

Chapter Councilor Report  
March 5, 2011

The American Library Association Midwinter meeting was held in beautiful San Diego, California on January 7-11, 2011. Almost 10,000 members and vendors made the trip out west. This was a little less than last year's attendance in Boston. Attendance has typically been higher when the meeting is held on the more populous east coast.

Many Chapter Councilors attended the Orientation meeting and the Chapter Councilor orientation held on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Much vital information was given to help councilors be more effective in their duties.

Council began on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Keith Fiels, Executive Director of ALA, notified the ALA Council of a few concerns from their office. One, Organizational Membership has declined since the lapse of the Oprah Book Club. The association continues to monitor the situation and develop ways to increase that membership category. Another announcement concerned a Diversity recruitment grant-that will engage 35 field recruiters to work with ethnically diverse populations and interest them in the field of library science.

Electronic balloting for the ALA Elections opens March 16<sup>th</sup> and continues through April 22. Results will be announced on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Em Claire Knowles addressed council concerning Dinners for Spectrum Scholars. This is a local effort to raise the remaining \$400,000 for Spectrum Scholarships. State Associations, during the Chapter Council Forum, were asked to participate in fund raising at the state level. Em Claire also challenged each councilor to give to Spectrum and Stephen Matthews, ALA Executive Board member, suggested each councilor give \$100.

A resolution that was particularly interesting to Chapter Councilors was introduced on the first day of council. The Resolution on Notifying Conference and Meeting Attendees of Hotels Named on "Do Not Patronize" list required much discussion. The Chapter Councilor from Massachusetts was a co-signer and explained during the Chapter Council Forum that she had had a very difficult time with her Massachusetts conference because of a labor issue in Boston. Much discussion from both pro and con sides of this issue was calmly and respectfully discussed. There was no effort to vote as a block but the councilors had adequate information on voting in the way that would not negatively effect their state association as well as negatively impact ALA. The final result was that this resolution was voted down.

Reports-

Committee on Organization-recommends the addition of ex-officio member to Web Advisory Committee the chair of the ASCLA Accessibility Assembly, recommends dissolving the joint committee of ALA-AAP with the direction to the executive director to sustain a relationship between the two associationsl

Tuesday-Bylaws report-several bylaws were updated and clarified but were not substantive changes. Two changes will go to membership for a vote.

Committee on Legislation report-Resolution commending the U.S. Congress and the President on the Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act, Resolution Commending President Obama and U.S. Senate in Nominating and Confirming Susan Hildreth to be IMLS Director, Resolution thanking Bob Tapella for his service as the 25<sup>th</sup> Public Printer of the United States, Resolution to Commend Senator Jack Reed for His Efforts to Recognize Libraries as Essential Community Organizations During Disasters

International Relations Committee Report-75 international librarians from 18 countries are attending the San Diego meeting. This is the one-year anniversary of Haitian earthquake. ALA has raised \$25,000 but more is needed. IFLA is in August in San Juan. 30 ALA members serve on IFLA committee. Barbados and Taiwan joined the Campaign for the World's Libraries.

The Intellectual Freedom and Legislation committees joined forces to present an action item that came down very strongly in defense of WikiLeaks. Among the resolved clauses was: "Urges the U.S. President, Congress, the federal courts, and executive and legislative agencies to defend the inalienable right of the press and citizens to disseminate information to the public about national security issues and to refrain from initiatives that impair these rights." This joint resolution received unanimous support from Council. (Taken from Jim Casey's notes)

Because of the previous action other resolutions on WikiLeaks were tabled (essentially killing this motion for ever on ALA Council)

Resolution in support of Requesting Congress to Reintroduce and Vote on the DREAM Act-Passed easily

In other business, Endowment Fund rebounded to \$31.2 million. ALA Treasurer Jim Neal recommended trustees increase from three to five and Council approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri G. Kirk,  
Kentucky Chapter Councilor