

**2012-2013 ALA CD#29.1
2013 ALA Annual Conference**

American Library Association

Annual 2013 Executive Board Meeting

Report of President-Elect, Barbara Stripling

Projects and Initiatives

Presidential Initiative

My presidential initiative, entitled *Libraries Change Lives*, is taking shape through the diligent efforts of my Advisory Committee and the leadership of co-chairs, Patty Wong and Maribel Castro.

A Declaration for the Right to Libraries has been developed to serve as a strong public statement of the value of libraries for individuals, communities, and our nation.

Through this “America’s Right to Libraries” initiative, libraries of all types will have the opportunity in the next year to hold signing ceremonies where community members, organizations, and officials can visibly sign and stand up for their right to have vibrant school, public, academic, and special libraries in their community. Libraries will be provided a “toolkit” to plan signing ceremonies and garner public support and media attention. Our plan right now is for the signed scrolls to be presented at a national summit held in the spring of 2014.

A second area of *Libraries Change Lives* focuses on literacy. We know that libraries are fundamental to literacy – young children developing a love of reading, older adults learning digital literacy, immigrants participating in English classes and conversations, students developing the skills of information literacy, individuals learning financial literacy, families enjoying literacy activities together. Many units of ALA are actively involved in literacy efforts, but the public face of ALA (the website) does not make this support for literacy easily discoverable, even to members. The Advisory Committee is working with Michelle Washington, Director of the Office for Diversity and Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, and others (both within and beyond ALA) to support ALA’s literacy efforts and visibility.

The innovation strand of *Libraries Change Lives* involves developing plans to enable libraries across the country to highlight their library’s innovative practices and the opportunities that they offer to community members to pursue their own innovative ideas (for example, through makerspaces). We will be collecting stories and fostering

the use of the TEDx model and network to help libraries share their innovative ideas and successes.

The final strand of *Libraries Change Lives*, community engagement, is designed to sustain and amplify ALA's community engagement focus from the last several years. ALA is committed to helping libraries find ways to engage their communities in discovering and addressing their community needs and aspirations. At the same time, ALA is continuing to build the internal community engagement of members and staff to develop shared purpose, establish realistic goals, and foster relationships and collaboration. To that end, President Maureen Sullivan invited ALA members to participate in a series of conversations at the ALA conference in Chicago about their aspirations for ALA as their professional community. As President Sullivan stated, "These conversations, which will continue in 2014, are a step in the process of making ALA an innovation space where members and staff can collaborate and create together in their professional community. This process of turning outward to the community – civic, campus, organizational – is at the heart of *The Promise of Libraries Transforming Community*, with IMLS funding to support the initial phase."

Continuing ALA Initiatives

I am committed to building strong collaboration and seamless transitions among "the presidents" (current president Maureen Sullivan, incoming president Barbara Stripling, immediate past president Molly Raphael, and incoming president-elect Courtney Young). We will work together to continue ALA initiatives on e-books (through the Digital Content Working Group – DCWG), community engagement (the Promise of Libraries initiative), and advocacy for school libraries. The Digital Content Working Group will continue its strategic e-book work under the guidance of ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy and the leadership of co-chairs Robert Wolven and Sari Feldman. The Promise of Libraries initiative is moving from its initial phase to broader engagement across ALA. The school libraries initiative is described below.

School Libraries

School libraries across the country are at a critical point. On the one hand, budget and testing pressures on administrators and school districts have led to decisions to eliminate or de-professionalize school libraries. On the other hand, the increased emphasis on preparing all students to be college and career ready and the widespread adoption of the Common Core State Standards and integration of technology have opened an unprecedented door to school library leadership.

ALA is planning a strong and multi-faceted campaign for school libraries. Building on the work of the School Library Task Force that presented its final report at Midwinter 2013, a School Library Implementation Task Force will be appointed to oversee the strategic messaging and advocacy work for the next year. Co-chairs of the Implementation Task Force will be Gina Millsap and Terri (Kirk) Grief. The School Library Implementation Task Force work will start with a short-term "think tank" to develop key messages and

strategies. Then the full task force will divide into subcommittees to tailor the messages and actions to the different constituencies identified by the School Library Task Force in its final report.

