



ALA Annual Conference 2004, Orlando

Wyoming Chapter Councilor's Report

Please contact me with any questions or comments about this report or ALA in general.

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Orlando was a good conference. At this annual meeting Council had discussions about rural libraries, a positive step.

The new ALA president Carol Brey-Casiano is very enthusiastic and promotes grass roots advocacy. She is bilingual and reaches out to Spanish-speaking library users.

The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

Actions

Core Values – Council adopted the work of the Core Values Task Force II. Here are the core values to guide professional practice: Access, Confidentiality/Privacy, Democracy, Diversity, Education and Lifelong Learning, Intellectual Freedom, Preservation, The Public Good, Professionalism, Service, Social Responsibility. The task force is now dissolved.

Library School Closings - The Clark Atlanta library school faces closure--this is a school with a high level of minority students. Another southern school (Valdosta) is looking to reinstate this program if Clark Atlanta closes. Council voted to extend the life of this task force, charged with assisting Clark Atlanta and trying to prevent future library school closures.

Rural Libraries Task Force – Council voted to help this group get a permanent home in ALA. This issue was assigned to OLOS (Office for Literacy and Outreach Services) and they will work to ensure a permanent committee home for rural and tribal libraries. There is a rural libraries committee in the Public Library Association, but since there are many types of rural libraries this is a positive development.

Resolution on Accessible Voting and Other Information Technology - Passed. This ensures that as online voting technologies develop, voting will be accessible to members with disabilities.

Resolution to Reduce Membership Meeting Quorums– Passed. Membership meetings now only require 75 members to make quorum.

Resolutions moved by the Committee on Legislation: Council adopted 5 resolutions total: Resolution on Guidelines for Sensitive Information, Resolution on Securing Government Accountability through Whistleblower Protection, Resolution on Access to and Ownership of Government Information, Resolution on Superintendent of Documents

Salaries, and Expenses Appropriation for FY2005, Resolution on the Administrative Conference of the United States.

Resolution against the Use of Torture by the U.S. Government as a Violation of our Basic Values as Librarians
– Passed.

Resolution on the Occupation of Iraq - Failed.

Other Events, Meetings, and Updates

UPDATES:

ALA Legislative Day - May 3rd and May 4th, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

Attendance - Total: 19,731 (this includes 5,758 exhibitors)

COPA (Child Online Protection Act) – this act prohibits the transmission of any material deemed harmful to minors. It was ruled against in the Supreme Court, 5-4 on June 29, 2004. This sends it back to the U.S. District Court for trial.

Copyright - There is a new handbook published by ALA called [Complete Copyright: An Everyday Guide for Libraries](#) by Carrie Russell. The companion website is <http://www.ala.org/completercopyright>

LTA Programs - A new Committee on Education document provides guidance for educational institutions preparing to start two-year LTA (Library Technical Assistants) programs leading to an Associate degree, and guidelines for evaluation of existing LTA programs.

Advocacy Assembly - There will be a one-day Advocacy Institute during Midwinter 2005 (which I will be attending at the request of WLA President, Carey Hartmann). The suggestion is to have one librarian, one friend and one trustee to attend if possible.

This institute will be repeated at the Annual 2005 conference. Grass roots advocacy is the focus of the Carol Brey-Casiano's incoming ALA president's platform. There will be a funding website available with statistics for legislative/community people. Tell Your Story toolkit will launch in January--this is for "just in time" situations with reporters for example. There will be a Best Practices database. The Advocacy Registry costs \$25 and is a newsletter for friends and trustees. There is an ACRL Advocacy committee to address advocacy in the academic environment. There is a pool of trainers to be accessed if interested in trainers for marketing. AASL School librarians launched their campaign at their October conference. Every member received a toolkit with a lot of creative input from different regions. The trustees are promoting "The Smartest Card at Your Library: Get it, Use it" initiative. Carol Brey-Casiano's goal is to get advocacy networks on the local, state and national level and to recruit advocates not always considered like library school students and vendors. Her platform ties previous platforms together--better salaries, intellectual freedom and equity of access. Library Advocacy Now--there could be a state day, too. As few as ten comments will make legislators take note. Advocacy on the local level is vital--talk to city councilors and commissioners and academic administrators. The Library/Business alliance--CEOs of these companies--this is another important group to lobby for libraries. In conjunction with the institute, there will be ALA Talking Points online, a best practices website and an online directory of advocates.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Chapter Relations Committee – I attended two of the three meetings. The first CRC meeting conflicted with the Advocacy Assembly.

- **CRC 2** – The E-rate fraud abuse is taking place in some schools, but no libraries. CIPA is effective July 1st--must be compliant to get e-rate. There are American Red Cross materials available that libraries can co-brand. IMLS has "Coming Up Taller" awards available--very few libraries are applying and there is money. The Department

of Commerce has top grants for technology available--again, few libraries are applying. UCITA, no state has passed this since Maryland and Virginia four years ago. LSTA requested \$220 million. Boucher amends bill to reaffirm fair use (this is a good one) HR 107 co-sponsors.

