



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**2006-2007**

**PRESENTED AT  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
WLA CONFERENCE 2007  
KENNEWICK WASHINGTON**

**WLA PROMOTES LIBRARY SERVICE, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LIBRARY ADVOCACY  
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON STATE**

## WLA VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

**PRESIDENT**      **Carolynne Myall**

What can a small but mighty library association accomplish in a year? Check out what your Association did since our last business meeting:

- ***Presented two terrific conferences.*** The 2007 Annual Conference, in a new facility in the Tri-Cities, includes an array of sessions across library specialties—and some great entertainment too. The 2006 WALE Conference, a beautifully organized and high-energy event in Bellingham, brought opportunities to learn (and to win a lot of prizes) to library staff from around the region. Plans are well underway for more great conferences in the next two years. Thank you to all the WLA members who volunteered their time to make our conferences happen.
- ***Extended the Association's commitment to continuing education.*** Following WLA tradition, the Association offered continuing education opportunities at several locations (including a Friends and Foundations forum offered on both the east and west sides); in addition, WLA sponsored members' attendance at national and regional institutes, with the expectation that attendees share what they learned upon their return. This spring, there's a new initiative: WLA will embark on a comprehensive needs assessment survey for continuing education, which should help inform CE plans for the next several years.
- ***Continued a review of the Association's methods of conducting business and doing its work.*** The review process has prompted changes—in financial policies, budget practices, and WLA offices, particularly—that should result in greater efficiency and some savings too. The task force that worked on these improvements has moved on to consider how WLA can best utilize some big changes expected in the near future, and has identified a new strategic planning process for the next president's term. An evaluation of the dues structure has begun as well.
- ***Advocated for a legislative agenda benefiting all parts of the state library community, sponsored a successful Library Legislative Day in a new site, sent a delegation to Federal Library Legislative Day, and planned for future legislative proposals to help Washington libraries serve their communities.*** Once again, we didn't win every round in the Legislature. But we did what we could, we made our presence felt, and we prepared to bring positive proposals forward during the coming legislative year. And with the merger of Grassroots and WLFFTA, we established a new home for community library advocates in WLA.
- ***Worked on improving Association communications, with website improvements, more great issues of Alki, and upcoming consultation with members.*** We selected a new webmaster and new *Alki* editor, implemented new website features and planned others (including both more "Why join?" public features and an upcoming Members Only section), and began a review of *Alki's* role in the Association. This review will include a survey of member preferences concerning our journal.
- ***Recognized and honored the contributions of several of our members who have served the Association and its members.*** Again this year, the WLA Board recognized special efforts and hard work by awarding Certificates of Appreciation.
- ***Reached out to all groups comprising the Washington library community.*** We don't all have the same kinds of jobs, work in the same kinds of libraries, or share the same priorities. But we do share values of service, community-building, promoting inquiry, and improving the lives of our clients. In WLA, we share

the goal of improving our own work and our own work lives. One way to help achieve that goal for all of us is to create the most vibrant, effective, and inclusive state library association possible. Thank you to all of you who worked toward that end.

Thank you for the honor of serving you as president—an honor I did not expect or deserve, but for which I am most grateful. Carolynne Myall

## **VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT- ELECT**

**Martha Parsons**

In the second year of my term as Vice President I have attended all Board Meetings, the Board Planning Retreat, the Annual Conference, the WALE Conference, Legislative Day, several Legislative Planning Committee Meetings, and my first Public Library Director's Retreat. I participated on various committees and task forces, including the Budget Committee, the Member Services Committee, the Task Force on Structure and Organization, and the Alki Task Force. I also gave a brief WLA welcome at the WLFFTA Forum in Issaquah in October 2006.

The biggest task of the year was Chairing a Webmaster Task Force. The Task Force was asked to recruit and hire a new webmaster and look for ways to streamline the webmaster's duties. Working with a great group of people, we reworked the webmaster position description, posted the job opening announcement, interviewed candidates, and hired a new webmaster (Lisa Hill). One of the decisions of the Task Force was to remove the financial transaction tracking for memberships, conferences, and workshops from the webmaster's duties and to find an electronic resource to aid in the process. The Task Force reviewed several online registration services and chose Sporg as the best fit.

As the year is coming to a close, we are facing the retirement of our Association Coordinator (Gail Willis) next year, which will have a major impact on how the association operates, as well as cost impacts. A new Task Force is being formed that will begin pursuing a strategy to make a smooth transition. A few members of the task force have already met with one consultant/association management firm to begin to figure out what options we have available to us.

I am looking forward to working with the membership to continue to promote WLA's mission and vision. I welcome your input and participation. I am looking for committee and task force chairs and members. If you are interested in continuing or beginning active involvement, I'd love to hear from you.

**SECRETARY**      **Nancy Slote**

The Secretary's primary responsibility is to create and publish timely minutes of the board meetings and annual business meeting. The following minutes have been published on WLA's website: Annual Business Meeting, April 21, 2006, Board meetings on June 8-9, 2006, September 29, 2006, January 12, 2007, and March 9, 2007. A special thank you to Gail Willis and Carol Schuyler for completing the minutes of the January 12, 2007 meeting held by telephone due to the inclement weather.

**TREASURER**      **Priscilla Ice**

During my second year in office, my activities have focused on continuing to learn the job, streamlining the work and making it more location neutral. To that end, I have:

- Used electronic banking and bill paying services whenever possible
- Begun using Sage Payroll Services to handle direct deposits and payroll taxes for our three employees
- Together with the web services task force, set up and begun to use Sporg for our online registrations for membership and events
- Obtained two credit cards and debit cards for some of our bank accounts
- Participated on the task force looking at structure of the organization and determined, among other things to recommend that the term of office for the treasurer be extended to three years. This will allow for an extended training period for the treasurer-elect.

**Financial health of the Association:**

I have attached a report showing balances for all association bank and investment accounts as of March 27, 2007. Total assets are about \$46,000 ahead of the same period last year. The increase is largely due to the healthy profit from the 2006 conference (over \$18,000) and returns on the investment account.

The association has been able to fund activity as planned throughout the year and meet all of its obligations staying within current revenues. Resources are available for one-time extra expenses. We will be facing some of those as we plan the transition necessary with Gail Willis' announced retirement next year.

**Bookkeeping, taxes and audits:**

- Set up direct deposit to handle payroll and began using Sage Payroll Services in November to handle all aspects of payroll
- Engaged an accountant in Spokane to file annual tax returns for the association while I am treasurer
- Made plans to test the audit procedure developed by Carolynne Myall to use an audit committee for association audits in years when we don't pay for a professional audit.

**Banking:**

The association has continued to use Bank of America for the General Fund accounts and Wells Fargo for the Legislative Action Fund. Bank of America procedures aren't as flexible and location neutral as Wells Fargo. Updating signatures for conference accounts and as officers change has proved to be difficult and prone to error at Bank of America. Online banking has been much harder to set up and use reliably. Wells Fargo has worked much better in both respects.

