

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE— New Orleans, Louisiana. June 23 – June 28, 2011.

#### Indiana Chapter Councilor's Report

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Compared to ALA Annual in 2006, the City of New Orleans is obviously beginning to recover. The total registration, including exhibitors, exceeded 20,000, but was lower than some other recent Annual conferences. The previous Annual Conference final attendance reports were 26,201 for Washington, D.C.(2010), 28,941 for Chicago (2009), 22,047 for Anaheim (2008), 28,499 for Washington (2007), and 16,784 New Orleans (2006). Future Mid-Winter Meetings (January) will be held in Dallas (2012), Seattle (2013) and Philadelphia (2014). Future Annual Conferences (June) will be held in Anaheim (2012), Washington (2013) and Las Vegas (2014).

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SESSION: Mario Gonzalez, Chair of Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC), reported how ALA and its divisions have sustained service despite shortfalls in revenue due to lower than budgeted expenses. FY2011 ends on August 31, 2011. Mario explained how revenue shortfalls of \$891,000 would be addressed by budget cuts amounting to \$737,000. Reserves will be tapped up to \$375,000 in order to balance the budget. The FY2012 Budget is being planned in recognition of the budgetary trends of FY2011 and with the understanding of the need for economies. Endowment Trustee Chair Dan Bradbury reviewed the progress of the Endowment Fund as of May 31, 2011. He cautioned that it is merely a “snap shot”. He reported a total in the fund of \$33,472,000 (gain of \$1.8 million) as of May 31 with positive results from virtually every investment instrument employed. The Trustees have done a wonderful job of bringing the Endowment Fund back from a low point in 2008 of \$23,421,000. Dan affirmed the effective fiscal management of the ALA Administrative team. The Fund was well positioned to take advantage of the economic recovery in financial markets.

President Roberta Stevens reported on her year as President. She toured Libraries throughout the country and promoted both advocacy and fund raising initiatives. Roberta is pleased that authors have stepped forward to serve as advocates of libraries. Roberta warned that all Librarians and Library advocates need to be ready to answer the question and challenge “Since we have the Internet, why do we need Libraries?” The answers given should be articulate and affirmative for Library advocacy. President-Elect Molly Rafael described how she will proceed with advocacy and diversity as targets for presidential initiatives.

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels gave a brief review of his lengthy written report to Council and Executive Board. He noted that Members were encouraged to give generously to ALA funding initiatives. Keith mentioned the June 1, 2011 Virtual Town Hall with 530 attendees from across the country and around the World. He indicated that the Virtual Town Hall Meetings will become a regular feature of ALA. He also promoted improvements in the ALA Web Site. He warned that ALA will be dealing with the trend towards privatization of public libraries and developing initiatives to discourage this development.

ALA-APA COUNCIL: Keith Michael Fiels (ALA-APA Executive Director) announced that ALA-APA Executive Director Jenifer Grady is leaving her position for a new job in Nashville, Tennessee. Her service to ALA-APA was affirmed. She was the first and only ED of this organization (since 2003). Lorelle Swader is taking over the organization for the present time. The \$39,963 net revenue for FY 2011 is expected to allow for the repayment of about \$10,000 towards the \$240,000 debt owed to ALA. The ED of ALA-APA became a part-time position during 2010. The budgetary ceiling of \$271,988 was passed.

COUNCIL I: Brent Bonfield presented a report on the **Future Perfect Task Force**. Among the recommendations were to promote virtual participation, merging of Council and the Executive Board and representation of Chapters on this new body. Brent made the good point that a very large proportion of the ALA Membership is not able to attend meetings in person due to the costs involved. A lively discussion was provoked by this report --- especially the suggestion to disband Council in favor of direct voting by all members of ALA in the business of the Association. Some comments referred to the reality that the vast majority of the 61,000 members of the Association have absolutely no interest in governance. Annelle Huggins reported on the **Chapter Relations Task Force**; this report included recommendations to improve the communication between chapters and ALA and the effectiveness of working together. The “Resolution on Out of School Time Library Programs” presented by ALSC Division Councilor Rhonda Puntney and seconded by YALSA Division Councilor Nick Burton, and AASL Division Councilor Sylvia Norton passed unanimously. This resolution calls for support from national and local government bodies, including funding, for library programs designed to continue the learning opportunities available to youngsters beyond the school day.

