

ALA Annual Conference 2005, Chicago Wyoming Chapter Councilor's Report

Please contact me with any questions or comments about this report or ALA in general.

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This was my last ALA conference as the Wyoming Chapter Councilor, my term ends at the conclusion of the 2005 WLA conference. It was a pleasure to represent Wyoming libraries. Thanks to the Wyoming Library Association and UW Libraries for their financial support. If you are interested in running for Wyoming Chapter Councilor and have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me!

Of Note...

- ALA Legislative Day will be May 1st and 2nd, 2006 in Washington D.C.
- Banned Books Week Sept. 24th—Oct. 1st, 2005
<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>
- New advocacy campaign for Rural, Native and Tribal libraries to start next year
- The Campaign for America's Libraries was approved for another 5 years and will continue with several initiatives such as the @your library campaign and the Smartest Card campaign. ALA's website has free, customizable materials available for download for local use.
- ALA members, if you haven't already, please take the demographics member survey at <http://ala.org/ala/ors/researchstatistics.htm>
- Conference attendance was up, 27,800 total attended (about 6,700 of these were exhibitors).

Sunday:

Scholarship Bash

I arrived late Sunday and attended the ALA/Proquest Scholarship Bash at the Museum of Science and Industry. Big exhibits were the U505 German submarine and BodyWorlds.

ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session

Reports included the Endowment Trustees Report, BARC (Budget Analysis and Review Report) which indicates that total ALA revenue is 1% less than budget and the General Fund is 5% less than budget. The committee outlined a variety of strategies to address lower net revenue.

ALA/APA Information Session

For more information about APA see <http://www.ala-apa.org/>

The ALA APA President and Executive Director presented their reports. The revised business plan and treasurer's report were also provided.

The certification committees are working to launch the Certified Public Library Administrator's Program by 12/05.

A reminder the Library Worklife newsletter is available via subscription.

Council I

Several reports were given, including the President (Carol Brey-Casiano) , President-Elect (Michael Gorman), Executive Director (Keith Michael Fiels).

Resolutions:

CD #55 Workplace Speech (Passed) This resolution involved the addition of wording to Policy 54:

54.21 stating that discussion should be encouraged among librarians and library staff of non-confidential professional and policy matters regarding the operation of the library and matters of public concern within applicable laws.

See <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifgroups/cope/copeinaction/explanatory/librarianspeech.pdf> for additional information.

CD # 50 Endangered Libraries List Referred to BARC (Budgetary Analysis Review Committee)

This resolution essentially directed ALA to compile and publicize a list of the most endangered libraries. This was defeated because of several arguments including how to define endangered, we should all be proactive, all libraries are or could be endangered.

CD # 51 U.S. News and World Report Evaluate Graduate Schools of Library and Information Science in 2006 and More Frequently Thereafter (Failed)

ALA accredits library schools and many felt that this should have the precedence and not U.S. News, whose ranking studies are controversial. The suggestion is that ALISE or individual members of council could contact U.S. News and pursue the matter if they wish.

CD # 52 National Deaf History Month March 13-April 15 (Passed)

Directed to the President of the U.S. but also to librarians and educators to celebrate this month if it passes with programming and activities.

Program: ACRL Instruction Section “Teaching Learning and Leading: Key Roles for Librarians in the Academic Community” by Maryellen Weimer
Weimer is a professor of communication at Berks Lehigh Valley College (Penn State-affiliated).

Among her suggestions: Have the students summarize what they learned in class in the last 5 minutes, have them talk to a neighbor and list the 3 most important points in the class, make it about the students.

She listed her five key aspects for learner-centered instruction for librarians

Role of the Teacher

Balance of Power

Function of Content

Responsibility of Learning

Processes and Purposes of Evaluation

She recommends A Life in School: What the Teacher Learned by Jane Tompkins and “Navigating the Bumpy Road to Student Centered Instruction” by Richard Felder

<http://www.ncsu.edu/felder-public/Papers/Resist.html>

Endeavor Reception

Monday:

Film “Unconstitutional”

This is a documentary about the USA PATRIOT Act. The film details some of the individuals taken into custody after 9/11 as a result of their Middle Eastern heritage. After the film, there were two speakers who presented their views and took audience questions—Colleen Connell from the ACLU and Patrick Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois (appointed by John Ashcroft)

The Patriot Act is due to sunset in Dec. 2005. Fitzgerald pointed out that the word library is never used in the Act. He said that Section 215 was used 35 times as of 3/3/05, but for credit card and driving records of certain individuals. However, the 6/21/05 New York Times editorial “Fishing in the Card Catalogs” describes over 200 ALA identified instances where law enforcement agents requested information from libraries since 10/01. The Safe Act restores some judicial oversight over law enforcement.

