GPO's decision w/o permission of their oversight committee. It has to be exempted by the joint committee on printing. The letter supports an exemption to law. It was decided no to make the letter publicly available.

- **Committee on Membership Meetings**

It had 235 at one and 149 at the second with good discussion. They tried adding a forum at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with good participation. They proposed change to 7.4.10 Membership Meetings of the Policy Manual. Agendas of Membership Meetings shall provide priority to discussion of membership resolution for the second part of the meeting. Comment: there should not be any programmatic focus to the membership meeting. The idea of membership meetings to only propose resolutions is limiting. Membership meetings should be for membership. (A member was not allowed to comment on this discussion) voted in favor 77 to 60.

- **ALA Treasurer's report**

ALA will be creating a "MyALA" website and implement a social networking website. A significant amount of money will be allocated to technological development. ALA needs to find a way to increase revenue streams. (See handout)

- **Freedom to Read Foundation Report**

Report mentioned decisions against Alaskan student's free speech on grounds that the event was school sponsored and his sign was contrary to school policy. See report for more discussions.

- **Committee on Committees**

Election results: Eagen, LeLoup, Emore, and Schlacter; and Dolamore and Barnett; Boosinger, Griffith, Lowe were elected.

- **Committee on Organization**

They voted to include divisional affiliates in addition to chapter representatives on the Chapter Relations Committee. The Committee recommended several items be studied that would promote e-participation and that ALA use more electronic tools.

- **International Relations Committee**

450 people from 67 countries attended this conference. The Committee voted to support the Principles on Digital Content.

- **Intellectual Freedom Committee**

Fostering media diversity in libraries and other issues such as privacy are discussed in the report. The Committee presented a resolution condemning use of national security (NSL) letters which are used to obtain library records.

- **Policy Monitoring Committee**

Policy Manual addition proposed to support Immigrant Rights protecting each person's civil liberties including the ability to use library resources, programs, and services on national, state, and local levels. Another issue presented for the policy manual addresses the role of libraries in providing e-government and emergency services – acknowledge and support the essential role local libraries play in providing these services and to include libraries in relevant legislative or other policy actions.

- **Resolution on the Boy Scouts of America**

Language on the web page has been changed already and this resolution is no longer needed.

- **Resolution on Accessible Digitization Projects (38.1 R2)**

The resolution asks that ALA encourages all libraries engaging in digitization projects to adopt Section 508 regulations to ensure that they are creating versions of materials that are accessible to person using screen-reader or other assistive technologies.

- **Resolution on Representation.**

The resolution asks that people who don't get selected when they have volunteered or when they were not elected should be notified. Also is a concern that committee structure be representative of the organization (broad)

Attendees at this conference: 21,466 attendees and 7169 vendors = 28,635

## **ALA-APA**

- **Presidents report**

Library salary database is available for a fee for \$30 for a one-month subscription. It includes 6 librarian positions and 62 non-MLS position salaries. There are online certification courses. IMLS grants < [http://www.ims.gov/news/2007/061907\\_list.shtm](http://www.ims.gov/news/2007/061907_list.shtm) > were received with one for the support staff certification programs. The grant will help to establish certification standards. APA provides certification training and provides reports, analysis, consulting services, and an online newsletter. There are 2 listservs: Money talks, and APA Union. Revenues: as of end of April 57% increase coming from sales of the salary survey and Library Worklife. Currently APA has a deficit, but hope sales of the salary survey will compensate. ALA-APA supported Employee Free Choice Act with a resolution. How does that move to ALA for support? It would move the ALA's legislative committee to put on the agenda of other legislative items.

- **Other reports**

- Financial report was given. It was pointed out that strengths of APA are that it is broadly supported, it has an affiliation with a strong organization (ALA) and is a professional organization. The weakness are low awareness, people don't know what it is, and unstable voluntary contributions. There is a need to continue marketing the salary survey and certification programs. Our profession is worth advocacy for and providing continued education for and that is the role of APA. Donations are deductible using a 2106 tax form. APA committees don't conflict with a member's committee assignment limit. APA is supposed to be able to lobby but where is the funding coming from? A fee is paid from APA to ALA to separate it legally, but ALA does the lobbying on its behalf.
- Employee Free Choice Act has passed the house. Non-binding salary increase requests by employees have already been used successfully.
- Revision of the charge for ALA-APA Committee on Organization (COO) was proposed. Failed. Proposal to submit to ALA-APA Council and update of activities within each month after each Midwinter or Annual meeting.

- ALA-APA certified public library administrator program (CPLA) certification review committee. No comments.
- ALA-APA Committee on Salaries and Status of Library Workers. Fair Pay Act allows you to take action 180 days after receiving a discriminatory pay check. Proposal is to make it 6 months.

## **ALA Membership meetings**

- **Forum & Meeting II**

Theme for future plans: ALA Ahead to 2010

ALA is working in areas of education – accreditation of programs and paraprofessional certification. It has focused on digitization standards for users, support of EPA libraries, and membership by trying to be a more nimble organization and improve the Web interface for better communication.

Ilovelibraries.org has an advocacy section to inform on issues before Congress or issues we need to address, or where you sign up to work on issues. There is a public awareness committee working on the web page.

Issues brought up at the meeting:

- It is hard to find professional jobs at entry levels and the job attrition rate of people under 45 years of age is 47%. We are not keeping librarians; a considerable percent of us will retire by 2020.
- ALA conference housing problems
- NLS funding issues for supporting appropriations for talking books in a new format. LC did push for it but it is a \$17 million piece of a \$650 million budget
- Request to change focus programming on weekend and spread to Monday (or Fri.) and make sure rooms are large enough. Why can't presentations be made more available?
- I asked that ALA regularize use of a WIKI where program chairs would post Word, PowerPoint or other simple documents that all members would know as the place to find conference presentations.

## **Library Day on the Hill**

- 2000 librarians including myself visited the offices of our congressmen. ALA had prepared a list of issues we would want support for. I went with another librarian and found the offices quiet and pleasant. When we went to visit the offices of the North Dakota delegation, each office was very busy with many very important people waiting to talk with them. I was able to see Dorgan conducting a hearing on water and energy.

In conjunction with ALA Annual Conference in Washington, on Tuesday U.S. Senators Jack Reed (D-R.I., left) and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz., right) introduced the bipartisan Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act. The legislation reauthorizes and strengthens the Improving Literacy through School Libraries portion of the No Child Left Behind Act and will ensure that more schools have qualified library media specialists and the resources they need to help students find the right information.