During my second term, I may investigate changing banks if I cannot work out more flexible arrangements with Bank of America.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT****Priscilla Ice, Treasurer**

## Bank Accounts

## Current Assets

Checking Oper - B of A -382289	\$	154,698.44
Merchant Account - Bankcards	\$	1,255.00
B of A Maximizer	\$	67,088.30
Revolving Account	\$	494.40
American Express	\$	252,482.30
WLA CONF 2007*	\$	49,463.00
WALE Conference Account	\$	4,050.00
WLA OLA Joint 2008 Conference	\$	4,002.00
Wells Fargo Checking - LAF	\$	55,326.84
Wells Fargo Savings - LAF	\$	38,473.01
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>627,333.29</b>

## Restricted Funds

Equity Restricted -Freedom Fnd	\$	19,407.74
Scholarship Funds	\$	10,986.08
Program Expense-Restr CAYAS	\$	17,308.89
Program Expense-Restr IFIG	\$	1,224.21
Program Expense-Restricted RIG	\$	1,383.97
Program Expense-Restricted SAM	\$	8.54
Program Expense-Restr WALE	\$	6,927.65
Program expense-restr WALT	\$	4,456.37
Program Expense-Restr WLFFTA	\$	<u>1,436.16</u>
<b>Total Restructed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>63,139.61</b>

\*More detail available in the conference report

**COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS****Jennifer Wiseman**

Jennifer Wiseman was appointed to this position in April 2006. As the new Coordinator of Communications, she began evaluating the position and determining what, if any changes need to be made. Early in the year, she created a news release template and a local publications database for quick and easy promotion of major Association events or news. A news release regarding the 2006 Conference Award Winners was sent to the local news outlets. A release was also sent out regarding the Association's position on the EPA budget cuts.

In May 2006 she began working with a task force to examine the Association's Web options, identify ways to make the Webmaster workload manageable and search for and hire a new Webmaster. Before hiring a new Webmaster, the taskforce investigated and selected SPORG, a simple, cost-effective online registration service which has already proven useful for online conference and event registration, as well as membership applications and renewals. Then, in August 2006, WLA welcomed new Webmaster Lisa Hill. With help from Evelyn Lindberg, Lisa has made a successful transition into the position.

Working with the Association Coordinator and Member Service Committee, Jennifer Wiseman also finalized an update and redesign of the WLA brochures. The print versions correspond with the online format through SPORG, which now feature a mechanism for communicating with new members, as well as those renewing their

membership. Display materials and promotional items, including a generic banner and notepads that coordinate with the new brochure design, were created and used at the WLA Booth during the ALA Midwinter Conference. The Washington Library Association (WLA) and Washington Libraries fact sheets were also updated.

With help from Jodi Reng and her staff at Timberland Regional Library, Jennifer Wiseman organized, promoted and managed Library Legislative Day in 2006 and 2007:

***Library Legislative Day 2006***

On Thursday, February 9, more than 100 library supporters from all corners of the State and all types of libraries descended on Olympia to participate in the Washington Library Association’s annual Library Legislative Day. Constituents from 47 of Washington’s 49 legislative districts were in attendance. Armed with information regarding levy lid lift legislation, electronic state publications, a new Washington State Heritage building, digital resources for community/technical college libraries, school library media centers and early literacy, participants met with State Senators, Representatives and their staff to present a strong case in support of these key issues. During this year’s event, legislators were on the Floor for most of the day, which meant Senators were in the Senate Chamber and House members were in the House Chamber. Attendees were able to deliver informational packets to every legislator’s office and then head over to the Chambers for a brief conversation with their representative, accomplished by sending in a note through the Sergeant at Arms. Attendees enjoyed being able to observe members of the Senate and House in action and appreciated the receptiveness of legislators to visit with their constituents. Engaging our legislators produced positive outcomes, raised awareness about libraries and ultimately enhanced our ability to establish and sustain a long-term relationship with key elected officials.

***Library Legislative Day 2007***

On a rainy day in Olympia, more than 100 library supporters from around the State participated at Library Legislative Day on March 8. David Postman, Chief Political Reporter for the Seattle Times, gave an engaging speech to participants before they departed to distribute information and meet with legislators as they were going in and out of sessions on the floor of the House and Senate. Senate and House members were generally quite cordial and willing to come off the floor to meet with library supporters. Legislative Day participants focused on Senate Bill 5498/House Bill 1369, which would extend the duration of levy lid lifts for up to six years. All Washington State legislators received information about this issue, as well as about the extent to which libraries are involved in early literacy activities and the importance of funding for community and technical colleges and the Washington State Library.

**WLA Online**

The Association web page also generated a great deal of activity in 2006. Interestingly, visitors to wla.org originate from a variety of locations, including Italy, Norway, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Japan, Australia, France and Denmark. The times spent on the website also ranges from 30 seconds to more than an hour for many visitors.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Unique Visitors</b>	<b>Number of Visits</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Hits</b>
January	4,030	6,802	251,633	299,095
February	4,167	6,938	97,067	139,827
March	3,874	6,362	142,727	178,518
April	4,601	7,964	69,404	115,922
May	6,371	9,941	108,682	155,020

June	5,403	9,063	139,155	180,548
July	5,439	8,944	223,794	268,634
August	5,682	9,092	175,999	222,673
September	6,079	9,489	87,059	129,000
October	6,476	9,124	105,766	144,736
November	8,598	10,966	106,606	139,415
December	5,250	8,576	71,347	114,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,970</b>	<b>103,261</b>	<b>1,579,239</b>	<b>2,088,073</b>

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Number of visits</b>
0-30 seconds	76680
30 seconds - 2 minutes	7539
2 – 5 minutes	4187
5 – 15 minutes	4667
15 – 30 minutes	3612
30 minutes -1 hour	3702
1 hour or more	2874

**COORDINATOR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION Mary Ross**

During the year that I have been CE Coordinator, I have assisted interest groups with stand-alone workshops, planned six pre-conference programs for the 2007 WLA Conference in Tri-Cities, worked with the 2007 Joint OLA/WLA Conference planning committee, developed a process for awarding annual travel grants to WLA members, and begun work on a CE needs assessment.

**Interest group workshops**

I worked with CAYAS and WLFFTA on CE grant funding for their programs:

- The CAYAS fall 2006 workshop, “Crazy Gibberish and Other Story Hour Stretches,” and spring 2007 workshop on graphic novels to be presented by YALSA.
- WLFFTA’s fall “Friends and Foundations Forums” in Issaquah and Spokane.

**Pre-conference programs**

For the 2007 WLA Conference in Tri-Cities, I worked on six pre-conference programs, including contracts with all presenters, promotion of the programs, room setups and equipment needs, and descriptions for the preliminary and final printed conference brochures. One of the six programs, “Power to the People: Preserving Open Government,” was cancelled due to low registration numbers.

The five pre-conference workshops are:

“Courageous communication in the workplace,” presented by Janet Ott  
“Exploring supervision as a career step,” presented by Cyndi Schaeffer  
“Getting to YES! Advocating for your library,” presented by Laura Dellinger  
“New faces in the library: Intercultural communication skills,” presented by Alysyan Croydon  
“Straight talk for supervisors: How to effectively manage employee performance,” presented by Lin Schnell

Pre-conference registrations were lower than expected but we made a decision to offer all but one because costs are being underwritten by WALE, the Washington State Library and WLA Geographic Equalization funds.

For the 2008 Joint OLA/WLA Conference planning committee, I am working with Jere White, OLA pre-conference coordinator, on the process for submission of pre-conference proposals.

### **Travel grants for WLA members**

I recommended a process, approved at the January WLA Board meeting, for awarding annual travel grants (up to \$500 per individual). As a follow-up I have drafted Web page content, application form, and expense and evaluation form for the WLA travel grants. These will be reviewed by the CE Council and then added to the WLA Web site. The annual travel grants will be promoted to the WLA membership once the Web site contains the necessary explanation and forms.

### **CE needs assessment**

I have started work on a continuing education needs assessment that will use an online survey, focus groups and interviews with key informants to determine the CE needs of WLA members and library employees in Washington State. Results of the needs assessment process will be used to make data-based decisions about all of WLA's continuing education efforts, including conference programs, workshops, and events, and will assist in strategic planning.

