

ALA Councilor Report – 6  
Quarterly Report – Sept. 2009  
By Shelby E. Harken, ALA North Dakota Chapter Councilor

During the quarter, I added a number of items to the ALA Blog <http://www.ndla.info/blogs.htm> particularly on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act aka stimulus package. There are two resource that are particularly helpful: 1) Chapters Resource wiki has a page under " Chapter Issues: Resources" titled American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at <http://tinyurl.com/cxf8oy> and 2) Broadband initiatives (below) on the Chapters Resource wiki at [http://cro.ala.org/chapters/index.php?title=Chapter\\_Issues:\\_Resources#Broadband\\_Initiatives](http://cro.ala.org/chapters/index.php?title=Chapter_Issues:_Resources#Broadband_Initiatives), or <http://tinyurl.com/ch65td>

Both ALA headquarters and a numbers of states are facing financial woes. ALA staff have had to take furloughs. Efforts by the ALA Staff to reduce expenditures had anticipated the increasingly bad economic environment and, although revenue is less than budgeted, ALA will remain on a sound fiscal footing. Libraries have been closed. Librarians have lost jobs. ALA-APA continues to advocate for improved library salaries as well as to provide certification and research on related issues. In recognition of Ms. Krug's dedicated service to intellectual freedom, chapter councilors spontaneously organized to have each state chapter adopt a memorial resolution for her. These were collected and presented to her family. ASCLA, the ALA division that represents librarians serving people with disabilities, has been working for several years to urge libraries to conform to Federal regulations regarding the accessibility of electronic services like websites, catalogs and databases which resulted in a number of resolutions. The costs of various types of electronic participation methods has been investigated by the Executive Director and figures were presented. All are expensive and ALA legal counsel addressed each about the possible threat of litigation.

Reports and resolutions are numbered and I can assist anyone in finding them if needed. Discussion at meetings follows.

### ALA Council /Exec Board/Membership Information Session

#### **ALA Information Session BARC report**

The Treasurer's report will contain much of the detail. The BARC report is more general. All combined revenues \$2,284,076 less than budget but also \$3,277,505 less than budget on expenses. This means ALA has made cuts to match and cope with decreased revenues. Divisions, roundtables are experiencing similar budget patterns. Plan is to asses economic uncertainty, set planning priorities, do operational realignments, look at expense reductions, key revenue sources, look at service and product enhancements, and consider new business development strategies. They assessed all general units, divisions and roundtables planned budgets and activities.

Electronic participation assessment has been done. See p. 9 of 33.1

Endowment Trustees report 16.1 and 13.6 – report on web page later  
US markets lost 6.9 trillion in value. In March the Dow started to turn but it is still 40% down from its high a year ago. It is unlikely to full recovery quickly.

## ALA CONNECT

Replaces online communities. Changed to using Drupal. First phase is to replace online communities – provide collaborative works space for every group in ALA so all active groups were pre-populated. When members change it will automatically changes. Goal was to provide profiles for librarians but not in a facebook way. Everyone in ALA has a profile. If a member logs in they see your name, group affiliations, your library and any public posts you have made. If you manually add someone to your network, then they can see you. 3<sup>rd</sup> goal was to allow members to create communities. Interest groups were pre-populated. 80 have been created in the last 3 months.

Tools: posts like blogs, polls which can be used for voting, a calendar for your group meetings, discussion forums, image gallery, searching within the group, rosters. When content is added it is by default private, but can be toggled to be made public when the group is done working on it.

To participate, you need to turn on email notices. You login. You see your communities. Send me email for everything (community listed for me), nothing, or group-by-group.

Soon there will be a mentoring network. Then they plan to add an opportunities (grants) network. Hope to get a new event planner in CONNECT. They will be able to show you meetings according to your interests or committees. They will know when you registered and what hotel and when you are coming and you can see info on others.

Want to add continuing education and advocacy.

## ALA-APA Council Information meeting

APA has a visibility problem in chapters.

2009 Librarian Salary Survey is now available.

Responses were higher this year. There will be the option this fall for one of two versions at a cheaper cost to download – academic and public.

## ALA Council I

Nominations for Committee on Committees, Planning and Budget Assembly,

President's report CD 21.1

We had a great opportunity to publicize the united we service program begun by the Obama administration. <http://www.serv.gov>

Vice-president's report 29.1

She discussed advocacy for literacy and for library staff workers working on the frontline. She is also focusing on how to be more responsive to the needs of young ALA members. She is calling it "young turks"

Executive Directors report CD 23.1

(save quarterly; available on request)

He reviewed the @ your libraries website and I love libraries.

First wave of broadband funding has been recently announced. As it is deployed, libraries are included as a core community institution and get an extra 5 points on applications.

