

ALA Library Support Staff Interests Round Table  
Minutes from the Mid Winter Conference 2009  
LSSIRT Steering Committee Meeting  
Denver Convention Center – Denver CO  
Saturday, Jan 24, 2009; 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**LSSIRT Steering Committee Members Present:** Dorothy Morgan, President, Liverpool Public Library; Kerrie Stramler, Treasurer, University of Arizona; Karen Turner, Secretary, University of Arkansas; Anita Kosinski, Member-at-large, Somerset County-Bridgewater Library; Trish Palluck, Member-at-Large, Wyoming State Library; Jennifer Kutzik, ALA Councilor, Colorado State University; Sarah McQueeney Kartsonis, Member-at-Large, University of Kansas Medical Center. **Absent were:** Julie McCormick, Vice President/President Elect, Cleveland Public Library; Jason (J.P) Pendleton, Member-at-Large, Auburn University; and Leslie Monsalve-Jones, Member-at-Large, Southwestern College.

**ALA Staff:** Darlena Davis, ALA Liaison, ex-officio; and John Chrastka, ALA Membership.

**Members & Guests:** Carol Thomas, New York Public Library; Julian Clark, Georgetown Law Library; AnnaMarie Kehnast, Gloucester Community College; Alice Calabrese-Berry, Metropolitan Library System; Valeria Fike, College of DuPage Library; Christina M. Wilson, Aurora Public Library; Robert Newlen, Deputy Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group, Library of Congress; J. Linda Williams, our LSSIRT liaison to BARC, Budget Analysis and Review Committee; Roberta Stevens, Outreach Projects and Partnerships Officer, Library of Congress and Kenton L. Oliver, Executive Director, Stark County Dist Library; These last two are both candidates for the ALA President-Elect position to be announced at Annual 2009 in Chicago.

#### **A. Call to order and introduction**

The meeting was called to order by President Dorothy Morgan at 8 A.M. The board was asked to introduce themselves and then we went around to our guests, who then introduced themselves.

With a saddened heart, Dorothy announced the passing of Mary Nation, who was a current Member-at-Large and our Membership chairperson. Mary attended her first American Library Association conference in Chicago in 2005. She approached the President of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table and indicated her interest in joining and becoming active. By 2007, she was working on the Membership Committee and, in 2007; she was elected to a three-year term as Member-at-Large on the Steering Committee. She later agreed to also wear the hat of Membership Chairman, and this appointment included a seat on the American Library Association Membership Committee. Mary worked at the Alexandrian Public Library. Dorothy mentioned the communications between Jennifer, Dorothy and Marissa Priddis, Library Director at Mary's library. Mary died January 18, 2009.

#### **B. Correspondence / Communication**

As forms of communication, Dorothy mentioned the Data Dashboard and the LSSIRT membership list and Wikis as possibilities for live discussions. More discussion will follow about tools of communication, as we look towards the future with easier and more communication between our members. This will be more directly discussed under membership reports. The listserv monitored by Martha Parsons is not necessarily just our members ([ssirtmem@ala.org](mailto:ssirtmem@ala.org)); anyone can opt to join this listserv. We also have the board members listserv, which is strictly ourselves ([lssirtbd@ala.org](mailto:lssirtbd@ala.org)).

She also mentioned that the ALA is trying to seek exemption for Children's Books from the Anti-Lead Law, which becomes effective February 10. As the Feb. 10 deadline approaches, libraries and schools - as well as parents - are left wondering whether children's books are included in the list of banned products. CPSC (Commissioner Nancy Nord has recently released a letter about the Consumer Product Safety Improvement act, that is clear that as the law stands now, it does in fact apply to books for children 12 and under, even if the risk

posed in normal use of the book is minimal. We're asked to call Commissioner Nancy Nord at 301-504-7923 to ask for an exemption to this law.

### C. Agenda changes

Presidential candidates were introduced with Kent Oliver from 8:10-8:16 AM and Roberta Stevens from 10:05-10:14 AM. Each candidate spent a few minutes talking about their platforms, strategic planning and thoughts about certification of staff and their analysis. Web pages are included if you want more information.

Kenton Oliver <http://www.kentonoliver.com>

From his website, he says: "As President I will advocate for and ensure that ALA implements thoughtful change and rigorous evaluation to retain its preeminence for our profession. Special attention will be paid to the completion of the six goal areas of ALA's strategic plan. Specifically, I will focus on the areas of Advocacy/Value to the Profession, Education, and Public Policy Standards. For many years I have led in the area of Intellectual Freedom. Members can be assured that this important part of our values system will be promoted in my Presidency. As a public librarian, I would continue to advocate for 21st Century Literacy."