Patriot Act Study: There is a Carnegie grant to study and measure law enforcement activities by librarians to protect librarians.

There are new councilor orientation packets and the new orientation chair is Charles Kratz. See the ND Chapter Council Handbook online as an additional example.

Membership Committee: There will be a recruitment, retention preconference in Chicago. The goal is to get two people from every state to attend. How people approach association membership, trends, etc.

Contact Tina Coleman for help setting up the ALA store at your state conference.

ALA leaders are available as speakers at state conferences.

- **CRC 3** - The committee decided to change its traditional three meetings to two meetings per conference and hold the last meeting time as a chapter councilor forum time.

ALA/APA Information Session - Carla Hayden gave a report. There was also a financial report--total donations for APA last year \$8,026. Total donations to date \$13,380. Michael Gorman, ALA President Election, will donate speaking fees to APA.

Dynix gave a donation of \$6,000--for someone who has advocated for librarians' salaries.

ALA APA Council I - The video "Working @ Your Library: For Love or Money" was shown, to obtain one send a \$25 donation to APA. The video is to be used to advocate for librarians' salaries. The online APA newsletter will start to have a cost attached to it (\$35.00 for ALA members). A toolkit for unions will appear next year. Council approved a budgetary ceiling of \$302,681 for FY05.

Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session - This meeting covered ALA budget information and other reports. BARC (Budget Committee) reported that ALA was 1.2 million dollars less than budget this year. ALA will institute a hiring freeze this fall but there will be no layoffs. Opening the ALA office in Washington should save money. \$40,000 will go to rural libraries advocacy campaign. BARC requests that this is submitted for the 2006 budget cycle. The Strategic Planning and Trustees report was also included. Those in attendance had a strategic thinking session in small groups and discussed the main issues facing ALA and how to address those issues.

Council I - No resolutions voted on during this session, this served more as an informational meeting. Patricia Glass Schumann, chair of the Public Awareness Committee presented a PR video that will be available for purchase. Keith Michael Fiels provided highlights that ALA membership is up 2% (1,146 new members). The recruitment website is being revamped. Executive Board actions since last Midwinter: They are repaying the loan for ALA's litigation on CIPA and the Communications Decency Act. They also voted to establish an ALA advocates program. Freedom to Read Report: They have begun litigation related to the Patriot Act (see *Muslims of Ann Arbor v. John Ashcroft*). Involved in several other lawsuits with COPA, *Yahoo v. Federal Government* (Nazi documents for sale online). Report from the task force on Rural Libraries: There are 61.7 million citizens served by these libraries. They are requesting ALA to demonstrate leadership and a commitment toward these libraries. The task force needs a more permanent home in the place of a committee. More visible. Online training, mentoring, restructure dues for rural librarians all requested. The task force did a survey but it needs to be expanded. BARC has started to discuss this and it has been referred to OLOS (Office for Literacy and Outreach Services).

Treasurer's reports that ALA and ALA APA budgets are sound but there is a financial shortfall of \$1.2 million. Council approved a budgetary ceiling of \$48,972,061 for ALA FY05. BARC recommended increasing the annual conference charge starting with Chicago 2005. Dues may also increase.

Council II – There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the acceptance of the Core Values II Force Statement but it was accepted. There was also discussion about the possible closing of the Clark Atlanta Library School, the task force will continue with their related work for another year. Council was told that the print handbook would no longer be free to members since it costs \$50,000 per year to print. There was a great deal of discussion against this idea. In a recent update, the Executive Director Keith M. Fiels said he will ensure the handbook will be available in print to ALA members.

Council Forum – The main discussion regarded the lack of a quorum at membership meetings and what to do about this. Various suggestions included: A public comment period for members during council meetings, having the membership meeting before a big event like the opening speaker, and publicizing what the membership meeting entails. Membership meetings used to be vigorous at one time. The decision was made to try to move the health insurance resolution up on the Council 3 agenda. I voted for this but it failed and the resolution was not addressed at this conference.

Council III - The final session of council did not complete the agenda, even though the meeting went forty minutes over. There were several committee reports with the most time spent on the IRC (International Relations Committee) report—Cuba. The chair had drafted letters in response to the Cuba and was chided for doing so. There was much discussion that last year's report on Cuba should be the final word and sent to anyone who continues to initiate contact on this issue. Only three of nine resolutions were voted on and two of those passed (*see actions on page 1*). Those resolutions that didn't make it include health insurance (ALA brokered a deal but a lot of librarians still can't afford it) and corporate sponsorships (the Walgreen's partnership has been controversial issue on Council listserv).

