

ALA Councilor Report – 6
Annual Report – Sept. 2007
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. Following the meeting, issues that received extra attention were the closure of the Iraq National Library and Archive after numerous sniper attacks and the closing of EPA libraries. I brought this issue to the attention of NDLA and Marilyn Johnson sent a letter to our congressional delegation. ALA began work towards improving the ALA website.

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 additional funds will be available for advocacy. The taskforce is making sure to not lose money, consider member salaries, attrition rate, predicted economic models and communicate to the membership. The ALA 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. The "I love libraries" web site <http://ilovelibraries.org> where libraries can share success stories. It gives a mechanism for advocacy. The first class of emerging leaders met at ALA. The ALA Executive Directors explained that 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. A number of other committee reports were summarized in my July report.

Library Day on the Hill brought 2000 librarians including myself to visit 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. Subsequently I received a letter from Congressman Byron Dorgan outlining the issues he believed he had already supported and those he would continue to work for.

Chapters were asked to affirm their support for the ALA resolution against the use of National Security Letters. This will be brought to NDLA meetings for consideration.

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Resolutions and Actions from the ALA Annual Conference:

ALA Council I
Sunday, June 24, 2007
10:45am-12:15pm

**Washington Convention Center, Ballroom A
Washington, DC**

ADOPTED, ALA CD#2.1, 2007 ALA Midwinter Council Minutes.

APPROVED, The following slate of candidates for the 2007-2008 Council Committee on Committees Election: Elizabeth (Beth) E. Bingham; Ana-Elba Pavon; Kathy Ann East; Toni A. Bernardi; Andrea M. Morrison; Virginia (Ginny) B. Moore; Pamela C. Sieving; and Gail A. Schlachter. (ALA CD#12.1, 2006-2007 ALA Council Committee on Committees Report on the Nominations for the 2007-2008 ALA Council Committee on Committees Election)

APPROVED, The following slate of candidates for the 2007-2008 Planning and Budget Assembly Election: *Councilors-at-Large*: Shixing Wen; Cassandra G. Barnett; Heidi W. Dolamore; and Rosie L. Albritton. *Chapter Councilors*: Jackie Yvonne Griffin; Carol A. Rudisell; James (Jay) Johnston; Marcia L. Boosinger; Joy L. Lowe; and Joyce Baumbach. (ALA CD#12.2, 2006-2007 ALA Council Committee on Committees Report on the Nominations for the 2007-2008 ALA Planning and Budget Assembly Election)

**ALA Council II
Tuesday, June 26, 2007, 9:15am-12:45pm
Washington Convention Center, Ballroom A
Washington, DC**

ADOPTED, Resolution on the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) FY 2008 Funding, ALA CD#20.5, which read: "That the American Library Association urges Congress to restore full funding for NDIIPP to complete its activities."

ADOPTED, Resolution on Government Printing Office Fiscal 2008 Appropriations, ALA CD#20.6, which read: "That the American Library Association (ALA) urges Congress to reaffirm its commitment to vital Government Printing Office (GPO) and Federal Depository Library Program services and collections and to sustain critical functions associated with print and electronic government information, such as GPO Access and Future Digital System (FDSys); and that the American Library Association urges Congress to fund fully the United States Government Printing Office appropriation for FY2008 at the \$182 million request by the Public Printer."

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED, Resolution on Funding for the National Library Service, ALA CD#44, which read: "That the American Library Association call upon Congress to fund the \$19.1 million needed for the first year of the National Library Service's multi-year digitization project to convert to up-to-date digital technology, thereby preserving Talking Books services to people with visual or physical disability."

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED, Resolution on No Child Left Behind, ALA CD#20.8, which read: "That the American Library Association (ALA) urges the passage of the SKILLS Act with provisions to be included in any reauthorization of 'No Child Left Behind' (NCLB). The provisions are: (1) to include school library media specialists who meet the criteria established by the state educational agency as highly qualified in NCLB; (2) to require school districts, to the extent feasible, to ensure that every school within the district employs at least one highly qualified school library media specialist; and (3) to allow state and local professional development funds (Title II) to be used to assist in recruiting and training highly qualified school library media specialists; and that the American Library Association communicates this resolution to the United States Congress, and the President of the United States."

