

NMRT Board Member Planning Report

1. Office Name: Vice-President

2. Office Term (Date: Ex. 2005-2006): 2007-2008

3. How do you plan to help committees address the four NMRT goals? (If it does not apply, put N/A.)

1. To structure formal opportunities for involvement and/or training for professional association committee experiences on the national, state, and local levels.

I believe our longtime policy of providing all interested members with a committee appointment is an essential service. Having NMRT committee experience really does prepare you for involvement in other organizations. I'm looking forward to assigning this year's committee appointments.

2. To provide a wide variety of programs to assist, encourage, and educate people who are new to the profession;

Many of our committees are directly focused on member outreach and education. Over the past few years, we've been moving away from conference-centric involvement to more virtual activities, such as year-round mentoring and the online discussion forum. I support Nanette's online leadership lecture series, which directly addresses this goal.

3. To offer a variety of leadership training and opportunities to help those approaching the end of their NMRT eligibility to make the transition to future positions in the Association and the profession;

I'd like to see us strengthen the connections we've made with other round tables, sections, and divisions within ALA. Many of these groups are interested in working with new, enthusiastic librarians. Expanding our liaison program is a key strategy to achieving this goal. I also have high hopes for our brand new internship task force. On a personal level, as someone near the end of her NMRT eligibility, this goal is very important to me.

4. To develop and implement ongoing programs for library school students that encourage professional involvement and networking.

Our three student focused committees, SASCO, SCOTYA, and Student Reception, do an excellent job of reaching out to our student members.

I should note that funding to attend conferences is an on-going problem for many of our members, especially library school students. We need to be creative about finding a variety of ways for members to be virtually involved. In addition, we need to continue programs such as our online discussion forum, where members can share their expertise about maneuvering within the profession.

4. How do you plan to create a positive committee experience? What type of support do you plan to provide to chairs and committee members, and how often do you plan to provide such support?

The one committee I supervise is the Vice Presidential Planning Committee. I plan on being in very close contact with this committee, particularly since their function is to help me turn my ideas into concrete tasks and projects that can be created, planned, and executed during my term. I think the key to a positive committee experience is being clear about my goals for the committee, and being available to direct activities and answer questions.

5. What future directions do you see your office or NMRT needing to take this year or the following year? What kind of strategies do you envision for addressing projects that affect committees outside of your supervision?

One of my goals for this year is to build on projects that the President has put into motion. Nanette has a clear vision for NMRT, one that I agree with, and it's very important for me to provide continuity wherever I can. I am particularly excited about the expansion of our liaison program and our online leadership lecture series. Also, we need to examine our recent member survey very carefully, and find ways to address the problems that people have raised.

In terms of projects outside my supervision, the fact that committee members cc both Nanette and me on all messages has made a huge improvement in my knowledge of the day to day committee work, as well as helping me get to know the people on the committees.

6. Date of report: August 28, 2007

7. Submitted by: Laurel Bliss (l bliss@rohan.sdsu.edu)