

**American Library Association
2010 ALA Annual Conference, Washington, DC
Report of Roberta Stevens, President-elect**

It's difficult to believe that my tenure as president-elect is drawing to a close. However, juggling ALA responsibilities and a full-time job at the Library of Congress confirmed the wisdom of my plan to take a year's leave to be president. Thank you to everyone who was so helpful to me during the past twelve months. You were generous with your time and advice and I will repay you by devoting myself fully to being an effective 2010-2011 president and spokesperson for ALA!

Committee Appointments Finalized

The committee appointment process was largely completed by the conclusion of the Midwinter Meeting in Boston. Delores Yates contacted the members being appointed and received only a few "no's." This was something of a surprise given the extensive coverage of libraries experiencing budget cuts, limits on travel, etc. The attached appendix contains committee appointment data compiled by John Chrastka and Delores.

To wrap up this year's committee effort, I sent separate email letters to the chairs, members and interns thanking them for agreeing to serve and laying out expectations regarding their responsibilities. Committee work is a year-round commitment and ALA Connect offers an easy way for committee members to stay in touch and share information between Midwinter Meetings and Annual Conferences.

Finally, I am pleased that the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion I made at Midwinter (seconded by Jim Rettig) to make available the online committee request form the first Tuesday in August and to close the acceptance of requests the first Friday in November. This will allow incoming president-elect Molly Raphael and the new Committee on Committees (COC) and Committee on Appointments (COA) a longer window of time to review the expressions of interest in ALA and Council committees. With the 2011 Midwinter Meeting scheduled for January 7-11, the new opening and closing dates will take some pressure off the individuals handling this "bear of a job."

Nominations for the Committee on Committees and Planning and Budget Assembly

I sent the nominations for the 2010-2011 Committees on Committees (COC) and the Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA) elections to Council members on May 13. Lois Ann also provided the slates of candidates via ALA Connect on June 14.

Presidential Initiatives

At the Midwinter Meeting, I described my presidential initiatives: "Our Authors, Our Advocates," "Frontline Fundraising" and the contest on "Why I Need My Library."

Peter Pearson, president of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, is chairing "Frontline Fundraising." He will be meeting with his team at the Annual Conference.

Former YALSA president Paula Brehm-Heeger and Executive Board member and school librarian Diane Chen will be heading up the "Why I Need My Library" contest and also meeting with their team here in Washington.

Two advocacy pros, Maureen Sullivan and Peggy Barber, will be chairing “Our Authors, Our Advocates.” We’ll have our first strategy session at the conference and the program’s soft launch at the June 29 inaugural event. Maureen and Peggy will be assembling a project team.

Presidential Inauguration

“Our Authors, Our Advocates” involves a new approach to the association’s commitment to advocacy. Authors are not only the natural allies of libraries, but often celebrities in their own right. They are well-known and articulate individuals with a passion for the key role libraries play in the economic, social and educational fabric of our nation. I am honored that Brad Meltzer, the bestselling author of political thrillers; Sharon Draper, author of bestsellers for young people and five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Award; and Carmen Agra Deedy, a storyteller, internationally known writer of books for children and recent recipient of the Pura Belpré Award, will be appearing as part of my gala program. Also appearing that evening will be Marie Arana, both an author and the veteran editor at The Washington Post’s “Book World.” During the program, which will be taped for ALA’s website and the ilovelibraries and @ your library sites, the presenters will relay their personal stories about what libraries have meant to them. They will also be doing PSAs and interviews for this pilot of the presidential initiative.

Presidential Task Forces

While the major push over the past few months has been to move the presidential initiatives forward, two task forces are in their very early stages. Annelle Huggins, associate dean of libraries at the University of Memphis, has graciously agreed to chair a task force on improving the connections and services between ALA and the chapters. Past-president Jim Rettig has been equally terrific about taking on the sensitive and important job of looking at how we might improve the effectiveness of ALA’s Council sessions.