ADOPTED, Resolution on *Principles for Digital Content*, ALA CD# 20.9, which read: "That the American Library Associations adopts this declaration, *Principles for Digital Content*."

ADOPTED, Resolution of Appreciation for Frederick Weingarten, ALA CD#20.10, which read: "That the American Library Association congratulates Rick on his retirement as director of the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy; that the Association is delighted to continue working with Rick as he consults with OITP on ongoing research projects; and that the ALA membership extends its sincere appreciation for Rick's tireless efforts on behalf of the Association and library users around the world and wishes him continued success."

ADOPTED, Resolution of Appreciation for Miriam Nisbet, ALA CD#20.11, which read: "That the membership of the American Library Association wishes Miriam Nisbet the best of luck in her new position as Director of the Information Society Division at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); that the American Library Association (ALA) looks forward to continued collaboration with Miriam Nisbet at UNESCO; and that the ALA membership extends its sincere appreciation for Miriam Nisbet's tireless effort on behalf of the Association as Legislative Counsel for the ALA Office Government Relations."

VOTED, That ALA Policy 7.4.10 (Membership Meetings) of the *Policy Manual* be amended as follows: "...Agendas of membership meetings shall provide priority to discussion of membership resolutions during the second part of the meeting..." (ALA CD#37.1, Committee on Membership Meetings)

APPROVED, The FY2008 Total ALA Budgetary Ceiling of \$60,530,585 (ALA CD#13.3, ALA Treasurer's Report)

ALA Council III
Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 8:00am-12:30pm
Washington Convention Center, Ballroom A
Washington, DC

ADOPTED, The following memorials: Frank Iacono, M-#3; Barbara Gittings, M#4; Kurt Vonnegut, M-#5; and Ridley R. Kessler, M-#6.

ADOPTED, The following tributes: ALCTS 50th Anniversary, T-#9; Sandra Williams Hughes, T-#10; George Eberhart, T-#11; LAMA 50th Anniversary, T-#12; NMRT 75th Anniversary, T-#13; and YALSA 50th Anniversary (no document).

ELECTED, To the 2007-2008 Council Committee on Committees: Virginia (Ginny) B. Moore; Gail A. Schlachter; Dennis J. LeLoup; and Joseph M. Eagan. ALA President-Elect James R. Rettig will chair the committee. (ALA CD#12.3, Council Tellers Report).

ELECTED, To the 2007-2008 Planning and Budget Assembly. *Chapter Representatives*: Jackie Yvonne Griffin; Marcia L. Boosinger; and Joy L. Lowe.

ELECTED, To the 2007-2008 Planning and Budget Assembly. *Councilors-at-Large*: Heidi W. Dolamore and Cassandra G. Barnett.

VOTED, That the Catholic Library Association be an ALA affiliate. (ALA CD#25.1, Item #1, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report on ALA Affiliation Status for the Catholic Library Association).

VOTED, To delete the last sentence in Bylaws Article III. Nominations and Elections, Section 1(c), which reads: "~~The position of candidates on the ballot shall be determined by lot,~~" and create a new subsection, Bylaws Article III, Section 3 (d) to read: "The position of candidates on the ballot shall be randomized." This has the effect of applying the randomizing to all candidates' names, not just councilors. (ALA CD#25.1, Item #3, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report on Position of Names on ALA Ballot).

VOTED, To delete the listings of standing committees in Bylaws Article VIII. Committees, Section 2(a) iii and Article VIII, Section 2(b) iii. The revised Bylaws will read as follows:

Bylaws Article VIII. Committees, Section 2(a) iii: "The standing committees shall include administration, general and advisory committees."

Bylaws Article VIII, Section 2(b) iii: "There shall be such other committees as Council may establish."

(ALA CD#25.1, Item #4, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report on Committee Listings in ALA Bylaws).