The WLA Board approved a stipend for an MLIS student to work on the CE needs assessment, covering expenses for the student's attendance at the 2007 Conference and at the June Board retreat. Kara Fox, a second year student at the UW Information School will do this project as an independent study in spring and summer.

As a result of discussions with Elizabeth Iaukea and others at the State Library, we will structure the needs assessment methods more broadly to gather data that will also be useful to WSL in developing its training plans.

### **COORDINATOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING      Tim Mallory**

The Strategic Plan for 2006-2007 "Building Partnerships" started with 52 assigned tactics. Of those, 40 remain, with all but one showing progress or completion. Many of the tactics are ongoing, not lending themselves to completion in a set period of time.

The plan can be viewed online at <http://www.wla.org/about/strategic/2005-2007plan.pdf>

A new approach to the strategic plan is needed. It is a good exercise to brainstorm our vision for WLA every two years, but many of the ideas reflect long-standing principles and intentions, which should be reflected in something more durable than a two-year plan of action. The current strategic plan is long and cumbersome, with a kitchen-sink feel to it.

After two years of minding the progress of WLA, I think we should have a 5- to 10-year vision, where our long-standing principles and intentions would reside. Each year, or two years if we follow past practice, we should discuss and choose specific tactics for that year, rather than trying to invent tactics to reflect every principle listed. These tactics should be checked against our principles, to ensure we are going in the direction we intend. We may also need to address internal issues of structure, which do not flow logically out of a statement of principles, but need to be addressed nonetheless.

In the last two years, we have worked with a plan where we accomplished many things, only some of which were listed. Many items which were listed we fervently believe need to be accomplished, yet we end up deleting them. Let's follow a planning process that lets us list our principles in one long-standing document to which we can compare our annual tactics. It will lead to a simpler, easier to follow plan, and a more coherent long-range vision.

## **COORDINATOR OF CONFERENCE 2007 Michael Cook**

### Conference Committee Appointments:

Conference Chair: Mike Cook, Hanford Technical Library, (HTL)

Conference Treasurer: Melissa McBurney, Columbia Basin College

Conference Registrar: Lori Portugal, Mid-Columbia Library System (MCLS); Erin Kron (MCLS)

Program Chairs: Annanaomi Sams, HTL; Connie Farr, Richland Public Library (RPL); Harold Hayes (MCLS).

Pre-Conference Chair: Mary Ross (WLA CE Coordinator)

Interest Group Coordinator: Anne Bingham, University Prep Seattle

Exhibits Chair: Lynn Red, Washington State Library

Local Arrangements Chairs: Judy McMakin, Richland Public Library (RPL) and Lisa Adams, (RPL)

#### *Local Arrangements Subcommittees*

Evaluations and Monitoring: Hester Kremer, Vashon Public Library

Equipment and Technology: Chrissie Noonan and Cecilia Hui, (HTL)

Hospitality and Gifts: Danielle Krol, (MCLS)

Meals, Breaks, and Table Decorations: Cheryl Farabee, (WSUTC) and Wally Clark, Kitsap Regional Library

Special Events and Entertainment: Linda Switzer, MCLS and Kathy Knutson, (RPL)

Communications Chair: Bev Hayes, HTL and Harold Hayes, (MCLS)

Corporate Contributions Chair: Jeanne Crisp, Sno-Isle Libraries

Association Coordinator: Gail Willis

**Theme:** The conference is "Washington Connects." The Board formally approved this theme and logo in February 2006. The logo has been featured on the conference webpage and on all printed materials.

**Schedule:** The planning committee has met on a monthly basis since Jan. 2006. The conference planning schedule has been distributed to all committee members and has been reviewed each month to keep us on track. The planning committee has met semi-weekly from March 2007 forward.

**Registration Projection:** Based upon registrations for previous Spokane, Yakima, and Richland conferences we projected registration of 300 members and 50 non-members for the 2007 conference. Registration has exceeded predicted levels. Hotel blocks are full.

**Budget:** The budget given to the Board shows revenue of \$91,560 and expenses of \$81,110. Expenses include \$25,000 for featured speakers. The budget has been fine-tuned as we approach the conference.

**Finances:** The conference account has been active for roughly a year. Revenue deposits have been made from registrations and vendor fees. Funds have been spent for print materials, key note speakers, and other conference expenses.

The Three Rivers Convention has been booked for the conference. This is a beautiful state-of-the-art facility with FREE PARKING.

Contracts have been signed with Hilton Garden Inn and the Columbia Center Red Lion for the 2007 conference. The Hilton will serve as the primary hotel for the conference as it is within walking distance of the Three Rivers Convention Center.

**Conference Schedule and Timeslots:** Wednesday through Friday timeslots have been outlined. All programs will be 75 minutes. Interest group meetings will be scheduled at the end of the program day on Thursday and Friday. The interest groups "Meet and Greet" and Solinas Society activities are planned for Wednesday evening.

**Programs:** The programs chairs worked with Interest Group Coordinator Anne Bingham to solicit and select a strong group of programs. Mary Ross developed pre-conference programs. Forty-two programs will be offered to attendees. Five pre-conference sessions will be provided.

#### **Major Speakers:**

- Walt Crawford and Sarah Houghton-Jan, Opening Keynote Breakfast
- Diane Rehm, NPR, Keynote Banquet
- Leslie Burger, ALA Breakfast
- Deb Caletti, CAYAS Breakfast
- Chris Painchaud, WLFETA Breakfast

The conference will conclude with an evening of comedy with Brad Upton Friday night and a jet-boat tour of the Hanford Reach Saturday morning.

#### **COORDINATOR OF CONFERENCE 2008 Karin Ford**

Planning is well underway for the 2008 Joint OLA / WLA Conference in Vancouver. Contracts are signed with the two hotels / convention center. The boards of both associations approved the joint conference agreement, budget, theme, and logo. Seed money from both associations was deposited in the conference account.

It is an extra challenge to accommodate the conference expectations and planning habits of two associations, but we seem to be working well together. Conference committee and subcommittee members are appointed and have begun working on their assignments. The full committee has met twice, with the next meeting planned for September. Coordinators and subcommittees are also meeting as needed in person and by telephone. A timeline for key deadlines and activities was developed.

**Theme:** "Sharing More Than a Border."

#### **Conference Committee:**

- Conference Coordinators: Karin Ford (Fort Vancouver Regional Library) and Liisa Sjoblom (Deschutes Public Library)
- Program Coordinators: Mary Devlin (Fort Vancouver Regional Library) and Robert Hulshof-Schmidt (Oregon State Library).

- Committee members: Lynn Chmelir, Nancy Schutz, Dee Goldman, Maureen Cole.
- Treasurer: Katie Cargill (Eastern Washington Univ)
- Registrars: Margaret Mellinger and Valery King (both from Oregon State Univ)
- Pre-conference Coordinators: Mary Ross (Seattle) and Jere White (Multnomah County Library)
- Interest Group Coordinators: Robert Hulshof-Schmidt (OSL) and Elizabeth Iaukea (Washington State Library)
- Exhibits Coordinators: Michele Burke (Chemeketa Community College) and Lynn Red (Washington State Library)
- Local Arrangements Coordinator: Bridget Cain-Bushman (Multnomah County Library)
  - Committee members: Susan Corrigan, Tina Smith
  - Evaluation: Rachel Bridgewater (Washington State Univ. Vancouver) and Karen Coronado
  - Technology: Holly Blosser (FVRL)
  - Hospitality and Speaker Arrangements: Kate Rubick (Lewis & Clark College)
  - Meals & Breaks: Rose Jackson (Portland State Univ.)
  - Special Events: Arlene Weible (Oregon State Library)
- Communications & Publicity: Anne-Marie Deitering (Oregon State Univ) and Annanaomi Sams (Hanford Technical Library, PNNL)
  - Website: Cecilia Hui (PNNL)
- Corporate Contributions & Fundraising: Jeanne Crisp (Sno-Isle Libraries)
- Association Coordinator: Gail Willis

### **Registration projection:**

Based upon registration for the 2002 joint conference and subsequent OLA and WLA conferences, we are projecting 710 full registrations and 270 one-day registrations.

