

## *ALA Councilor*

### **Report to the Board**

### **October 1, 2008**

ALA Annual 2008 (June 26 - July 2) Conference was held in Anaheim, CA . The overall attendance exceeded New Orleans in 2006 and fell short of the Washington D.C. attendance in 2007. The final attendance for Anaheim was reported on July 2 at Council III to be 22,047. The past two Annual Conference final attendance reports were 28,228 for Washington (2007) and 16,784 New Orleans (2006).

- **2009** Midwinter 1/23-28 – Denver  
Annual 7/10-15 - Chicago
- **2010** Midwinter 1/15-20 - Boston  
Annual 6/24-30 - Washington DC
- **2011** Midwinter 1/21-26 - San Diego  
Annual 6/23-29 - New Orleans
- **2012** Midwinter 1/20-25 - Dallas  
Annual 6/21-27 - Anaheim
- **2013** Midwinter 1/25-30 - Seattle  
Annual 6/27-7/3 - Chicago
- **2014** Midwinter 1/24-29 - Philadelphia  
Annual 6/26-7/2 - Las Vegas

**Membership Meetings:** Both membership meetings had a quorum of 75+ members. The primary agenda item at both meetings was the report of Councilor-at-Large Janet Swan Hill, Chair of the Task Force on Electronic Member Participation (TFOEMP). The Task Force has been charged with examining the possible future of much wider and broader virtual participation in ALA at every level. The report was received well and numerous members urged a launch of full-fledged electronic member participation ASAP. Those attending the first Membership Meeting unanimously approved a “Resolution on Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information.” Those attending the second Membership Meeting observed a moment of silence in memory of Carol Combs Hole and Ellen Ruth McCrady.

#### **ALA-APA Meetings:**

President Loriene Roy presented her report on workplace wellness and encouraged visiting the “Join the Circle of Wellness @ Your Library” Web site ([www.ala-apa.org/wellness](http://www.ala-apa.org/wellness)).

President-elect Jim Rettig presented his report on a meeting convened by the Department for Professional Employees of the AFL-CIO. The theme was “Strengthening Professionalism in the Public Interest.” Representatives from 20 professional associations and labor unions discussed common areas of interest around professional integrity.

The ALA-APA Standing Committee on the Salaries and Status of Library Workers proposed a living wage resolution, which was approved by the ALA-APA Council. This resolution is non-binding and is intended to be useful as leverage for increasing the wages and salaries of library employees. The committee recognized that the salary endorsed in the resolution is more than adequate in some areas of the country and barely a living wage in other areas of the country. The two resolved sections are:

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association endorses a minimum entry-level salary for professional librarians of \$41,680 that is adjusted annually according to the latest cost of living index/CPI data; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that in recognition of the skills and competencies required of all library workers, the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association endorses a minimum wage for all library workers of at least \$13.00 per hour, to be adjusted annually in relation to the Federal poverty guidelines.

It was noted that the Committee intended for the \$13.00 per hour rate to be applicable to all staff *except* for high school students.

**ALA Council/Executive Board Membership:** The Budget and Analysis Committee (BARC)'s report by Marilyn Hinshaw detailed the challenges facing ALA in this year of serious inflation. Executive Director Fiels indicated that 3.5% had been set aside for Cost of Living Allowance for ALA Staff. The endowment trustees have been managing ALA's resources extremely well with an increase from \$11,022,000 in 2002 to \$30,554,000 in 2008. The merger of ALTA (Association for Library Trustees and Advocates) and FOLUSA (Friends of the Library USA) to form a new division called ALTAF (Association for Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations) was noted as an effort to combine administrative functions for the enhancement of efficiency and cost savings.

### **Council I:**

Resolutions Committee Chair, Peter McDonald, presented a significant revision to the guidelines for developing Council Resolutions (section 5.3 of Policy Manual).

The new, redesigned ALA web site was expected to be launched in September 2008. It is now operational [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) with some inside pages not yet linked. The process includes the transference of 60,000+ pages.

Efforts are underway to reduce the length of Mid Winter and Annual Meetings for Council as early as 2010 so that Council sessions could end on Tuesday rather than Wednesday.

Treasurer Rod Hersberger presented an excellent review of the fiscal challenges faced by ALA during the upcoming years. Remarks were addressed to the Chair expressing concern about the fiscal future of ALA-APA and also about the need to address the rising costs of travel to ALA conferences through greater emphasis on e-participation.

**Task Force on Electronic Member Participation (TFOEMP):** Janet Swan Hill reported on her committee's work of the past six months examining the possible future of much wider and broader virtual participation in ALA at every level. The

Task Force hopes to have firm recommendations drafted by about October 2008 so that they can be presented to Council at the January 2009 Mid Winter Meeting in Denver.

**ALA-APA Council:** . Despite the commonly accepted concerns about the fiscal viability of ALA-APA, the good news produced at this session reflected very heavy attendance at ALA-APA programs --- such as those involving “negotiating for better salaries” and “the union advantage”. One action item passed overwhelmingly at this session where the recommended minimum salary for a professional librarian was placed at \$41,680 and “a minimum wage for all library workers of at least \$13.00 per hour....” .

### **Council II:**

Following explanations from Jennifer Grady and Rod Herseberger, the budgetary ceiling for ALA-APA was passed at about \$265,000. Unlike, ALA-APA, the fiscal future of ALA appears to be very solid and well documented. The budgetary ceiling for ALA was approved at \$67,984,278.

Judith Platt, Freedom to Read Foundation President reported litigation activity underway to defend the rights of readers and bookstores to resist challenges to their right to have access to books and information. Membership in the FTRF has fallen off in recent years. ALA Members are encouraged to join:

<http://www.ftrf.org/joinftrf.html>

“Resolution on Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information” was referred by Councilor Larry Romans to the Committee on Legislation for review and moved to Mid Winter.

“Resolution on Support for Funding for Cataloging and Bibliographic Control at the Library of Congress” by Councilors Diane Dates Casey and Janet Swan Hill was passed unanimously. It is hoped that LC management will not continue to leave cataloging behind when it comes to funding and that this resolution will cause the LC administration to recognize that the larger library community recognizes the importance of bibliographic control.

Also passed overwhelmingly were “Resolution Supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)” and “Resolution Concerning ALA Policy Opposing Sweatshop Labor” (ALA and its bodies not purchase products for distribution to Membership that have been created by sweatshop labor).

### **Council III:**

Lois Ann Gregory-Wood celebrates her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an ALA Staff Member on October 11, 2008. A resolution recognizing her extraordinary service to ALA was passed unanimously (and with great joy) by Council.

Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) was approved as an affiliate of ALA under Article X of the ALA Constitution.

Revisions in six interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights designed to broaden and clarify their intent were passed.

The Committee on Legislation (COL) obtained Council support for funding the National Agriculture Library at the \$22 million level, to urge the Congress to support the measures put forward in the E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007, and to support efforts to preserve sound recordings made before February 15, 1972.

“Resolution Adopting the Definitions of Digital Preservation and the Revised Preservation Policy for the American Library Association” presented by Councilors Diane Dates Casey and Wei Jeng-Chu, was passed unanimously.

A “Resolution on Expanding Council Transparency” was passed after affirming discussion in favor of eventually telecasting (streaming) Council deliberations and those of our Membership Meetings.

**Mid-winter Conference will be held in Denver, CO, Jan. 23-29, 2009.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Tassie  
ALA Councilor 2007-2010