ALA Meetings and Activities

In addition to attending the Spring Executive Board Meeting, I spent a full-day with ALA staff developing a communications strategy for my presidential year.

Guided by John Chrastka, I taped segments on the reasons for being an ALA member that will be included in the membership section of the website. The idea for doing the videotape was based on my “Demystifying ALA” presentation at Catholic University.

Speaking Opportunities

The following speaking opportunities were described in my Spring Report to the ALA Executive Board and sent to Council on April 27.

Presented the keynote address, “Demystifying ALA,” for the Bridging the Spectrum Symposium at the Catholic University of America on January 29

Presented the James Madison Award on March 15 for the 12th Annual National Freedom of Information Day Conference at the Newseum’s Knight Conference Center

Roundtable member on “Economic Security: How Can We Take Care of Our Future” for the March 16 Kettering Foundation’s National Issues Forum on Economic Security at the National Archives

Panel member for the March 31 Joint Program of Rutgers University Libraries and the Rutgers School of Communication and Information: “Learning, Libraries and Innovation: A Conversation”

Guest speaker for the April 13 SirsiDynix Webinar on “The State of America’s Libraries, 2010” Report

Since then:

Annual Banquet for the District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA)

I was the keynote speaker for DCLA’s annual banquet on May 27. The presentation centered on the people I’ve met, presentations I’ve made and libraries I’ve visited in my travels to Africa, China, Mexico and Bulgaria as president-elect.

Travel

Annual Conference of the Mexican Library Association

On May 4, I gave a presentation for the 41st Annual Mexican Library Association Conference (Journadas Mexicanas de Biblioteconomia) in Zacatecas City. Entitled “21st Century Libraries: The Challenges and Opportunities,” it covered the profound changes occurring in the work, educational and social environments of the 21st century that have significant implications for how libraries function, the services they offer and the ways in which those services are provided. The challenges libraries confront, as they transition from the way they’ve operated in the 20th century to a model that incorporates new materials formats, technologies and methods for learning, present an opportunity to become institutions leading the rapidly changing and increasingly global economy. However, my optimism is leavened with a concern that our libraries have buildings, staff and services that reflect the expectations of users today. The presentation examined the concept of the library as a place and physical structure and explored the question of whether or not our library workforce has 21st century knowledge and skills.

National Library Week for the Bulgarian Library and Information Association

From the moment I stepped off the plane in Sofia on May 17 till I boarded again on May 22, I was “on the move.” Snejana Ianeva, director of the Information Resource Center at the U.S. Embassy in Bulgaria, made maximum use of me to provide information on libraries in our country and the vital role library associations play in developing, promoting and improving library and information services and the profession of librarianship. I talked in detail about how ALA enhances skills in effective “on the ground” or “grassroots” advocacy techniques, alerts members about legislation or policies under discussion with a direct impact on libraries, and provides a cost-effective source for training that keeps library staff abreast of technological innovations.

In addition to being the keynote speaker for their National Library Week (attended by librarians, government officials and the press), Snejana enlisted me in advocating for support for Bulgarian libraries. I met with numerous individuals throughout my time there, including Ambassador James Warlick; Mrs. Tseka Tsacheva, the Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament; and Mr. Igor Chipev, head of their directorate for cultural heritage (which provides funding for libraries). The message I repeated over and over was “get the computers in the libraries.” Information and technological literacy skills are essential to being competitive in the global marketplace. While Bulgaria has had a Gates grant for computers since 2008, to date none of them have been installed.

Perhaps the two most memorable experiences of this extraordinary trip were being introduced to and applauded by the Bulgarian Parliament and testifying on behalf of libraries for the Parliamentary members of the Committee on Culture.

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) National Conference

The Canadian Library Association's National Conference (June 2-6) in Edmonton, Alberta, was a rare pleasure for me. I was actually able to attend presentations! The keynote speaker, Sue Gardner, executive director of the Wikipedia Foundation, was especially interesting. Wikipedia's growth and reach is astonishing and in many respects a harbinger of how information will increasingly be collected, conveyed and used.

