

ALA Councilor
Report to the Board
March 29, 2008



ALA Elections—Vote before April 24, 2008

Kentucky has an opportunity to have additional representation on the ALA Council:

Judith Gibbons – Councilor-At-Large
Johan Koren – Councilor-At-Large
Christine McIntosh – Councilor-At-Large

ALCTS Members:

Mary Beth Thomson-Director-at-large
Connie Foster-Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

YALSA Members:

Ruth Cox Clark – Member-At-Large

LAMA Members:

Judith Gibbons – Director-at-large
Melissa Laning – Member-at-large

EMIERT Members

Bessie Faye Gray-Knox – Member-at-large

I am grateful to the Kentucky Library Association for the opportunity to serve as a councilor for the American Library Association. The first council was a bit daunting, and selecting the information for sharing from the council meetings and from the listservs is a challenge.

NEWS: Memphis will close five libraries and four community centers July 1 in an effort to make the organizations more efficient and keep a planned property-tax hike lower, Memphis Mayor Willie Herenton told the City Council on March 18. The mayor did not reappoint Judith Drescher. This article from Memphis' *Commercial Appeal* has been posted repeatedly on the ALA lists, along with just under 170 comments.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2008/mar/19/city-to-shut-down-five-libraries/?feedback=1#comments>

MIDWINTER: As was announced at the Council II session on January 15, the total attendance of ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia reached 13,601 by Monday, January 14. That was well ahead of the 12,230 for the same day at Seattle Midwinter 2007, 11,084 for San Antonio in 2006 and 13,232 for Boston in 2005.

The ALA Councilor Orientation held early on Saturday morning before Council I was informative and the first of many meetings that I attended, including information sessions

and caucuses in preparation for the next day Council meetings, and Allied Professionals Association Council meetings. I voted on your behalf on approximately 50 motions.

COUNCIL I: Chair of BARC (Budget Analysis and Review Committee), Marilyn Hinshaw reported that the Association finished another year “in the black.” The report delivered by the Presidential Task Force on Graduated Dues Structure revealed that the thorough study required for assessing the implementation of a Graduated Dues Structure would cost \$518,885. The survey portion – a \$45,000 component – may be implemented fairly soon as an affordable initial step. Councilors were also encouraged to learn that the market value of the Associations Endowment Fund increased by 8.4% during the 2007 calendar year. The Endowment Trustees are handling the Council’s desire to proceed with Socially Responsible Investment instruments (SRI) without negative consequences in terms of overall earnings.

“A Resolution on Member Access to Electronic Lists of ALA” was supported in principle by many on Council, but a debate ensued regarding discussions of privacy. The matter was eventually referred to the Task Force on Electronic Member Participation (TFOEMP) for clarification and further consultation on issues of privacy.

ALA-APA COUNCIL: This brief session reviewed the progress made by ALA-APA in launching its Certification Project for Public Library Administrators and its hope in the near future to begin a program to address the needs of para-professional staff.

ALA COO (Committee on Organization): The ALA Office for Advocacy was formed on September 4, 2007 and now is headed by Interim-Director Marci Merola. COO voted to recommend the formation of an ALA Advocacy Committee consisting of 13 members (six appointed for one year and seven for two years so that the terms would be staggered).

Charles Kratz, Liaison to COO from the Executive Board of ALA noted that the website redesign had been placed on the web in order to receive comments from the membership and with the hope of release in June 2008.

For Midwinter 2009 (Denver), ALA will require that members seeking ALA assistance in finding hotel accommodations have already registered. COO also discussed ways in which the representation on ALA Committees could be more inclusive of school librarians.

COUNCIL II: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the need for guidelines from the Executive Board of ALA concerning the formal endorsement of individual candidates by divisions, round tables and other units of ALA. Some Council Members contend that preventing such endorsements would be tantamount to stifling free speech while others fear that dissenting voices by members serving on units of ALA could be “punished” by an endorsement system that rewards conformity to established positions.

