



ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

2007-2008

**PRESENTED AT
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OLA/WLA CONFERENCE 2008
VANCOUVER WASHINGTON**

WLA is a vibrant and effective advocate for libraries, library professionals, and library allies, and a community of practice where its members learn, grow professionally, develop strong relationships, and have fun

WLA VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT **Martha Parsons**

What an exciting year for WLA! As usual, change is in the air, but this year it seems that there is even more than normal. At the Planning Retreat in June 2007 at the Dumas Bay Retreat Center, the Board, Committee Chairs, Interest Group Chairs, and Lynn Melby, as facilitator, gathered for an intensive day of strategic planning and brainstorming. Out of it came a revised vision statement, a set of core values, and a strategic plan that is exciting and inspiring, and that will give us guidance for 2007 - 2009. ***WLA is a vibrant and effective advocate for libraries, library professionals, and library allies, and a community of practice where its members learn, grow professionally, develop strong relationships, and have fun.*** See Phil Heikkinen's, Coordinator of Strategic Planning, for more details on the status of the Strategic Plan.

I attended the Heritage Center Bill signing ceremony, a rally on the Capitol steps in support of school libraries funding, and the WALE Conference, to name a few highlights of the past year. I participated in budget planning, an Alki Editorial Policy Task Force, the work of the Legislative Planning Committee, and transition planning.

The outcome of this year's legislative efforts were positive for libraries and again the Legislative Planning Committee did an amazing job of coordinating efforts, communicating, and working for you and libraries in Washington state. See the Legislative Planning Committee Report for more details.

With the upcoming retirement of Gail Willis, much of our focus has moved into transition planning. A contract has been signed with Melby, Cameron, and Anderson, an association management firm located in Edmonds, WA. Effective April 1, 2008, the contract provides for partial services for the month of April and then with full service beginning on May 1. This will give us two months to make the full transition which will happen at the end of June. Kristin Crowe is the new WLA Executive Director. Kristin has already jumped in and is learning how WLA works. Kristin will be at the OLA/WLA Conference and we will be introducing her at every opportunity. If you run into her, welcome her, and feel free to share with her your present or past role(s) in WLA.

WLA is an association of volunteers. I am continually amazed at the willingness of so many of you to step forward and out to keep WLA vital and effective. There is always work to do to keep it that way! As budgets and personnel in libraries get cut and stretched, it becomes harder for individuals to find the time and resources to take on extra work, but you know the old saying about "many hands make light work." It is as true in WLA as anywhere else. Thank you to all of you who have played a part in the continued success of WLA.

VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT- ELECT

Tim Mallory

The transition task force has shepherded the transition process as far as signing a contract for Association Management services with Melby, Cameron and Anderson

I began the past year by convening the task force on WLA office transition. The transition process has been the focus of the majority of my activities for the year.

Last summer we met primarily by conference call and email to create a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from Association Management professionals and firms. We did not know at the outset if we would find appropriate resources to take this route, or if we would end up advertising for and hiring another Executive Director to follow Gail upon her retirement. It seemed daunting to create an orderly transition in the one-year period on our own, given that our only office was Gail's house, and Gail the primary repository of corporate expertise.

In the fall we received 5 inquiries and two complete proposals in response to the RFP. Evaluation showed the difference to be in the amount of guidance and expertise provided to WLA as opposed to coming from the WLA volunteer board members and membership. After careful consideration the task force recommended that WLA proceed with contractual arrangements with Melby, Cameron and Hull, which during this time changed their corporate name to Melby, Cameron and Anderson.

Negotiations with Melby, Cameron and Anderson have resulted in a contract for half-time services commencing on April 1, and full-time services beginning May 1. Melby, Cameron and Anderson have designated Kristin Crowe as their staff member to serve as Executive Director of WLA, and meetings between her and the WLA executive board are under way. In May and June Kristin will work in tandem with Gail for the transition. Beginning July 1, Gail will retire and WLA will be under the direction of Melby, Cameron and Anderson, with control continuing to reside with the WLA board. At that time, the WLA Office Transition Task Force work will be complete.

During this year I also joined the Washington Society of Association Executives on behalf of WLA. WSAE is managed directly by Melby, Cameron and Anderson, and it has been a good experience to see their management at work. WSAE is a valuable resource in its own right to show ways in which WLA can further evolve as an association, and as a venue for networking with other non-profit associations.

