

American Library Association  
Library Support Staff Interests Round Table  
Steering Committee / Membership Meeting  
Mid-Winter Meeting, Boston, MA  
Saturday, January 16, 2010  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order with the reading of our mission as posted on our website:

To provide an arena within ALA for addressing a wide variety of issues of concern to library support staff, including but not limited to basic training programs, education, career development, job duties and responsibilities and other related issues for the purpose of fostering communication and networking among all levels of library personnel. To be responsible for the timely dissemination of information to local, regional, state and national support staff organizations.

and continued with an introduction of the Steering Committee Members and guests. Attendees included AnnaMarie Kehnast, Vice-President/President; Dorothy Morgan, Past President; Kerrie Stramler, Treasurer; Jennifer Kutzik, ALA Councilor; Sarah Kartsonis, JP Pendleton, and Valeria Fike, all members-at-large; and Karen Turner, Secretary. (Nina Manning, Carol Thomas and Anita Kosinski were unable to attend.) Guests included Rhonda Pinsonat from East Baton Rouge, LA; Trish Palluck, from Cheyenne, Wyoming; Marilyn Jack-Brown from Montclair, New Jersey; Darlena Davis, our ALA Liaison; both ALA presidential candidates, Molly Raphael, from Portland Oregon and Sara Kelly Johns, Lake Placid, NY; and Joseph Eagan, (ALA) Executive Board Liaison; Linda Williams, BARC Liaison; and Karen Strege, LSSC Task Force.

The current past-president, Dorothy Morgan, presented the LSSIRT gavel to incoming President, AnnaMarie Kehnast. Dorothy made a motion to accept the minutes as posted on the website from the Annual 2009 Meeting held in Chicago, with a second from JP. Motion was passed and minutes were approved with no corrections. The Treasurer's report was given with a new budget to be submitted by Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. Karen made the motion to accept the report as presented, with Dorothy seconding. Motion was passed and the Treasurer's report was approved.

Correspondence: A Thank You card was sent to Jim and Sharon Hall for hosting the Midwinter Denver get-together. ALA Emails were sent to the board from Dorothy, who gets them from Darlena. Sometimes they come too late for reading before ALA, but a big thank-you goes to both of them for passing all messages on to the board as soon as they receive them.

Sara Kelly Johns, currently a Library Media Specialist at Lake Placid Central School District Middle/Senior High School (NY), gave a brief explanation of her platform:

My platform for change is for an ALA that:

- vigorously leads in promoting the value of libraries to the public and decision-makers,
- is open, transparent and encourages participation,
- champions intellectual freedom, privacy and equal access to information,
- creates diversity in our profession,
- seeks equitable salaries and benefits for all library workers, and
- provides targeted professional development and training, delivered in every possible format

**Goals are: An ALA that vigorously promotes the value of libraries to the public e-mail mail, decision-makers; An ALA that increases and retains diversity in our profession; An ALA that must advocate for equitable salaries and benefits for all library workers; An ALA that is open, transparent and encourages participation; An ALA that champions intellectual freedom, privacy and equal access to information; An ALA that provides targeted professional development and training, delivered in every possible format.**

Her website is found at <http://www.skj4ala.com/>

Molly Raphael, recently retired as the Director of Libraries, Multnomah County (OR), gave her priorities as a presidential candidate as:

- Advocacy- hopes to have as a goal-must transform the way people think about libraries, from being “nice to have” to being “essential for learning, essential for life”; Strategies include intensify our efforts to encourage our users to tell their stories about the powerful role libraries have played in their lives; collaborate with the many natural allies in our communities; and, draw on community-related ALA resources.
- Diversity and inclusiveness-must continue to strengthen the future of library leadership, the library profession, and library services by significantly increasing recruitment and retention of a more diverse workforce; Strategies include expand the concrete steps taken to recruit a more diverse workforce through initiatives; link our diversity efforts to ALA leadership development programs; pursue diversity, inclusiveness, and leadership development by building on each other’s work through collaborative efforts across many ALA constituencies and units; and include the populations we serve in formulating and implementing our plans
- Defending our core values- must continue to be vigilant and watchful, for those who wish to restrict access to information remain unrelenting in their quest.
- I pledge to defend vigorously intellectual freedom, the right to privacy, and open access to information.

She has her goals and strategies on her website: <http://mollyraphael.org/>

### **Other board reports:**

- ALA Liaison’s report, given by Darlena Davis.  
Names for Standing Committees were submitted for the Directory. Night Out details were reported and more will be published in the newsletter. A

plaque was given to Darlena by Dorothy as a Thank You for all Darlena has done for us as our Liaison to ALA.

- The Membership report was given by Anita Kosinski, Membership Chair, via email as she was unable to attend:

"I sent out 459 letters to date. 225 letters to members who dropped out, with a brochure for renewal included. 234 letters were sent to NEW members. Of the statistics given to me by Darlena, we have had 24 reinstates. The cost so far has been \$447.00. I have continually updated the letters to include invitations to the current business meeting, any social happenings, and the next business meeting (annual and midwinter). "

Motion to accept her report was made by Kerrie and seconded by Kereen. Report was accepted as read.

- Nominating Committee report, given by Dorothy Morgan, with the announcement that AnnaMarie Kehnast has become President a year early. The Nominating Committee presented the roster slate for ALA Annual 2010 in Washington, D.C. with:

For Vice President: Trish Palluck, Wyoming State Library, WY

For Secretary: Kereen Turner, University of Arkansas, AR

For Treasurer: Kerrie Stramler, University of Arizona, AZ

For Members at Large:

Anita Kosinski, Somerset County-Bridgewater Library, NJ

Marilyn Jack-Brown, Montclair State University, NJ

For LSSIRT Councilor: Valeria Fike, College of DuPage, IL

Darlena will contact all members for acceptance and biographies for the ballot.