### **Budget:**

The budget projects revenue of \$222,610 and expenses of \$181,060, for a profit of \$41,550 to be divided evenly between the two associations. The Oregon Library Association has set a goal of \$20,000 profit.

### **Facilities:**

The primary conference site is the Vancouver Hilton Hotel and Convention Center. It opened in 2005 and is located right off I-5 in downtown Vancouver and across the street from the very popular Esther Short Park and the Farmers Market. Restaurants, shops, art galleries, and movie theaters are within easy walking distance. Additional sleeping and meeting rooms are reserved at the Red Lion at the Quay, which is on the Columbia and two blocks from the Hilton.

### **Conference Schedule and Programs:**

The conference schedule will be similar to a typical WLA conference with Wednesday pre-conferences and receptions. Programs will run Thursday and Friday, with separate OLA and WLA business meeting luncheons on Thursday and awards luncheons on Friday. There will be a joint keynote speaker program on Thursday morning and banquet Thursday evening. The conference will end about 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

Program and pre-conference proposals will be due August 15. The final program should be determined by October. Program proposals will be developed as appropriate by the committees, interest groups, round tables, and divisions of WLA and OLA.

We are investigating options for a Wednesday evening special event in downtown Vancouver, but are not planning any tours or other special events. We will promote the Saturday Farmers Market as a fun activity and provide information on tours of the nearby Fort Vancouver and the Historic Reserve and other local options. The

committee decided that it would be too difficult to compete with the variety of activities available in the Portland area to plan Friday evening or Saturday events.

### **Keynote and Banquet Speakers:**

Our first choice for keynote speaker is Thomas Frank, author of *What's the Matter With Kansas?* and editor of *The Baffler* magazine. A conference committee member knows him personally and is optimistic that he will be available at a reasonable price. If Mr. Frank is unavailable, we have other possibilities. Our objective is to find an affordable keynote speaker with broad appeal.

Our first choice for banquet speaker is Stuart Robertshaw, also known as "Dr. Humor." He is head of the National Association for the Humor Impaired and a popular speaker on topics such as "How to increase joy, laughter, and fun in the workplace."

### **ALA CHAPTER COUNCILOR Jonathan Betz-Zall**

The American Library Association (ALA) is our national professional organization. The Washington Library Association (WLA) is independent of ALA but maintains cordial relations as a chapter. We generally defer to ALA on issues of national policy. WLA is represented on ALA's governing Council by a "Chapter Councilor". In that role, my main activity has been to participate in the ALA Council meetings at the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference, monitor and participate in various listserves, including the one for Councilors, and to redistribute items via the WLA listserve that I thought would interest WLA members. I also bring to the ALA Council's attention issues that arise here in our state; for this I depend on input from you, the members of WLA.

### **Major Issues:**

#### **USA PATRIOT Act**

ALA's fears about FBI and other police abuses of Americans' privacy rights under the USA PATRIOT Act seem to have been confirmed by recent news reports. Early in March the Inspector General of the US Justice Department reported that the FBI had used National Security Letters to collect information on hundreds of Americans with no connection to terrorism, and did not keep track of the information collected, as required by law. For more details, see this story: [http://www.wired.com/news/columns/0,72958-0.html?tw=wn\\_technology\\_4](http://www.wired.com/news/columns/0,72958-0.html?tw=wn_technology_4) or <http://snipurl.com/1da3o> Here is ALA President Burger's comment: <http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/march2007/burgerfbi.htm>

Meanwhile ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) continues to monitor the news media and report on the situation. This web page provides comprehensive information:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifissues/usapatriotactlibrary.htm>

and this set of archives indexes the updates: <http://lp-web.ala.org:8000/guest/archives/IFACTION/> (click on the topmost link for the latest digest).

#### **Environmental Protection Agency Libraries**

One of the highest-profile of the federal library networks was hit with major budget cuts this year, resulting in closing or downsizing of all elements of the network on which many of us depend for accurate environmental information. The Region X Library in Seattle had its hours cut. After some agitation by ALA members, ALA's lobbying machine acted to protest, drawing attention from politicians even before last November's elections dramatically reshaped the political landscape in the other Washington. Here is ALA's information page on the issue:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/governmentinfo/fedlibs/epalibraries/epalibraries.htm> or <http://snipurl.com/1daie>

At the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, EPA officials appeared en masse to assure librarians that their concerns were being heard. One of their severest critics confided to me that he was convinced of their sincerity in wanting to maintain at least the same level of public information as before.

### **Librarians Censoring the Newbery Winner?**

Recently the Newbery winning book “The Higher Power of Lucky” was featured in a New York Times story about school librarians who hesitated to recommend it to their students for fear of parental reaction to an anatomically-correct word on the first page. This was blown up into a national story on “librarians censoring books”. The sound and fury ran its predictable course after some ALSC commentary helped to calm tempers and fears. Some children’s librarians commented on their need to balance their principles with the need to keep their jobs—an occasional dilemma for all of us. Here is the story from ALA’s journal, *American Libraries*:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/february2007/scrota.cfm>  
or <http://snipurl.com/1daim>

### **ALA-APA activity**

The American Library Association Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) develops support for library workers’ status and salaries, with specific foci of “certification of individuals in specializations beyond the initial professional degree and direct support of comparable worth and pay equity initiatives”. ALA-APA sponsors the annual National Library Workers Day, this year on April 17. They have compiled a Library Salary Database, a toolkit for advocating for increased salaries, a wiki for library union people, several programs at ALA conferences, as well as a video, “For Love or Money”, advocating for living salaries and a newsletter on Library Worklife. They also award prizes for improving salaries. This year they approved two new courses in the Public Library Administrators’ Certification program, and more are being developed. Details are available at: <http://www.ala-apa.org/> After several years of losing money, ALA-APA earned more money than it spent in the last quarter of 2006 and will begin to pay back its seed money to ALA.

### **Other Councilors from Washington?**

I’ve been informally encouraging WLA members to consider running for ALA Council. One member expressed interest in running, but not in time for this year’s election. However, Elaine Harger, a school librarian from Snoqualmie, ran in this year’s election as an at-large candidate.

### **Upcoming Issues:**

If you hear of or know of anything happening in Washington State that anyone in ALA should know about, or if you’d like to comment or take action on anything that you hear is happening in ALA, please contact me at [jbetzall@yahoo.com](mailto:jbetzall@yahoo.com).

**PNLA REPRESENTATIVE      Punkey Adams**

### **SUMMARY**

**Attended annual PNLA Conference in Eugene, OR, Aug 9-12.**

**Attended PNLA Board meeting Aug. 12.**

**Participated in selection of PNLA Leadership Institute participants.**

**Attended PNLA Board meeting Nov. 3-5.**

**Attended PNLA Board meeting Feb. 9-11.**

The **2006 PNLA CONFERENCE**, *Common Spaces and Far Out Places: Libraries in the Pacific Northwest*, was held in Eugene, OR, Aug. 9-12, with preconference sessions on August 8. WLA board members participating in the conference were Tim Mallory, Strategic Plan Chair, and Punkey Adams, PNLA Rep. WLA member Barbara Meisenheimer represented Washington libraries as a panelist at a session on Pacific Northwest book awards.

