

# News Release: American Library Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 1979

## ALA APPOINTS ERA TASK FORCE

The American Library Association's ERA Task Force held its first meeting Aug. 10-11, 1979 at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, PA.

There, the Task Force outlined a plan of action to be presented to the ALA Executive Board during its meeting in October. As a preliminary step, the Task Force is gathering pertinent data on ERA from each ALA Chapter.

The Task Force was formed by the ALA Council during the 1979 Midwinter Meeting and was charged with the following: "The purposes of the ALA ERA Task Force are assistance and consultation with ALA Chapters in carrying out the commitment to passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in ways best suited to the individual states."

The nine-member committee was appointed in June 1979 by ALA President Thomas Galvin. Each member brings an important combination of commitment and experience to the Task Force.

Kay Cassell, Committee Co-Chairperson, is the Director of Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, NY. Cassell's ALA activities include serving as editor of Women in Libraries, a newsletter of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Task Force on Women and on the Steering Committee for the Library Administration and Management Association Discussion Group. She is also a member of the Albany Business and Professional Women's Club.

Alice Ihrig, Committee Co-Chairperson, is the Director of Civic and Cultural

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Programs, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL. Ihrig has served on the ALA Council, Executive Board, and is on the Ad Hoc Committee on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. She has been extremely active in local government and is a member of the National Municipal League and former President of the League of Women Voters in Illinois.

Anita Anker is a research assistant and Doctoral student at the School of Library and Information Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. She has served as NOW National Task Force Coordinator on Feminism in Rural America; NOW North Dakota State Coordinator, North Dakota ERA Ratification Coalition Executive Board, and Founder and President of North Dakota's Women's Coalition.

Barbara Bryan is a librarian at the Nyselius Library, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT. She is a member of several ALA divisions: Association of College and Research Libraries, Library Information and Technology Association, Resources and Technical Services Division, and Reference and Adult Services Division. She is currently an ALA Connecticut Chapter Councilor, and serves on the Chapter Relations Committee, the ALA Council Orientation Committee, and is a member of the Women Administrators Discussion Group.

June Engle is an Assistant Professor and Librarian at Emory University, Atlanta, GA. She is the former chairperson and current member of the Library Administration and Management Association PAS Economic, Status, Welfare, and Fringe Benefits Committee.

Kathleen Heim is a faculty member of the Graduate School of Library Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana. She is a member of SRRT Task Force on Women Library Workers. She was co-editor of The Role of Women in Librarianship 1876-1976; The Entry, Advancement and Struggle for Equalization in One Profession. She is the author of several articles: "Status of Women in the Profession" for the

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ALA 1979 Yearbook and will write another article for the 1980 Yearbook on the same subject. She is also author of "Sex and Salaries in Public Libraries," Library Journal, March 1979.

Karen Jackson of Scotch Plains, NJ, has served on the ALA Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women, the ALA Council Committee on the Status of Women and is the immediate past chair of the SRRT Task Force on Women. She has worked with NOW in Michigan and in New Jersey.

Jim Nelson heads the Communications Program for the University of Wisconsin Extension in Madison. He is also an Assistant Professor of Library Science and teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library School. Nelson assisted in coordinating a project on Women Related Issues and Library Services. Through an ETN Educational Telephone Network and several workshops, the project addressed a number of women's issues including rape, abortion, and property. He also assisted in planning workshops on life work planning skills for women librarians in Wisconsin.

Norma Royal is the media coordinator at Eno Valley Elementary School. She is currently ALA's North Carolina Chapter Relations Councilor and a member of the committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship. She participates in other activities including the YMCA, University Women, and sorority activities in the community dealing with recognition and accomplishments of women.

Peggy O'Donnell is the ALA staff liaison for the Task Force.