



ASCLA PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO ALA COUNCIL

APRIL 1, 2015

My presidential year began with the successful recruiting of members to fill the roles of committee chairs and interest group conveners, followed by recruiting members to serve on the committees. We had many great volunteers this year that has made being President a joy.

The Nominating Committee did fabulous work by having two people running for nearly every open position, a situation that has not always occurred in our relatively small organization. Likewise, the Awards Committee made wise choices for our winners this year. Thanks to last year's president Sara Laughlin ASCLA had a new editor for our Interface online newsletter and two issues have been published with another one planned for Annual conference. The ASCLA office staff has been working closely with our Online Learning Committee to publicize a variety of webinars which have been held this past fall and spring and reflect the interests of our members. The Web Presence Committee has made recommendations for improvements to our web page which were accepted at the Midwinter meeting. The President's Program at Annual will feature Charlene Li, an expert in the area of social media and networking who will speak to the attendees about ways to engage their customers with social media as well as when and how to embrace this technology. The Conference Programming Committee made recommendations for both pre-conference and conference programs which were discussed and approved at Midwinter. The ASCLA Office began promotion of the AccessAbility Academy online tutorial/webcast to ALA members and State Libraries. As for Membership, we held our first ASCLA 101 in 2014 and plan to repeat this introduction to ASCLA at the Summer 2015 conference due to great work by the Membership Committee. ASCLA has been asked by the National Library Service (NLS) to update the standards for library service to people who are blind or have a visual impairment and the Publications Committee will have a direct role in this process. There also is the possibility of a book on managing special libraries. Finally, the group responsible for Guidelines for Library and Information Services for the American Deaf Community is looking into a Maryland bill on this topic and will plan to follow the procedures in said bill.

The ASCLA Executive Committee met virtually every month except January and June this past year to discuss ideas and issues brought forward from the committees, interest groups and members. As President I met virtually with the committee chairs twice and the Vice-President met virtually with the interest group conveners twice.

ASCLA and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) have begun discussions as to what projects or actions we might have/take in common. These discussions just began in February 2015 so are still in preliminary stages.

Salem Press expressed interest in working with ASCLA on our annual awards program. Talks are continuing with that company.

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While there were a number of committee and interest group meetings held at Midwinter 2015 the only actual program was a preconference on Using Comics to Promote Literacy. However, Annual 2015 has a full array of programs, including the President's Program with best-selling author and social media expert Charlene Li; the ASCLA Awards Reception co-sponsored with COSLA; and programs with topics on the Americans with Disabilities Act, strategic foresight and scenario planning, A to Z of RFPs, What is a consultant, AIDS in the End Zone (working with incarcerated youth), Gaming for All (persons with disabilities), Next Chapter Book Club (for persons with disabilities), Consultants Give Back, Introduction to Conference and Event Planning, the Library as Community Science Center and finally a tour of the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center.

The two Midwinter Executive Board meetings were held including the annual Leadership Forum. This year an expert in multi-generational workplaces spoke to the group about the challenges and rewards of having four generations in the workplace at one time, a previously unheard of phenomenon.

ASCLA continued to hold their fund-raising trips, with a trip to the Rivas held in October 2014. The next trip will be to Scotland in the Fall of 2015.

Executive Committee members attended the ALA Leadership event in October 2014. The main focus was the next American Library Association (ALA) strategic plan. Those who attended made as much progress as possible concerning ASCLA's contributions to the overall plan. The discussion continued during the Midwinter Leadership session.

In order to recruit more members for ASCLA a letter was sent to COSLA members in the Fall of 2014 and an ad was placed on the libraryconsultants.org web site in the Spring of 2015.

Both revenue and membership are staying very close to the Executive Director's estimates for the year. While we would like both to grow more we are realistic about what we can do given the size of our membership.

A new standards process has begun with IGARD (Interest Group for Alzheimer's and Related Dementias). Also, the group working on library services to prisoners is interested in issuing new standards.

And finally, a great thanks to the ASCLA Office staff-Susan, Marianne and Andrea-who so patiently answer our questions, coordinate our activities and keep us all on track!

Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer

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ASCLA President, 2014-2015