Book links will become a quarterly supplement to Booklist

It was suggested the above 3 documents be available at the first membership meeting. Keith said it was a good idea.

Google book search concern expressed – concerned about intellectual freedom and privacy and ALA's use of Google for its publications.

#### Executive Board Actions

Board allocated \$200,000 for 2010 initiative projects. Approved a list of socially responsible companies. TF on Library Education was sent to Committee on Accreditation. A second committee on library education has been postponed.

#### Implementation of Midwinter meeting actions 9.2

E-participation recommendations 9.3 – 9.5

Three documents went to BARC, Policy and Monitory, etc. for consideration. A LITA group is doing some testing at this conference.

#### Council Transparency CD 46

A survey on the issue will be conducted.

How to make council proceedings transparent to the membership. A number of technological options were reviewed along with their costs.

Post transcript. The captionist process ends up with errors. A law reporter would be expensive. Slightly less would be a formal transcriptionist. Transcripts increase legal liabilities by taking comments out of context and cause great trouble for ALA.

Audio recordings could be posted. Costs not huge to post an MP3 on the ALA web page.

Real-time streaming audio webcast. It already costs ALA \$40,000 to have the conference centers do the audio. This seems to be less of a legal issue. To add live audio stream would be about \$11,000 year and would have to be worked out with conference center contracts.

Real-time audio video gets even more expensive. More like \$55,000 a years.

For including member comment remotely, it would be \$144,000.

General discussion seemed to favor the posting of audio but there we still people with concern about liability. Also, if we can't pay staff, why would ALA spend more money to broadcast something that no one bothers to attend at Council.

### **ALA Membership Meeting II – Executive Board Candidates Forum**

I was able to attend the membership meeting and listen to the candidates. A vote was taken regarding withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

### **CRC II (Chapter Relations Committee)**

Several emerging leaders reported on a survey they did. Most young people want "serious" mentors, most can't afford to participate in ALA, and they feel leftout. Most of the discussion at the meeting revolved around retaining members and getting people to go to state conferences. Ideas were tossed out like quit trying to go from city to city in the state, when you know a few cities will attract more attendance or raise more money.

### **ALA Council II**

Go to this page for documents:

[http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councildocuments/docu\\_inventory\\_acmw2009.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councildocuments/docu_inventory_acmw2009.cfm)

#### Committee on Professional Ethics CD 41.2

A substitute motion suggested that an RFP be prepared and that the work be done between the committee and the Executive Director of ALA rather than specifying a company. The Executive Director is already in communication with the committee named in the original motion.

The net result was that we just thanked the work of the committee.

#### Freedom to Read Foundation Report CD 22.1

The Obama administration not challenging the gag order decision. The government now has to be the one to inform the recipient of an NSL (national security letter). Responsibility rests on the government to prove, not the person accused to defend. Robert P. Doyle honored and was responsible for the Freedom to Read Foundation event held during the convention.

#### Treasurer's report CD 13.3

He does not think recovery for investments used by ALA will recover until 18 months after the general economy turns around. ALA has taken steps to reduce costs. Budgeting for the future is difficult since we don't know what is going to happen. Ending revenue projection is \$27,269,591 with proposed FY 2010 revenue \$23,314,505. Dues \$335,142, conferences \$218,079, publishing \$565,911, other \$74,218. Budgetary ceiling is \$64,432,034.

#### Resolution on civil marriage equality regardless of sexual orientation CD # 53

Affirms that civil marriage and other civil rights protections are essential to making all families safe and more secure.

Opposes civil marriage discrimination in the federal or in state constitutions

Supports the right of every person to marry, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples, wherever they reside.

The resolution passed. I abstained because I did not believe ALA should be asking to change a state constitution. The thrust of the motion was to support librarians in libraries who are being discriminated against so the resolution did not state the intended purpose.

#### Resolution on libraries and continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan CD # 55

Only #4 addressed libraries whereas the rest is addressing federal and military policy unrelated to library work and focus.

### ALA CRC Forum - Chapter Councilors Forum

Chapter meetings and events are found at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/cropages/croconf/conferencemeeting.cfm>

ALA Connect should have profiles and we should be able to see groups we belong to and listservs we are subscribed to. Participants talked about state association survival – what they are doing to save money, e.g. get rid of executive directors. We were encouraged to run for ALA Executive Board. We discussed memorials and the fact that the Judith Krug memorial was more than normal. Web pages for association – most have an unpaid webmaster and for content, every group is responsible for posting its own content. Some are blogs, one used Drupal, others are just web pages. Capwiz is setup for federal information. Only 11 state have set it up for state legislation.

### ALA Council Forum (optional)

Discussed several resolutions – APA, accessibility, and health - and two Intellectual Freedom documents.

### ALA Council III

Memorials to a number of members who have passed away including Judith Krug. A leather-like binder was prepared with archival insert pages with all 50 states' resolutions.

