

NMRT Board Member Final Report

1. Office Name: Past President

2. Office Term (Date: Ex. 2005-2006): 2008-2009

3. Discuss/summarize your involvement with your committees this year:

I was the Board liaison to the Nominating Committee this year. I also served as the NMRT liaison to the Emerging Leaders Task Force (now the Emerging Leaders Subcommittee of HRDR).

4. Based on your year's experience in this office, what future directions do you see your office or NMRT needing to take this year or the following year?

NMRT needs to work on leadership development, in terms of identifying members who would make good candidates for board positions and encouraging them to run for office. We had some difficulty finding candidates who would accept nominations to the Board. While there are a number of issues that may factor in to nominees declining to run (cost of conference attendance, time commitment in serving on the board, etc.), providing members with leadership potential a bit of extra encouragement and informal mentoring could help. We did have a top-notch slate this year, but we went through a lot of "no"s to get there.

In short: if you spot a leader in NMRT, encourage them. Talk to them about serving on the Board. Let them know that you notice. Sometimes, that's all it takes. That's how I got here.

5. What tips or hints do you have that might help your successor carry out the duties of this office?

Enjoy your final year on the Board! Relish the first few weeks after Annual Conference, where you're no longer copied in on every committee's e-mail. Even though you will sometimes feel like you are suddenly 100 times less popular, it's a really good feeling!

Make sure that the Nominating Committee gets started early, even if it seems like it's way too early. The deadlines sneak up on you.

Keep on the Emerging Leaders folks—the EL program needs improvement, and NMRT **can and should** be a powerful advocate for the interests of emerging leaders (and new members who have already emerged as leaders) past, present, and future. As a group, we know "emerging leaders" better than anyone in ALA, and it's important that we take an active role in shaping the future of this program.

6. Please address the role of the board member as coordinator. For example, projects between membership promotion, diversity & recruitment and student

outreach would need to be coordinated. How might activities such as this be handled by board members efficiently and smoothly? Your thoughts here will be most helpful for future boards.

Communicate, communicate, communicate. Don't be afraid to shake things up when they need shaking. Work with Kim Sanders, our ALA Liaison, when a sticky situation arises.

7. Date of report: June 26, 2009

8. Submitted by: Nanette Donohue