

ALA Report, Mid Winter 2011
January 8 -11, San Diego, CA

This was my third ALA as the WY Councilor, and it was finally easy! I am half way through my term, and the process is making sense. So I hope my report is making sense too.

Friday, Jan. 7, I arrived in San Diego and had the privilege of hearing David Levithan, Stewart O’Nan, Armistead Maupin, and Susan Vreeland at an authors’ forum. This was opening night for the exhibits too. This was a nice pre-conference arrival. I did meet with Brodart representatives to discuss their sole source plans.

Saturday, January 8, the work begins, but first there was a Sunrise Author, Kathy Reich who made me feel good about “Bones” and Temperance Brennan. She was hawking her new teen series. Like most ALA Council members, I have a commitment to another ALA group: LLAMA, Library Leadership and Management Assoc., which met this morning. There were a series of orientation meetings and a program with author Richard Rhoads. A short day of 8 hours.

Sunday, January 9, the real work of Council sessions began. Author Andre Dubus III was the Sunrise speaker; Ted Danson, actor, environmentalist and now author, spoke in the afternoon. The ALA sessions discussed:

ALA Membership Information Session covered Endowment financial report, the President’s report, the President-elect’s report, and the Executive Director’s report.

ALA Council I opened business for the Council with quorum, rules, agenda, minutes, reports from committees and nominations. New business included the seven resolutions; six were postponed for more committee work. Only Job Listings and Domestic Partner Benefits were amended and passed.

ALA-APA Council proudly reviewed it’s financial stabilization and first repayment to ALA for the loan to establish the certification program. There are 133 candidates in the program, with 42 graduates.

ALA ELECTION: Maureen Sullivan, whom many of us know from leadership classes, is running for ALA president: <http://maureensullivan.org/>

Her opponent is Sue Stroyan, <http://www.suestroyan.com/initiatives/>

Don’t forgot to vote beginning 3/16 to 4/22.

Library Worklife is now available on-line to all at <http://ala-apa.org/newsletter/current.html>

OCLC was conducting a user’s survey which I attended out of curiosity. I only learned about the importance of OCLC after moving to Gillette, so I was glad to participate in this process. There was an evening reception too. A long day of 12 hours

Monday, January 10, began with the Youth Media Awards Press Conference followed by the 2nd Council, Executive Council Candidates Forum, and a Chapter Councilor Forum.

Items discussed included:

Freedom to Read Foundation annual report includes challenges to the “harmful to minors” laws in Oregon and Alaska; Banned Books Week partnership with the Judith Krug Fund; and membership in this First Amendment foundation is encouraged. www.ftrf.org

Equitable Access to Electronic Content, the Task Force report reviewed aspects of the digital revolution and infrastructure for electronic content. The Task Force set itself three goals and will report back at the 2011 Annual Conference.

Traditional Cultural Expressions Task Force, co-chaired by WY’s Maggie Farrell, presented a

neat, well stated final report which defines terms and issues, describes related professional values, combines partners, suggests continued discussion. Legal and intellectual property considerations of culturally sensitive materials can be addressed through collection, organization, access to and using, stewardship, and preserving materials. Maggie did a fine job, and the report was accepted. **Honorary Membership** is ALA's highest honor and is conferred on a citizen of any country whose "contribution to citizenship is so outstanding that it is of lasting importance to the advancement of the whole field of library service." This year's winner is Yohannes Gebregeorgis, founder of Ethiopia Reads, a nonprofit establishing children's libraries in Ethiopia and publishing bilingual and trilingual books for children.

Chapter Forum members were invited to participate in the **Spectrum Scholarship** efforts by hosting a state wide fund raiser to make a donation to the scholarship effort. They would like to endorse minority support by saying every chapter and division has donated. Snapshot Day activities were compared.

Tuesday, Jan. 11, was the final Council session, and my work was done by noon with memorials and tributes and the conclusion of discussions on resolutions:

Labor Disputes after three days of revisions and the ALA lawyer's opinion, the resolution for notification of conference and meetings at hotels on "do not patronize" lists was soundly defeated.

Dream Act resolution was a request to Congress to reintroduce and vote on the bill which provides an avenue to citizenship for immigrant children brought to this country before age 16 and are still under age 30. This bill and the resolution was heartily endorsed by the ALA Council and numerous groups as important to ALA values of diversity, equitable access, education, literacy and advocacy.

Censorship at the Smithsonian was addressed with a resolution that commends the national Portrait Gallery for exhibits that reflect the diversity of society and urges them to continue to fight censorship that was reflected in the Hide/Seek Exhibition removal.

WikiLeaks resolutions were another hot debate for wordsmiths, but two resolutions were finally tabled. What was passed was the Resolution on Access to and Classification of Government Information which defends citizen access to public information.

<http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=1796>

Pre-conference discussion had included debate about the TSA scan process and the extended search of airline travelers, but it did not make it to conference floor. Evidently no group wanted to pursue the "privacy" issue versus national security. For myself I found the extended scan and the xray minimally invasive.

Advocacy Day is scheduled for May 9-1- Thank you to Senator Enzi for LSTA support.

Banned Books Week is Sept 29-Oct. 4, 30th year

Election of Executive Board members by Council members for three year terms was held with candidates presenting themselves on Monday and the election results announced on Tuesday.

Bylaws corrections and changes in language were presented and passed in efficient order.

Intellectual Freedom Committee reported a move to online production of its bimonthly newsletter, a grant for Choose Privacy Week and research, 29 years of Banned Books Week success, and interest in the WikiLeaks controversy led to the establishment of ALA Emerging Issues website:

[http:// www.emergingissues.ala.org](http://www.emergingissues.ala.org)

More than 10,000 attendees were at this Midwinter, down a little, but still effective. I think there were five us from WY participating in committees and activities.

Patty Myers' Report