Resolution on support for overtime pay protection. APA CD #8.4  
Some felt the resolution was not well worded, but it passed.

Tellers CD #12.2

- Committee on Committees: Locke J. Morrissey, John C. Sandstrom, Christine Lind Hage, and Sylvia K. Norton
- Planning and Budget Assembly: At-large: Susan F. Gregory and Dolores Gwaltney;  
Chapter: Kay Bowman, Leslie Kong, Julie A. Schneider

Constitution and Bylaws CD #25.2

Extend the ability of groups to vote in other ways than in person for Executive Board, Council, committees and task forces. This would allow electronic participation. Voting would be part of the election ballot online in the spring

Committee on Legislation CD #20.3 – 20.8

- Referred to the Washington Office 6-month report (saved)
- Instead of a national legislative day, June 28<sup>th</sup> will be our library advocacy day. A rally at the upper Senate park is scheduled and permits have been acquired. We already have important guest speakers and we will have the opportunity to participate.
- The Web page information on Know your Stimulus is being well used.
- Action item – 2 committees came together, Legislation and Intellectual Freedom: In consideration of the broad potential implication of the proposed Google Book Search settlement – request an ALA group be formed to assess the settlement's impact on libraries and members. Reworded to: Resolve the Council request that the President, with the advice of the Executive Board, Book Search Settlement and its ongoing impact on ALA members and member institutions and to make recommendations for action by the Association and its members.
- Resolutions addressed: support Government Printing Office appropriations, ensure access to research done by federal agency employees as included in the Federal Research Public Access Act, supporting GPO's digitization efforts (concern expressed over destructive processes and moving of collections, but support of funding for preservation is needed), support the American Historical Records Act.

Intellectual Freedom CD # 19.9 considered with the above report's resolution CD # 20.8.

Resolution on the reauthorization of section 215 of the USA Patriot Act.

Two similar resolutions were proposed, but both ask for sunseting Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act. It would be best to let it sunset but it is being worked on so we want them to consider our resolution before completing a rewrite. If it sunsets there may be more NSLs. It will go back to the pre-2001 version of the law. ALA's position on 215 has been to carve out a small area of protection for libraries and book stores. Our policies support broader intellectual freedom. The resolutions are addressing the whole of 215 so that is a new position for ALA. 20.8 has a list of provisions to include in the rewrite of 215. Proposed 19.9 plus the list in 20.8 as advice to staff.

Intellectual Freedom CD #19.4 - 19.8

Much of their work has been re-writing the manual. The areas addressed in the Library Bill of Rights:

Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks

Importance of Education to Intellectual Freedom

Labeling and Rating Systems

Minors and Internet Interactivity

International Relations Committee CD # 18.2 – 18.3

## Report

### Committee on Organization CD #27.1

Recommended changing the name of the Continuing Library Education and Networking Exchange Round Table be changed to Learning Round Table (Learn)

Also recommended a change in the Round Table Coordinating Assembly's composition. It should include the immediate past president, current treasurer of each RT, and individuals serving ALA committees as a result of the collective appointment by the RTs.

### Resolutions were addressed

- Intergenerational Day, Oct. 4, 2009 CD # 50
- Accessibility for Library Websites CD # 51
- Purchasing of Accessible Electronic Resources Resolution CD # 52
- Endorsing Legislative Proposals for Single-Payer, Universal Health Care CD # 54  
Discussion and proposed amendments suggested removing "single-payer" yet supporting affordable health care. The resolution as approved removed the second resolve and amended the first to say we support affordable universal health care including single-payer.
- Action Plan to Remedy Current Library Budget Crisis CD # 56. This was drastically changed but in general directs ALA to convey to Congress and the President the dire state of library budgets.
- Expand Electronic Participation CD # 57. This motion follows on discussion at the second Membership Meeting. The Executive Director has already investigated a number of methods of providing for "transparency" by making programs or council discussion available online. The problem is the resolution is written vaguely. Perhaps begin providing access to proceedings of Council meetings.  
To implement the most cost effective solution to provide transparency and access to Council activities for the benefit of ALA members  
To continue to monitor methods of improving council transparency  
Begin providing member electronic access to council meetings for midwinter 2010

### Announcements

28, 941 in attendance

Following Conference, much discussion took place nationally about President Obama's health care proposal. Following up on a resolution passed at conference this announcement was made:

[ALA Calls for 'Public Option' in Health Care Reform](#)

August 19th, 2009

<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=3524>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Library Association (ALA) today sent a [letter](#) to all members of Congress, voicing its support for including a "public option" in health care reform legislation. The association, which represents over 65,000 members, also supports a "single-payer" option and believes removing public options, including potential cooperative arrangements, from the final legislation would not accomplish the strong reform needed.