

ALA Councilor Report – 6  
Annual Report – Sept. 2008  
By Shelby E. Harken  
ALA North Dakota Chapter Councilor

I attended most Council-related meetings at ALA Midwinter, except for a few where I have conflicts with pre-existing ALA committee appointments. A full report was given in March 2008. There was a great deal of discussion about using electronic means, listservs in particular, for membership activities. The Task Force on Electronic Member Participation was established which has a report due at next Midwinter. Accreditation standards were discussed at length. Following the meeting, some issues that received extra attention were:

- Opposition to the closing of the Sandia National Laboratory's physical library and the dispersal of its print collection. This followed on the proposed closing of EPA libraries which was generally reversed from librarian pressure.
- Support of FISA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] Amendments: "How to Protect Americans' Security and Privacy and Preserve the Rule of Law and Government Accountability" on October 31, 2007. ... The Libraries seek language in FISA modernization proposals that ensures judicial review of law enforcement requests for library patron records or surveillance of library users through library networks.
- Supported a request that \$171,500,000 be included for the Grants to State Library Agencies program within the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

In June I attended the ALA Annual Conference. A number of reports are presented and discussed at the meetings. The Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) reported the impact of the economy was affecting ALA income. There was a great deal of discussion about using electronic means, listservs in particular, for membership activities. Discussion continued about electronic member participation particularly in light of increasing travel costs to ALA meetings. Library Education Task Force presented core competences in relation to library education programs and accreditation standards.

ALA Council votes on a number of resolutions and actions during the annual meeting. Following the meeting, those items that indicate actions such as "urge Congress" are followed up with letters from ALA to appropriate offices.

Examples:

- Resolution on improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information.
- Resolution that ALA adopt the definitions of digital preservation and the revised Preservation Policy for use on the web, verbally, in written policy statements and other documents
- Resolution that the American Library Association (ALA), through its Washington Office, advocate and petition for increased federal funding to support the work of bibliographic control at the Library Congress
- Resolution supporting the employment non-discrimination act (EDNA)
- Resolution in support of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).
- Resolution on the E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007 to ensure availability of public on-line federal government information services
- Resolution in support of preservation and access to the audio heritage of the United States.

ALA has sent a number of letters to Congress.

Examples:

- A statement demonstrating ALA's strong support for S. 2977, the "Free Speech Protection Act of 2008."
- S. 3325, the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights Act of 2008 Section 101 of the bill allows the Attorney General to bring a civil suit against alleged copyright infringers in lieu of a criminal action. ALA's position is that granting the Attorney General this authority is unwarranted.

I forwarded a message to NDLA seeking input for an initiative of the new ALA President, Jim Rettig - looking at how we can better work together to advocate for all libraries-saving the library ecosystem. I forwarded comments received to the Chair.

I will soon be given a login and password to logon on to a Capwiz page for our chapter. It is intended to allow us to be more active in advocacy for library-related issues. One way to help raise awareness is through library advocacy on the [ILoveLibraries Take Action](#) page, powered by Capwiz\*, where library advocates can take action on federal and state issues.

**\*Capwiz-XC**, our award-winning online advocacy system, offers five ways to deliver your supporters' advocacy messages to state and federal elected officials, media contacts, and other recipients that you specify. Choose from e-mail, fax, telephone, postal mail, and/or personal delivery to the Capitol Hill postal center.

#### ALA Council – 2008 Annual - Anaheim

If there are any reports an NDLA member would like to see, contact Shelby E. Harken, North Dakota Chapter Councilor [Shelby\\_harken@und.nodak.edu](mailto:Shelby_harken@und.nodak.edu)

#### ALA Council / Executive Board / Membership information session

##### Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) – CD33.1

- YALSA is going to be able to set up their own endowment and become self-supporting. ALA is still supporting ASCLA and ALTA. ALTA is partnering with FOLUSA and will become ALTAFF.
- ALA revenue target is within 1% of its target.
- Guide to reference sources (a publishing income source) will not be out until 2009
- The Midwinter conference in Philadelphia netted \$400,000
- We will be talking about reducing expenditures after this conference.
- Looked at the BASH – there had been a budget of \$40,000 for a reception and it has been rolled into the BASH.
- Question about Midwinter – it does not occur as a revenue source, but as a part of education, meeting, networking. However we do need to extend the reach of conference events with new technologies. As long as attendance continues (has actually been increasing), it will continue.

##### ALA Endowment Trustees Report CD16.1

Trustees are to ensure stability of investments and provide good returns. Recently they have invested in new types of investments which are part of the endowment. The portfolio has been only down 9.4% at \$30,554,415 and managed to stay away from some of the devastating losses of the last year. Heitman and Black Rock have been good. Merrill Lynch prepared a strategic study for forward-looking capital market assumptions to enhance the probability of achieving good returns.

