

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE—Anaheim, California. June 26-July 2, 2008.

ALA Annual for 2008 in Anaheim was located within a Disney theme park. The weather was remarkably mild and pleasant and the overall attendance was far better than Orlando and New Orleans (2006) annuals. 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).

Future Mid-Winter Meetings (January) will be held in Denver (2009), Boston (2010), San Diego (2011), Dallas (2012), Seattle (2013) and Philadelphia (2014). Future Annual Conferences (June) will be held in Chicago (2009), Washington, D.C. (2010), New Orleans (2011), Anaheim (2012), Washington (2013) and Las Vegas (2014).

ALA WO (Washington Office): This important briefing provided Conference attendees with the latest information about legislation and political activities relevant to Libraries. Jim Neal (University Librarian at Columbia University) described his efforts on the Library of Congress Working Group on Section 108 from 2005 to 2008. The focus of this group was to examine “Fair Use” concepts on the issue of copyright and determine where consensus exists, where there is an “agreement to disagree” and those issues where insufficient information exists to arrive at a definite line of argument. The Study Group site reveals what is likely to become an increasingly intense battle that could affect the future of Library service. Jim Neal concluded his remarks with the point “fair use” is not “civil disobedience” and we should be ready to fight for “fair” use in the years to come. LC Site on copyright issue: <http://www.loc.gov/section108>

Lynne Bradley, Office of Government Relations, was among several articulate speakers who urged grass roots advocacy on Federal issues. “Virtual Lobbying Day” was set for July 1 (Tuesday) from 8 AM to Noon where concerted e-mail messaging to key Senators and Representatives was scheduled. This also involved those of us who were on the floor of Council at the time. Librarians wishing to keep up to date on the latest issues before Congress should note the following sites: <http://www.ala.org/washoff>.

Presenters from ALAWO remarked upon some auspicious starts in appropriation activity in Congress and noted where LSTA funding was approved at an unexpectedly high level. Funding for service to the blind was also described with some optimism as to funding expectations. The E-Rate program was also described in a positive framework as well and it was noted that public libraries had received \$608 million during the first 10 years of the program (1998 to 2007).

Pat Tumulty, New Jersey Library Association Executive Director, led the discussion about LSTA. A brief history of the emergence of Federal funding in support of Libraries from LSA (Library Services Act) in 1956 for improvement of rural public library service, to 1964 and LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) and finally LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) concluded with the stated goal of 2009 to raise LSTA appropriations at \$171.5 million and address the base funding level set for a small State at 2003 at \$680,000. The ALA Washington Office indicated that there have been positive signs that this goal might be reached in the 2009 Federal Fiscal Year (beginning 10/1/08).

MEMBERSHIP MEETING I: There was a quorum of 75+ Members present so business could be transacted. The primary agenda item was the report of Janet Swan Hill of the Task Force on Electronic Member Participation (TFOEMP). It was not only received well, but seconded by practically every remark uttered. The urging was for full fledged electronic member participation to begin ASAP. --- The Membership Meeting also approved unanimously a “Resolution on Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information”.

ALA COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE BOARD/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SESSION: The Budget and Analysis Committee (BARC) report by Marilyn Hinshaw was detailed and informative. The challenges facing ALA in this year of serious inflation have been considerable. Executive Director Fiels indicated that 3.5% had been set aside for COLA for ALA Staff. --- The Endowment Fund Report by Chair Robert Newlen was also informative and encouraging. Despite a highly volatile market, the endowment fund only declined by 1.7% during the past year. The endowment stood at \$30,554,000 in Market Value at the end of May 2008. The endowment trustees have been managing our 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 ALTAFF (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.

ALA/APA COUNCIL: Revenue results for ALA-APA we said to have fallen short by about \$11,000. However, no handout about the fiscal situation of ALA-APA was presented at this time. It was further noted that about 23% of the salary of the Executive Director of ALA-APA had to be shifted away from ALA-APA to another aspect of ALA HQ operations.

COUNCIL I: Resolutions Committee Chair, Peter McDonald, presented a significant revision to the guidelines for developing Council Resolutions (section 5.3 of Policy Manual). Extremely helpful clarifications were approved. Michael Golrick and Larry Romans were also significant in the crafting of these changes.

The new, redesigned ALA web site is expected to be launched in September 2008. Preview site: <http://staging.ala.org/home.cfm> --- 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.

ALA-APA COUNCIL: It was especially unfortunate that the fiscal report on ALA-APA was not included in the packet for the first ALA-APA Council Meeting, but even more so that it failed to appear at this second meeting where the Treasurers Report provided projections for FY 2009 without accompanying information regarding the performance of the APA portion of ALA during FY2007 and FY2008. ALA Treasurer Rod Hersberger agreed to postpone votes on the Budget Ceiling for ALA-APA to Council II due to the

failure of ALA-APA Staff to produce the FY2008 estimates to support the FY2009 Budget projections. 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....” Many councilors voiced concerns about this guideline due to the hourly rate of \$13.00 for ALL staff and the failure to consider those part-time staff whose rates could rise from about \$7.50 per hour to \$13.00 [+73%] and be practically impossible for most public libraries to address. When Executive Director Fiels was asked whether all staff in ALA itself were earning at least \$13.00 per hour, he had to admit that they weren’t and quickly agreed to make the upward adjustments – without referral of the resolution to BARC – if the guidelines passed Council.

OCLC PRESIDENT’S LUNCHEON: This was a pleasant and informative affair. After receiving recognition for completion of 10 years as CEO of OCLC (May 11, 1998 – Present), Jay Jordan highlighted new products and a global reach. The Next Generation Cataloging Presence “explores upstream metadata capture and enhancement using publisher and vendor ONIX metadata”:

<http://www.oclc.org/productworks/nextgencataloging.htm> . This was said by Mr. Jordan to be following the LC Working Group recommendations on bibliographic control and represents an effort to move forward on that front. The increase from 1998 of 668 million items represented in World Cat to 1.3 billion by 2008 and increase of 38 million catalog records in 1998 to 104 million records by 2008 was a truly astounding representation of progress. The many important new projects launched by OCLC can be accessed at the link <http://www.oclc.org> .

COUNCIL II: Following fairly clear explanations from Jennifer Grady (ALA-APA) and Rod Herseberger (ALA Treasurer), the budgetary ceiling for ALA-APA was passed at about \$265,000. The fiscal future of ALA-APA remains cloudy. --- 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 Intellectual Freedom Committee, chaired by Kenton Oliver, did an excellent job of keeping the IF documents up to date. --- The International Relations Committee presented an action item seeking the return of historical documents confiscated from the Iraqi National Library. --- COO succeeded in formalizing the composition of the Committee on Accreditation. --- 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 much affirming discussion in favor of eventually telecasting (streaming) Council deliberations and those of our Membership Meetings. It is hoped that steps can move beyond the stage of investigation towards implementation.

Council III business was concluded by 10 AM on July 2. This is the earliest adjournment for a Council III session that anyone can recall. It is a credit to the skillful leadership provided by President Lorienne Roy, President-elect Jim Rettig and ALA Staff as well as the outstanding work done by Resolutions Committee led by Peter McDonald.

Copies of the final wording of all resolutions and action items from Council Sessions will be posted and available on the ALA Web Site <http://www.ala.org> in a few weeks.

Cindy Czesak

New Jersey Chapter Councilor

July 7, 2008