

American Library Association

Midwinter 2013 Executive Board Meeting

Report of President-Elect, Barbara Stripling

Projects and Initiatives

Washington, DC School Library Task Force

After public outcry over the elimination of many school libraries in Washington, DC, the Chancellor, Kaya Henderson, established a School Library Task Force to study the issue of school libraries and make recommendations for her consideration in the budget decisions for 2013-2014. I was named co-chair of the task force and made three trips to Washington for meetings. I joined the Instructional Subcommittee and participated in the research, committee deliberation through e-mail and conference calls, development of recommendations, and crafting of the final report. The other two subcommittees were focused on partnerships and facilities.

I was very pleased with our final report that included six strong recommendations:

- **STAFFING:** Require one full-time library media specialist at all DC public schools with the necessary additional funding provided by the District.
- **PROGRAMMING:** Adopt a DCPS Library Media Program Evaluation Rubric to assess school library media programs and support their growth to exemplary programs.
- **COLLECTION AND RESOURCES:** Allocate to each school a yearly per pupil allotment, placed in a library program org code, to fund library collection development.
- **DISTRICT SUPPORT:** Increase district-level support for school library media programs to provide system-wide coordination, policies, and instructional emphasis.
- **FACILITIES:** Update and consistently follow the *School Media Center Design Guidelines* in order to provide equitable access and delivery of information in the school library programs throughout the district.
- **DISTRICT-WIDE CAMPAIGN AND PARTNERSHIPS:** Establish a multi-year *Creating a Culture of Literacy Campaign*.

Promise of Libraries

I had the good fortune to be a member of the planning committee and the initial training cohort for the Promise of Libraries initiative, the partnership between ALA and the Harwood Institute to develop a focus on libraries turning outward to engage their communities and align with their aspirations. This initiative has begun in Maureen's presidency, but it will be sustained throughout my presidency and beyond.

E-Books

Through the leadership of Alan Inouye (OITP) and the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group (DCWG /chairs Robert Wolven and Sari Feldman), the Executive Committee members have continued to meet with publishers and author agencies around the multiple issues surrounding e-books. These conversations will continue, even as the DCWG and OITP have continued to issue timely and well-researched reports and other publications.

ACLU Suit

I have been asked to submit expert testimony in the ACLU suit against a school district in Utah that has removed *In Our Mothers' House* by Patricia Polacco from the elementary library shelves and placed it behind the desk in each library. Students must bring permission from their parents to be able to access the book.

Committee Appointments

Due to the diligent efforts of the members of the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Appointments, appointments for every committee slot and internship have been decided. The appointment letters will go out after Midwinter and followup appointments will be made when declines are received.

Both committees did an excellent job of maintaining a focus on balancing committee membership among the many criteria, including type of library, experience, area of the country, background, and other factors. They also paid careful attention to the information on the volunteer forms so that matches could be made between volunteer preferences and committees.

Presidential Initiative

My presidential Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Patty Wong and Maribel Castro, has begun to develop more specific plans for my presidential initiative, which we have titled "Libraries Change Lives." The initiative will sustain the emphasis on transformation of libraries and communities that began with the term of Molly Raphael and has continued through the term of Maureen Sullivan through the Promise of Libraries initiative. Three areas of emphasis will form the pillars of my initiative: Literacy, Innovation, and Community Engagement. The initiative will include opportunities for libraries to tell their stories, professional development and conversations, partnerships with entities outside of ALA, and networking/sharing among the units of ALA and the ethnic affiliates. Stay tuned for exciting news about makerspaces, family literacy programs, and Promise of Libraries implementation efforts.

Travel and Presentations

November 2	Cornucopia of Rhode Island (Education gap of Rhode Island minority students)
November 6	UNAM, Mexico City (Quality of information literacy instruction in academic libraries)
November 12	Academic Librarians – Syracuse (E-Book issues and concerns)
December 11	Heart of America webinar (Characteristics of high quality school library programs)

December 13-14	Stripling Presidential Advisory Committee planning meeting
December 17	I Love My Librarian Awards (Award ceremony to honor 10 outstanding librarians)
December 18	Visits to publishers and author agencies in New York City
January 7	Center for an Urban Future, New York City (Release of research report on New York City's three public library systems, entitled "Branches of Opportunity")

Future Travel and Presentations

February 5	Release of <i>Expanding Minds and Opportunities: The Power of Afterschool & Summer Learning for Student Success</i> at National Press Club in Washington, DC – I have a chapter in the book about opportunities in public and school libraries
February 27	ALA Presidential Student Chapter Webinar with Maureen Sullivan and Barbara Stripling
March 4	Keynote and panel moderation – Massachusetts School Library Association
March 7	Keynote – Louisiana Library Association
March 23	Keynote – St. John's Spring Symposium, New York City
March 24-27	Workshops – Texas Library Association
April 3	Keynote – Onondaga County Public Library
April 10	Keynote – Westchester Library Association
April 16	Keynote – Administrative breakfast of Delaware-Chenega-Madison-Otsego BOCES
April 17	Presentation – Syracuse Institute of ALLUNY – College of Law
April 21	Keynote – Vermont Library Association
April 31	Workshop – Common Core Learning Day of Fayetteville (NY) Free Library
August 26-30	Plenary Speech – IASL - Bali

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