

**PLA Board of Directors I
ALA Annual Conference
Washington, D.C.
Friday, June 22 2007**

Draft ACTIONS

Present: Susan Hildreth, President; Dan Walters, Past President; Jan Sanders, President Elect;

Issues and Concerns Cluster: Anne Marie Gold (Chair), Carolyn Anthony, Ann Cousineau, Anne Marie Gold, Mario Gonzalez, Larry Neal, Neel Parikh;

Library Development Cluster: Kendi Kelley (Chair), Jose Aponte, Danis Kreimeier, Jose Parker, Kathleen Reif;

Library Services Cluster: Sari Feldman (Chair), Eva Poole, Cathy Elizabeth Sanford, Carol Sheffer, Marcellus Turner, Art Weeks;

PLA Councilor: Norman Maas;

PLA Staff: Greta Southard (Executive Director) Linda Bostrom, Kathleen Hughes, Julianna Kloeppel, Angela Thullen and Louisa Worthington;

Visitors: Nann Blain Hilyard, ALA Board Liaison;

Excused Absence: Danis Kreimeier (Library Development), Cathy Elizabeth Sanford (Library Services), Carol Sheffer (Library Services).

During the PLA 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D. C. the PLA Board of Directors took the following actions:

By consent approved the agenda with the addition of the following agenda item: Request for the solicitation for names for the Nominations Committee, verbal report from chair, Dan Walters. *Approved*

By consent, accepted the following reports: President's Report (2007.50); 2007 Midwinter Board Actions (2007.51); 2006-2007 Spring Executive Committee Actions (2007.52); 2007 PLA Election Results (2007.53); Membership Report (2007.54); PLA Partners Committee Report (2007.55); *Public Libraries* Report (2007.56); Publications Report (2007.57); 2007 Spring Symposium Report (2007.58); Educational Activities Update (2007.59); Washington Office Annual Conference Report (2007.60). *Approved Consent Agenda*

Discussion Items:

1. Announcements:

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- Request from the chair of the Nominations Committee for candidate names for the 2008;
- President Hildreth read the Election Report, welcoming the following to the PLA Board: Carol Sheffer, Michael Golrick, Marcia Warner, Sara Dallas, Irene (Rene) Blalock, Audra Caplan, Lillian Snyder (see 2007.53);
- President Hildreth reminded the Board that later in the meeting we would welcome the liaison from the ALA Executive Board;

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- Receipt of final approval of the Gates Foundation Grant proposal. PLA was asked to submit a grant proposal to provide in-person and electronic advocacy training to the *Opportunity Online Hardware Grantees* (another Gates grant administered by the State libraries or their intermediaries). PLA will develop customized training for the 32 states participating in this program. Additionally, PLA will offer the training to non-grantees at PLA sponsored events such as National Conferences and Spring Symposium. The monies are awarded to ALA, PLA will administer the three year \$7,771,767 grant that will provide advocacy training to over 4,000 participants. The formal announcement will take place on Monday at the PLA President's Program. The press release will be available at that event and talking points will be distributed to the PLA Board.
2. Nann Blaine Hilyard, ALA Executive Board Liaison provided an update on ALA activities and issues. See the attached ALA EB talking points for issues covered by Hilyard.

Topics covered in general PLA Board discussion included:

- Request for the liaison to take back to the ALA Executive Board our interest in working with the new ALA Office for Grassroots Advocacy;
 - Our interest in having a representative on any ALA task force working on E-Government;
 - Discussion of librarians' role regarding social issues, Hilyard advised us to provide direction to our Councilor with respect to any resolutions pending before Council;
 - Suggestion that perhaps requiring only 25 signatures to be a petition candidate for ALA Council should be changed to require more signatures PLA as a body are interested in seeing change in the construct of Council, specifically, we'd like to see 2 representatives from each Division rather than 1 and we are interested in the idea of term limits. We feel these would be useful areas for ALA to explore.
3. Norman Maas, Division Councilor, reported out on the Council's agenda. No controversial issues, no direction given to our Councilor.
4. Sue Nespeca, Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library Proposal for Next Steps-Request to Revise the Product, 2007.62. The request is to convene a meeting of the trainers with the purpose of revising the ECRR training script, which is the product we sell in the ECRR training kit. General discussion touched upon the following issues:
- Do we have the appropriate number of trainers (7), do we need more? [note from GS—product originally conceived and designed as a turnkey operation this data point was not brought out in the discussion];
 - Noted that training has occurred at state conferences;
 - Questions regarding the viability of tweaking the product prior to conducting any evaluation of the initiative itself;