**PNLA's 2006 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE** was held Oct. 22-27 at Tamarack Resort near Donnelly, Idaho. Participants from Washington, partially funded by WLA, were Margaret (Marge) Bodre, Everett PL; Katie Cargill, Eastern Wash. Univ. Library; Michael Delury, Sno-Isle Libraries, Andriette Pieron, Pullman PL; Sharon Snyder, Kitsap Regional Library; Will Stuiivenga, Washington State Library; Jennifer Stutesman, Walla Walla Community College Library; and Kathleen Wilson, Kitsap Regional Library. Phil Heikkinen, Orcas Island Library Director, served as Washington's mentor representative to the Leadership Institute. The next PNLA Leadership Institute will be held in 2008.

**PNLA BOARD MEETINGS** were held at Dumas Bay Retreat Center, Federal Way, Washington. Representatives and officers from Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington attended. The YRCA chair and PNLA's webmaster, both from Washington, attended also.

The Board approved a motion that representatives ask their respective state and provincial association boards to establish a process to elect or appoint their **YRCA** representative. The PNLA Board also approved the following motion: "That Barbara Meisenheimer's appointment as **YRCA** chair be extended for another two years through August 2009." Barbara currently serves as the Washington representative to the **YRCA** committee.

The PNLA Board approved the following motion: "That the status of access to the PNLA archives be reclassified from "Serious Research Only" to "Open Access." The archives are held by the University of Washington and will now be open to anyone who would like to view the material.

The **2007 PNLA CONFERENCE**, *THE BOOM TO THE ECHO: The Multigenerational Impact on Libraries*, will be held in Alberta, Canada, August 8-11.

**INTEREST GROUP REPRESENTATIVE** Anne Bingham

**WLFFTA REPRESENTATIVE** Carol Schuyler *these reports with those of the other individual Interest Groups are collected at the end of this Annual Report*

### **REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

**LEGISLATIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Mike Wirt &Carolynne Myall, Co-Chairs**

The Legislative Planning Committee (LPC) met three times in person since the committee's last annual report and also held weekly conference call meetings during the first part of the 2007 legislative session. The first of the in-person meetings was last June to discuss the draft report of the Virtual Library Task Force and give the go-ahead to present it to public library directors in July for their input. At the annual pre-session meeting in November the updated Virtual Library Task Force report was again discussed and 2007 legislative priority recommendations were developed. Those priorities were subsequently approved by the WLA Board and served as the guidelines for this year's efforts in Olympia.

The committee's March 7 meeting, held immediately prior to Library Legislative Day covered the usual business—the current status of legislation being supported or opposed and plans for the next day. It also included discussion and action to recommend policy to provide guidance in previously uncharted territory: how to handle a situation in which a member library has a minority position on legislation that following established priorities and principles, the LPC would either support or oppose. The WLA Board unanimously approved the committee's recommended additions to the Association's legislative priorities.

Association legislative liaison Steve Duncan, with his assistant Kathie Thompson, tracked bills working their way through committees, sending those having a potential impact on Washington's libraries to a primary group of three committee members for action level ratings. The weekly conference calls mentioned above took place from January through the first half of March.

Since the legislative session is far from over as this is being written it's not possible to provide a full summary of WLA's legislative program success. At this juncture (March 23) WLA's key bill, authorization of voter-approved multi-year levy lid overrides for library districts, is still being worked. The same is true for another priority area, funding for the State Heritage Center that would serve as a new home for the Washington State Library. It also appears that WLA's opposition was successful in derailing, at least for the year, a bill relating to city annexations of unincorporated areas that are part of a library district's service area. As with last year and last but by no means least, there were no issues relating to harmful to minors, Internet filtering, public library trustee election, or other changes in library district governance structure.

After the session there'll be a report posted on [www.wla.org](http://www.wla.org) that summarizes the final outcome of measures affecting the library community. Between sessions, there'll be further work on the Virtual Library funding proposal that's targeted for introduction in the 2008 legislative session.

On the Federal level, this year Washington State will be represented at the upcoming annual ALA Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. in early May by another large delegation: Federal Relations Co-coordinator and State Library consultant Rand Simmons; public library directors Kristie Kirkpatrick of Whitman County and Brian Soneda of Mt. Vernon; Jefferson County trustee Marilyn Mitchell; and myself.

## **ALKI EDITOR REPORT FOR ALKI EDITORIAL COMMITTEE    Mary Wise, Chair Margaret Thomas, Editor**

Alki continues to be published 3 times per year, under the new editorship of Margaret Thomas. Committee membership changes have occurred. The indexing project continues. The WLA President has formed a task force to examine *Alki's* policies.

Margaret Thomas began sole editorship with the December 2006 issue.

The *Alki* Editorial Committee accomplished several components of WLA's strategic plan.

### **Editor's Report (from Margaret Thomas):**

The Washington Library Association has signed a non-exclusive licensing agreement with EBSCO to index and publish Alki online, starting with the March 2007 issue.

The editor is working with the Washington State Library, which has agreed to scan Alki issues prior to 1997, which are not currently in an electronic format. Scanning will be completed by fall. The association board has expressed interest in posting the full run, however copyright issues are unresolved. The association needs to collect dozens of permissions—or at least make an attempt to locate—early Alki contributors.

The previous editor contacted many contributors, and also compiled a long list of those he was unable to find. The state library has offered guidance on documenting efforts to find these missing contributors. The Alki Editorial Committee will look into finding a library student from the University of Washington Information School to work on this project.

A new development this year is the use of a graphic artist to lay out Alki. Gerry Rasmussen of Olympia worked closely with the editor (also in Olympia) to create the December and March issues. Gerry has worked as a graphic designer for 30 years and has a thorough knowledge of publishing and photo software.

Last fall, WLA President Carolyn Myall appointed a task force to consider Alki's role in the association. Among other things, the task force will draft an editorial policy for the board to consider. The board has approved a task force recommendation that Alki conduct a reader survey. The Alki Editorial Committee will work with the association's communications coordinator to develop the survey.

#### **Committee Membership:**

Erica Delavan (the winner of the Maryan E. Reynolds Scholarship) became the *Alki* intern. Lynn Barnes and Bonnie Taylor retired from the committee. Brian Soneda, Rayette Sterling, and Mary Wise were reappointed. Nancy Huling, Lynne King, and Erin Krake (a former *Alki* intern) were appointed to the committee.

#### **Alki Indexing Project (from Tami Robinson):**

“My progress is moving along slower than I had originally hoped for. [...] Things are looking up now. I have the software and it's loaded on my computer. I have all the ALKIs sorted ready to put some indexing into the software. What I am waiting on now is the pro bono mentor. [...] I know that it is critically important to set up a large project like this correctly to avoid big problems later on. I need to consult with the mentor to know how to set it up. I also need to consult with the IT person from the software company to set up some special files for this on the software. I will be going down to the SF Bay Area to a workshop on this software next week where I will see her and be able to negotiate this hopefully (there is no charge for this service). [...] One of the questions I plan to ask is the question that Marlys Rudeen at the State Library posed to Margaret - if the software can turn out the files in SQL. [...] I would like to get the WLA webmaster into the discussion during the set up phase of all this too, but presently do not know which questions to ask her. Hopefully after talking to the pro bono mentor and the Macrex IT rep, I will be able to include her. At least that is my aim. After all those logistics are in place, I can start entering actual indexing into the software and the project should start rolling along. My projection, at this point, is that the project will not be done by late May as originally planned. I will continue working on it in the summer, and hopefully, if all goes well, finish it then.”

