

To: NDLA Executive Board  
From: Shelby E. Harken, North Dakota Chapter Councilor  
RE: Notes on activities of ALA Council at the Midwinter meeting in Denver  
Date: 2009

SENT TO NDLA listserv

*New Online Resource Focuses on Children and Teens*

CHICAGO - A new Web-based resource has just been released that will help library advocates make the case for libraries in the lives of children and teens. "Add It Up: Libraries Make the Difference in Youth Development and Education" is available at [www.ala.org/additup](http://www.ala.org/additup)

*U.S. Senate economic stimulus package (S. 1)*

Public libraries are not specifically included in the stimulus package wording. You might want to contact your senators. School libraries are already included as a qualifying institution for the K-12 Repair and Modernization funding and academic libraries are also included in the Higher Education Repair and Modernization funding. Additionally, libraries can benefit from several other programs that benefit from stimulus funding in the legislation, including the Rural Community Facilities Program.

2009-2-16

2009 ALA-APA Salary Survey: Librarian - Public and Academic

If you are one of the libraries that received this survey, I have been asked to remind you to fill it out.

This is part of the message from Jenifer Grady of ALA-APA:

All library salary data is reported in the aggregate for states and regions by library type - we also omit data in the state listing for states where it would be easy to discern an individual's salary, for example, a director in a very large public library in a state where there is just one very large public library system.

We truly appreciate your efforts at raising the response rate and the quality of the data. Each responding library that includes contact information receives a 30-day subscription to the [Library Salary Survey database](#) (\$50 value) and a 25% discount off the print version of the survey, which will be released in the summer.

2008-2-18

Stimulus recovery bill and libraries

FYI

From the ALA Washington Office

Completing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was a long and arduous process for the Obama Administration and the new Congress. Now that President Obama has signed the bill into law, our nation can begin the journey of restoring our economic stability through the programs and initiatives this law will make possible.

Throughout the process of creating this law, the library community demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the American public by working to inform our leaders in Washington about the programs and services libraries across the country are providing to help America get back to

work, such as assistance with resume building and online job searching as well as free classes to teach the public 21st century job skills.

With many opportunities available to libraries through the stimulus bill, the library community must continue our efforts to educate our elected officials on the benefits of investing in libraries – focusing now on the state level.

Implementing the law will no doubt be as complex a process as creating it, and for this reason the ALA Washington Office has created [www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus](http://www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus) as a one-stop source with resources on how to make sure libraries benefit from the package and the most up-to-date information on the stimulus. As information becomes available, the ALA Washington Office will post updates on this page with details, such as how funding will be distributed and how to apply.

We have compiled a list of the programs that libraries can benefit from included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. More information will be posted on each section as it becomes available.

### **\$7.2 billion for Broadband**

This includes \$2.5 billion for Rural Utilities Service and \$4.7 billion for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) broadband grant program to increase broadband access and usage in underserved areas of the nation. This includes \$200 million in competitive grants for expanding public computer capacity at public libraries and community college libraries. Additionally, this includes \$650 million for DTV, of which \$90 million may be used by organizations, including libraries, for education and outreach to vulnerable populations including one-on-one assistance for box installation.

### **\$53.6 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund**

This program includes \$48 billion in block grants allocated among the states. But of each state's allocation, 81.8 percent is reserved for education and 18.2 percent is reserved for the governor to use as he or she sees fit. \$39.5 billion for education using existing funding formulas, which can be used for preventing cutbacks, preventing layoffs, school modernization (school libraries will benefit from this), or other purposes and \$8.8 billion for state fiscal relief for high-priority needs such as public safety and other critical services (including public libraries), renovation and repairs of public school facilities and institutions of higher education facilities. Encouraging state officials to invest the funds they receive from Congress in public and school libraries will be critical. It is also important to note that with the billions of dollars states are receiving, there should be no need for drastic state cutbacks in services.