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- Nespeca conveyed that the trainers are in full support of the evaluation proposal that is also on the Board's agenda;

Discussion of 2007.62 was tabled to introduce 2007.63, Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library Proposal for Next Steps—Evaluation of the Initiative, Clara Bohrer, Toni Garvey, Elaine Meyers. Proposal to evaluate the impact the ECRR product has had on the field. General discussion touched upon the following:

- What has been the impact—has the product served its intended purpose and changed practice in the field?
- Discussed the need to look at a bigger macro picture of practice in the field in order to leverage this product and the issue of early literacy for library advocacy purposes;
- The work of the trainers and task force who created the initial product is valued and appreciated;
- General consensus that our early literacy product constituted important work that we and ALSC need to have ownership of and that both divisions should be encouraged to move forward together on this proposal.

Regarding 2007.62:

Motion to allocate up to \$5,000 to support the training initiative for minor modifications to the training script that would not impact the product and PLA's approval is contingent on ALSC also approving the request. *Approved*, however the vote was not unanimous.

Regarding 2007.63:

Motion to support the evaluation of the ECRR initiative approved in concept. The Board will revisit the funding requested in the proposal after the Budget and Finance Committee has had the opportunity to review and provide a recommendation regarding the level of funding to support this project. *Approved*.

5. Susan Hildreth, request from ALA to continue the support of the Emerging 2007-2008 Leader Program, nominate a PLA member to serve on a task force and provide a project idea for the next iteration of the program 2007.61. Motion to allocate \$2,000 in the 2007-2008 PLA budget to support up to 2 PLA emerging leaders next year. *Approved*

The Board also tasked the following Board members with these responsibilities: Larry Neal, to serve as the PLA nominee for the EL program task force; Ann Cousineau, Alan Harkness and Larry Neal to serve as the work group responsible for developing a PLA project idea. [Note from Southard: Project ideas are due to Lorelle Swader, ALA by September 1].

6. Financial Analysis Overview and Management Report 2007.65, FY2007 Year-To-Date by Project 2007.66 and Adoption of the 2007-2008 Budget 2007.67 deferred to Monday Board meeting. Thus providing the Budget & Finance Committee an opportunity to review the documents and make a recommendation regarding funding the ECRR Evaluation of the Initiative Proposal 2007.63.
7. New business:

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- Carolyn Anthony reported out the ALA had received an IMLS grant to fund the development of a library support staff certification program. Asked whether or not the Board wanted her to continue as our representative to this initiative (Certification of Library Support Staff Task Force chaired by Nancy Bolt). Board directed her to continue as our representative. Currently the TF is working on draft library support staff competencies.
- Susan Hildreth reported that PLA sent two representatives to ALA's Friday preconference on federal advocacy and media training, D. Kreimeier and R. Goldberg.
- Susan Hildreth distributed ALA's National Library Agenda handout.
- Jan Sanders, incoming President will be responsible for appointing the 2 PLA representatives to the ECRR Evaluation Task Force pending recommendation from Budget & Finance Committee. Names suggested are: Sari Feldman and Kathleen Reif.
- Service recognition awards thanking the following departing Board members for their time, expertise and good stewardship of PLA:
 - Dan Walters, Past President
 - Jose Aponte
 - Anne Marie Gold
 - Mario Gonzalez
 - Kendi Kelley
 - Carol Sheffer
 - Arthur Weeks

8. Meeting adjourned.

**PLA Board of Directors II
ALA Annual Conference
Washington, D.C.
Monday, June 25 2007**

DRAFT ACTIONS

Present: Susan Hildreth, President; Dan Walters, Past President; Jan Sanders, President Elect;