**WLA ONLINE**      **Lisa Hill (incorporated in Coordinator of Communications Report)**

**FEDERAL RELATIONS COORDINATOR**      **Jan Walsh & Rand Simmons co-coordinators**

#### **National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.**

Washington will again have a large contingent on the hill on National Library Legislative Day on May 2, with the briefing for participants on May 1. Planning to attend are: Rand Simmons, Mike Wirt, Brian Soneda, Kristie Kirkpatrick, and Marilyn Mitchell (WLFETA representative).

#### **Virtual Library Legislative Day**

WLA will also have Virtual Library Legislative Days on May 1 and 2. John Sheller will be coordinating this event and Carolyn Myall will give the report during the Board meeting.

## **Legislative Network**

Washington and a few other states are the only states that do not have a strong listserv or network for political issues. In the past, Washington library staff has expressed grave concern about using their work computers and phones for legislative activity. This is an issue which we should discuss in the future.

## **REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT Patience Rogge**

Since last April, I have attended every monthly meeting of the Washington Coalition for Open Government board either in person or by teleconference. The February meeting was held in Olympia, and was followed by a special legislative briefing by the Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington and the Washington Newspapers Association. It was most interesting to hear their perspective on issues being debated in the legislature.

The Washington Coalition for Open Government held a successful James Madison Award Event on September 16, 2006 at the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle. The award was presented to Rowland Thompson, executive director of the Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington for his dedication to the cause of open government. Connie Thompson of KOMO-TV acted as emcee, and Ray Suarez of the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer delivered the keynote address. I chaired the committee that selected the winner and organized the event. I wrote all the news releases, set the agenda, and wrote the emcee's script. Planning is now underway for the 2007 event.

As a member of the WCOG fund raising committee, I have submitted a grant proposal to the National Freedom of Information Coalition for funds to hire a translator/interpreter to translate WCOG materials into Spanish and to provide Spanish captioning of WCOG events.

As a member of the outreach committee, I have submitted a detailed plan for an Open Government Leadership Institute, loosely based on the PNLA Leadership Institute. The board has accepted the concept, and I have been charged with finding a venue, facilitator, and endorsements by June 2007. The Washington Attorney General, Rob McKenna has endorsed the institute and I am awaiting several other public officials' letters. I have secured the services of a facilitator and am researching venues. The institute will be held in mid-May 2009.

In March, WCOG again participated in the nationwide Sunshine Week activities, which are sponsored by ALA and other organizations interested in open government.

WCOG had agreed to co-sponsor a pre-conference at WLA with IFIG. Three of the four program panelists were to be WCOG members, including State Archivist Jerry Handfield, WCOG president. Unfortunately, the program was canceled due to lack of response. Once again, WCOG will have a booth in the exhibit hall at WLA and has signed on as a sustaining member of WLA.

In May, WCOG will host the national conference of the National Freedom of Information Coalition in Seattle. Many informative sessions are planned, and I urge WLA members to attend. More information will be available at the WLA conference, and is available at [nfoic.org](http://nfoic.org)

Once again, many thanks to the WLA board for supporting my participation in WCOG. I continue to work to keep library issues in the forefront and make a meaningful contribution to both organizations.

## **REPRESENTATIVE TO STATEWIDE MARKETING INITIATIVE**

**Carol Schuyler**

In the spring, the Washington State Library awarded marketing grants to twenty libraries, twelve for full-day grants and eight for half-day grants. The libraries that received the full-day grants worked with Metropolitan Group to develop their own general marketing plans. Those with half-day grants developed plans to address specific target groups or issues. In addition, four workshops were held, two on “Stories That Stick: Getting Your Tales Told in the Media” and two on “Getting to Yes! Advocating for Your Library”. “Getting to Yes!” focused on grassroots, low/no cost advocacy.

In the winter, four workshops, “Partnerships That Work: Building Relationships to Advance Your Library” were held. They included guidance on how to identify partnerships and build and maintain effective relationships. Nine grants were awarded to libraries for on-site training in the development of outreach and marketing plans. Six libraries received grants to implement their marketing plans.

A new series of posters and bookmarks was developed. Libraries were able to add their own messages at the bottom of the posters and on the back of the bookmarks.

The Institute for Museum and Library Services has ruled that LSTA funds cannot be used for general marketing of libraries. Fortunately, the emphasis of the Statewide Library Marketing Initiative has changed to training. Training on advocacy, marketing, and outreach is within the guidelines for the use of LSTA funds. The project has been renamed the Statewide Library Outreach Training Project.

Sponsored by the Washington Library Friends, Foundations, Trustees, and Advocates, Metropolitan Group will present “Getting to Yes!” as a pre-conference at the annual conference on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **REPRESENTATIVE TO INFORMATION SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON-Deanna Sukkar**

During the past year as iSchool liaison, I fielded student questions on membership and WLA procedures, and distributed and posted association brochures and flyers. I organized the participation of WLA/PNLA/ALA representatives at the UW Information School’s New Student Orientation in September 2006 at which time a drawing was held for three free student membership. I conducted ongoing promotion of WLA events at the iSchool, including Library Legislative Day and the Washington Library Association 2007 Conference.

## **WLA STANDING COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

### **ARCHIVES AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

**Kristy Coomes**

The Archives Committee continues to be challenged by the many boxes of WLA records. Significant work will need to occur this coming summer because the records review and reorganization must be completed in order to move the documents to an archives facility.

The WLA Bylaws are once again in a WORD format and all past amendments are incorporated into the text. As usual, Interest Group Bylaws resulted in the most activity during the year. Several Bylaws amendments will be brought to the membership next year, ranging from housekeeping changes such as Interest Group name changes to significant changes such as establishing a Treasurer-Elect position.

## **AWARDS COMMITTEE    Jan Walsh**

The committee determined the winners of the awards, which were then approved by the WLA Board. The list of those selected to win the WLA Awards in 2007 follows.

### Lifetime Membership Award

Emeritus Membership Award – Anthony Wilson  
Emeritus Membership Award – Ellen Newberg  
Honorary Membership Award – Amory Peck

### Merit Award

Merit Award for Advances in Library Services – Dan Howard  
Award for Outstanding Performance – Peggy Bryan

### WLFFTA Award

Distinguished Service Trustee Award #1 – Shirley Roe Painter  
Distinguished Service Trustee Award #2 – Robert Schultz

### WALE Award

Outstanding Employee of the Year Award – Mary Wise

CAYAS Visionary Award – Sandy Zell

## **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE        Elena Bianco**

The mail ballot for Election of Officers for 2007-9 was counted and validated in March of 2007.

## **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE Kim Hixson**

Most activity this year has centered on the work of the Task Force on Organization & Structure with emphasis on revising the Association's Financial Policies & Procedures and a re-structuring of some of the activities of the Treasurer's position.

## **INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE        Catherine Lord**

IF Committee activities were closely tied to the IF Interest Group this year. IF Committee chair Catherine Lord participated with IFIG in the planning of WLA conference event, and IFIG co-chairs Nancy Slote and Elena Bianco provided input in the discussions and proposal for a regional IF clearinghouse.

