

**American Library Association
Fall 2011 Executive Board Meeting
Report of President-elect, Maureen Sullivan**

Orientation

I decided to start my orientation early and to divide it into two visits to headquarters. I completed the first visit on September 15 and will conclude with a follow-up visit on November 8. The first day was very informative and enjoyable. I was able to renew relationships with several staff and found each session to be very helpful and a source of some new ideas. I will meet with almost all of the division executive directors during lunch on November 8. The one exception is Sally Reed of ALTAFF. I will meet with her and the ALTAFF staff in their offices in Philadelphia on November 16. I am eager to learn about the work underway in the divisions, especially in the areas of leadership and professional development.

I am working with Emily Sheketoff to identify a day in November for me to meet with her and the Washington Office staff. Eli Mina and I have agreed to meet during the afternoon on Friday, January 20, for my orientation to parliamentary procedure.

Committee on Committees

The Committee met twice by conference call to identify the slate for election to the Executive Board. Lois Ann Gregory is now contacting the nominees. Lois Ann Gregory-Wood and Delores Yates guided this committee through an orientation to our work to identify members for appointment to committees in another conference call on October 14. It is a privilege to work with the members of this committee.

Committee on Appointments

This committee, comprised of the presidents-elect of the eleven divisions, has identified the slate for the ALA Nominating Committee. Delores Yates has provided an orientation to our workbook and the process to be followed to develop rosters for each of the committees for which we have responsibility.

Presidential Initiatives

I have taken advantage of several opportunities to discuss and develop ideas in each of the four areas I stressed in my campaign: leadership, learning, literacy and strengthening ALA's relationships and work internationally.

I have met twice with staff at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to discuss the possibility of a program on effective leadership in what John Palfrey has described as the "Era of Digital-Plus." We envision a two or three day program for librarians of all types to come together and work with selected Harvard faculty to explore issues and strategies of leading libraries in this emerging context.

When asked at the Candidates Forum last Midwinter what I most hoped to leave as my legacy I said I wanted libraries and the work we do to be fully understood and appreciated in our communities. I have begun to pursue this by talking to several individuals in the library field and outside about how to strengthen the librarian's role in transforming communities. I will engage the division presidents-elect in this discussion when I meet them during the fall meeting. I want to build upon our success and develop a means to accelerate our effectiveness.

I very much want to build upon the strengths and accomplishments of those who have served before me. I am committed to advancing the work outlined in ALA 2015 and to engaging more members in the work of the association. I am listening carefully as a variety of members encourage me to take on the need to rethink and restructure the association. As one member has said, "this could be politically challenging." I look forward to exploring this with the Board, Council and the membership.

Travel and Speaking Engagements

I attended the IFLA Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico on August 13-17. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to meet librarians in other countries who share my strong interest in leadership development. A highlight was the chance for Keith Fiels, Molly Raphael, Roberta Stevens and me to spend some very productive time together.

On September 27, 2011, I was the keynote speaker at the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System (NEO-RLS) Fall Luncheon and discussed *Libraries Working Together: A Formula for Future Success*. The next day I facilitated the *1st Annual Futures' Dialogue*, an interactive discussion of *Tomorrow's Library: Collaboration, Shared Leadership and Service*, convened in partnership with the Kent State University SLIS. Twenty of the seventy participants were SLIS students.

On October 17, 2011, I gave the keynote speech, *Libraries in the Larger Information Ecosystem: Anticipating Challenges and Seizing Opportunities*, at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan New York Library Council.

Other Activities

On October 5, 2011, I joined Executive Director Keith Fiels in a meeting with NEH Chairman, James Leach, IMLS Executive Director, Susan Hildreth, several members of their respective senior staffs, and Kim Olsen-Clark, Director of the ALA Development Office, to begin to plan a meeting of thought leaders to explore ways to strengthen the library's role in informing and transforming communities.

I accepted an invitation to serve on the Governance work stream of the Digital Public Library of America and attended the first plenary DPLA meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 20-21.

I have been invited to participate in an international symposium on library management in Shanghai, China on April 25-27, 2012. This symposium will be hosted by Tongji University and CALA is a co-organizer.

Catholic University's SLIS invited me to be on a panel as part of their Centennial Celebration on October 20, 2011. The focus of the panel discussion is the future of libraries.

I have begun to develop plans for the 2012 inaugural event at the Annual Conference in Anaheim. I was delighted to discover that Mary Ghikas and her colleagues in Conference Services were thinking about changes that were very much in line with my ideas.

Every interaction I have had with an ALA staff member in these first few months has been productive and very helpful. I am especially grateful for the ongoing support I receive from JoAnne Kempf, Lois Ann Gregory, Delores Yates and Mary Ghikas. I continue to value the support and guidance I receive from Keith Fiels, members of the Executive Committee and the several ALA past presidents who continue to reach out to me as I start this wonderful endeavor.