BARC will have the task of studying the feasibility of shortening Council sessions so that they can end on Tuesday rather than Wednesday. Much as Councilors agree with the sentiment of this notion, most understand that such a reality is not likely to happen soon due to contractual and other long standing obligations both to various decision-making

bodies of ALA that don't complete their work until Tuesday and to the local hospitality industries in cities targeted for future meetings.

The Council was enthusiastically supportive of honoring the following distinguished servants with Honorary Memberships in ALA.

Pat Mora, Author was nominated in recognition of her work on behalf of bilingual reading for children, her establishment of *El dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros* (DNLD), and her commitment to libraries across the country.

Effie Lee Morris, Retired Coordinator of Children's Services to the San Francisco Public Library, was nominated in recognition of her legacy to children's services and her early pioneering participation in the field of librarianship as an African American.

Peggy Sullivan, former Executive Director of the American Library Association and retired university Dean, Professor, Consultant and Scholar, was nominated in recognition of over 50 years of dedicated service to librarianship during which she wrote the definitive scholarly history of the tenure of Carl Milam [ALA secretary 1920-1946] and the growth of the American Library Association to an international organization.

Memorial tributes were presented for

Joanne Goodman Michaels (1957-2007), Boston Public Library
Cynthia B. Duncan (1932-2007), Old Dominion
Barbara Will, Library Services and Technology Act
Robert L. Oakley, (1946-2007), Georgetown Law Library

Council was also pleased to hear of the outstanding work being done by the Freedom to Read Foundation <http://www.ftrf.org> and to learn about its efforts to support litigation in defense of our liberties. FTRF Treasurer Jim Neal is seeking to expand the organizations fund raising efforts to include institutional memberships.

COUNCIL III: Programmatic Priorities for FY09 were approved during the Treasurer's Report. They include: Diversity, Equitable Access to Information and Library Services, Education in Lifetime Learning, Intellectual Freedom, Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession, Literacy and Organizational Excellence.

The Committee on Legislation asked Council to pass six resolutions – including one commending the FBI “whistleblower” Bassem Youssef for exposing abuses in the use of exigent national security letters. They all received overwhelming support.

International Relations Committee reminded Councilors that IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) Conference will be held in Quebec City during August 10-14, 2008 and urged U.S. Librarians to attend.

“Resolution on Providing Accessible Workstations at ALA Mid Winter Meetings and Annual Conferences” was passed overwhelmingly.

SRRT (Social Responsibilities Round Table) sponsored “Resolution on the Crisis in Kenya” called for an end to the violence and to the abridgement of freedoms in that country. The resolution was passed narrowly (67-65).

“Resolution on the Confiscation of Iraqi Documents from the Iraq National Library Archives” was passed overwhelmingly and called for the return by U.S. and British military forces of cultural documents to Iraqi repositories.

Councilors elected to the Executive Board include:

Em Claire Knowles
Graduate School of Library National
Science
Simmons College
Boston, MA

Joseph Eagen
Montgomery County Public Libraries
Olney, MD

Diane Chen
Hickman Elementary School
Nashville, TN

National Library Week



From ALA-APA: National Library Workers Day (NLWD) is April 15, 2008. NLWD is a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.



Go to <http://www.ala-apa.org/about/materials.html> for PR materials for the day or to **Submit a Star**. Tell everyone what makes a library employee special by submitting your favorite worker's name and why they are wonderful to the NLWD site.

I can get a table cloth and promotional materials for ALA for display at the KLA Fall Conference. I plan to have a table set up.

ALA Councilors are offered a hospitality suite during a scheduled time during conference. The suite reservation includes the room only. Would the Kentucky attendees be interested in a scheduled time to meet?

ALA Annual Conference June 26 - July 2, 2008 in Anaheim, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Tassie
ALA Councilor 2007-2010