Kereen made a motion to accept the slate as presented, with Kerrie seconding. The slate of officers was accepted.

- Past-President Report, given by Dorothy Morgan. She asked that LSSIRT write a letter of endorsement for the LSSC program. Discussion followed on the certification program:

1. Scholarships were discussed as part of our support/endorsement.
2. To show support, we felt that the Education Committee should create criteria for grants and awards. Another possibility is to give the LSSCP candidates paid membership to LSSIRT for one year.
3. LSSIRT needs to co-sponsor more sessions and make it more integrated with ALA conference sessions.

Reports were given by Guests:

- ALA Liaison to the Executive Board Joseph Eagan gave his report: Overall membership dropped from 64,884, August 2008 to 61,739 in August 2009; In November 2009, we had 62,865 compared to November 2008 with 64,878. To keep our ALA Councilor, we were reminded that we had to have 1% of total or 617 members. We discussed a packet deal with LSSIRT membership added to ALA membership, and other partnerships. He stressed the importance of helping this roundtable to grow and develop. His goal is to serve the members and feels it's really important to know our wants and get our input and feedback on how our membership is going. Is our staff liaison responsive to us? Are our products responsive to our roundtable? Are we getting what we expect for our membership? ALA discussed the LSSC program and found 21 pre-existing programs looking to match their standards to the national certification standards.
- ALA BARC liaison member, J. Linda Williams: Linda reported on the ALA budget, with focus on the "big picture" and how it affects the roundtables, in particular LSSIRT. FY2010 will be harder to meet budget. ALA staff had 9.6 FT staff eliminated, with 4 not being funded. They were asked to do a 3% reduction in expenses. Furloughs were mentioned and discussed. No one will be allowed to transfer funds this next FY.
- LSSIRT Councilor report by Jennifer S. Kutzik:
  1. She read a memorial resolution for Council II on Tuesday concerning John Charles Fox, formerly a Library Media Technician at the El Camino College Library in Torrance, CA, who passed away Aug. 3, 2009. He was an active member of COLT; Charlie served as Editorial Director of "*Library Mosaics, The magazine for library support staff*" from 1998-2005. Karen made a motion to approve this resolution, Valeria seconded. It was passed.
  2. She wanted to report back to the Council our feelings about the Event Planner. Discussion followed with a positive emphasis on keeping the Event planner.
- Publications/Webmaster: Jennifer Kutzik, chair and Kerrie Stramler, editor of the Newsletter. General discussion was made on the listserv and newsletter distribution.
- LSCCP Update was given by Karen Strege, Co-director of the LSSCP, discussed the current status of the LSSC, specifically their new web pages at <http://ala-apa.org/lssc/index.html>

“The LSSC Program is managed by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA), a companion association to the American Library Association (ALA).” There is a field test pilot with online courses and candidates from 5 groups that was started in the fall 2009. The program will officially kick off Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, and there was discussion on marketing and portfolios. There are marketing plans in the works. In the past 6 months, LIVE TEXT has been contacted and will be providing support and management for the electronic portfolios. Flyers and brochures have been created online for people to download and can be sent out to upcoming state conferences. Field test sites have been identified and online courses have been introduced to support the certification program. 8 candidates have volunteered to be a test pilot with the portfolio. We asked for another grant that might help fund scholarships for the LSSCP and will include a large marketing component to get into a larger target audience that will include those not fortunate to get to go to ALA. CLIC (Colorado) has given money for 10 scholarships of 50% to Colorado candidates and Oregon has given a \$1000 donation for 3 full time scholarships. In the next 6 months, webinars are being created on how to do portfolios, how to apply for the program (general info), directed to directors on how to help/support their employees. Also in the next six months, course providers are being added to the online courses to support the program. Among those providers are Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, University of WI-Madison, ALA-Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, Highline Community College, State Library of Louisiana. In the next 6 months, the focus will be on marketing with Webinars, publicity to state association newsletters and State Library newsletters. The challenge they are facing now is informing future candidates and how many webinars are needed and how often should they be offered. Marketing plans were discussed. A celebration at the membership pavilion in June was discussed. Trish suggested that YUGMA, a webinar software program might be used in the future. For more information, visit their website:

<https://www.yugma.com/>

Dorothy made a motion for LSSIRT to write a letter of endorsement for the LSSC program, seconded by Kureen. Dorothy made the motion to contribute \$500 towards the program’s marketing budget with a second by Kureen. Discussion followed. Both motions passed and were officially approved.

- Vice-President’s report was given by AnnaMarie Kehnast with written comments from John Chrastka. There was a discussion about partnerships with roundtables and divisions so LSSIRT would be in the tracks on the programs at Annual. She talked with Pat Wagner of Pattern Research (CO) about a program

that was suggested on Frontline Advocacy. We discussed having sessions about the certification program and creation of portfolios (for example, Preparing a successful portfolio; Succeeding in your LSSC program, etc.)

- There was more discussion about the Membership Pavilion and our activities there, with the possibility of more door prizes and mixers. LSSCP candidates will be asked to attend. A suggestion was made to include in the description of our event that Library Directors, etc., need to know how to support their staff, including encouraging them to be certified. The informal get-togethers at both Annual and Mid-Winter need to continue. In the following discussion, The Associates, with Kevin Dudeney, our Australian LSSIRT member, as editor, was mentioned as a method that could be used to pass on LSSIRT information. ASSOCIATES is a forum for and about library support staff issues. ASSOCIATES is published three times per year in March, July, and November.

- <http://lists.ucr.edu/mailman/listinfo/associates>

Nominations for the Library Journal Paraprofessional of the year were also discussed, with LSSIRT taking a more active involvement.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Secretary, Karen Turner