Library Education Task Force CD46 and CD46.1

The Task Force determined core competencies – knowledge that every graduate of an ALA accredited Library Instruction Program should know. Additional competencies are certainly expected as appropriate. It is not intended to dictate how LIS programs should accomplish it. In October, the Executive Board will look at results of comments and will report at Denver. They have received some comments and have addressed those issues. One was regarding differently-abled and assistive technology issues. Another issue was that it appear adult-focused so wording was changed to target services to everybody. “Competences” is the correct word, not competencies.

ALA President’s report CD21.1

ALA President-elect’s report CD29.1

Follow-up on data on who volunteered to serve on committees was expected at this meeting. Is the data in the report what we wanted?

#### ALA-APA Information Session

President’s report to ALA APACD 9.1

Workplace wellness is moving to APA – <http://www.ala-apa.org/wellness>

Certification via APA has 9 graduates and over 50 students.

President-elect’s report APACD 9.1

Treasurer’s report APACD 4.2

(will also be discussed in Council II)

Revenue sources are softer and targets aren’t being met this year. They will be off about \$11,000 out of a \$300,000 budget.

#### Council I

Minutes CD 2.1

Reports of ALA Council Committees:

Nominations for the 2008-2009 Council Committee on Committees election  
Committee on Committees CD 12

Nomination for the 2008-2009 Planning and Budget Assembly Election  
Committee on Committees CD12.1

Council Resolutions Committee Report CD 6.2 – CD 6.3

Revised document distributed to revise the method of handling resolutions and getting that into the handbook. Significant changes: many resolutions come from newcomers so it needs to be clearer. Steps were more clearly delineated. Resolves are much shortened and numbered. There will be a form that will be part of the guidelines. (7.4.10 will address membership at Denver which includes the reading of memorials so removing it from the new document doesn’t matter) The form will not be in the policy manual but will be part of the handout for submitters. The Committee will consider an electronic form.

Reports of Officers:

ALA Executive Director’s report - Keith Michael Fiels CD23.1

Guide to Reference will be an online product.

There is a Conference Wiki where presenters can submit materials, videos, reports

Preview of the new ALA website is available. <http://www.ala.org/preview>

They are working on ALA-Connect using open-source software

A Google search appliance will be used on the web site.

Review of Board Actions CD 15.3

The Board has approved additional socially responsible companies. The Board approved an additional ALA staff position. Accessibility to services will be continually reviewed.

Implementation of the 2008 MW Council actions CD 9.1

Treasurer's report CD 13.3

ALA must continually develop new sources of revenue. 2009 is the last year of the dues increase. ALA needs \$600,000 to \$750,000 in new revenue each year to just stay even. Much comes from conferences and dues; publishing generates revenue but not a lot. The economic slowdown may affect state budgets hence travel to ALA, purchases of ALA products plus rates of return on investments will likely be lower. There is a graying of the profession and a challenge of retention and growth. There are 5 pillars to the financial plan [see report]

ALA-APA meeting

Passed the living wage APACD 11 (distributed as 8.2)

Financial: revenue projections \$250,000 and expense projections \$215,313

Certification program: 2007 conference had 76 candidates, this year 106.

ALA Membership meeting

Memorials read

Tributes read

Task Force on Electronic Member Participation:

- Desire to increase opportunities
- Desire to increase ability to derive member benefits
- Desire to enable participation for those for whom travel is difficult

Three basic purposes:

- Participation in non-governance activities
- Participation in governance activities
- Participation in "communities of interest"

Range of participation – virtual to actual online voting

The greatest impediment is to participation in governance. Rules are an impediment as is the income ALA depends upon from conference registration. It is therefore likely a fee would have to be paid to virtually attend.

Steven Bell spoke about the many online tools (e.g. illuminate and adobe connect) he has used for online meetings and presentations. [Stevenbell.info](mailto:Stevenbell.info)

ACRL has a completely virtual meeting. It uses by-invitation only email.

Audience: worry over software controlling the form of discussion; some people are electronically challenged; threat from vendors to not come if we go too virtual or too green.; ALA already uses

[www.opal.org](http://www.opal.org); one idea is that virtual meetings might allow more time to attend programs or exhibits.

## ALA COUNCIL II

Policy monitoring CD 17.1

E-member participation 35.1

Corporate membership 10

Voted to support the change. ALA Council approves the proposal to restructure corporate membership by establishing two levels of corporate membership dues, \$500 and \$2,000, to take effect on September 1, 2008

Treasurer 13.3

Budgetary ceiling \$67,984.278.

Freedom to Read report 22.1

Resolutions:

CD#53

Resolution on improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information.

Substitute with 53 rev and refer to COL for further study

CD#55

Resolution adopting the definitions of digital preservation and the revised preservation policy  
Resolved that the American Library Association adopt the definitions of digital preservation and the revised Preservation Policy for use on the web, verbally, in written policy statements, and other documents.

CD#56

Library of Congress support

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), through its Washington Office, advocate and petition for increased federal funding to support the work of bibliographic control at the Library of Congress by filling and expanding the number of bibliographic access positions, and be it further

Resolved, that the Library of Congress devote more resources to the training of professional bibliographic access librarians employed at the Library of Congress and by America's libraries, and be it further

Resolved, that the American Library Association through its ALA Washington Office communicate this message in discussions with members of Congress and others.