Issues and Concerns Cluster: Anne Marie Gold (Chair), Carolyn Anthony, Ann Cousineau, Mario Gonzalez, Larry Neal, Neel Parikh;

Library Development Cluster: Kendi Kelley (Chair), Alan Harkness, Danis Kreimeier, Josie Parker, Kathleen Reif;

Library Services Cluster: Sari Feldman (Chair), Eva Poole, Cathy Elizabeth Sanford, Carol Sheffer, Marcellus Turner, Art Weeks;

PLA Councilor: Norman Maas;

ALTA Representative: Dale Ross;

PLA Staff: Greta Southard (Executive Director) Linda Bostrom, Kathleen Hughes, Julianna Kloeppel, Angela Thullen and Louisa Worthington;

Visitors: Paul Meyer, meeting facilitator;

Excused Absence: Jose Aponte (Library Development).

During the PLA 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D. C. the PLA Board of Directors took the following actions:

By consent approved the agenda with the addition of the following agenda item(s): Financial Analysis Overview and Management Report 2007.65, FY2007 Year-To-Date by Project 2007.66 and Adoption of the 2007-2008 Budget 2007.67 Friday agenda items deferred to Monday Board meeting.
Approved

By consent, accepted the following reports: 2007 Conference Program Coordinating Committee Report 2007.68, Recommended Preconferences for 2008 National Conference 2007.71. *Approved*

Discussion items:

1. Financial Analysis Overview and Management Report 2007.65, FY2007 Year-To-Date by Project 2007.66 and Adoption of the 2007-2008 Budget 2007.67, Budget & Finance Chair, Clara Bohrer. General discussion, Bohrer reported out the PLA is in sound financial condition. While the 2007 Spring Symposium did not meet budget, she noted that it was a programmatic success to our members and a fine result for our first sizeable continuing education event with out a trade show in the west. As of the April 2007 performance report, the PLA ending net asset balance was \$ 509,636. She noted that the search to fill the vacant deputy position was underway and that PLA would see some salary savings from that as well as the receipt of the Gates Grant. The grant will pay for a bit of the salaries for 3 existing staff, and will fully fund the 2.5 staffers to be hired to manage the grant.

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Regarding FY 2008 Budget 2007.67 the budget projects \$ 4,953,603 in revenues and \$ 4,122,289 in expenses as a result of the upcoming 2008 National Conference with a projected year end net asset balance of \$1,053,836. The budget includes support for the following:

- \$50,000 for ECRR evaluation project;
- \$50,000 for Leadership scholarships/initiative;
- \$100,000 unallocated monies in the Future Funds line to support strategic initiatives the Board may identify during the course of the year.

Motion to approve the FY 2008 Budget. *Approved*

2. Susan Hildreth reported out on the work of the Leadership Task Force for Luis Herrera, chair, who was unable to attend AC, 2007.64. Hildreth reiterated the recommendations the TF sent forward to the Executive Committee in the spring which were approved, see 2007.52. The TF is focusing on how to develop leaders for the profession and most specifically how to create change and change agents in public libraries. The TF has developed a list of programs that meet their criteria to assist in the development of change agents and promote organizational change in public libraries. PLA will fund scholarships to specific programs, scholarship recipients will be obligated to assist in the field research to determine the value of the program they participated in to help us assess whether or not we could work with that educational entity as a developmental partner for future PLA leadership training programs.

Also, reviewed the 3M Leadership Institute opportunity. 3M will host a one day leadership workshop at the 2008 PLA National Conference. Report out of the information provided to the Executive Committee at the spring meeting:

Jan Sanders is the point person working with 3M. Jan has also been in communication with George Needham and Joan Frye-Williams regarding a potential workshop agenda and participant selection process. Current thoughts:

- Application process and limited to 100 participants;
- Develop an online application process similar to the online award application process;
- Mention in the National Conference program book, but do not include as a registration event;
- Applicants must have a project idea to work on;
- Limited to one person per institution;
- Need to determine the appropriate staff target level in an organization, i.e. is this for senior management, middle managers, director, etc. Based on EC discussion determined that senior level management should be the target audience;
- Interested in people who will ultimately will become organizational change agents and decision makers;
- 3M is willing to host an event to reconnect the invitational leadership participants at an event at the 2008 Annual Conference.