Committee chair Catherine drafted a proposal and justification for public library directors in Washington State to participate in a regional intellectual freedom clearinghouse. The directors were not supportive of the idea, and we decided that we should not move forward with the idea without directors' support.

Catherine has just begun making contacts for two all-day IF workshops that IFIG is planning for fall and spring, as part of a commitment made to ALA's Law for Librarians conference

### **MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE    Linda Pierce**

The Member Services has met this year and has been busy working on items from the Strategic Plan and other initiatives. Committee members have worked with the webmaster on incorporating highlighting members on the web page and creating a "why join" section on the webpage and using the website to notify when new members join so that they can be recognized by the President. Recruitment remains a major goal of the committee and ways to get members to work within other library organizations they belong to will be a major push in the coming year. Also the Committee charge will hopefully be addressed by the larger organizational discussions taking place on the Board level. The inclusion of photos on the ballot was a recommendation from the committee this year also.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE    Chris Livingston**

The committee consisted of Chris Livingston chair; Cindy Wigen – Spokane Public Library; Diane Cowles -Seattle Public Library; Rick Newell– OCLC; Susan Anderson – Eastern Washington University.

All the committee members helped to provide names of members who might be interested in running. We tried to get representation from across the state. We found a strong slate of candidates.

The past two years, I've spoken to library people from every kind of library who care deeply about the state of both libraries and WLA. But timing is everything. I know that many people will be willing to run in the future, but I caught many members at a bad time. I'm extremely grateful for those who were willing to serve. Thanks for the opportunity.

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE    Angelina Benedetti & Lisa Oldoski, co-chairs**

The Scholarship Committee met once in 2007, to interview candidates for the Maryann Reynolds Graduate Scholarship (and award of \$6000 towards an MLS program) and to review WLA Conference Grant applications. The winner of the Maryann Reynolds Scholarship is Ana Alvarez. Ana's commitment to the community, passion for service, and experience in library programming for diverse populations shown in what was an outstanding applicant pool. This was the first year we offered an online form for the Graduate Scholarship application. We would like to do the same for the Conference Grant applications next year.

The Scholarship committee wishes to thank Susan Madden for her tireless commitment to Scholarship fundraising. She staffed a booth at the 2006 WLA Conference and ALA Midwinter Exhibits in support of the committee's efforts.

### **TASK FORCE ON ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE    Kristy Coomes**

**SUMMARY:** The Task Force, which was appointed by President Carolynne Myall, included Kristy Coomes, Kim Hixson, Priscilla Ice, Martha Parsons and Gail Willis, staff. The Committee addressed a multitude of questions in the past two years. After surveying current and past WLA Board members to identify concerns and gather suggestions, the Task Force focused on two issues that addressed the most immediate priorities.

They were: (1) restructuring the treasurer position and practices to reduce workload while keeping financial control and (2) reducing the clerical workload of the Association Coordinator so time could be shifted to supporting WLA priorities.

The Task Force identified issues and potential solutions, but progress was made because members spent much time and effort to evaluate whether the proposed solutions would work. Sometimes members reported that the proposed solution was not workable or significantly helpful. And often members implemented and then tweaked a process over months. Many of our solutions were not “glamorous” but they helped reduce workloads. Examples include: reducing the number of codes in the financial Chart of Accounts; paying bills online; faxing communications between the Association Coordinator and Treasurer; engaging a new bookkeeping service and approving their payments online; and setting up a new process for coordinating with and training Special Event treasurers to assure that fiscal control is maintained. Priscilla Ice and Gail Willis have been instrumental in accomplishing the changes and they deserve many thanks from WLA members.

Financial control and accountability, achieved at a reasonable cost to the WLA, was an important theme for the Task Force. The WLA Board adopted our recommendations that WLA perform annual internal fiscal reviews instead of annual CPA audits; that completing the IRS form 990 by a CPA would act as a “mini” audit; and periodic CPA full audits be executed. The WLA President developed an internal review process that was adopted by the Board. Monthly reconciliation of WLA accounts by the Vice President/President elect began with the 2007 January records. The Financial Policy and Practices document is in draft. The Treasurer will be bringing to the WLA Board a new reporting format that should assist Board members to have a more thorough understanding of WLA finances.

Generally, people responded to our initial survey by saying that the Board structure did work well for WLA. However, some Board positions were highlighted for evaluation. We revised, and the Board adopted, the WLFFTA position responsibilities; recommended that the Annual Conference Coordinators continue to be elected; and recommended against adding a technology coordinator for the WLA. We need to finalize revised responsibilities for Treasurer; the Board has adopted in concept a new Treasurer-Elect position; and we continue to discuss the proposed Communications Coordinator position description. We explored outsourcing operations of the Annual Conference but discovered that the costs were prohibitive. We recommend that this possibility for outsourcing be explored periodically.

Among concerns identified by the survey, and still requiring further examination are:

1. Creating WLA website overview structure to establish policies, build content and assure regular updating. Determine whether the WLA should engage a website maintenance service.
2. Creating a consistent planning structure to accomplish Legislative Day.
3. Updating the Association Coordinator database so it will be responsive to WLA information needs--for example, querying the database to produce lists of members who can receive IG newsletters via e-mail vs. members who need to receive printed newsletters. Purchasing of a new computer is also recommended immediately.
4. Membership and Public Relations Committee mission needs to be revised when the Coordinator of Communications position responsibilities are determined.
5. Last, and certainly most important, determining how WLA will approach association management in the next several months and after our Association Coordinator retires.

## **WLA INTEREST GROUPS**

### **INTEREST GROUP COORDINATOR Anne Bingham**

This was a great year for the Interest Groups. We began *and* ended the year with thirteen Interest Groups. The need for a new Interest Group or two did surface, but was not followed up and acted upon. I think 10-13 Interest

Groups is a realistic number that could be supported by our active membership. Some IGs are more active than others, and I would anticipate future mergings of some of the smaller groups. I consider it a success that our 13 current IGs have maintained activities and are the mainstays behind conference presentations.

Most of the Interest Groups submitted quarterly reports throughout the year of their activities—please see WLA reports page for details.

Conference 2006: 22 IG programs were presented. The Meet n Greet was a huge success with good attendance, recruitment and conviviality in abundance.

Annual Retreat: Interest Group chairs convened at the retreat in Federal Way in June to get a handle on their responsibilities for the coming year. We covered yearly responsibilities for each IG, the process for submitting conference presentation proposals, IG financial information, how chairs could stay in touch with their constituency, workshops, Meet n Greet, annual business meetings, by-laws and mission statements, and mentoring new leadership for each Interest Group.

The Interest Groups submitted 47 proposals for the 2007 conference, some of them joint proposals. The Meet n Greet is using a new format—only one hour, no food or drink and the usual IG raffle baskets will be combined with a poker walk. It should be interesting. The incoming IG chair should take note for next year's conference. I definitely felt a little out of the loop on the Conference Planning committee, as I was only able to attend one meeting in person in the Tri-Cities, and that was the Program Proposal review in August. Ideally, the IG Coordinator would be more involved with the conference planning process.

In March 2007, the Interest Group Council convened electronically, and elected Elizabeth Iaukea, as the incoming Interest Group Coordinator for 2007-2009. Welcome Elizabeth!