I attended the American Library Association annual and midwinter conferences in part to attend the Orientation for New Chapter Chairs workshop, in two consecutive parts. I gathered a lot of material on ALA functioning, and the functioning of other state associations. Several of these are managed by firms similar to Melby, Cameron and Anderson, and I was able to network with those and these executives and officers of other state associations.

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 19, 2007, board meetings on April 18, 2007, June 7-8, 2007, September 7, 2007, November 30, 2007, and February 14, 2008. As she ends her term, the Secretary will also be responsible for minutes of the April 16, 2008 board meeting and April 17, 2008 annual business meeting. Draft board minutes are reviewed by the President, Vice-President and Association Coordinator before posting, and draft annual business meeting minutes are reviewed by a committee appointed by the President at the annual business meeting. At the next year's annual business meeting, the President entertains a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee to approve the previous year's annual business meeting minutes. All draft minutes are posted within thirty days of the meetings. The minutes report all motions and discussions and link to complete board reports for further reference.

As a member of the executive board, consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, the Secretary provides advice, as requested. The Secretary also oversees the Organizational Structure Committee and recognizes the substantial work of Kristy Coomes, as chair of the committee, for updating the bylaws and for working with the Association Coordinator to retain appropriate records and to review material for the archives.

Your current Secretary will be leaving the WLA board after the April, 2008 Conference and would like to thank the WLA board for its creativity and its commitment to enhancing the professional lives of library staff and for furthering the mission of library services in the State of Washington.

TREASURER Priscilla Ice

The past fiscal year has been a healthy one. WLA continues to have the resources to support our programs. Thanks to our institutional members, the general fund is ahead of a year ago by about \$10,000.

However, the legislative action fund, made up largely of member dues is several thousand dollars behind. Member dues aren't quite covering the expenses which result from our legislative activity.

Restricted funds total \$65,000. Of note, the Freedom Fund sits at nearly \$20,000. After a significant infusion (\$6500) last spring, the scholarship fund holds over \$18,000. IG leaders have been working on spending expiring restricted funds. Much of that will be taken care of at this conference

I have moved more money in savings accounts this year. Interest earnings are ahead of budget as a result, but after a healthy run in 2007, investments haven't fared well this winter.

With our move to an organization management firm at Gail Willis' retirement, I have been working to simplify our rather complex banking arrangements in preparation for Melby, Cameron and Anderson taking over bookkeeping in the next fiscal year. This move will simplify the Treasurer's job. Melby, Cameron and Anderson will began to work with us under contract April 1. There is an overlap with Gail of 2.5 months. Thanks to our reserves we are able to easily handle the extra \$18,000 we are spending this year for association management.

A balance sheet accurate as of March 31, 2008 is available separately.

I am happy to respond to any member requests for more detailed information.

COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Jennifer Wiseman

SUMMARY

In addition to the typical communications activities, this was a demanding year. WLA experienced a number of unexpected challenges, including problems with WLA.org and listservs. That being said, WLA made strides towards improving its online presence. The infrastructure put into place will enable WLA to create more collaborative venues for communication and information sharing, ensure that the Association is relevant and accessible to its members and the library community into the future.

ALKI TASK FORCE

In 2007, a task force was convened to review and consider Alki's role in the Association, the Association's responsibility for Alki and Alki's editorial policy. This group met a number of times, solicited input from the Alki

Editorial Committee and ultimately finalized the Alki Editorial Policy, which was approved by the WLA Board in June 2007. The task force also recommended that a newsletter (preferably online) be reinstated for communicating current Association news. Thanks to all of the committee members for their hard work and determination to sort through the information: John Sheller, Louise Saylor, Margaret Thomas, Martha Parsons, Mary Wise and Neel Parikh.

WLA ONLINE

For much of the year, Webmaster Lisa Hill worked hard as WLA webmaster updating and maintaining WLA.org, including online conference and event registrations, scholarship forms, conference presentations, legislative updates and election materials. Late in the year, however, the WLA listservs began experiencing issues caused by a “SPAM replicator” and viruses. The initial problem was resolved, but additional problems later surfaced due in large part to the fact that WLA was not receiving appropriate levels of technical support and service reliability from its Internet Service Provider (ISP).

In April 2007, a committee was convened to evaluate cost and service options for a new ISP. The group identified and researched possible providers and hosting plans to pursue. In September 2007, after Lisa Hill resigned, the WLA Board approved a proposal by a company called Takbax, which offered: 1) Web hosting services; 2) Web site maintenance and support at an hourly rate (to fulfill WLA webmaster responsibilities); and 3) Installation and configuration of a Content Management System to minimize billable hours and increase WLA members’ ability to contribute to WLA’s online offerings.