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3. Susan Hildreth reported on the Every Child Ready to Read proposal follow up information received from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Board. ALSC did not approve the trainers' proposal, therefore PLA will not provide the monies for the project; ALSC expressed some concerns regarding the [staff?] capacity to handle the evaluation project, however, the ALSC Board will continue their deliberations and make a decision at their next and final AC Board meeting.

Motion to support fully support the evaluation proposal and authorize the expenditure of \$50,000 to fully support the initiative. *Approved*

- Kathleen Reif and Clara Bohrer reported out on the ALA Advocacy Coordinating meeting they attended. They reiterated to ALA that PLA was fully prepared to be good ambassadors and will cooperate in any way possible regarding ALA's advocacy activities, and that PLA will be pleased to be involved in any planning or initiatives that the new ALA Office of Advocacy undertakes.

Suggested that talking points be provided to the PLA Board regarding the Gates Grant so that our advocacy initiatives are explained in a logical and cohesive manner.

4. Continuation of the Midwinter Mega Issue Discussion as related to the PLA strategic plan 2007.70. Our central question is: how can PLA become a more nimble organization and utilize our member volunteer work force more effectively? Paul Meyer reported out on the work undertaken with the Executive Committee at the spring meeting. General discussion included:
 - Trust is very important in making governance and organizations work well;
 - Knowledge is key to making good decisions, the Board and staff must collect data and information so that the Board will have the necessary tools to make good decisions;
 - Nimbleness is another key element for effective associations--how can we ensure that we are a nimble organization is one of our central questions;
 - The Board must have the will to govern well and be nimble;
 - Sub questions from the central question of how to utilize the volunteer work force more effectively:
 - How to infuse technology into solution building;
 - How to respond to the ALA committee meeting requirements;
 - How to respond to the competition for volunteer time;
 - How to ensure involvement and retention of PLA members;
 - Review of concepts discussed at the January Board meeting, see Board of Directors: Volunteer Work Group Mega Issue Discussion Report, January 20, 2007;

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- Confirmed that the Board is committed to changing the way we work and organizational structure;
- Key concepts from above referenced January 20, 2007 report:
 - Create work groups as needed for tasks that sunset when the task is complete;
 - Reduce the number of standing committees;
 - Create advisory groups as needed or as interested is sparked, function like content discussion groups who when asked would provide advise or information to the board;
 - The Executive Committee expounded and expanded on the work of the Board from the Midwinter meeting;
- Key concepts: 3 types of member groups are needed by an association—1) those who govern (Boards/Executive Committees), 2) those who do the ongoing work of the association (Committees) and 3) those who are created for limited specific tasks (Task Forces);
- Board key concepts:
 - No need for representative board, but rather a need for a competency based board. When creating a competency based Board the Board needs to analyze the issues the organization will be facing over the next 3-5 years and determine what kind of skills the Board will need to represent the membership as a whole. The Board then gives direction to the Nominating Committee regarding the skills the elected leaders should possess;
 - Boards in general are getting smaller;
 - Competencies of the Board should also be taken from the strategic plan;
 - The Nominating Committee becomes a stronger placeholder in developing organizational leadership that is reflective of the work that the organization wishes to accomplish via the strategic plan;
 - Smaller Board would mean that the full Board would make decisions for the organization, no need for an Executive Committee
 - Note to Paul—after the above comment I have a note that says: Add No Slide.
- Nominating Committee Key concepts:
 - 7 members;
 - Immediate past president serves as chair;
 - Expand the number of people on the committee to allow greater representation to find the people with the competencies needed;
 - President Elect responsible for the appoints to the committee;