## **REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL INTEREST GROUPS**

### **IFIG (INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM INTEREST GROUP)**

**Elena Bianco & Nancy Slote**

IFIG successfully proposed two conference programs and one pre-conference for the 2007 Annual Conference. The first program, moderated by Catherine Lord, was “Intellectual Freedom Challenges: Stories from the Front Lines” with presenters Bruce Ziegman, Director, Ft. Vancouver Regional Library and Eve Datisman, Port Angeles High School Library. It focused on the experience of facing a major challenge over an issue of access and looked at tactics, pressures and librarians' responses. The second program focused on a new intellectual freedom topic for WLA, that of net neutrality. Jonathan Franklin, from the University of Washington Law Library, gave a primer on net neutrality and current legislative activities. IFIG also organized a half-day pre-conference entitled “Power to the People: Preserving Open Government” with a panel of librarians, archivists and journalists: Jerry Handfield, Washington State Archivist, Judy Pitchford, Electronic Government Information Librarian, Ken Robertson, Executive Editor, *Tri-City Herald* and Steve Smith, Editor, *The Spokesman-Review*. Unfortunately, the pre-conference did not have enough registrants and was cancelled.

Other highlights of the year include: the publication of IFIG co-chair Elena Bianco's article, “Net Neutrality: Why Librarians Should Care” in the December 2006 issue of *Alki*, planning the redesign of the web page, which will include an intellectual freedom wiki, working on two intellectual freedom workshops for the Fall with IFIG steering committee member, Catherine Lord and developing new by-laws for the interest group.

IFIG has also worked closely with the Intellectual Freedom Committee to provide information to the WLA Board on a regional intellectual freedom clearinghouse.

Steering Committee members: Elena Bianco, co-chair, Nancy Slote, co-chair, Joan Airoidi and Catherine Lord.

### **OLE (OUTREACH AND LITERACY FOR EVERYONE)**

**Bonnie Gerkin and Theresa Gemmer Co-Chairs**

OLE sponsored 2 programs at WLA in Tacoma 2006, and participated in the Meet & Greet. We have 4 programs that we initiated or co-sponsored for WLA 2007. We really need some new members especially in the area of adult literacy.

### **RIG (REFERENCE INTEREST GROUP) Robin Rousu**

RIG organized and hosted a tour of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, including a roundtable discussion of reference service to individuals with disabilities.

RIG created a new brochure that explains the function of the interest group, highlights past programs, and includes instructions for joining WLA and RIG. This brochure was included in the packets given to new iSchool students.

RIG will sponsor five programs at the WLA 2007 annual conference and hold its annual meeting.

### **WALE (Washington Association of Library Employees) Katie Cargill**

WALE's annual conference took place in October in Bellingham, Washington. We had approximately 250 conference attendees. The conference was a big success. The theme for the conference was "Push for the Summit". We offered a wide variety of programs such as: "How to get your boss to work for you", "Blogs, Wikis and Podcasting", and "Titles to Know : Kids, Tweens and Teens." Our guest speakers at this conference were: Author, Cherry Adair; Story Teller Extraordinaire, Stokley Towles; Washington State Librarian, Jan Walsh; and Library Consultant, Pat Wagner.

WALE co-sponsored a Meet and Greet with LSSIRT (ALA Library Support Staff Round Table) during the ALA Mid-Winter Conference in January of 2007. This function took place at the Center for Wooden Boats in Seattle. There were many in attendance from LSSIRT and WALE. It was a great time to visit and learn about our fellow LSSIRT members.

WALE rewrote our bylaws and we now elect our steering committee officers at the same time as all of the other interest groups -- in April instead of October. Our steering committee now consists of a Chair, Vice-Chair and Conference Chair.

WALE had a logo contest this year. Our winner was Ann Reeves from Mid-Columbia Library. We are happy to say that we now have our own logo!

### **WALT (Washington Association of Library Trainers) Jessica Chandler**

The WALT website continues to be a vibrant tool for library trainers throughout the Washington Library Association.

The site promotes WLA Conference sessions, informs of upcoming meetings and events, and provides free access resources from fifteen Conference and Workshop events. Training vendors and consultants are listed as well as links to training resources accessible for little or no cost to Washington Libraries. The site also links to a library trainers' BLOG and new this year is the Library Instruction Wiki for collaborative sharing. Please visit our website as there is something for everyone.

#### WLA 2006:

A. Officers were selected as follows:

- o Jess Chandler, Sno-Isle Libraries, Chair
- o Laurel Steiner, King County Library, Vice-Chair
- o Jeanne Fondrie, Whatcom County Library System, Secretary/Treasurer
- o Mary Power, Seattle Public Library, Program Chair
- o Darlene Pearsall, King County Library, Webmaster

B. At the WLA 2006 conference, WALT sponsored and presented *Train with Less Stress and More Success*. In a short but highly interactive workshop WALT members demonstrated the training techniques of Accelerated Learning (AL). In 2005, the WLA Board supported the WALT Train-the-Trainer learning opportunity with Dave Meier, developer of the Accelerated Learning techniques. In addition to showcasing these techniques at WLA, WALT published AL resources on our website that can be adapted to any library learning environment. We continue to explore other venues to utilize and demonstrate the AL skills.

To continue its commitment to learning technologies, WALT conducted virtual meetings with different vendors. The websites were hosted through the Washington State Library. The travel distance for WALT members has been a concern in the past. To be inclusive of the entire membership this format proved effective and WALT is committed to utilize the State resources for future virtual meetings. Watch the WALT website for regular and virtual meeting notices.

WALT demonstrated commitment to its membership by authorizing \$1500 for scholarships from restricted funds, available until the WLA Conference 2007. A scholarship committee was established to review applications from the membership. The maximum stipend was \$300 per person and requirements were that the WALT member was to show how the proposed CE or training event would apply to his/her library position, and the benefits expected to other WALT members.

WALT ended the year planning a reception to host the Continuing Library Education Network Roundtable (CLENE) at ALA in Seattle, January 2007.

To close, it is important to acknowledge the talents and contributions of WALT members who have dedicated their time and talents to making WALT a vibrant and successful Interest Group of WLA. The peer-to-peer networking has positively impacted the quality and delivery of learning events throughout the State. WALT will continue to be the learning resource for WLA and remains committed to the research and development of future, statewide, library training in 2007. WALT also is dedicated to the continued growth and support of its membership.

### **WLFFTA Washington Library Friends, Foundations, Trustees & Advocates Carol Schuyler**

In June, the WLA Board approved the merger of the Washington Library Friends, Foundations, Trustees Association with Grassroots! The new interest group became the Washington Library Friends, Foundations, Trustees, and Advocates. The mission of WLFFTA is: The Washington Library Friends, Foundations, Trustees, and Advocates Interest Group is dedicated to advancing community and statewide support for libraries, encouraging library Friends, Trustees, and Foundation associates to share ideas and enthusiasm, assisting in their

training, linking and organizing library supporters across Washington to effectively address issues impacting libraries, and educating public policy makers on library issues.

WLFFTA sponsored two highly successful Friends and Foundations Forums in October, one in Issaquah at the King county Library System Service Center and one at the North Spokane Branch Library of the Spokane County Library District. They were both well-attended and enthusiastically received. Presentations included information from the Public Disclosure Commission, about Foundation development, and about successful fundraising. Friends shared “cameos” of the ways they support their libraries.

WLFFTA is sponsoring a pre-conference on “Getting to Yes! Advocating for Your Library” at the annual conference. This is supported by the Washington State Library and presented by Metropolitan Group. In addition, WLFFTA has two conference programs: “Staying Legal or How Not to Appear on the Front Page When That Is Not What You Want” presented by the Public Disclosure Commission and “How to Say It in a Minute or Less” or “library marketing in the elevator” presented by Metropolitan Group. The annual WLFFTA breakfast will be on Friday rather than the traditional Saturday, hopefully attracting a broader audience.