

American Library Association

2012 Annual Meeting

Report of President-Elect Maureen Sullivan

Presidential Initiatives

1. The Promise of Libraries in Transforming Communities

Discussions continue with Rich Harwood of the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation about the possibility of engaging his organization to work with ALA. Discussions also continue with IMLS and the Gates Foundation about the possibility of funding support. This initiative primarily supports the *Transforming Libraries* goal area and also supports the other three.

Rich Harwood is presenting a conference program on Sunday afternoon, June 24, at which he will discuss *Reclaiming Main Street and Libraries*. He will focus on the potential for libraries to strengthen their role in communities and civic life.

2. Leadership Development

Leadership in the Digital Age (Spring 2013)

The Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) continues to plan and design a 2 ½ day leadership institute for administrators and managers in libraries of all types to learn how to lead effectively in the face of the new challenges of the Digital Age. Joseph Zolner, Senior Director of the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education (HIHE); John Collins, Director of the HGSE Library (and ALA member); and John Palfrey, Vice Dean, Library and Information Resources, Harvard Law School and I serve as the core planning group. Larry Bacow, president emeritus of Tufts University has agreed to serve as the faculty chair for the program. We continue to address the need for financial aid. This initiative supports the goal areas of *Building the Profession* and *Transforming Libraries*.

President's Program, Midwinter 2013

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) will be launched in April 2013. The 2013 Midwinter Conference President's Program will be a panel of speakers, including John Palfrey, to introduce our members to the DPLA.

Leadership Development Program for ALA

Executive Director Keith Fiels and other headquarters staff are creating a map of the current programs and activities that are available. I will convene a small group to meet with me in July to develop a proposed curriculum, an action plan and a timetable for the establishment of this program. This initiative directly supports *Building the Profession*.

3. Rethinking ALA: Ensuring That ALA Is the Most Effective Organization It Can Be

Several factors have persuaded me that it is time to give serious consideration to restructuring ALA. Among these factors are: several recent ALA presidential initiatives and their respective reports (including the *Future Perfect Presidential Task Force Report*, the *Report of the Presidential Task Force for Improving the Effectiveness of ALA's Council*, and the *ALA Young Librarians Working Group*); the current and prospective budget situation; the ambitious goals set forth in *ALA 2015*; forces for change in the larger context in which our members live and work; and numerous conversations I have had with ALA members and staff. Any plan to do this requires careful consideration of feasibility, desirability and complexity of such an undertaking. I will convene a group in August or September to engage in this careful consideration and to recommend appropriate action.

4. ALA and International Librarianship

There are three activities underway in this area: strengthening ALA's work with Sister Libraries program, exploring a partnership with the Peace Corps alumni association and webinars for ALA's international members.

Other Significant Activities

I was one of four participants in the **first Educational Conference for the Diplomatic Reception Rooms** (DRR) at the U.S. Department of State to be invited to address the *Patrons of Diplomacy* at their semiannual meeting on May 24. I gave a brief presentation on the potential use and distribution of the educational programs to be developed, with a strong emphasis on the role of libraries. An evening reception followed hosted by Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

At the initiative of Barbara Jones, Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, I attended a brunch on June 3 at the home of Marcus Brauchli, editor of the Washington Post. This was an opportunity to meet members of the News Literacy Project Board of Directors and others with an interest in how librarians and journalists can work together to ensure that students know how to verify the accuracy of information and do quality research.

I participated in three webinars:

- April 10 IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning and ALA IRO **Leadership for New Librarians**
- June 1 2012 Emerging Leaders **Moving Beyond Emerging Leaders**
- June 8 With President Molly Raphael, **Passing the Community Engagement Baton**

Travel and Other Speaking Engagements

I participated in National Legislative Day on April 23-24. In the late afternoon on April 24, I attended a meeting arranged by Karen Perry of the Gates Foundation. Karen arranged this meeting to bring Susan Hildreth and me together with Charlie Firestone and Amy Garmer of the Aspen Institute to begin an exploration of possibilities for collaboration.

On April 27 I attended a reception at the home of Gloria Steinem. She co-hosted this with John Legend to introduce people in the performing arts and cultural organizations to the work of A Long Way Home, a foundation established to use the arts to end violence against women and girls.

I attended the Massachusetts Library Association annual conference on May 10 and participated in two programs, one of which was a session on the future of libraries in which Molly Raphael and Keith Fiels also participated.

On May 22 I gave a keynote address at the National Library Service's 2012 Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals held in Newport, RI.

While I was at Book Expo America on June 4-6, I gave a brief talk to members of Archons of the Colophon, a membership organization of librarians in the New York area. I also had an opportunity to meet briefly with Tom Allen and Tina Jordan of the American Association of Publishers.

The Empire State Center for the Book held an induction ceremony and gala on June 5 to honor the third group of authors to be inducted into the New York Writers Hall of Fame. The four living authors, Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates, E.L. Doctorow and Pete Hamill, attended.