

American Library Association

Spring 2013 Executive Board Meeting

Report of President-Elect, Barbara Stripling

Projects and Initiatives

Continuing ALA Initiatives

The commitment to building strong collaboration and seamless transitions among “the presidents” (current president Maureen Sullivan, incoming president Barbara Stripling, and immediate past president Molly Raphael) can be seen in our approach to continuing ALA initiatives. As a team with Keith Fiels, we have conducted strategic planning around e-books, the Promise of Libraries initiative, and school libraries. We had very productive meetings in New York City in early April with publishers to continue the dialogue about the e-book and library ecosystem and about advocacy for school libraries.

Connections to Graduate Library Students

We have been doing special outreach to student ALA chapters to engage our future professionals in dialogue about critical issues in the field, the opportunities available to them through ALA, and their perspectives on the field. In February, Maureen Sullivan and I participated in a webinar, hosted by Michael Dowling, that was specifically targeted to ALA student chapters. Maureen and I presented briefly about professional issues and ALA initiatives and then responded to questions from the students. I have followed up with three face-to-face sessions – a keynote and conversations at the St. John’s University Spring Symposium; presentations and conversations with students at Louisiana State University; and a short address and Q & A at the State University of New York, Albany, 25th Anniversary Celebration of the ALA Student Chapter. It is extremely valuable to engage with new and future professionals; I hope to continue this effort.

External Partnerships

Part of my focus this spring has been on building relationships with external organizations that have aligned missions with ALA. I attended the release of a new publication, *Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success*, for which I wrote a chapter on the expanded learning opportunities available through public and school libraries. I also was invited to attend the national launch of the National Endowment for the Humanities *Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle* project. Up to 500 libraries and humanities organizations across the country will receive a grant to offer public programming around the four-DVD set on civil rights history in the United States. I am currently exploring connections to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and Digital Promise: Accelerating Innovation in Education as a part of my presidential initiative.

School Libraries

We are engaged in strategic thinking to develop a focused and effective “campaign” to build support for school libraries. Underlying this effort is the understanding among all types of libraries that school libraries are a vital part of the library and learning ecosystem and that ALA must step up at this time to build the public will for strong school libraries. A number of pieces are contributing to this planning: the recommendations from the final report of the ALA Task Force on School Libraries; vendors who have stepped up to contribute their expertise in advocacy and communication; emerging recognition of the instructional leadership role of the school librarian in implementation of the Common Core State Standards; and opportunities to build relationships with constituencies outside of the library field (e.g., teachers, parents, administrators).

Presidential Initiative

My presidential initiative, entitled “Libraries Change Lives,” is taking several paths in the planning. We are working on a *Right to Libraries* declaration that will be made available to libraries across the country to host local signing ceremonies that empower individuals to stand up for their right to libraries of all types. The campaign is based on a *Right to Literacy* declaration campaign that garnered signatures from across the country and built both national and international support. Our plan right now is for the signed scrolls to be presented at a national summit held in the spring of 2014. Plans for the literacy and innovation streams of my initiative are being formed by subcommittees under the leadership of my advisory team co-chairs, Patty Wong and Maribel Castro.

Travel and Presentations

I have the following presentations scheduled between now and Annual Conference.

4/17/13	U of IL – Urbana-Champaign	Windsor Lecture – Inquiry in the Digital Age
4/19/13	ALA Executive Board – Chicago	EB meeting
4/24-4/25/13	Texas Library Association – Fort Worth, TX	Session: E-Rate and Digital Citizenship Session: Empowering Community Voices through Libraries
4/26-4/27/13	CISL International Summit on Inquiry – New Brunswick, NJ	Participation in conference
4/29/13	Primary Sources workshop – Southern Westchester BOCES – Scarsdale, NY	Facilitator of daylong workshop
5/3/13	Keynote – OCPL – Syracuse, NY	Whose Life Will You Change Today?
5/10/13	Keynote – Westchester Library Association – Westchester, NY	Libraries Change Lives

5/16/13	Keynote – Administrative Breakfast; Concurrent Session – Delaware-Chenenga- Madison-Otsego BOCES	Keynote: School Libraries Change Lives Concurrent session topic: IFC / School libraries
5/17/13	ALLUNY – Law Libraries – Syracuse Institute	Speech: Libraries in Transformation
5/21/13	Vermont Library Association – Burlington, VT	Keynote; Conversation – Empowering the Voices of our Communities
5/22- 5/26/13	Laureate International Universities – San Jose, Costa Rica	Keynote – Library Best Practices
5/31/13	Common Core Learning Day – Fayetteville Free Library – Fayetteville, NY	Keynote – Common Core

Future Travel and Presentations

My schedule is starting to fill up for next year already, with keynotes and sessions scheduled at several state and international conferences. It is my goal to be strategic on accepting these invitations so that ALA can be represented in areas where they have not had someone from ALA recently. Declining invitations is not my strength, so we will see how well I can build a schedule of presentations that extends ALA's support to the field and does not overextend my own capacity.

-