

**2009 ALA Annual Conference Meeting, Chicago  
President-elect Report  
Camila A. Alire**

It has been my pleasure to have served this past year as ALA's president-elect, and I look forward to working with all of you during my year as ALA president.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The committee appointment process is complete. I worked with the Committee on Appointments (Division president-elects) and the Committee on Committees (Council-elected colleagues).

Please review the attached appendix containing committee appointment data that John Chraska and Eileen Hardy (ALA staff) compiled. Almost all of the members receiving notification of appointment who declined stated lack of funding/cutbacks as the reason. I also want to thank Eileen for her cost saving measure. She did not hire the usual temporary staff person to assist her in the grueling process of keeping track of all appointments, notifying appointees, and following up on "declines."

**PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE**

The Initiative Working Group has been working on the various aspects of my advocacy initiative which has two foci – frontline advocacy and advocacy for literacy.

On the frontline advocacy component, they are hard at work identifying existing material and designing new content. This content will be delivered early in October 2009 and throughout 2010.

The Family Literacy Focus includes working with the five Ethnic Affiliates and encouraging them to develop family literacy service models that are innovative, cost effective, reflective of community need, easily replicable, and sustainable. Whatever program/product they produce will be available to all members of their service community.

**"YOUNG TURKS" ADVISORY GROUP**

As I was preparing this report, I realized that I forgot to mention this group at Midwinter in my report. For that I apologize. My report was written before the group had ever met; and most of their work has been done virtually. The YTs, as they are affectionately referred to, is a group of seven young librarians who are advisory to me and is co-chaired by Karen Downing, a mid-career ALA member, and Liz Bishoff, a late-career ALA member.

I put this group together because I was concerned about 1) how ALA might be more responsive to the needs of ALA young members and future leaders, 2) what could be done within ALA that would better engage young librarians in our association early in their professional careers, and 3) how seasoned ALA members could work together with young member librarians. While ALA has several programs intended to recruit and retain young librarians - most notably New Members Round Table and the Emerging Leaders program - there appears to be no initiative that focuses ALA's attention on possible changes (structural or otherwise) that would make ALA more responsive to the needs of our young members.

Additionally, because frontline advocacy is a focus of my initiative, I realized how critical young librarians would be for the success of that initiative. They are the ones on the frontline that need to be empowered to work at an appropriate level of advocacy in their libraries. No one is too young to advocate the value of their libraries and their value to the communities they serve.

## **FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE**

In addition to the above advocacy initiative and after consultation with ALA staff, I have added a fundraising initiative – the Spectrum Presidential Initiative. Dr. Betty Turock, ALA past-president, is chairing this fundraising effort; her commitment was instrumental in the first Spectrum fundraising endeavor. President Jim Rettig, and soon-to-be President-elect, Roberta Stevens, are part of this team, as are key ALA staff. Our goal is to raise \$1 million this coming year. As a team, we will be working with ALA's Development Office.

## **SPEAKING INVITATIONS & INTERVIEWS**

I spoke at the following events:

- February 12-13 Austin, TX
  - ALA Student Chapter at the University of Texas School of Information which was opened to the local library community.
  - Austin ISD Training Session/School Librarians Retreat
- February 5 University of Denver, Alumni Signature Event Series, “*Current American Library Trends*”
- March 12-14 ACRL 14<sup>th</sup> National Conference, Seattle WA
- March 1-3 Kansas Library Association/MPLA, Wichita, KS
- March 25- 28 SWALL (Southwest Association of Law Librarians), Albuquerque, NM
- April 15-17 Texas Library Association Conference, Houston, TX
- April 19-21 Catholic University LIS Alumni Dinner, Washington, DC

I attended the following meetings:

- April 23-26 ALA Spring Executive Board Meeting, Chicago IL
- May 11-12 National Legislation Library Day, Washington, DC

Representing President Jim Rettig, I participated in the following interviews:

- Feb 5 - *Press Enterprise* - Libraries as changing and dynamic places
- Feb 18 - *Albuquerque Journal* - Libraries and the economy
- March 11- Aspen Public Radio - Libraries and the economy
- April 9 - WCNN-AM; WFOM-AM; WUCO-AM (Atlanta) Libraries as changing and dynamic places; economy
- April 9 - *North Adams Transcript* (MA) Topic: National Library Week; libraries and the economy
- April 14 - KBEC-AM (Dallas/Ft. Worth) Libraries and the economy
- April 16 - WDUN News Talk 550 (North Georgia/Metro D.C. area) Libraries and the economy
- April 17 - *Daily Gazette* (New York) Libraries and the economy

- May 19 - KEZW-AM Radio (Denver) Libraries as changing and dynamic places; economy
- May 27 - *Dollars and Sense* with Dawn Smith (to be published in the July issue). Libraries as changing and dynamic places; economy

I want to thank the various listservs who were instrumental in providing me with stories from the local level and to thank the PIO staff (Macey and Jennifer) who provided up-to-date talking points.

### **KUDOS**

I sincerely want to repeat what I wrote in my Midwinter report because it means even more to me today: *I want to acknowledge all the ALA staff with whom I have worked since I became president-elect. All of them have been extremely helpful and very cooperative. I thank them for their patience and understanding. You know who you are.....*

I also want to thank my colleagues on the ALA Executive Board for their support and friendship and Jim Rettig for his leadership this past year. And, thanks to all of you! I look forward to a rewarding presidential year and to working with you all.

## APPENDIX: Data about Members Appointed to Council and ALA 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) who 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, and Eileen Hardy, Executive Board Secretariat, have compiled the data presented in tables in this report’s Appendix. The data was extracted from IMIS, ALA’s membership information management system. Because the requirement for data reporting arose while the appointment process was still underway, the data in some tables is imperfect and quite possibly insufficient to support hypotheses and conclusions. The volunteer form posted on the ALA Web site in the fall allowed members to provide 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 from the Web form is easily downloaded into a spreadsheet for easy manipulation during the appointment process.

Volunteers provided inconsistent and incomplete information that fits the “Type of work place and work activity” category. Furthermore, the lack of a controlled vocabulary in the volunteer form for either “type of workplace” or “work activity” meant that data submitted by volunteers was not usable for these categories. Data relating to these two categories was extracted from the IMIS system. The “Work Specialty” table may provide this information in a more granular form than was Council’s intent. Feedback on this point is welcome.

Data reported in the tables below refers *only* to members appointed to committees. Comparison of the data on volunteers that I included in my 2009 Midwinter report should *not* be compared to the data in this report. The inconsistencies between the way that data was gathered and categorized for that report and for this report invalidate any such comparisons. Furthermore, some individuals appointed to committees did not volunteer themselves but were recommended by members of the Committee on Committees or the Committee on Appointments or were recruited by the president-elect.

**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 and therefore, the total number of members may vary from table to table.

**Data on Members Appointed to Committees during the 2008-2009  
Appointment Process**

Table 1: Appointed Committee Members by Membership Type

MEMBER_TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Associate	1	0%
Continuing	2	1%
International	1	0%
Life Time	2	1%
Life Time Installment Plan	3	1%
Library Support Staff	1	0%
Non-salaried	4	2%
Regular	167	83%
Retired	3	1%
Student	13	6%
Trustee	4	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 2: Appointed Committee Members by State/Province (plus 1 from 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 all those appointed live in the Chicago area. This increases the number appointed from Illinois.

The ALA-Children's Book Council Joint Committee meets in New York City. Members are responsible for their own expenses to attend this committee's meeting(s). Out of consideration to members all those appointed live in the metropolitan New York area. This increases the number appointed from New York and New Jersey.

Table 2: Appointed Committee Members by State/Province (plus 1 from Canada)

COUNTRY	STATE_PROVINCE	NUMBER	PERCENT
	AK	1	0%
	AL	1	0%
	AR	1	0%
	AZ	5	2%
	CA	19	9%
	CO	13	6%
	CT	2	1%
	DC	2	1%
	FL	6	3%
	GA	7	3%
	IA	3	1%
	ID	1	0%
	IL	16	8%
	IN	1	0%