APA Council I

Several reports were given, including:

APA By-laws committee, APA certification committees

Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) II

This meeting focuses on ALA state chapter issues. The highlights follow:

NS Foundation Grants to Chapters

Pat Schuman reported that the Neal-Schuman Foundation has funding available for conference programming.

ALA Washington Office, Erin Haggerty

FLLAN is available, the Federal Library Legislative Network. There is a newsletter, to sign up see <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/fllan/fllan.htm#news> Each state chapter has a contact person. Wyoming’s is Paul Holland.

ALA Washington Office, Emily Sheketoff

Erate is threatened again, she suggests letting Wyoming politicians know what will happen without that funding (i.e. numbers of patrons who won’t be able to access the web).

Chapter Councilor Survey, Joseph Eagan

The survey was compiled by Joseph Eagan, with Chapter Councilors Nancy Bolt (Colorado), Jennifer Mayer (Wyoming), Chris Olson (Minnesota) and Marilyn Schulte (Arkansas). The survey revealed several themes, with a main theme that chapter councilors need more orientation and mentoring. This will be addressed by the CRC.

David Sedaris, Public Library Association’s keynote speaker.

Tuesday:

Council II

ALA Strategic Plan Ahead to 2010 Passed

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governingdocs/aheadto2010/draftstrategicplan.htm>

ALA Treasurer's Report: Teri Switzer, Council approved the FY 2006 ALA Budgetary Ceiling of \$51,669, 186. ALA is healthy, but revenues are flat and expenses are increasing.

Cultural Communities Fund (CCF): Chair Deborah Jacobs gave this report. The CCF endowment provides many creative programming activities. They received an NEH challenge grant and need to raise additional money. For more information see <http://www.ala.org/ccf>

Resolution:

Equal Access to Resources in Non-Roman Alphabets in Libraries (Failed) This resolution adopted and forwarded from the membership meeting. ALCTS is working on this and will continue to do so.

Elections:

Council Committee on Committees: Molly Raphael, Ginny Moore, Hector Escobar, Jonathan Betz-Zall

Council Representatives to the Planning and Budget Assembly: Em Claire Knowles, Therese Bigelow, Claudia Sumler, William Turner, Maggie Farrell, Eileen Palmer

Chapter Councilors' Forum

The chapter councilor's survey was discussed. The discussion centered around various ideas on how to provide effective mentoring such as: automatically assigning a mentor (with the option to opt-out), using the chapter councilor email list more and sharing our materials (for example a board presentation),

A current ALA executive board member (and previous state chapter councilor), Michael Golrick reminded the group that it is important to have chapter councilor representation on the board since his term ends soon.

Resolutions were discussed, GLBT materials and national conferences (and division conferences like ACRL and PLA) financial impacts on the chapters.

Wednesday:

Council III

Resolutions:

CD # 61 Decrease Division Dues for Retired Members (Passed)

This resolution adopted and forwarded from the membership meeting, this is a suggestion for divisions to look at this option, not a directive.

CD# 65 Support of Immigrants Rights to Free Public Library Access (Passed)

CD# 62 Connection between the Iraq War and Libraries (Passed) This resolution adopted and forwarded from the membership meeting.

CD # 64 Disinformation, Media Manipulation, The Destruction of Public Information
(Passed)

CD # 57 (revised) Threats to Library Materials Related to Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation (Passed)

Due to recent threats in states like Alabama, Louisiana and Oklahoma

CD # 66 Impact of Division and National Conferences on Chapter Conferences
(Withdrawn for further study)

The following are from membership and acknowledged by council.

Memorial Resolutions:

Margaret E. Monroe, John Marshall, Thelma H. Tate, Charlotte Chung-Sook Kim,
Virginia Young, Cliff Becker, Susan Hocker

Tribute Resolutions:

To ALA members who have contributed to the Development of the Anglo-American
Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition. (AACR2)

To Robert S. Martin

To Henderson District Public Libraries' Attempt at a World Reading Record, June 13-17,
2005 in Henderson, NV

To Honor Susan Roman

To "The Hollywood Librarian: Librarians in Cinema and Society" Documentary Film