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- Members serve one year term [I think we meant one election cycle];
- Committee may play a role in developing leaders and mentoring;
- May want to stagger the terms on the committee—discussion as to whether or not people should be appointed for one or two year terms; [Parking lot issue]
- A standing committee that is named in the bylaws;
- Would require a more proactive call for nominations and define competencies so that people could funnel names to the Nominating Cmt;
- Board delivers to the Nominating Cmt the competencies, the committee then finds people who meet those competencies;
- Nominating Committee is a neutral third party, not a committee of the Board;
- Standing Committee Key Concepts:
 - Permanent committees of the organization; however, they are not named in the bylaws, but are the committees necessary for completion of the ongoing work of the enterprise;
 - Program Coordinating Committee---I have a note here that says change? Need to compare to your slide.
 - Awards Committee—consist of the individual chairs from the Awards jury.
 - Note: why do we need a separate PLA Legislative Committee. Recommendation: Do not need a standing legislative committee
 - PLA representative to the ALA Legislative Assembly could become a responsibility of a board member—or not---if a responsibility of the board member, then we need someone who has the competencies needed re: active and knowledgeable in how to work with/on legislative issues.
 - Much discussion on assemblies and how PLA's voice is heard at the ALA level and how to handle that link;
 - No final conclusions on how to deal with Legislative Committee, much discussion;
 - Publications Committee I also have a note here that says change
 - —not a reporting up relationship, the cmt would decide who/what they need to get the work done
 - Question—someone asked whether or not committees would still have a written charge and get an invitation to serve on xx cmt or to do xx task, and would sign a document that says they agree to do so. Group reply was yes.
- Advisory Groups Key Concepts:

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- Current subject interest groups housed in the existing Cluster Committee structure would be turned into Advisory Groups, they are not standing committees;
- Must check our definitions against ALA definitions—may have to change our 'titles';
- Work Teams (Groups) doing a project of the association, may morph into a community of practice;
- Communities of Practice (COP)—not necessarily doing the work of the association. They provide a venue for subject interest discussion, and are a benefit of membership—networking avenues.
 - Need robust community technology to support COPs
 - Could provide venue for COPs to have face to face meetings **if they desire** not mandatory that these groups meet. Could say anyone interested in xx topic meet at Starbucks at xx time/location.
 - Consider creating a virtual membership category—how would this fly? What would be the restrictions/limitations imposed by ALA?? Could this somehow coordinate with an organizational membership?
 - COPs could be a very powerful way of empowering people

General Feedback:

- Yes, the Board is in agreement we should move forward;
- Create a smaller TF to work through the issues. Suggested: five people of which, one with expertise in bylaws; create a timeline and implementation plan; translate these concepts into new bylaws, cross walk them against existing bylaws to easily show changes (redline); create new organizational chart reflective of the new structure; have someone work through putting together more of the nit picky details; need a bylaws groupie.
- Pilot a couple of COPs—perhaps
 - Technology in Public Libraries
 - Readers Advisory
- TF to put together the COP rules and / or pilot of the COP
- Need to come up with a transition plan/strategy.

Motion to approve in concept the reorganization recommendations. Approved.

Charge the incoming president (president elect, Jan Sanders) to create a task force to continue to move the reorganization forward and a task force to more fully develop the notion of the COPs. Report out at the fall meeting, October 2007, with

the intent that the bylaws change and reorganization be presented to the PLA membership for a vote within one year of the final report to the Board.

Meeting adjourned.

6-19-07

ALA BOARD LIAISON TALKING POINTS

2007 ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FY 2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the dues increase voted by ALA's members, the association's proposed FY 2008 budget includes funding for a number of new initiatives:

- A new Office for Library Advocacy
- Ongoing Advocacy Institutes and Outcome Based Advocacy Training
- I Love Libraries Advocacy website
- A new Half time lobbyist for the Washington Office
- A new full time librarian at the ALA library
- Ongoing continuation of the emerging leaders program

The 08 budget also includes funding for several important technological enhancements:

- An ongoing **social network**, similar to facebook or myspace.
- **My ALA** - an individualized home page that will help members manage their interaction with the association.
- **Website redesign.** (*see below*)
- **New Usability Officer.** As recommended in the usability assessment, ALA has approved the creation of a Chief Usability Officer position for 2008. This person will advocate for a culture of user-centered design throughout the

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organization; participate in product design processes; create usability test plans; develop and administer usability tests; promote usability standards and protocols throughout the organization; champion changes and enhancements that have a direct positive impact on the user experience and assist with quality assurance testing.