### **An additional \$120 million for the Senior Community Service Employment Program**

This funding will provide community service jobs at nonprofit and public facilities, including libraries, for an additional 24,000 older Americans. The Senior Community Service Employment Program is a community service and work-based training program for older workers. Program participants are placed in a wide variety of community service positions at non-profit and public facilities, including daycare centers, senior centers, governmental agencies, schools, hospitals, libraries and landscaping centers. There are currently 74 grantees. Grant awards are made to 18 national nonprofit organizations and 56 state and territorial governments. In most states, the governor has selected the State Office on Aging to administer the program. The contact information for all existing grantees is available by going to [www.doleta.gov/seniors](http://www.doleta.gov/seniors). Click the contacts link on the right and on that page go to grantees PY 2007.

### **An additional \$130 million for the Rural Community Facilities Program**

The Community Programs is a division of the Housing and Community Facilities Programs at the United States Department of Agriculture. Community Programs includes the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program. These programs help develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals,

medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

2009-2-23

The Chapters Resource wiki has a page under " Chapter Issues: Resources" titled American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/cxf8oy>

So far, these are the strategies to obtain funds for library incentives, programs, projects, staff, etc., being discussed on ALACRO-L. If you're aware of similar efforts, please add them to the wiki (or continue to share them on this e-list) and provide contact information, as available.

Thanks.

Also available is the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA) is designed to be a one-stop source with resources on how to ensure libraries benefit from the package and the most up-to-date information on the stimulus. This resource page includes a [State-by-State Impact for the ARRA](#).

## Letters sent by ALA

### *Letter from Jim Rettig*

Shortly after the election in November ALA President Jim Rettig sent a letter to president-elect Obama and vice president-elect Biden congratulating them on their election. Those letters concluded with:

"Your election opens new doors of hope and opportunity for all Americans. It provides the catalyst we need to make so many changes possible. The ALA is proud to stand as a partner with you in working for change. We look forward to a long and productive working relationship on behalf of our nation's citizens."

He attached a report, "Opening the Window to a Larger World: Libraries' Role in Changing America," explains the importance of these issues and recommends positive actions to the Obama team.

### *Letter to Congress*

The leading bills pending before Congress (S. 1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act and H.R. 3919, the Broadband Census of America Act of 2007) would improve information-gathering about current broadband deployment and assist in targeting resources to areas in need of such services.

## Notes from ALA Midwinter in Denver

BARC report (Budget Analysis and Review Committee) #33

Fiscal year 2008 results: net assets and member equity im

proved, though only a small percent (p.4); net operating income was \$3,078,150; most income increases came from meetings and conferences and from grants and awards

Fiscal year 2009: revenue for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is decreased but ALA has taken steps to decrease expenses in an effort to keep within budget projections; dividends and interest has held up well but endowments are down by 27.7% (less than market 38.5%); conferences expenses are under budget

BARC is reviewing the possible impact if we increase electronic participation; it will cost money to support the necessary technology and could impact income since much of the income of ALA is from conferences

Studies for determining graduated dues – the survey of profession has been completed. An IMLS funded survey is being conducted to compare professions, retirements, etc. however the current environment is probably affecting results of the survey.

#### ALA Endowment Trustees #16

Globally markets have lost \$30 trillion, NYSE down 40.9%, Dow Jones down 33.8%, S&P down 38.5% all worst since 1931. Real estate investment was dropped but interest spun off from the investments still produced income. Fixed income instruments have done better than stock investments in that they didn't drop, but income isn't strong. Took action to redistribute fixed income to a bond manager and real estate investments. The best approach is to be carefully diversified.

#### Report of the Nominating Committee #26-26.1

Presidential candidates: Kenton Oliver and Roberta Stevens. Elections will be conducted completely online Mar. 17-24. Print ballots can be requested.

#### ALA President's report #21

[see report]

#### ALA President elect's report #29

Worked on a slate for the Executive Board.

Strengthening Professionalism in the Public Interest. Probably an appendix to the President's report last summer.

[http://www.ala-apa.org/about/2008-2009APABD12\\_3.doc](http://www.ala-apa.org/about/2008-2009APABD12_3.doc)

The annual librarians' survey will include additional questions about the economic downturn.

#### Library Support Staff Certification Program APACD#12

LSSCP is a voluntary program. In the original IMSL grant period the plan was to make this available by 2010. The program is ready for consideration by the Executive Board by Annual. Can accept candidates in Jan. 2010. The program is competency based. School and special libraries are not a target for this program. Library support staff could show 6 of 9 areas of competencies that they have gained from experience. Staff would complete either an online course or an electronic portfolio system.