Roberta Stevens <http://www.robertastevens.com>

From her website, she says: "As President, I will use my knowledge and experience from being an ALA Executive Board member (2007-2009), a Councilor-at-Large (2001-2007), a member of the Committee on Legislation (2001-2006) and Chair of COL's Privacy Subcommittee for sustaining the health and vitality of ALA as an organization and to promote the issues that concern our membership and libraries: advocacy, better funding and salaries, intellectual freedom, diversity in our profession and our libraries, equitable access to information and library services, education and lifelong learning, and literacy."

D. **Consent Agenda:** Minutes for the Regular board meeting for Annual 2008 at Anaheim, California were approved. Kerrie Stramler made the motion and Sarah Kartsonis made with the second.

### E. Board Reports:

1. **Treasurer's report:** Kerrie announced that we have a healthy balance of \$21,419.61. However, we need more publications/brochure done, so the balance will change shortly. We decided to give a monetary donation to the Alexandrian Public Library in Mary Nation's memory. Karen made the motion for \$250, with Anita making the second. A preliminary budget for 2010 has to be submitted by Jan. 31st. We discussed concerns about expenditures for new memberships, drops and problems of retention and what are some of our options, changing some of the allocations. We discussed giving \$300 awards/scholarships to support staff for application fees to the certification program. Also, other travel stipends were discussed and cost of letterhead stationery. We changed the total expenditures for mailing/postage. Preliminary draft budget amounts were presented. The report was approved.

2. **Membership report:** This was given by Dorothy Morgan in Mary's memory. There was discussion about various ways to promote membership, and one mentioned was an ALA membership collaboration (suggested by Dora Ho, ALA Membership Committee Chair and ALA Councilor) for a LSSIRT membership added to the ALA membership. We discussed what Darlena sent out to all ALA members, not just the LSSIRT membership list about joining LSSIRT. Dorothy announced that a tribute would be made in Mary's honor from Jennifer at the ALA Council meeting later in the conference. The resolution was put into a motion by Karen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anita and was passed. Dorothy also announced that Anita had volunteered to take over the Membership committee chair. (In correspondence, members who are involved in LSSIRT also belong to other divisions and roundtables, especially in ALTCS, PLA and LAMA)

3. **ALA Manager for Membership Development report:** John reported that there were 63,000 members in ALA, so we have to keep our 1% or 630 members by Nov. 2009 to place someone on the ballot for 2010 when Jennifer's term expires. According to the records, we had 609 on Nov. 12, 2008. John reported that brochures could be done on "print on demand" for around \$200 and these

could be sent out to state associations at their annual conferences. We need to work with Publishing, Programming and Participation; possibly Merchandizing. John would help with any marketing ideas that we come up with to help promote LSSIRT. Awards/Scholarships were discussed and how to publicize. Should we include per diem coverage? Sage has a grant/scholarship and it was promoted as a travel aid. It was decided that we also needed to check out ALA-LAMA discussion groups. ACRL/ALITS has scholarship deadlines for March 1<sup>st</sup>. Not only are our numbers down, all memberships are down except for Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) who joined ALTA. Should we do a fund-raiser on our own or jointly? Add more to LSSIRT newsletter, John will get with Jennifer and Kerrie later this month/early Feb. Discussion included adding informal discussion groups at Mid-Winter and Annual, probably not until Boston.

4. **Vice-President's Report:** Chicago Night Out was announced for Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and the cost will be \$35. Sunday, July 12 from 6-9 pm at Dave & Buster's Gold Coast (1030 N. Clark Street). The menu will be buffet style. Tickets are \$35 each. Money and reservations need to go directly to Darlena Davis. Mail your check (payable to ALA) to: Darlena Davis, ALA/LSSIRT, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Deadline is June 29, 2009.

5. **President's Report:** Dorothy announced that AnnaMarie Kehnast (Gloucester County College Library, NJ) has been appointed to fill Mary Nation's position as Member-at-Large through July 2009. She also reported that the Codes for Committees, July 1994 was being reviewed. Kareen was given a copy to keep if anyone was interested in reading it. She mentioned COLT, but website hasn't been updated possibly since the end of 2006.

6. **ALA Liaisons' report:**

a. Darlena gave the report of how they generate new members and dropped members' listings, which are sent out to Dorothy and Mary. In the past, the membership chair sent out a welcome letter to new members and to the dropped members. (Did Mary continue this practice?- Kareen and Kerrie both verified that they had not gotten a welcome letter from LSSIRT in 2006)

b. J. Linda Williams introduced herself as our representative on the BARC committee. She invited us to the meeting on Sunday from 2-3:30 with all the division leaders. She reported that we had 66,624 members in ALA. She also announced that in the general fund, there was no money for new initiatives, but money could be transferred from other sources, depending on our own recommendations, with top priorities. She gave a general report on the current budget status. She mentioned electronic participation due to the economic situation and shortening conference length in hopes for attendance. She asked for questions that she could answer or forward to a particular person.