	KS	6	3%
	KY	2	1%
	LA	3	1%
	MA	2	1%
	MD	7	3%
	MI	6	3%
	MN	3	1%
	MO	2	1%
	MT	1	0%
	NC	7	3%
	NE	2	1%
	NJ	7	3%
	NM	3	1%
	NV	1	0%
	NY	13	6%
	OH	8	4%
	OK	2	1%
	OR	3	1%
	PA	5	2%
	SC	1	0%
	TN	3	1%
	TX	12	6%
	UT	1	0%
	VA	8	4%
	VT	2	1%
	WA	5	2%
	WI	5	2%
	WV	2	1%
CANADA	ON	1	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3: Appointed Committee Members by Total ALA Years

TOTAL ALA YEARS	NUMBER	PERCENT
2	12	6%
3	12	6%
4	10	5%
5	8	4%
6	10	5%
7	2	1%
8	9	4%
9	7	3%
10	3	1%
11	7	3%
12	3	1%
13	9	4%
14	3	1%
15	4	2%
16	3	1%
17	3	1%
18	3	1%
19	6	3%
20	6	3%
21	4	2%
22	8	4%
23	5	2%
24	6	3%
25	7	3%
26	3	1%
27	5	2%
28	4	2%
29	6	3%
31	3	1%
32	6	3%
33	5	2%
34	4	2%
35	6	3%
36	3	1%
37	1	0%
38	1	0%
39	1	0%
40	1	0%
44	1	0%
49	1	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4: Appointed Committee Members by Work Specialty

WORK SPECIALTY	NUMBER	PERCENT
None Given	16	8%
Administration	59	29%
Adult Services	6	3%
Automation Systems	3	1%
Cooperative Activities	1	0%
Instruction	3	1%
Reference/Information	23	11%
Serials	1	0%
Youth Services	8	4%
Audiovisual	2	1%
Acquisitions/Collection Development	10	5%
Cataloging/Classification	5	2%
Extension & Outreach	8	4%
Consultant	2	1%
Library Media Specialist	9	4%
Trustee	4	2%
Library School Faculty	11	5%
Library School Student	7	3%
Government Documents	3	1%
Not Currently Employed	1	0%
Other, Library Work	11	5%
Editorial or Publishing	1	0%
Retired	5	2%
Other, Non-Library Work	2	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>



Table 5: Appointed Committee Members by Organization Type

ORG. TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENT
None Given	13	6%
Public Library	43	21%
County or Regional System	7	3%
State Library Agency	6	3%
Community/Junior College	2	1%
Four Year College	14	7%
University (Graduate Schools)	76	38%
Library School	9	4%
Special Library	1	0%
US Federal Government	2	1%
Library Association/Club	1	0%
Middle & Junior High Schools	3	1%
Senior High Schools	4	2%
Combined Schools	1	0%
School District	4	2%
Other Commercial Firm	1	0%
Publisher	1	0%
Book Seller	1	0%
Other Institution	3	1%
Self Employed	1	0%
Not Currently Employed	1	0%
Retired	6	3%
Other	1	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 6: Appointed Committee Members by Position

POSITION	NUMBER	PERCENT
None Given	18	9%
Director/Dean	39	19%
Assistant/Associate Director	18	9%
Department Head	19	9%
Supervisor	20	10%
Non-Supervisor	30	15%
Other	53	26%
Retired	4	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 7: Appointed Committee Members by Division Membership

DIVISION	NUMBER	PERCENT
AASL	24	%
ACRL	83	24%
ALCTS	21	6%
ALSC	27	8%
ALTAFF	8	2%
ASCLA	11	3%
LLAMA	26	8%
LITA	28	8%
PLA	61	19%
RUSA	29	8%
YALSA	24	7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>342</b>	

**Note:** The total in this table is greater than 201, because many members appointed to a committee belong to more than one division.

Table 8: Appointed Committee Members by Round Table Membership

ROUND TABLE	NUMBER	PERCENT
CLENERT	11	7%
EMIERT	7	4%
ERT	2	1%
FAFLRT	3	2%
GLBTRT	13	8%
GODORT	10	6%
IFRT	27	17%
IRRT	20	13%
LHRT	4	3%
LIRT	4	3%
LRRT	13	8%
LSSIRT	1	0%
MAGERT	2	8%
NMRT	16	1%
SRRT	21	13%
STORT	1	0%
VRT	5	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160</b>	

**Note:** The total in this table is greater than 201, because many members appointed to a committee belong to more than one round table.