<http://www.ala-apa.org/certification/supportstaff.html>

Presidents of state and other library associations represented were announced.

#### Nominations for the ALA Executive Board. CD#11

#### Library Advocacy Committee CD#7

The committee is to support the Office for Library Advocacy (OLA). Its charge:

"To support the efforts of advocates for all types of libraries; to develop resources, networks and training materials for advocates at the local, state and national levels with particular emphasis on the grassroots level; to work closely with the Office for Library Advocacy in collaboration with the Public Awareness Committee, the Chapter Relations Committee, the Committee on Legislation, and other ALA offices, divisions, and roundtables as well as external groups to integrate advocacy efforts into the overall planning, priorities and policies of the association; and to cultivate future leadership in order to sustain and enhance the advocacy efforts of the association."

Checkout the Advocating in tough times web tool kit and Adding it up: Libraries Make the Difference in Youth Development and Education

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/index.cfm>  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/additup/index.cfm>

Constitution and Bylaws CD#25

Executive Director's Report CD #23

Delay in moving into new office – they were trying to use a brown field site and have a green building – the bureaucracy has been very complex.

CPSC - Lead in books issue – the commission does have the ability to exclude libraries and/or books. If they don't take that action, ALA will pursue the issue. We should continue to try to contact the office with our concerns.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 has been interpreted to include books as a product that must be tested for lead. While it is understandable that the CPSC must protect children from toxic materials, publishers have already tested the book components and found that the lead levels are lower than the regulations require three years from now. Additionally, all book recalls in the last two decades have been because of toys attached to the books that posed a choking hazard, not the books themselves.

Review of Executive Board Actions since 2008 annual CD #15

A number of actions took place between Council meetings. Addressed move to new Washington Office building, discussed ALA campaigning guidelines which allowed ALA officers may personally endorse candidates but not as part of ALA, electronic signatures, etc. Ask if interested.

Implementation of the 2008 ALA Annual Conference Actions CD#9

Ban of selling materials made in sweat shops in the ALA store and other ALA functions  
The report addresses the Task Force on Electronic Participation document. They are developing a cost matrix for developing electronic participation. A report should be available at Annual.

New business

Resolution on Gaza conflict and libraries CD#36

Executive Board winners:

Patricia M. Hogan : Administrative Librarian, Poplar Creek Public Library Dist., Streamwood, IL  
Stephen L. Matthews : Librarian, Currier Library, Foxcroft School, Middleburg, VA  
Courtney L. Young : Reference Librarian & Associate, Professor of Women's Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Monaca, PA

Other candidates:

John C. Sandstrom : Manager, Colln. Devel. & Acq., El Paso (TX) Public Library  
J. Linda Williams : Coordinator, Library Media Servs., Anne Arundel Cnty. Public Schools, Annapolis, MD  
Sylvia K. Norton : School Library/Technology Planning, Coordinator & State E-Rate Coord., Maine State Library, Augusta, ME  
Marilyn Hinshaw  
Ling Hwey Jeng

Attended both Council Forums. We discussed resolutions on disabilities, Gaza, electronic participation, etc.

Library Education Task Force Report CD #10

ALA Council approves ALA's Core Competences of Librarians as a policy of the Association and an important component of the revision of the Association's accreditation standards as outlined in CD10

Amendment 5D Information literacy/information competence techniques and methods, add numerical literacy and statistical literacy.

Competence itself is not in the document. It can call for library schools to try to meet these, but there is no measure to ascertain if they are being met. There was a motion to report back to Council after we see how the competences might be incorporated in the existing language of the Standards for Accreditation of Masters programs in Library and Information Studies (2008) standard 1.2.1 – send to Come on Accreditation. Those speaking against the referral point out that the Committee on Accreditation needs to know what we want them to work on. The document is not a curriculum

Another amendment was to add a section on 9. Diversity and Equity. Another document will follow the flesh out the competences and the diversity could be brought out in that document. This was defeated.

