

American Library Association

Library Support Staff Interests Round Table

President's Report **January 24, 2003 – June 29, 2003**

Many opportunities were opened for support staff within the first half of my term in office but believe it or not there were even more challenges and opportunities during the second half of my term.

COPE III

The long awaited Third Congress on Professional Education: Focus on Support Staff occurred in May 2003 at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The LSSIRT Steering Committee had 100% attendance. Mitch Freedman, ALA President, was unable to attend but sent his regards and support via video. Keith Michael Fiels and Mary Ghikas from ALA were among those in attendance as well as some of the ALA Executive Council Members. Maureen Sullivan served as facilitator for the Congress and Kathleen Weibel was the keynote speaker. We were divided into eighteen groups. Many known issues were brought to light but others surfaced during the two days. I believe that ALA is more aware of some of the support staff issues now than prior to the Congress. Responsibility falls both on ALA and support staff.....both need to work collaboratively in order for the proposed resolutions to occur in a timely manner.

LSSIRT supported COPE III by contributing \$500.00 for the bus transportation to and from the hotel and the college.

LSSIRT also contributed two \$100.00 stipends that were awarded to individuals that received little or no monetary assistance.

Committees – Task Forces

- An ad hoc committee was appointed to address the issue of certification. The Certification Committee proposed that a Task Force on Certification be appointed beginning immediately after COPE III and continuing until the 2004 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.
- The Certification Task Force has been created with representation including two LSSIRT Steering Committee members, two LSSIRT members from state organizations and one LSSIRT member-at-large. Their charge is to study the issue of national certification for support staff, prepare and administer a national poll for expectations, complete statistics from research and keep LSSIRT Steering Committee informed of progress. The Task Force will communicate with LSSIRT ALA Liaison to keep informed of what certification issues are being discussed within other areas of ALA.
- A Strategic Planning Committee was appointed to address the status of LSSIRT and plan for future trends in the library profession for support staff.

- LSSIRT members were invited to serve on the following ALA committees:
 Awards Committee
 Standards Review Committee
 Orientation, Training and Leadership Development Committee
 Education Committee
 Education Assembly
 Pay Equity Committee
 Constitution and Bylaws Committee
 Human Resource Development and Recruitment (3)
 ALA – APA Standing Committee on Salaries and Status
 Chair of the Committee’s Working Group on Unions

There were eleven seats accepted and one declined because of other commitments.

This proves that Dr. Carla Hayden, ALA Vice President, President Elect, recognizes the skills, talents, commitment and value of support staff.

Dr. Hayden also took the time from her busy schedule to visit one of the LSSIRT Midwinter Business / Membership Meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She shared the theme of her tenure in office.

LSSIRT invited candidates, Carol Brey and Hermann Totten, for ALA Vice President, President Elect to the Business / Membership Meetings at Midwinter to bring us up to date on their campaign platforms and how they planned to incorporate support staff into ALA activities.

LSSIRT Representation

- Martha Parsons represents support staff and LSSIRT on the COPE III Steering Committee.
- Diane Fay will represent LSSIRT at the Round Table Committee Assembly.
- Cindy Ahrens will represent support staff and LSSIRT at the ALA Membership Meeting and the ALA Task Force on Insurance.
- Kathleen Murphy will represent LSSIRT at the RUSA Membership Meeting.
- Jennifer Kutzik will represent LSSIRT at the ALCTS Membership Meeting.

I appreciate the opportunity of working with each of you, thanks for your support during this past year. I also want to extend thanks to Lorelle Swader, Darlena Davis and other members of the HRDR Office who have contributed to making things happen for us.

Sorry that I cannot be with you in Toronto but wish you all a safe and rewarding conference. Thanks to Diane Fay for conducting the meeting in my absence.

Respectively submitted
 June 21, 2003

Carolyn Tate, LSSIRT President (2002 – 2003)