I want to express my deepest appreciation for the warmest of welcomes from then CLA president John Teskey, executive director Kelly Moore, and the many Canadian librarians I met during my four days there.

And One More Time...

...Thank you to the staff of ALA, my assistant Jeff DiScala and the ALA members who have been so supportive of my work on behalf of the association this past year. I am honored to be your colleague.

APPENDIX: Data about Members Appointed to ALA and Council Committees

At the 2008 Midwinter Meeting, Council passed a resolution calling for a report providing data on “members who a) volunteered to serve on, and b) were appointed to committees.” It further asked that the data “include but not be limited to”:

- Type of work place and work activity
- Years of membership in the association
- Division and round table membership
- Geographic (State/Province) location

John Chrastka, ALA’s director of Membership Development in the Communications and Member Relations Office, with assistance from Delores Yates, Executive Board Secretariat, compiled the data presented in the tables for this report. The data was extracted from IMIS, ALA’s membership information management system. ALA’s online committee request form collected the following data elements:

- First name
- Last name
- Library address
- Library state
- Membership number
- Ranked preference to serve on up to three committees
- For each of the three committee preferences a specified role: member, chair, intern
- A free text to describe past and current participation in ALA
- A free text field to describe past and current participation in state associations and other groups
- Number of years volunteer has been a member of ALA (did not specify whether this is total or continuous years of membership; the latter can be smaller than the former)
- Job title
- Education

Members could submit more than one volunteer form to express interest in more than three committees.

Data in my President-elect’s Report for the 2010 Midwinter Meeting reflected the requests to serve on an ALA or Council committee. Data reported in these tables refers *only* to members appointed to the committees.

Note: Data compiled in the tables is based on information that members voluntarily submitted for their member record. In some instances, members have chosen not to submit data or submitted incomplete data. As a result, the total number of members may vary from table to table.

Data on Members Appointed to Committees during the 2009-2010 Appointment Process

Table 1: Appointed Committee Members by Membership Type

MEMBER TYPE	COUNT	%
Associate	1	1%
Continuing	5	3%
Honorary	1	1%
Life	4	2%
Non-Salaried	5	3%
Regular	160	80%
Retired	4	2%
Student	19	10%
Trustee	1	1%
	Total	200

Table 2: Appointed Committee Members by State/Province (plus Canada)

Note: The Election Committee meets in Chicago each spring to certify the results of the annual election. Members are responsible for their own expenses to attend this partial-day meeting. Out of consideration to members, appointees were identified who lived close to Chicago. This increases the number of members appointed from Illinois.

The ALA-Children’s Book Council Joint Committee meets in New York City. Members are similarly responsible for their expenses to attend this committee’s meeting(s). Appointees were selected from the metropolitan New York area. This increases the number appointed from New York and New Jersey.

BY COUNTRY					
	CANADA	1			
	USA	199			
BY STATE					
	STATE	COUNT		STATE	COUNT
	AL	4		CT	2
	AR	2		DC	6
	AZ	3		FL	7
	CA	18		GA	8
	CO	5		IA	3
	IL	21		OH	3
	IN	3		OK	2

	KS	1		OR	2
	KY	2		PA	5
	MA	3		TN	3
	MD	11		TX	7
	ME	2		UT	1
	MI	2		VA	15
	MO	6		VT	1
	NC	11		WA	7
	NJ	10		WI	3
	NV	2		WY	1
	NY	17			

Table 3: Appointed Committee Members by Total Years of ALA Membership

TOTAL ALA YEARS	COUNT	TOTAL ALA YEARS	COUNT
0	4	21	8
1	11	22	5
2	12	23	2
3	12	24	4
4	12	25	3
5	12	26	7
6	10	27	1
7	7	28	2
8	8	30	1
9	9	31	2
10	9	32	5
11	7	34	3
12	5	36	5
13	8	37	2
14	2	38	1
15	3	39	1
16	2	41	1
17	4	45	1
18	4	46	1
19	1	47	1
20	2		