WEB REDESIGN

Work continues on the process of assessing the usability of the ALA website and rolling out a redesigned site.

ALA's usability consultants have been conducting card sort and prioritization exercises and an extensive content inventory on certain sections of the site.

They have created new information architectures for the Education & Careers and Awards sections, and have produced draft wire frames of these sections and the home page for preview here at Annual Conference.

There will be two computer kiosks in the registration area of the Washington Convention Center available for people to look at the wire frames, and to provide feedback on the wire frames. ALA's usability consultants will also be conducting 18 evaluation sessions with Conference attendees. User comments will be used to identify further improvements prior to the next phase - graphic design.

The redesigned site should be available this fall.

In the future, ongoing evaluation, analysis and redesign will be a permanent part of the site.

NEW OFFICE FOR LIBRARY ADVOCACY

The Office for Library Advocacy supports the efforts of advocates seeking to improve libraries of all types by developing

- resources
- a peer-to-peer advocacy network
- training for advocates

...at the local, state and national level.

In order to achieve this goal, the new office will work closely with the Public Information Office, the Chapter Relations Office, and the Office for Government Relations, and other ALA units involved in advocacy on behalf of particular types of libraries or particular issues. The goal is to help better integrate these efforts into the overall advocacy planning and strategies of the association.

The office will be staffed by two full time professionals.

The office will also be responsible for ongoing development of ALA's advocacy web site for the public, for ongoing advocacy institutes and an advocate's newsletter (with ALTA).

I LOVE LIBRARIES.ORG

Ilovelibraries.org is ALA's new Web site for the general public, where people can learn more about the excitement and vitality of today's libraries, share their stories, and become active advocates at the local, state and federal level.

Ilovelibraries.org is an opportunity to reach out to a broader audience. One of our goals has been to repurpose as much of our own rich content as possible from the www.ala.org pages, or to "tweak it" so that it's appropriate for a general audience.

The website will include

- feature stories on the great things happening in today's libraries;
- book reviews
- ways for viewers to share their story about their library or nominate their favorite librarian for "librarian of the year"
- and links to advocacy software which will allow users to voice their support on issues affecting libraries at the local, state and national level

Please note that Ilovelibraries.org is a "work in progress", and we expect to be constantly improving the site. Beginning this summer, we will be seeking member input and editorial ideas to help make ilovelibraries.org more useful for the library community.

Visit at www.ilovelibraries.org or click on the ilovelibraries button on the upper left-hand of www.ala.org.

LIBRARY DAY ON THE HILL

The Library Day on the Hill event is looking to be a huge success. Over 900 ALA Annual Conference attendees registered for the event (That's about double the number that typically come to DC for ALA's spring Legislative Day).

Several dozen Members of Congress signed up to have READ posters of themselves made.

An exhibit in the Rayburn House Office Building will let legislators know about 21st century library services. Displays will show legislators what libraries mean to America; from public libraries to school libraries and from research libraries to special libraries.

A "Parade of Bookmobiles" will also be in DC as part of this event.

KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Appropriations

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On June 7, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, with jurisdiction over many library programs, voted to fund in FY 2008 \$253,517,000 for IMLS, which was an increase over last year. The bill included \$167.5 million for the State Programs, \$3.638 million for Native American and Hawaiians, \$12.375 million for national leadership grants, \$23.76 for Laura Bush recruitment and education programs and \$2 million for research and analysis.

Improving Literacy Through School Libraries is level funded at \$19.486 million again this year.

On June 12, the Appropriations Committee met and amended the subcommittee bill to give the Library of Congress' NLS \$12.5 million of the \$19.1 million requested for the new technology for Talking Books. The full House is expected to pass the bill very soon.