PROGRAMS:

President's Program – Carla Hayden's (now past-president) program featured several speakers who discussed *Brown v. Board of Education*. This relates to her presidential platform, equity of access. Cheryl Brown (daughter of Oliver Brown), E.J. Josey (past ALA president) Taylor Branch (author), and Ray Suarez (correspondent for PBS Lehrer News Hour). Cheryl Brown discussed the media myth around this case. The research and interviews are vital to understanding what really happened--the media shouldn't rewrite history. There were a lot of lawsuits before Brown, but on the twelfth time, the NAACP decided to pursue a lawsuit in Kansas. Thirteen families stood with Brown including Oliver Brown--twelve women and one man--they choose Brown because he was the only male. He didn't act alone and the web information is a purveyor of myths. E.J. Josey was appointed to the Savannah Georgia Public Library Board with other African American board members. Taylor Branch provided historical context about the civil rights movement--he has authored several books on this subject. Ray Suarez's talk was cut short by a fire alarm.

PLA Awards and Speaker - The Public Library Association president Luis Herrera presented various awards and Carl Hiaason gave a presentation. See the PLA's award website for award and grant opportunities:

<http://www.ala.org/PLATemplate.cfm?Section=plaawards>

Trust/Anti-Trust and Scholarly Publishing - There were 3 speakers, Bert Foer (anti-trust lawyer), Mark McCabe (economist) and Mary Case (librarian, was the director of Scholarly Communication at ACRL and is now at the University of Chicago). The librarian's talk was the most relevant to me. The lawyer discussed that states could get involved in lawsuits to change Internet bundling through their state attorneys and the Department of Justice (especially powerful states like New York). Thirty percent of the DOJ cases are merger, and one half of those mergers are stopped. Academic publishers have a lot of buyer power because they give value, prestige and distribution to the author. Bundling is a vertical relationship between a buyer and seller. This forces the purchase of things that are not wanted, for example the 3M vs. Lepages (circuit court voted in favor of Lepages).

The Economics professor discussed that print is a narrow market--he studied seven mergers of biomed titles between 1988-2001. Two big concerns with bundling--big companies prevent new companies from entering the market and although costs have decreased the bundling results in higher costs (Section 2 violation facing Microsoft). "Open access may be indirect evidence of successful foreclosure." Big examples are Elsevier/Harcourt in 2001 and Candoer/Springer 2003.

Mary Case, the librarian, showed an organizational chart of the mergers between companies. For example, Reed

Elsevier owns Endeavor and Lexis/Nexis. There is an Information Access Alliance formed in 2002 to address these issues. The IAA strategy is to build economic and legal arguments and have spokespeople from beyond the libraries put pressure on regulators. There is a Whitepaper to the DOJ in Summer 03 on publisher mergers. The UK Fair Trading Study is online and the EU study is undertaken. See <http://www.informationaccess.org> and <http://antitrustinstitute.org>

The attorney general's role is that they can stop a merger at the state level. Interested states should coordinate efforts. Carleton College in MN put the facts on their website and the faculty recommended they pull out of their deals. There was a SPARC observer at the meeting.

VENDOR EVENTS:

Endeavor Digital Breakfast; Ebsco Luncheon; Web of Knowledge Luncheon; OCLC Breakfast

Special Recognitions

Elections – Committee on Committees: Marilyn Hinshaw, Dora Ho, Loriene Roy, Joe Eagan are the new members. Council Representatives to the Planning and Budget Assembly: At-Large Councilors: Skip Hampton, Patricia Hogan, Molly Raphael. Chapter Councilors: Nancy Bolt, Annette R. Huggins

Memorials – Council adopted memorial resolutions for Cynthia J. Johanson, Thomas J. Galvin, Joyce C. Parks, Charles E. Beard, June Kahler Berry, Mae Weine, and Elizabeth Morrisett.

Tributes – Council adopted tribute resolutions for the South Dakota Library Association's 100th Anniversary, RUSA/RSS Library Service to an Aging Population Committee on its 40th Anniversary, David Cohen for Lifetime Achievement in Multiculturalism and Intellectual Freedom.

Select Websites

ALA Office for Information Technology Policy

<http://www.ala.org/oitp>

ALAWON

Subscribe to this free electronic newsletter to get the latest news on legislative and policy issues affecting libraries.

<http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon>

Carol Brey-Casiano (ALA President)

<http://www.carolbrey.com>

CIPA

<http://www.ala.org/cipa>

Legislative Action Center – Take Action!

<http://capwiz.com/ala>

National Library Legislative Day May 3-4, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.ala.org/washoff/legislateday.html>

Privacy Toolkit by the Intellectual Freedom Committee

<http://www.ala.org/oif/iftoolkits/privacy>

Public Library Association New Campaign (kick off September) The Smartest Card

<http://www.pla.org/smartestcard.htm>

Rural Libraries Resources

<http://www.ala.org/ala/olos/outreachresource/servicesrural.htm>

Tell Your Story! Submit how budget cuts have affected your library.

<http://www.ala.org/libraryfunding>

USA PATRIOT Act: ALA continues to work with a coalition of groups to amend parts of the Patriot Act.

<http://www.ala.org/espyp>

