

The AASL Affiliate Assembly met Sunday, January 26, 2014, in the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Chair Merlyn Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with introductions and thanks to our sponsors Marlene Woo-Lun and Kathryn Suarez from Libraries Unlimited and Deb Levitov of School Library Monthly. Ms. Woo-Lun invited attendees to check out the free webinars, and sponsorships for conferences and workshops that include discount coupons and books to raffle. Deb Levitov invited all attendees to watch for details of the School Library Monthly's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and their website.

First time attendees were welcomed and a thank you was extended to the ALA staff. Affiliates were reminded that material can be requested for conferences and meetings from the ALA office.

The Concerns and Commendations Process was reviewed. Current Concerns and Commendations are due to Regional Representatives by May 15. The deadline for Regional representatives to forward them to Merlyn Miller is May 30. An explanation of the process can be found at: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/about/affils>

Helen Adams updated the Assembly on the current cases and the challenges facing the Freedom to Read Foundation. The Freedom to Read Foundation is the legal arm of AASL and is the only organization defending the First Amendment Rights for libraries and librarians. More information can be found at: <http://ftrf.org>

AASL President Gail Dickinson gave a report on the Disposition of Concerns:

Concern #3--Crosswalk of the Common Core Standards has been sent to the Common Core Implementation Task Force for review.

Concern #4—A STEM task force will be created as requested.

Concern #5—State Library Agency support concern has been passed on to the ALA School Library Task Force to seek support of state agencies.

Concern #6—Lesson Plan Database is in a state of transition as the current host company has gone out of business and plans are moving forward to search for a new company to host the database and to strengthen the database.

Concern #8—A task force was formed to create programming, strategies or resources for school libraries serving homeless and transient student populations.

The new AASL Executive Director, Sylvia K. Norton, reported on the structure of the organization and explained the process as the association looks toward the future for ways Affiliate Assembly can support AASL and how AASL can support the Affiliate Assembly.

Past President Susan Ballard asked members to relay needs to AASL as the affiliates are the heart and soul of AASL. She expressed her thanks to the members who hosted her at state

conferences. She is pleased that ALA formed a task force to support AASL. She asked Affiliate Assembly members to participate in a survey asking for input in regards to financing.

AASL President-elect Terri Grief outlined her initiative of getting more new leadership and mentoring at the state and national levels by providing training opportunities. She hopes to make Affiliate Assembly stronger and more effective in our state organizations and in our schools.

Carrie Turner explained the election process and time line for the chair-elect position and made a call for candidates.

Eileen Kern and Ken Stewart will co-chair a Task Force to update the current re-affiliation documents. Susan Yutzey, Jay Bansbach, and Mona Batchelor volunteered to serve on the committee that is charged with completing their work before the spring 2014 re-affiliation process begins.

Steven Yates reported on AASL Fall Forum that will be held in St. Louis on October 17-18, 2014. The theme is Anytime Anywhere Learning. There will be nine satellite sites. Watch for more details as they become available. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Hilda Weisburg, chair of the AASL Advocacy Committee gave an update on the work of her committee. They are hoping to produce more advocacy tips of the day, she wants to know what is working in each state, and she encourages everyone to send her ideas or use Connect. Legislative advocacy is also part of her committee.

AASL Essential Links editorial board representatives, Susie Highley and Judi Paradis, encouraged members to use Essential Links for sharing information and getting answers to questions. It is a great repository and is intended to be a benefit to members. Anyone can post information as Essential Links is a wiki. They are hoping to create screen casts to help with the use of Essential Links.

Deb Levitov gave an update on the AASL Common Core Task Force. The plan is to create infographics on Reading, the Role of Inquiry, and 6 Shifts +1. She shared the infographic on the Role of the School Librarian in CCSS. She asked for feedback and shared the procedure to access the survey and provide feedback: go to AASL, on the left click on Advocacy, click on Tools, then Toolkits, scroll down to CCSS Task Force infographic and scroll to the bottom to give feedback. Information can also be sent to chairman Peggy Creighton, Jen Habley or Deb Levitov.

Susan Hess gave a committee report for the School Library Month. This is the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of school library month. The history can be found at the website. Jeff Kinney is the spokesman for this year. Authors have been asked to submit answers to “How has the school library changed your life?” There will be a kids gallery asking how a school library experience has changed your life?

The AASL Retirees SIG representative Irene Kwidzinski reminded those in attendance that you do not have to be retired to belong and share ideas.

ALA President Barbara Stripling reported on the Declaration for the Right to Libraries. There will be a school library version coming out this spring. She has written a column in American Libraries stressing the need to build upon the collaborative effort to connect all libraries and to deliver the message of the impact of all libraries. She encouraged everyone to take a leadership role and to help make a splash during the April library celebrations. ALA is working on an Action Plan and welcome comments and suggestions. Send suggestions to Barbara Stripling, Gail Dickinson, or Sylvia Norton.

All regions held a caucus and then reported to the membership.

Region 1—Anna Bolognani reported it is hard for states to collaborate and take advantage of professional development when physically divided. New England is looking for hosts for webinars to offset the costs and make them feasible. They are trying to get universities to give discounts for credit from professional development. Exemplary library programs are being recognized.

Region 2—Eileen Kern reported that they discussed restructuring of the organization, refreshing the organization, increasing membership, and strategies to get people to replace those currently serving in leadership.

Region 3—Linda Weatherspoon reported they are trying to get volunteers to serve in leadership positions, questions were asked about the student outcome part of the evaluation process, concerns were shared about the loss of positions to retirements, volunteers and paras/clerks filling the librarian role, schools not releasing librarians to attend conferences, and the cost of travel to conference attendees.

Region 4—Kathy Carroll related their concerns about teacher evaluation versus librarian evaluation, budget cuts, staffing concerns, and meeting methods—face-to-face and/or virtual.

Region 5—Michelle Wilson stated the concern for de-professionalization, the increase in charter schools that have no librarians, and the divide between beginning level teachers and learning how to collaborate with the librarian, advocacy and regional meetings.

Region 6—Liz Philippi reported on staffing issues, Oklahoma's success with Digital Learning Day and a state mentoring program that pairs a retiree with a new librarian; New Mexico reported that the State Library System is once again solvent, Gail Dickinson was a guest at their state conference; Arkansas has increased the attendance at the summer conference and adoption of new standards for LMS; Texas participated in Snapshot Day in November and signed the Declaration for the Right to Libraries at the state conference, and hosted a Tech Camp Day.

Region 7—Jessica Gillis reported that they are working on getting more people involved in AASL as the membership numbers are down possibly due to the dwindling number of school librarians.

Region 8—no report

Region 9—Cindy Pfeiffer reported that members feel that Connect should be more user-friendly and more advocacy to school administration, they are looking forward to the re-affiliation changes; Colorado has a great association website and does a superior job with advocacy, and do a back-to-school workshop; Kansas held its annual conference with the Kansas Library Association after years of having separate conferences; Nebraska has library students here at the conference.

Carrie Turner announced that she received a nomination petition for Lori Donovan for chair-elect.

ALA Presidential nominees Maggie Farrell and Sari Feldman outlined their platforms and qualifications in speeches.

Merlyn Miller made announcements about Affiliate Assembly meetings that will be held at ALA Annual in Las Vegas. The Affiliate Assembly Executive Committee will meet on Friday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Affiliate Assembly I will be Friday, June 27, tentative time is 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and Affiliate Assembly II will be Sunday, June 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Updates will be posted on Connect.

Hilda Weisburg moved to adjourn with a second by Carlyn Gray. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Jameson  
Affiliate Assembly Recording Secretary