

ALA Wyoming Chapter Councilor Report
ALA Midwinter 2006, San Antonio, TX, January 20-25, 2006

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.
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First, thank you for electing me to serve as your ALA Chapter Councilor for 2006-2008. Although I knew that ALA is a large and complex organization, I had no idea how large and complex. If you are at all interested in the inner workings of ALA, you might want to plan to attend at least one Council meeting the next time you are at an ALA conference. The Council meetings are open to the public and observers are welcome. The ALA Councilors also serve as the governing board for the ALA-APA (American Library Association – Allied Professional Association), and those meetings are open as well.

As a new councilor, I attended orientation, which was helpful as far as meeting the ALA officers and hearing an overview of how the Council operates, but didn't provide much help with learning about the procedures. The first of the three Council meetings was a learning experience as I was able to observe the procedures in action in a low-key setting.

For a summary of all actions upon which the Council voted during this conference, please go to:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governance/council/councilactions/2006mwaction.htm>

For background documentation of these actions and complete agendas, please go to the 2006 Midwinter conference section on the following page:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governance/council/councilagendas/councilagendas.htm>

ALA Dues Increase

Of particular interest to ALA members is the proposed dues increase, the first in about 10 years. There was much discussion about the possibility of implementing a salary-based graduated dues structure. In fact, the current dues structure is graduated, with reduced rates for students, support staff, trustees, international librarians, and members earning less than \$20,000 per year. With over 66,000 members and an operating budget in excess of \$53 million, the logistics of collecting the dues (considerable computer programming and training would be required) and the uncertainty of the income stream (dues currently provide 17% of ALA's revenues) seemed to be insurmountable obstacles to implementing a salary-based structure. I support the ALA's position on maintaining the current type of dues structure.

The proposed dues structure, upon which ALA members will be asked to vote in March 2006, is as follows:

Personal Members

	[2006]	2007	2008	2009
1. Regular Member	[\$100]	\$110	\$120	\$130
2 nd year membership:	[\$75]	\$83	\$90	\$98
1st year membership:	[\$50]	\$55	\$60	\$65
2. Library Support Staff Members:	[\$35]	\$39	\$42	\$46
3. Trustee and Associate Members:	[\$45]	\$50	\$54	\$59
4. International Librarians:	[\$60]	\$66	\$72	\$78
5. Student Members (Eligibility is limited to				

no more than five calendar years):	[\$25]	\$28	\$30	\$33
6. Other Members:	[\$35]	\$39	\$42	\$46

Note that ALA Council voted to increase the salary threshold referenced in the "Other Members" definition (Article 1.A.6) from \$20,000 per annum to \$25,000 per annum.

If the dues increases seem excessive, consider the fact that the \$10 increase for regular members amounts to less than three Starbucks lattes per year. On a more serious note, the ALA dues structure, even considering the fact that about 2/3 of the members belong to at least one ALA Division, is pretty reasonable in comparison to other organizations such as the Medical Library Association, Special Library Association, and IFLA. I believe that the ALA staff have taken steps to reduce costs, including leaving positions vacant, and there is a real need for the funds that would be provided by the dues increase. Please watch for further information on this topic on the ALA website and elsewhere, and consider voting to support this increase.

ALA-APA

The Certified Public Library Administrator Program is gaining momentum. For information on the program please go to: <http://www.ala-apa.org/> and click on the heading with that title.

Note that National Library Workers Day is April 4, 2006.

The 2005 ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries is available through ALA-APA now, for \$63. Since the data collection methodology has changed, the data are not comparable to previous editions. Work on the non-MLS salary survey (for positions not requiring an MLS) will begin in February 2006 and the data will be available online next year.

You may also be interested to know that ALA-APA has an electronic newsletter, Library Worklife, to which ALA members can subscribe for \$35 a year (for non-members, the cost is \$60 a year). To view the current issue, please go to: <http://www.ala-apa.org/newsletter/current.html>

How Can I Best Represent WLA?

At my first round of Council meetings, I did not have any particular guidance from WLA on any of the matters that came up, so I voted as I thought best. In general, I do not support resolutions that appear to be outside the scope of ALA's responsibilities in support of libraries and librarians, so I voted against a resolution (ALA CD#44) asking the U.S. Senate to oppose the Alito confirmation to the Supreme Court. I also voted against a resolution (ALA CD#36) opposing the Academic Bill of Rights. My complete voting record will be posted to the ALA website soon, but I would welcome interaction with WLA members and officers concerning these votes or any issues you may have, upon which you would like me to take a "WLA stance."

In reference to this report, I did not provide a lot of detail on the individual actions, because that information is readily available on the ALA website. If you would like background on anything related to ALA Council, please feel free to contact me. If I hear that there is a general desire for me to provide more elaborate reports, I am happy to do so.