

American Library Association
2013 Spring Executive Board Meeting
Report of President Maureen Sullivan

Presidential Initiatives

The Promise of Libraries in Transforming Communities

ALA continues to work on a proposal to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support further work on this initiative. Rich Harwood will return to Annual Conference this summer to continue our efforts to inform and engage the membership. On July 25, 2013, Cheryl Gorman of the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation and I will present a virtual conference. We are working to schedule a Harwood innovation lab for librarians in October.

Leadership Development

Library Leadership in the Digital Age (March 21-23, 2013)

About 100 individuals from the United States and twelve other countries came together at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) to explore how to lead effectively in the face of the new challenges of the Digital Age. Larry Bacow, President Emeritus of Tufts University served as the faculty chair for the program. Invited speakers included: the Archivist of the United State, David Ferriero; Chris Dede, (Professor of Learning Technologies at HGSE); Kevin Guthrie (Ithaka); and John Palfrey (Digital Public Library of America); Two architects, Janette Blackburn of Shepley Bulfinch and Steve Baker of Baker Design, discussed their experience and ideas about the redesign of libraries as places for learning. I led a session to engage everyone in a discussion to identify emerging competencies. Participants rated the learning experience very high in all areas. Based upon this, HGSE has scheduled the second offering for March 22-24, 2014. Larry Bacow has agreed to serve as chair again.

Leadership Development Program for ALA (August 12-15, 2013)

145 individuals completed and submitted applications for this program. The vast majority of these were well qualified and the selection of participants was very difficult. We chose to invite 40, instead of the planned 35, and all accepted. The program will be held at the Eaglewood Resort in Itasca Illinois. Given the number of highly-qualified applicants, many of whom we could not accommodate in this inaugural session, we plan to schedule additional programs soon.

Rethinking ALA

Keith Michael Fiels, Mary Ghikas and I continue to identify effective ways to build upon the work done in the sessions held at the Fall Executive Board and Division Leadership meetings and with ALA Council at Midwinter. The Executive Board deliberations about the budget situation at the spring meeting proved to be a real opportunity to align some of the ideas that have been expressed to be considered carefully at this time.

ALA and International Librarianship

Work continues in the three activities underway in this area: strengthening ALA's work with the Sister Libraries program, exploring a partnership with the Peace Corps alumni association and webinars for ALA's international members. I gave keynote addresses at national library association conferences in Mexico and Sweden in May.

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

The planned launch and celebration on April 18 – 19, 2013 at the Boston Public Library was postponed due to the Boston Marathon bombings. It is now scheduled to be held in Boston on October 24-25, 2013. Dan Cohen, the DPLA's Founding Executive Director, is the speaker for my president's program at Annual Conference. I have been appointed to serve on the new Marketing and Outreach team.

Other Significant Activities

On April 9, I led another **ALA delegation to New York** to discuss our concerns about e-books. We had a very productive meeting with Penguin, one in which there was real engagement. We also met with Roger Rosen of Rosen Publishing and senior staff at Scholastic to continue conversations about how to work together. Roger Rosen also arranged a meeting for us with key people at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. to explore a possible collaboration in financial literacy.

I continue to represent ALA in the project to create an educational program to bring the contents of the **Diplomatic Reception Rooms (DRR)** at the U.S. Department of State to students and the general public.

On May 6-7 I facilitated a strategic planning session for the **Committee on Legislation**.

On May 7 I attended, along with President-Elect Barbara Stripling, Executive Director Keith Fiels and Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff, a meeting with the **White House Domestic Policy Council** on libraries. This meeting was arranged by IMLS Executive Director Susan Hildreth for ALA Leadership and COSLA.

On May 8 I attended the **2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Services** award ceremony at the White House.

Travel and Speaking Engagements

April 24	Texas Library Association Annual Conference
April 25	Massachusetts Library Association Annual Conference
April 29-30	Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference Keynote and one-hour program on CT Public Radio with State Librarian Ken Wiggin and CLA President Carl DeMilia on e-books
April 30	Joint presentation with Deb Hunt, SLA President at the Maryland SLA Chapter on the future of libraries and library associations
May 1-4	Association Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC) in Morelia, Mexico Keynote address on community engagement
May 7-8	National Library Legislative Day
May 7	Participated in a meeting with members of the White House Domestic Policy Council convened by IMLS Executive Director Susan Hildreth (attended by representatives from ALA, IMLS and COSLA)
May 14-17	Swedish Library Association Keynote address on e-books and the ALA efforts with publishers
May 30-31	Book Expo in New York City A member of a panel sponsored by the Association of Author's Representatives
June 3	Rhode Island Library Association Keynote address on leadership
June 6	ALA Virtual Membership Meeting

Appreciation

I have thoroughly enjoyed my presidency and the opportunity to lead the association in this time of challenges and opportunities. I very much appreciate the support and contributions of the ALA Executive Board, the presidents and executive directors of ALA's divisions and the many talented and dedicated staff at ALA, in Chicago, Washington and Philadelphia. I especially have valued the very good counsel and support of Past-President Molly Raphael. I look forward to continuing this practice in my role as immediate past-president under the leadership of my successor, Barbara Stripling.

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