The school library campaign will be jumpstarted by beginning the national push for signatures on the *Declaration for the Right to Libraries* with school libraries who will then forward the signed declarations to public and academic libraries in their communities and state. The vision is to establish a window of 1-2 weeks in the fall for school libraries across the country to host signing ceremonies and for ALA to use this opportunity to leverage strong national media coverage and public support.

The school library advocacy efforts will also include building partnerships with national organizations and targeting specific constituencies (like school administrators, classroom teachers, parents, and school boards). Increased advocacy with national legislators will be guided by the Washington Office.

Several vendors have offered to support ALA advocacy efforts for school libraries. ALA will engage those vendors and enlist others to become a part of the school library campaign.

The bottom line for our school library campaign is our shared understanding that all types of libraries form an ecosystem that really does impact the success of whole communities and the individuals within them. We must stand together and demand strong school libraries. No child in America should be deprived of that right.

Travel and Presentations

I have the following presentations scheduled between now and Midwinter in Philadelphia.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY/TOPIC
6/12/13	Polaris 10 th Anniversary Celebration – Syracuse, NY	Address – congratulations, partnership (10-20 minutes)
6/26-7/3/13	ALA Annual	Inauguration on July 2 – Speech
7/22-24/13	Common Core Workshop – GST BOCES – Elmira, NY	Three-day workshop on Common Core and school libraries
7/30/13	Nashville School Libraries @ Nashville Public Libraries – Nashville, TN	Keynote – Resource sharing partnership between public and school libraries; Public launch of Declaration for the Right to Libraries
8/2-3/13	Nebraska School Libraries Institute – Omaha, NE	Two-day workshop on Common Core with Marc Aronson

8/10-16/13	Thailand – Bangkok, Thailand	Speech – Trends in U.S. Library and Information Science Education; Keynote – Digital Storytelling; Informal Talk – Reading Activities in USA; Visit to libraries
8/17-23/13	IFLA – Singapore	Representation of ALA
8/24-25/13	IASL – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Representation of ALA
8/26-8/30/13	IASL – Bali	Plenary speech – School Libraries Change Lives
9/11-14/13	Kentucky Library Association & Kentucky Association of School Librarians – Louisville, KY	Keynote speech
9/20-22/13	Harwood Public Innovators Summit – Park City, Utah	Participation
9/25-28/13	NYLA – Niagara Falls, NY	Breakfast speech and panel – Libraries Change Lives: Innovation, Literacy, Community Engagement
10/1-3/13	University of Missouri library school / Missouri Library Association – St. Louis, MO	Speak to grad students / Keynote speech
10/16/13	SLJ/LJ Virtual Conference	Panel – Reinventing Libraries
10/16-17/13	North Carolina Library Association – Winston Salem, NC	Ogilvie Lecture
10/18/13	South Central Regional Library Council – Ithaca, NY	Keynote
10/19/13	Library 2.013 Virtual Conference – San Jose State	Presentation
10/25-27/13	ALA Executive Board meeting – Chicago, IL	Chair
10/31-11/2/13	U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy – Washington, DC	Panel presentation
11/4-5/13	Southern Westchester BOCES – Scarsdale, NY	Two-day workshop – Use of primary sources and technology
11/12-17/13	AASL National Conference – Hartford, CT	Conference participation – Remarks
11/20-22/13	Michigan Association for Media in Education conference – “School Librarians @ the Core” - Kalamazoo, MI	Keynote; Concurrent session
11/30-12/4/13	Guadalajara Book Fair – Guadalajara, Mexico	Attendance

12/4-12/9/13	Library Association of Republic of China – Taiwan	Keynote – ALA and Professional Development for Librarians; Keynote – School Librarianship in the Digital Era
1/24-1/28/14	ALA Midwinter – Philadelphia	

Future Travel and Presentations

I continue to try to be strategic on accepting invitations so that ALA can be represented in areas where they have not had someone from ALA recently. I will try to maintain a degree of flexibility in my schedule so that I can respond quickly to emerging needs and issues – I am sure there will be no shortage of opportunities to exercise my flexibility.

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