Table 4: Appointed Committee Members by Years of Continuous Membership

CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP YEARS	COUNT	CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP YEARS	COUNT
1	38	20	1
2	21	21	6
3	10	22	2
4	14	23	2
5	9	25	4
6	7	26	7
7	7	27	1
8	4	28	2
9	6	31	2
10	13	32	5
11	4	34	3
12	1	36	5
13	3	37	2
14	1	38	1
15	1	39	1
16	4	41	1
17	4	45	1
18	4	46	1
19	1	47	1

Table 5: Appointed Committee Members by Work Specialty

WORK SPECIALTY	COUNT	%
01: Administration	54	29%
02: Adult Services	2	1%
03: Literacy	1	1%
05: Automation/Systems	2	1%
07: Circulation	3	2%
14: Instruction	6	3%
15: Reference/Information	21	11%
17: Technical Services	3	2%
18: Video/Telecommunications	1	1%
19: Youth Services	7	4%
27: Acquisitions/Collections Development	8	4%
30: Cataloging and Classification	5	3%
52: Extension and Outreach	4	2%
64: More than one checked off	5	3%
85: Consultant	4	2%
88: Library Media Specialist	7	4%
91: Library School Faculty	15	8%
92: Library School Student	18	10%
93: Government Documents	1	1%
95: Not currently employed	2	1%
96: Other, Library Work	8	4%
97: Editorial or Publishing	1	1%
98: Retired	7	4%
99: Other, Non-Library Work	1	1%
	Total	186

Table 6: Appointed Committee Members by Organization Type

ORGANIZATION TYPE	COUNT	%
00: Public	29	16%
01: County	8	4%
03: State Library Agency	6	3%
10: Community College	2	1%
11: College 4-Year Schools (Includes Military Academies)	9	5%
12: University(Graduate School)	66	36%
13: Library School	16	9%
20: Special (Includes Medical, Art, Historical, Industrial and Museum Libraries)	3	2%
21: U.S. Federal Government	10	6%
32: Institutions	2	1%
40: Library Association/Club	1	1%
50: Elementary School	2	1%
51: Middle and Junior High School	1	1%
52: Senior High School	5	3%
53: Combined Schools	2	1%
54: School District	1	1%
60: Other Commercial Firms	1	1%
61: Publishers	2	1%
63: Library Equip/Supplies/Services	1	1%
80: Other Institutions or Agencies	2	1%
95: Not Currently Employed	2	1%
98: Retired	7	4%
99: Other	3	2%
	Total	181

Table 7: Appointed Committee Members by Position

POSITION	COUNT	%
01: Director/Dean	36	21%
02: Assistant/Associate Director	19	11%
03: Department Head	27	16%
04: Supervisor	20	12%
05: Non-Supervisory	26	15%
06: Library Support Staff	2	1%
07: Other	31	18%
98: Retired	4	2%
CD: Coordinator	8	5%
	Total	173

Table 8: Appointed Committee Members by Division Membership

DIVISIONS	COUNT
AASL	27
ACRL	74
ALCTS	26
ALSC	28
ALTAFF	9
ASCLA	8
LITA	30
LLAMA	54
PLA	46
RUSA	26
YALSA	31
Total	359

Note: The total in this table is greater than 200, because many members appointed to a committee belong to more than one division.

Table 9: Appointed Committee Members by Round Table Membership

ROUND TABLES	COUNT
EMIERT	16
FAFLRT	7
GLBTRT	10
GODORT	7
IFRT	23
IRRT	25
LEARNRT	4
LHRT	6
LIRT	7
LRRT	14
LSSIRT	3
MAGERT	1
NMRT	24
SRRT	23
STORT	2
VRT	1
Total	173