COUNCIL II: Councilor Pam Klipsch began the session with thanks to Councilors for their efforts to build support for the recovery of libraries in Joplin, Missouri. Councilor John A. Moorman, Chair of the Policy Monitoring Committee, secured Council approval for revision of several ALA policies. A report is being prepared for the next Annual Conference to recommend a complete revision of the Policy Manual. Councilor Tom Wilding, Chair of Constitution and Bylaws Committee, secured several action items regarding Council elections and voting during virtual membership meetings. Jim Rettig’s report from Committee on Organization secured approval of the creation of a **Games and Gaming Roundtable** in ALA and the launching of efforts by the Executive Board to provide for studies to assess the feasibility of virtual or remote participation on ALA committees. Jim Rettig, Chair, **Council Effectiveness Task Force**, reported several possible suggestions for the enhancement of Council effectiveness and relevance. He noted that ALA Connect could be used to greater effect and that Council to become more focused on the discussion of strategic issues. It was suggested that reports without action items, such as the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), not remain on the Council agenda. The action items of this Council Effectiveness Task Force report were postponed to Council III. FTRF President Kenton Kent announced that the Supreme Court had delivered a 7-2 decision favorable to FTRF in *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association* earlier in the day.

The ALA **Presidential Task Force on Equitable Access to Electronic Content**, represented by co-chairs Linda Crowe and Michael Porter, recommended a series of action items, which passed. These included referral of their recommendations to BARC and the Executive Board for implementation, particularly the allocation of \$200,000 to sustain staff efforts to promote equitable access to electronic content. Michael Porter emphasized that this issue is of such importance that it “needs a home and it needs resource allocation.” The Council recognized the need for urgent action and voted to approve the recommendations.

**Resolution on Revised Guidelines for ALA Intern Program** established the voting rights for interns on ALA Committees. Previously, voting rights were at the discretion of Committee Chairs. The Interns have been important participants on ALA Committees for many years and this measure was passed with a unanimous vote.

COUNCIL III: The beginning of this final session included eleven memorial resolutions and two tributes. ALA Treasurer Jim Neal reported \$27,300,659 in revenues versus \$29,789,574 in expenses. Further reductions in expenses amounting to \$737,000 left a remaining deficit of \$154,000 will be addressed by the use of up to \$375,000 to guarantee a balanced budget by the end of the FY 2011 on August 31. The total General Fund Annual Estimate of Income for FY 2012 was set at \$27,820,693. A total Budgetary Ceiling of \$62,912,676 was passed unanimously. A Fundraising Advisory Committee is being planned and the Endowment Fund payout to the Association of from 3% to 5% for supporting the ongoing operation of the Association and to insure a balanced budget. The Endowment Fund Payout formula (Policy 8.5.1) was passed by Council. Jim also noted that ALA is targeting more of its resources towards strengthening the technology infrastructure of the Association.

Julius Jefferson, Chair of Intellectual Freedom Committee, presented an action item, the **Resolution to Protect Library User Confidentiality in Self-Service Hold Practices**, urging libraries with self-service holds practices to protect the privacy rights of patrons by concealing the names and other personal identity information from the public. This resolution passed by a near unanimous vote. Another resolution **Resolution to continue opposition to the use of Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act and the use of National Security Letters to violate reader privacy** was passed unanimously. Legislation Committee Chair Charles Kratz obtained Council passage of the following resolutions: **Resolution on Government Printing Office FY2012 Appropriations; Resolution on defunding of Statistical Agencies; Resolution to increase funding for the Improving Literacy through School Libraries Program; Resolution to increase funding for the Library Services and Technology Act; Resolution to include libraries in the Workforce Investment Act.** International Relations Committee Chair, Sha Li Zhang, reported on the work of the Committee during the past year.

Jim Rettig returned with the Council Effectiveness Task Force recommendations. In addition to informational recommendations, the following action items were approved: Recommendation 3.2: Resolutions should include statement how it is related to the Strategic Plan; Recommendation 5.1: The Information session and Membership session should be combined; Recommendation 6.4: Council approved a self-assessment

Also before Council were the following resolutions: **Resolution to Endorse the United Nations 16 May 2011 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression**, presented by Councilor Aaron Dobbs and Patrick Sweeney, was passed unanimously; Resolution **to Adopt ALA Connect as the Official Communication Channel for Official Association Business**, presented by Aaron Dobbs and Jennifer Pickle was withdrawn.

Copies of the final wording of all resolutions and action items from Council Sessions are posted on the ALA Web Site <http://www.ala.org> .

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Indiana Chapter Councilor