No Child Left Behind

With No Child Left Behind (NCLB) reauthorization underway, the Washington Office (WO) is working to include school librarians in two ways:

- in an amendment calling for a school library in every school headed by a state-certified school library media specialist
- as part of the "highly qualified" section of NCLB; as well as strengthening the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program.

The Washington Office is working with Senator Reed's office to develop the language for the amendment, continues to meet with Congressional staff to ensure ALA's proposed language is included as part of reauthorization, and has been meeting with other education groups in Washington to discuss support for our language.

In May, during National Library Legislative Day, WO staff and all of the youth divisions' presidents met with key Congressional staff about the "highly qualified" language.

Public Access to Federally-Funded Research

ALA is advocating for change of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy from voluntary to mandatory as part of the NIH appropriations process.

All kinds of libraries and all kinds of users would benefit from public access to NIH funded research—from scientists to health clinic workers to parents of children with genetic diseases.

A mandatory NIH policy would mean public access to the results of billions (annually) of dollars of NIH-funded scientific research, within 12 months of publication in peer-reviewed journals.

E-Government

OITP research has shown that many public libraries have become the de facto provider of e-government services in their communities. As federal agencies have shifted resources to the Web, any reference service that they provided in the past has been pushed down to public libraries. Some federal agencies' Web sites now say "Go to your public library for more information."

Public libraries are the "perfect fit" for helping their communities access government information. The technology tie-in is the need for more bandwidth for public libraries - it is not possible to serve the public when there are too few computers and slow connections.

OITP has been making connections with federal policy organizations interested in e-government, and recently made contact with the Department of Homeland Security regarding the role libraries could play in the area of emergency operations.

A joint meeting of the COL Government Information subcommittee, GODORT and PLA members has been scheduled at Annual, to begin identifying their role in the evolution of e-government service provision in public libraries – policy development, needs assessment, and staff training are likely topics of discussion.

Our goal is development of proposed legislation (and funding) to support the provision of e government services through libraries.

EMERGING LEADERS

Plans are already underway for the second Emerging Leaders program to be offered in 2008.

120 new librarians will have two days of workshops, participate in projects, network with peers, get an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve on an ALA, Division, Chapter, or Round Table committee, taskforce or workgroup.

Applications will be available online July 1, 2007 at: wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders. Deadline for submission will be August 15, 2007.

60 of the 120 slots will be sponsored, and 60 open, and every effort will be made to achieve representation by type of library, geography, and diversity. The 60 sponsored candidates will be chosen from among the Divisions and Round tables, Ethnic affiliates and Chapters and AASL Affiliates.

To be sponsored, applicants should apply directly to a division, chapter, or round table. Each sponsor will contribute \$1000 for expenses (\$500 each conference). A full list of sponsoring units will be included as part of the online application.

CULTURAL COMMUNITIES FUND

The Cultural Communities Fund is the first-ever endowment created to support cultural programming for public audiences in all types of libraries nationally. CCF will finance training and continuing education for librarians; programming support for libraries; and national model programs like "Let's Talk About It".

Funds raised for CCF will be matched by the terms of a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. We're asking everyone to consider donating to CCF at any level, to help reach the annual Challenge Grant goal of \$277,000 by July 31. Gifts will be matched on a 1-to-3 basis by NEH.

To make your donation to the Cultural Communities Fund, or to find out more, please visit <http://www.ala.org/ccf>. Donations will also be gratefully accepted at the PPO exhibit booth, #2659. Donors will receive a CCF ribbon for their conference badges.

PROMOTING LIBRARIES TO THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

As part of the second phase of the Campaign for America's Libraries, we are seeking commitments from libraries with large Spanish speaking populations to participate in a media partnership to promote library services to the Hispanic community through radio and outdoor billboards.

To date, 13 libraries in the top 20 markets have indicated interest. They reach five million Spanish speaking people.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

During their most recent conference call, the Endowment Trustees took action to hire Blackrock as a portfolio manager to actively manage an SRI account. The initial investment totals \$250,000.

This selection is the result of the Trustees ongoing effort to examine the SRI question. The Trustees will continue to examine and monitor the issues surrounding SRI investing.