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED, Resolution on the Use and abuse of National Security Letters ALA, CD#19.3, as amended to read: "That the American Library Association condemns the use of National Security Letters to obtain library records; that the American Library Association urges Congress to pursue legislative reforms in order to provide adequate protection for each library user's constitutional right to be free from unwarranted and unjustified government surveillance, including judicial oversight of National Security Letters (NSLs) requiring a showing of individualized suspicion and demonstrating a factual connection between the individual whose records are sought by the FBI and an actual investigation; elimination of the automatic and permanent imposition of a nondisclosure or "gag" order whenever an NSL is served on an individual or institution; allowing recipients of NSLs to receive meaningful judicial review of a challenge to their NSL without deferring to the government's claims; increased oversight by Congress and the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Justice over NSLs and FBI activities that implicate the First Amendment; and providing for the management, handling, dissemination and destruction of personally identifiable information obtained through NSLs; that the ALA communicates this resolution to the Office of the President and Vice-President, Congress, ALA members, and state chapters; and that ALA urges its members, state chapters, and all library advocates to ask Congress to restore civil liberties and correct the abuse and misuse of National Security Letters."

VOTED, To adopt the following two (2) action items contained in ALA CD#17.1, Policy Monitoring Committee Report:

Item 1. Based on CD #20.2 (Midwinter Meeting, 2007), submitted by the Committee on Legislation, approved by the consent of Council, the PMC recommends that this policy be added to the *Policy Manual* as:

52.4.5 Support of Immigrant Rights. ALA strongly supports the protection of each person's civil liberties, regardless of that individual's nationality, residency, or status; opposes any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the USA or its territories, citizens or otherwise, to use library resources, programs, and services on national, state, and local levels.

See "Current Reference File": ALA CD#20.2, Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights.

Item 2. Based on CD #20.3 (Midwinter Meeting, 2007), submitted by the Committee on Legislation, approved by the consent of Council, the PMC recommends that this policy be added to the *Policy Manual* as:

50.16 The Role of Libraries in Providing E-Government and Emergency Services. The American Library Association urges governments at all levels to acknowledge and support the essential role local libraries play in providing e-government and emergency response/recovery services, and to include libraries in relevant legislative or other policy actions. The American Library Association also encourages continued research documenting library needs and capacity to provide effective e-government and emergency response/recovery services, and to help libraries develop best practices and train staff to deliver these essential services. See "Current Reference File": ALA CD#20.3, Resolution Affirming the Role of Librarians in Providing E-Government and Emergency Services.

VOTED, To revise the composition of the Chapter Relations Committee to include the following requirement: To be eligible to be a member of the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC), an individual must be an ALA member who is also a member of an ALA Chapter or Divisional Affiliate. Names of individuals being considered for the CRC should be forwarded to the Director of the Chapter Relations Office, who will check to see if the individual is a member of an ALA Chapter or Divisional Affiliate. (ALA CD#27.1, Item #1, Committee on Organization Report on CRC Composition).

VOTED, That a formal task force be established by President Loriene Roy charged with examining existing documents and developing recommendations to adapt association policy so as to help ALA move forward with effective e-participation practices; and that the task force complete its charge by Midwinter 2009. (ALA CD#27.1, Item #2, Committee on Organization Report on the Establishment of an E-Policy Task Force).

WITHDREW, ALA CD#36, Resolution on the Boy Scouts of America.

VOTED, To substitute ALA CD#38 with ALA CD#38.1 Revision 2, Accessible Digitization Projects Resolution, which as amended read: "That the American Library Association strongly encourages all libraries and other entities engaging in digitization projects to adopt Section 508 regulations to ensure that they are creating versions of materials that are accessible to persons using screen-reader or other assistive technologies; and that the ALA forward this resolution to other agencies and organizations that help libraries digitize their materials and design access software, such as the Institute of Museum and Library Services and state library agencies, and to companies that work with libraries and other entities doing digitization projects."

ADOPTED, ALA CD#38.1 Revision 2 as stated above.

ADOPTED, ALA CD45 Revised, Resolution on Representation, as amended to read: To request the Committee on Organization to develop and propose improvements to the processes of selecting committee members and to the communications protocol with successful and unsuccessful committee candidates; and that Committee on Organization be requested to report such improvements to the ALA Council at the 2008 Midwinter Meeting.