

**American Library Association  
Midwinter Conference – January 7 – 12, 2011  
New Jersey Chapter Councilor's Report**

Attendance at this Midwinter Conference was just over 10,000, only a few hundred less than 2009 Midwinter in Denver. Every attendee enjoyed the location; the combination of the proximity of the convention center and conference hotels, the range of programs, the lovely weather and the options for diversions for free time made this an ideal midwinter location. While many of us on the east coast had some trouble with cancelled flights, this is the ideal place to be "stranded".

**President's Report**

President Roberta Stevens reported on several President's Task Forces, including the Equitable Access to Electronic Content Task Force (chaired by Michael Porter), and the Chapter Relations Task Force (chaired by Annelie Huggins).

President Stevens also reported on her initiatives. As part of the "Our Authors, Our Advocates" initiatives, video and audio PSA's have been created and are available for libraries; a preview was shown to Council. As part of the Frontline Fundraising initiative, a toolkit will be released in February. "Why I need my library", a contest for teens to submit videos, launched at Midwinter.

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels reported that there was a slight dip membership, but there is a larger challenge with organizational memberships. When Oprah book selections were made available to organizational members, there were 500 more than there are currently.

The Choice office building is now LEED certified. "Connect with your kids" campaign, a partnership with Lifetime TV, will soon be launched.

Council Document 23.1 is a White Paper on the Future of the Midwinter Conference; it will be discussed in detail over the next year by the Executive Board.

The implementation of the new 2011 – 2015 Strategic Plan is the major focus for the coming year. The goal in forefront is Transforming Libraries; another important goal is Member Engagement.

Earlier in the fiscal year, ALA faced layoffs and furloughs. Because of careful stewardship of funds and reduction of expenditures, it was possible to give staff additional compensation to offset the furloughs. There is a new membership category of "Community Group" in ALTAFF, a new ALA Roundtable for Retired Members and the Young Librarians Task Force is continuing.

**Presidential Task Force on Traditional Cultural Expression**

The report was given by Councilor Maggie Farrell and Vivian Pisano, Co-Chairs. This Task Force is working to identifying cultural materials as primary focus of a report; libraries usually handle manifestations of these. This report issues guidelines and clarifies contributions libraries can make, divided into collecting, organizing, access, stewardship and preservation. This is a complex issue, and not all task force members could fully endorse the report. There was some discussion on the purpose of the document and next steps; no policy recommendations were made at this point..

**ALA Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer James Neal reported about the decrease in conference revenue, primarily because of state, local and national financial problems. Budgeting for staff increases is included in the current budget, as there have not been any for 3 years. There is a need to leverage assets to support strategic priorities, invest in technology, rethink Midwinter, migrate to electronic publishing, sustain and grow membership, and new product and services development

## **FY2012 Programmatic Priorities**

The following programmatic priorities, in alignment with the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, were adopted: Diversity; Equitable Access to Information and Library Services; Education and Lifelong Learning; Intellectual Freedom; Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession; Literacy; Organizational Excellence; Transforming Libraries.

## **Council Resolutions**

There were three Council sessions; during them, the following resolutions were considered:

- *Resolution regarding Job Listings as to the Presence or Absence of Domestic Partners Benefits* – The original resolution included the term “requires” and was modified to read “urges”, for job listings with ALA and with vendor partners.
- *Resolution in Support of the Dream Act* – The resolution asks Congress to reintroduce the Dream Act, and to include vocational training and community service as applicable areas for citizenship.
- *Resolution on the Removal and Censorship of Artwork from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery* – This resolution condemns the censorship of the Hide/Seek Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery.

The following resolutions were brought to Council by the Committee on Legislation:

- *Resolution on Access to and Classification of Government Information* – This resolution is in support of Executive Order 13526 on Classified National Security Information. In it, Congress is requested to expand protections for whistleblowers in the federal government, urges the President and Congress to disseminate information to the public about national security issues and affirms the principle that government information made public within the boundaries of U.S. law should be available through libraries and the press without restriction.
- *Resolution Commending the U.S. Congress and the President on the Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act* – The reauthorization was passed just before the convening of the new Congress.
- *Resolution Commending President Obama and the U.S. Senate in Nominating and Confirming Susan Hildreth to be IMLS Director* – Susan Hildreth is most recently the Director of the Seattle Public Library, was once at the Edison (NJ) Public Library, and is the first librarian to be IMLS Director
- *Resolution thanking Bob Tapella for his service as the 25<sup>th</sup> Public Printer of the United States*
- *Resolution to Commend Senator Jack Reed for his efforts to recognize libraries as essential community organizations during disasters* – This includes libraries in funding from FEMA for natural disasters.

The following resolutions were considered but not passed:

- *Resolution on Notifying Conference and Meeting Attendees of Hotels Named on Do Not Patronize List* - There was significant discussion regarding antitrust laws, the extent of participation in labor unions, and the fact that the resolution called for the Executive Director to provide information on how to find information on Do Not Patronize lists. The ALA attorney provided a recommendation for wording; however, the amendment, and then the original resolution, were voted down.
  - *Resolution in Support of requiring the Right to Cancel contracts with Hotels with Active Labor Disputes* – This resolution was withdrawn.
  - *Resolution on WikiLeaks and Federal Agencies*
  - *Resolution in Support of WikiLeaks*
- Both resolutions were tabled, which means that this resolution will not be considered again. The resolution that was presented by the Committee on Legislation and passed by Council replaced these resolutions.

**Memorial service for Norman Horrocks**

A moving memorial for Norman Horrocks was held one afternoon; it was a touching event, with humor and memories. His daughter was in attendance and a memorial book was presented to her, to share with the family.

**Draft Resolution on Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)**

This resolution was first brought to ALA Annual in 2010 and was scheduled to be brought to ALA Midwinter. It was not submitted based on the discussion prior to Council meetings. There was a fair amount of discussion on the Council listserv regarding the role of IRB's and it was recommended that a program to assist the process as it is related to library research be developed.

**Newly elected Executive Board Members**

Dora T. Ho, At-Large Councilor, California

Sylvia K. Norton, AASL, Maine

Michael Porter, At-Large Councilor, Washington

All Council actions will be posted at:

[http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/council\\_actions/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions/index.cfm)