

**American Library Association  
2013 Spring Executive Board Meeting  
Report of President Maureen Sullivan**

**Presidential Initiatives**

**The Promise of Libraries in Transforming Communities**

Mary Ghikas and Keith Fiels continue to work with Deb Robertson and Mary Davis Fournier in the Public Programs Office to develop a proposal for submission to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support further work on this initiative. Rich Harwood will return to Annual Conference this summer to continue our efforts to inform and engage the membership.

**Leadership Development**

**Library Leadership in the Digital Age (March 21-23, 2013)**

About 100 individuals from the United States and twelve other countries came together at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) to explore how to lead effectively in the face of the new challenges of the Digital Age. Larry Bacow, President Emeritus of Tufts University served as the faculty chair for the program. Invited speakers included: the Archivist of the United State, David Ferriero; Chris Dede, (Professor of Learning Technologies at HGSE); Kevin Guthrie (Ithaka); and John Palfrey (Digital Public Library of America); Two architects, Janette Blackburn of Shepley Bulfinch and Steve Baker of Baker Design, discussed their experience and ideas about the redesign of libraries as places for learning. I led a session to engage everyone in a discussion to identify emerging competencies. HGSE does an extensive evaluation of its programs. The initial quick review indicated very high overall scores, ones that are comparable to established programs and unusual for a first offering.

**Leadership Development Program for ALA (August 12-15, 2013)**

This program is being promoted through a variety of channels and the applications are coming in. A small group of members and staff will work with me to select the participants for this initial offering. Kathryn Deiss and I are developing the curriculum. ALA staff have selected the site and are working to arrange the logistics of the program.

## **Rethinking ALA**

Keith Michael Fiels, Mary Ghikas and I have begun to identify effective ways to build upon the work done in the sessions held at the Fall Executive Board and Division Leadership meetings and with ALA Council at Midwinter. The Executive Board deliberations about the budget situation at the spring meeting are a real opportunity to align some of the ideas that have been expressed to be considered carefully at this time.

## **ALA and International Librarianship**

Work continues in the three activities underway in this area: strengthening ALA's work with the Sister Libraries program, exploring a partnership with the Peace Corps alumni association and webinars for ALA's international members. I will give keynote addresses at national library association conferences in Mexico and Sweden in May.

## **The Digital Public Library of America**

The (DPLA) will be launched on April 18 – 19, 2013, in Cambridge, MA. The Internal Revenue Service has authorized 501 (c) (3) status for this new organization. Dan Cohen, the DPLA's Founding Executive Director, is the speaker for my president's program at Annual Conference. I have been appointed to serve on the new Marketing and Outreach team.

## **Other Significant Activities**

On April 9, I led another **ALA delegation to New York** to discuss our concerns about e-books. We had a very productive meeting with Penguin, one in which there was real engagement. We also met with Roger Rosen of Rosen Publishing and senior staff at Scholastic to continue conversations about how to work together. Roger Rosen also arranged a meeting for us with key people at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. to explore a possible collaboration in financial literacy.

I continue to represent ALA in the project to create an educational program to bring the contents of the **Diplomatic Reception Rooms** (DRR) at the U.S. Department of State to students and the general public.

The **conference to explore future approaches to educating professionals** in a manner that exposes students to the uniqueness of each of the LAM (Libraries, Archives and Museums) educational programs that Archivist of the United States David Ferriero planned to host in April was postponed for a second time due to sequestration. I continue to serve on the planning committee along with Jackie Dooley, President of the Society of American Archivists, and Ford Bell, Director of the American Alliance of Museums. We hope to set a new date soon.

On February 27 President-Elect Barbara Stripling and I, with the help of Michael Dowling, held a **one-hour webinar** with members of **ALA student chapters**. About ninety individuals participated.

On March 15 I attended Freedom of Information Day at the Newseum and presented the 2013 **James Madison Award**, on behalf of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, posthumously to Aaron Swartz.

In a webinar on March 28 I spoke to a group of librarians in Brazil about leadership. On April 15 Executive Director Keith Fiels and I spoke to this year's Emerging Leaders cohort about ALA's strategic plan and the initiatives we are pursuing during my presidency.

### **Travel and Speaking Engagements**

February 13	Maryland Legislative Day
February 21	Spectrum Scholars Dinner at Simmons College
March 13	Rutgers University MLIS Colloquium
April 10-12	ACRL National Conference in Indianapolis
April 16	Northeast Ohio 2013 Spring Showcase
April 18	Digital Public Library of America Launch in Boston

### **Appreciation**

My work continues to include a number of opportunities to engage with the many talented, dedicated staff at ALA, both in Chicago and in Washington. There are too many to name here. I appreciate all the help and guidance I have received. I continue to benefit from the very good counsel of Past-President Molly Raphael and the partnership she and I have with President-Elect Barbara Stripling.

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