

ALA Councilor from Wyoming Report
Annual Conference, 2010, Washington, D.C.
June 24-29

Patty's Notes

My second meeting as the WY representative proved that the full busy days are part of the job, but my sense of frustration is lessening. My fascination with the workings of the organization continues. Maybe I should provide this report by day as well as topics.

Friday, travel day

Saturday - Quiet morning for Vendor visits, two author programs, followed by the first Membership Meeting, Opening Session with Toni Morrison, speaker, and concluded with the Scholarship Bash at the Newseum (a new museum for newspaper history).

Sunday – all morning in sessions, lunch break author session, afternoon sessions until 3:00 President's program then reception. Jerry Krois Award at 8:00 p.m.

Monday – early morning author, sessions until noon OCLC luncheon, afternoon author, then Council. I did not attend the 8:30 -10:00 p.m. forum.

Tuesday – 7:00 a.m. council sessions, closing program at 9:00, and 11:00 bus to Capitol grounds park for ALA rally. Then travel time.

Hmm. That doesn't look so hectic. Maybe it was the heat and humidity that wore me out! Or maybe the crowds. There were 26,201 attendees at the meetings, but there was plenty of room.

Things you should know from ALA

ALA Washington Office update: The "Workforce Investment Act" includes funding for job training and employment resource centers in public libraries. The "Elementary & Secondary Education Act" is pushing for state certification of librarians in every school. There is resistance and inconsistent support.

FCC: Federal Communications Commissioner Mignon Clyburn praised ALA for its support of access to internet, e-rate, and the need for broadband. 14 to 24 million people in the US do not have any broadband access, and about 1/30 of the nation lacks access due to cost or computer illiteracy. 78% of broadband users have said they use broadband outside the home. A clear demand on libraries.

Mark Lloyd, FCC officer, presented the BTOP plan, Broadband Technology Opportunity Program within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The 10 year goals include affordable access to 100 megabit per second speeds to 100 million US homes. Every community should have access to 1 gigabit per second access.

CyberSecurity: The government is crafting additional powers, regulations, control. The ACLU

and ALA continue the resistance to information control and for a narrow definition of emergency powers. There were several discussions on this topic.

Google: It was a panel discussion by advocates for the Google lawsuit which concentrated on the “open access” argument. The rights of authors, publishers, illustrators are equally at issue. The lawsuit continues.

ALA :

BARC, Budget Analysis & Review Committee, reported that the organization promptly implemented cost savings which has kept ALA afloat through difficult economic times. The Endowment Trust is reviving too. Good news for the organization.

President Camile Alire successfully concentrated on advocacy and diversity awareness during her term in office. Incoming President Roberta Stevens will emphasize fund raising techniques and the development of authors as advocates for libraries.

Membership is holding steady. Two grants from IMLS will be used for the staff certification programs and recruitment of minority librarians. Funding for the Spectrum Scholarship was heavily promoted to create a match for IMLS funds.

The Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 was approved. The plan is available online.

Ten Memorials and 3 Tributes were presented.

Intellectual Freedom:

The Committee reported that the 8th edition of the INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM MANUAL is now available at the ALA Store. A revision of “Libraries & the Internet Toolkit” is available on line: <http://www.ifmanual.org/toolkit>

Free speech and privacy rights are the leading concerns for IF with Senate bill 3480, “Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act.” ALA is working with a coalition of civil rights organizations to protect individual rights.

Library meeting room policies are under attack from a Christian legal organization threatening lawsuits. The Office of Intellectual Freedom has sample policies and advice for libraries receiving a letter from the Alliance Defense Fund.

Choose Privacy Week will be May 1-7, 2011. This first year, 2010, had 11 states participating. Plans are underway for next year.

Banned Books Week is Sept. 25 - Oct 2 with “Think for yourself and Let others do the same” slogan. There is a 2010 edition of BANNED BOOKS: CHALLENGING OUR FREEDOM TO READ.

“Prisoners Right to Read; an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” was adopted at ALA 2010. <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ascla/asclaissues/prisonrights.cfm>

IF report, pages 6-7 includes the interpretation:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/ifgroups/ifcommittee/ifcination/ifcreports/ifcreportac2010.pdf>

Resolutions Adopted

Resolution Reaffirming Equal Employment Opportunity for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Librarians & Library Workers

Resolution to Insure Equitable Access to All Forms of Electronic Content Through Libraries

Resolution Concerning the Proposed Closing of the School of Library & Information Science at Louisiana State University

Resolution to Ensure Equitable Access to all Formats of Electronic Content Through Libraries

Resolution on Ensuring Summer Reading Programs for All Children and Teens

ALA-APA Council: Seems to be gaining on their indebtedness as students sign up for classes for APA Certification.

ASCLA/COSLA Cathleen Bourdon Award for Jerry Krois was picked up by Lesley Boughton and 8 other WY librarians who attended the reception on Sunday evening. Jerry was recognized for his years of service and dedication to this division. Association of Specialized & Cooperative Library Agencies/Chief Officers of State Library Agencies

Website Advisory Committee continues to work on improvements for ALA website. The Event Planner has been pulled into ALA Connect.

The ALA business meetings include dozens of reports, repeated budget discussions, new ideas, and old ones too. Almost everything is on line, or if you have a question please feel free to contact me. I may have something in my notes – or in my memory.

Submitted by Patty Myers, July 9, 2010