Another amendment to add 8E. The concepts, issues, and methods for principled, transformational leadership. Passed

Another amendment to insert: in 1G "freedom of expression" in between "copyright" and "privacy"

Another amendment to insert in 1B "social responsibility" between principles and "and intellectual freedom" – some felt this was covered in 1F

Update report on the ALA Caregiver Study Task Force. A report will come from COSWL at Annual

Task Force on E-Member Participation Report CD #35

Three sections:

Purposes, discovery, description of options, and relevance to various ALA organizations and policies

Fiscal considerations

Implementation – accessibility issues can be opposing, e.g. can't come in person vs. can't use Internet

Section on "Moving forward" includes building a framework for moving forward

Janet said the report was to be a report of ideas but was not asked to devise solutions or implementation plans. BARC and other groups, can begin to address the ideas if ALA Council approves the report, but can do nothing if it isn't approved. Fiels said some work has begun on investigating a variety of modes and methods in cooperation with BARC and will be addressed by BARC in Mar/April. BARC wants to review the ideas and assess implication of costs and effects on various Divisions and other ALA groups.

Intellectual Freedom Committee CD # 19

ELE Editions will publish first 2 vols of the new Frontlines Intellectual Freedom book series: [Protecting Intellectual Freedom in Your Academic Library](#) and [Protecting Intellectual Freedom in Your School Library](#)

Privacy Revolution is a new website to serve as a hub to provide information and tools to help people think critically and make personal choices about their information privacy

<http://www.privacyrevolution.org>

Committee on Legislation CD 20-20.2

Government information: COL asked the Washington Office to continue high level activity working with the federal depository council and other federal libraries to increase public access to government information. There will be more about this at Annual

COL submitted a document "Opening the window to a larger world" to the Obama Transition team.

Resolution commending Pres. Obama on his commitment to openness and transparency in government passed.

Resolution to support the reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act passed.

Information about the Google Book Search is at: <http://wo.ala.org/gbs>

International Relations Committee CD #18

Resolution on the connection between the recent Gaza conflict and libraries. The resolution called for protection of libraries and also called for the US government to work for peace; the latter engendered much debate about ALA getting involved in politics.

Lead in books - CPSC

General Counsel for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has informed us that CPSC will put a hold on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act 2008 relative to books until they conduct review. Issues:

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 has been interpreted to include books as a product that must be tested for lead. While it is understandable that the CPSC must protect children from toxic materials, publishers have already tested the book components and found that the lead levels are lower than the regulations require three years from now. Additionally, all book recalls in the last two decades have been because of toys attached to the books that posed a choking hazard, not the books themselves.

Making these testing regulations retroactive would require both school and public libraries to take drastic steps to come into compliance. They either would have to ban children from their libraries or pull every book intended for children under the age of 12 from their bookshelves at the time children are fostering a lifelong love of learning and reading.

In order to allow children and families to continue accessing critical library materials, please either exempt books from the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, accept the component tests that have already been done, or exempt all books currently in school and public libraries. This will ensure that our children continue to have access to safe and educational library materials.

Library Advocacy CD #27

Requested change the name of the ALA Library Advocacy Committee to Committee on ALA Library Advocacy (COLA)

Also change Orientation, Training and Leadership Development Committee be changed to Training Orientation and Leadership Development Committee (TOLD) and to revise its charge. Combine 2 groups for form Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF). One of the groups was only an affiliate and it will fold into regular ALA.

ALA Resolution Committee CD # 14

Resolution to make resolution language for membership meetings be the same as ALA and APA passed.

ALA Website Advisory Committee CD # 34

The old CMS software will discontinue in one year. The Collage updates and support will end in 3 years. The committee will explore options for a web content management system (CMS). There has been much dissatisfaction with the Event Planner and work will be done to try to improve it. Motion to ask for high priority funding levels for an accessibility review and a web code data cleanup projects to the public library presence of the American Library Association.

Task Force on Electronic Member Participation CD # 35

Clarification was provided by the Parliamentarian for 35.4 and may need to revote and also should consider 35.5

The chair of the TF will present 6-16 and allow questions. The Council could then vote to forward the whole document to the Executive Board and the Executive and Director to bring recommendations to a following meeting.

Task Force discussed open-listserves – see #35.3.