7. **Nominating committee report:**

The following have been nominated to run for the 2009-10 board:

a. **Vice President/President**

AnnaMarie Kehnast, Gloucester County College Library, NJ); AnnaMarie is also serving on the Library Support Staff Certification Program Committee and has been a former President and was fortunate enough to be part of the creation and birth of LSSIRT.

b. **Member-at-Large** (Two positions will be vacant at Annual, 2009: Leslie and Trish)

1. Nina Manning, (New York Public Library, Andrew Heiskell Braille & Talking Books); Nina has been Treasurer, Membership Chairperson and Member-at-Large.

2. Carol Thomas, (New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930 AFSCME); Carol has previously held this position

3. Valeria Pike volunteered to be a nominee, but we didn't meet the deadline for the ballot. She may be appointed to a vacant position after the elections.

8. **ALA Roundtable Councilor report:**

1. Jennifer announced that a memorial resolution about Mary would be made Wednesday at the Council meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dora Ho, ALA Membership Committee Chair and ALA Councilor. It would also be published in the next Library Journal.

2. Dues, in detail, will be removed from the by-laws.
  3. Electronic participation is being discussed for non-governing issues/decisions and physical presence may not be necessary for quorum when conference calls are considered necessary (extra cost). Other methods of legal ways to handle business are being pursued/discussed due to costs. (Jennifer had a 28 page report) Virtual members are a possibility.
  4. Special ALA Membership meeting this afternoon with “What do Library Staff want President Obama to know”—library issues and concerns that President Jim Rettig will share with President Obama and the new administration
  5. Sweet Treat Desserts at Jim Hill’s house; meet at Marriott City Center @ 6:30 PM
- Adjournment for short break.

## **F. Items for Discussion**

### **1. Certification**

Dorothy gave a small report from the National Certification Task Force. Launch date is January 1, 2010, with the beginning of accepting applications for participation. See website for further information. Nancy and Karen are going before Council on Sunday for review and answer questions.  
<http://www.ala-apa.org/lssc/index.html>

### **2. Strategic Plan**

Trish handed out a draft for a new Strategic Plan for 2010-2015, that her committee, Elaine Contant, Kareen Turner, both from the University of Arkansas, “JP” Pendleton, from Auburn University and herself, from Wyoming State Library, had compiled. Further discussion will be done through emails/conference calls. More members (veterans of LSSIRT) are being requested to help, and we plan to present a final draft for approval at Annual. Julie will then take over implementing the plan by assigning responsibilities. Dorothy brought up the Codes for Committees that was set up in 1994, giving a copy to Kareen to bring into the Strategic Plan. We need to go over these codes and Kent Slade was mentioned that he might be interested in continuing to help out. He was formerly the Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws committee. More discussion followed.

### **3. Old / New Business:**

**LSSIRT Night Out:** If you are attending ALA Annual Conference or live in the Chicago area, plan to join us on Sunday, July 12 from 6-9 pm at Dave & Buster's Gold Coast (1030 N. Clark Street). The menu will be buffet style. Tickets are \$35 each. Mail your check (payable to ALA) to: Darlena Davis, ALA/LSSIRT, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Deadline is June 29, 2009

**Empowerment Conference 2010:** ideas will be discussed through email discussions.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

Additional Announcements:

1. Next meeting will be in Chicago for the 2009 Annual LSSIRT Business meeting, July 13, 2009 at 8 AM, in the Chicago
2. 2009 EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE is entitled “Who’s Da Boss: Leadership for Library Support Staff”. It will be held July 11-12, 2009. Chair is Toby Oberman, Virtual Services Coordinator, Skokie Public Library
3. LJ Paraprofessional of the Year Reception:

Francine Fialkoff sent the following message that “This is always on Saturday, usually after the support staff conference ends, say 5:30-7. Can you put a save the date /time in and ask people to email [elizabeth.nichols@reedbusiness.com](mailto:elizabeth.nichols@reedbusiness.com) for an invitation? I so much appreciate this. We want to have as many people as possible celebrate with Tina.” Tina Allen is from North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries, Raleigh. Congratulations to Tina from all of us!! Check out the link to the LJ article, March 1, 2009:

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/toc-archive/2009/20090301.html>