Moved to committee on legislation – why? Because the wash ala office pursues issues on funding

Resolution supporting the employment non-discrimination act (EDNA) passed.

Resolution opposing sweatshop labor used for any products ALA purchases.

The ALA and its divisions, round tables, and other various units should purchase all products for distribution to membership from sweatshop free producers; and this resolution and information about how to comply with it be communicated to all ALA division, round tables, all other units, and all staff

## COUNCIL III

Votes:

Council Committee on Committees

Gladys Smiley Bell, Thomas L. Wilding, Pamela J. Hickson-Stevenson, Frances R.

Roscello.

Planning and Budget Assembly

At-large: Barbara R. Miller, Charles Leslie Pace, Elaine M. Harger

Chapter: Cynthia Czesak, Karen Gonzales, Pamela K. Klipsch

Constitution and By-laws 25.1

Resolved that the ALA accept the Association for **Rural and Small Libraries** (ARSL) [libraries population serving less than 25,000] as an affiliate under article X of the ALA Constitution

Resolved, that the ALA accept the Association of **Bookmobile** and Outreach Services (ABOS) as an affiliate under article X of the ALA Constitution

Intellectual Freedom 19.7

A number of updated interpretations to the Library Bill of Rights:

- Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation
- Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program
- Diversity in Collection Development
- Evaluating Library Collections
- Expurgation of Library Materials

International Relations 18.3

Revised wording related to the confiscation of Iraqi documents now held by the Hoover Institution, requesting they be returned to Iraq.

Committee on Organization 27.1

[just a report]

Committee on Legislation 20.10

Resolution in support of the National Agricultural Library (NAL). It is requesting support funding for NAL (including the 5 national libraries: National Library of Education, Dept. of Transportation Library, Library of Congress, National Agricultural Library, National Library of Medicine)

Resolution on the E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007

It is [among other things] requesting Director of OMB provide guidance and best practices to ensure availability of public on-line federal government information services, requesting authorization of funding to support the role of libraries in the delivery of e-government services

Resolution in support of preservation and access to the audio heritage of the United States.

Resolved that the ALA urges members of the U.S. Congress to charge the U.S. Copyright Office to conduct a study on the desirability of bringing sound records before Feb. 15, 1972 under federal jurisdiction.

The idea is to determine if sound recordings before that date, can be free of copyright restrictions due to the "fragile" nature of the storage medium and possible loss of information.

Resolution – Definitions of Digital Preservation CD#55

Resolved that ALA adopt the definitions of digital preservation and the revised Preservation Policy for use on the web, verbally, in written policy statements and other documents

[Terminology is attached to the resolution]

Resolution – Expanding Council Transparency CD#59

Resolved, that Council instructs the ALA Exec Director to:

1. explore methods of making Council proceedings transparent to the ALA membership
2. report back to ALA Council at Midwinter, 2009
3. request member input, to gauge interest and to help guide future efforts in making the business of the Association more visible to the membership

Current technology for in-house meeting is \$25,000/day

#### Announcements

Attendance: Registrants 15,436 exhibitors 5627 = 21,063 (last year 26800 and 16000 in New Orleans) reported at Council II. At Council III, attendance was 22,047.

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The 2008 Annual Conference Council actions, agendas, and documents are now posted on ALA Council web page. If there are questions, please contact me.

#### Actions

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceoffice/council/councilactions/councilactions.cfm>

#### Agendas

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceoffice/council/councilagendas/councilagendas.cfm>

#### Documents

[http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceoffice/council/councildocuments/Document\\_Inventory\\_MW\\_2008.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceoffice/council/councildocuments/Document_Inventory_MW_2008.cfm)

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ALA has sent a number of letters to Congress.

An example:

The attached statement from seventeen different organizations demonstrates our strong support for S. 2977, the "Free Speech Protection Act of 2008." Our organizations have been closely following the issue of "libel tourism." We concur with the findings in S. 2977 that outline how foreign courts are attempting to strip First Amendment rights of American authors, publishers, academics and others who publish, and utter ideas, opinion, research and criticisms.

S. 2977 is an important piece of legislation that offers appropriate United States legal venues for victims of such foreign litigation. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to assure passage of the "Free Speech Protection Act of 2008." It is important that we defend our First Amendment freedoms from these threats.

Another:

S. 3325, the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights Act of 2008 Section 101 of the bill allows the Attorney General to bring a civil suit against alleged copyright infringers in lieu of a criminal action. Granting the Attorney General this authority is unwarranted. The Attorney General currently possesses the power to bring criminal actions against the worst infringers, while civil remedies are already fully and freely available to copyright holders.

Section 101 would be an enormous gift of federal resources to large copyright owners with no demonstration that the copyright owners are having difficulties enforcing their own rights. For example, the recording industry has threatened or filed over 30,000 lawsuits against individual consumers. Movie and television producers, software publishers, music publishers, and print publishers all have their own enforcement programs. There is absolutely no reason for the federal government to assume this private enforcement role.