35.4 – change Jan 2009 to end of 2009 cycle

Revise to eliminate the first 2 sentences and replace with: Request the Policy Monitoring re-write Policy 6.16 to eliminate the two classes of committee members.

35.5 was passed.

35.6-16 were discussed. It was suggested that members who plan to participate in electronic activities, e.g. web viewing of Council meetings, could pay an extra fee to maintain income for ALA or pay for the technology needed.

Moved to refer the remainder of the recommendations to the Executive Board, to investigate general options for Council's consideration, soliciting input from the Executive Director, BARC, and such other bodies as the Executive Board deems necessary. Note: there is an automatic report from the Executive Director at Annual and the President will be forming a task force to take up the work generated from the report on electronic participation #35.

Resolution CD # 37

Resolution on understanding Gaza – One Conference, One Book – ALA Reads (rather like a book club reading and discussion) failed

Resolution CD # 38

Requests assistive devices for those with physical mobility impairments should be available at registration for those who have reserved them and not have to wait or go elsewhere to get them.

Resolution CD # 39

To place Internet accessible computers in the first position and be marked for people with disabilities.

Resolution CD # 40

To ask ALA to negotiate free internet access at conference hotels.

Final registration:

10,220

Exhibitors: 2315

Attendees: 7905

### **ALA CRC Forum - Chapter Councilors Forum**

Executive Board Report. There is no particular representation on the Executive Board unless one of us runs. You have to be ON Council to run. It takes 22 days of meetings and bi-monthly phone conference calls.

Stimulus package. It doesn't make it easy for public libraries to obtain funds. They have to lobby their state government and LSTA funds are not at the top of their list.

How does the ALA Washington Office get involved and let us know? Could we have Emily Shelekoff come to our meeting in Chicago to discuss how to help public libraries get money from the stimulus? Maybe we should use the listserv now; by Chicago it may be too late. We should use the Chapter Wiki to start discussion of best practices for legislative involvement.

Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) needs to do assessment – what do chapters need? This will fold into the next ALA strategic plan for 2015. They are planning ALA forums to go to state association meetings or conventions to get input. This would be through Michael Dowling – not sure how we are to be contacted – should get email clarifying. Don Wood is who we tell our new officers are. Molly and Ann will form a small group to see how we can get better communications with the CRC group – the Chapter Councilors Forum used to be part of the Chapter Relations Committee.

IMLS: there is going to be a meeting at Annual explaining how to apply for IMLS money for state associations and scholarships. There are several programs: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program, funds for Native American tribes, National Leadership grants (<http://www.IMLS.gov>) Emerging Leaders – there needs to be measurement of the benefit to ALA or the agency that funded the person to attend. Several people reported that they were less than happy with their participation in the program.

Addendum:

Task Force on Electronic Participation was one of the most discussed issues at the ALA Midwinter Conference. Here are some notes from Janet Swan-Hill, the Chair.

As an association, we value openness and access, but we have implemented it according to what was possible, affordable, and implementable. That is, the open meetings policy is essentially "If you can get there, and pay the registration fee, you can sit in on the official meetings of most bodies." We expanded that to do what was possible to provide some openness to official meetings held outside of Annual and Midwinter, but what was considered possible was to provide advance notice of meetings to be held, and their agenda, and to provide minutes or summaries after the meeting has concluded. We have never (heretofore) made any policy pronouncements about the openness of between-meeting correspondence or committee work. Committees have worked away between official meetings, in consultation with other committee members. When, in the opinion of the committee members, communication beyond the body was desirable or necessary, the committees have found ways to give status reports, or ways to ask for input, or ways to receive and answer questions that might arise. And it works.

We passed a policy recommendation that would make OPEN ELECTRONIC LISTS THE DEFAULT CONDITION for committees, task forces, etc., but provided for some exceptions to be made when openness would impinge on the privacy of individuals and institutions.

We acknowledged that some committees, boards, task forces, etc., because of the nature of their charge, necessarily have occasion to discuss matters that are appropriately discussed confidentially, and that the discussion often necessarily and unpredictably shifts into confidential areas, and that the committees, boards, task forces themselves are in the best position to determine whether this is true for them, and if so, to hold their conversations "privately."

For a summary of Council actions at Midwinter see:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councilactions/index.cfm>