At the end of 2007, with help from Lisa Hill, the WLA website was migrated to Takbax (the new host server). Takbax has been extremely helpful and responsive to-date, especially as we worked out the bugs with the FTP sites, fixed the calendar, and moved the mailboxes, listservs and files. As part of the migration, the WLA domain name was made private, which has greatly reduce problems with SPAM and problems with the WLA listservs.

Planning for the implementation of the Content Management System will be complete in early 2008. Installing this software will improve WLA’s online infrastructure — a vital first step for moving forward with the new and creative initiatives being considered by the Association.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES

In anticipation of the 2008 membership/renewal drive, the WLA brochures were updated. The primary revision was the inclusion of the Core Values developed for the Association during the 2007 Board Retreat. As part of print production for the membership/renewal drive, WLA also targeted past WLA members who did not renew last year by sending a letter accompanying the brochure.

2008 LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY

This year, WLA offered a free, one-hour workshop with Sue Goldstein (attorney with the Code Reviser’s Office) aimed at teaching attendees about the parts of a bill, effective ways to search and navigate the Washington State Legislative webpage and what documents are available and the purpose within the legislative process.

Then, on Friday, February 15, about 90 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 45 of Washington’s 49 legislative districts were in attendance.

The February revenue forecast for Washington state government showed projected General Fund revenue down \$423 million for the current two-year budget period. This was a significantly different projection from when the

Governor drafted her budget. As a result, it was a priority on Legislative Day to advocate for library-related expenditures to remain funded as the Legislature drafted the budget and looked for cuts to balance it.

Participants focused on a few key issues during this year's event, encouraging legislators to:

- Provide funding (\$12 million) to keep libraries in school and librarians in school libraries.
- Approve \$340,000 for staffing and equipment to maintain existing service levels at the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library.
- Provide funding (\$1.5 million) for Digital Library Resources for Community and Technical College (CTC) Students (\$1.5 million)

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. After delivering informational packets to every legislator's office, attendees headed over to the Chambers for a brief conversation with their representatives, accomplished by sending in a note through the Sergeant at arms. Attendees enjoyed observing the Senate and House in action, as well as the receptiveness of legislators to visit with their constituents, with or without an appointment.

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.

COORDINATOR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION Mary Ross

During the past year that I have been CE Coordinator, I have assisted interest groups with their conference programs and stand-alone workshops, planned five pre-conference programs for the 2008 OLA-WLA Joint Conference in Vancouver, worked with the joint conference committee on a variety of other projects, promoted and recommended the awarding of travel grants to WLA members, applied successfully for WLA to become an Approved Education Provider for the Western Council of State Libraries certificate for library practitioners, and continued work on a CE needs assessment process.

Pre-conference programs

For the 2008 Joint OLA-WLA Conference in Vancouver, I worked on five pre-conference programs, including contracts with all presenters, promotion of the programs, room setups and equipment needs, and descriptions for the Web site and final printed conference brochures.

The five pre-conference workshops are:

- "Basic Book Repair," presented by Bernadette Jeffers.
- "Hire Right the First Time," presented by Andrew Sanderbeck.
- "Evergreen: The First Enterprise Class Open Source ILS," presented by Tim Daniels and Bill Erickson.
- "Splash, Boom, Crash, Zoom: Creative Multimedia Programs," presented by Charlie Williams.
- "Fundraising," presented by June Garcia. This is a two-day CPLA workshop coordinated by the Washington State Library.

The pre-conference programs represent the collaborative efforts of TRIP, WALT, SAM, CATS, CAYAS, WSL, WALE, ACRL-Oregon, PLD-Oregon, TSRT-Oregon, and SSD-Oregon

Travel grants for WLA members

By the end of April 2008, WLA will have awarded three travel grants, each up to \$500 per individual. The recipients to date are: Judith Lucia, outreach services manager at Jefferson County Library, and Lynne Zeiher, Pierce County Library. The third recipient will be named after the April 30 deadline.

For these new travel grants, I created a description, application form, and expense and evaluation form. After review by the CE Council, these were added to the WLA Web site. The annual travel grants are promoted to the WLA membership on the Web site and through the email list, with additional promotion during the month prior to the periodic deadlines of April 30, August 31 and December 31. More information is available at <http://www.wla.org/training/travel.html>.

Western Council Certification

Paperwork was completed and WLA is now an approved provider of continuing education for the Western Council of State Libraries certificate for library practitioners. WLA's status as a CE provider is at no charge, and with no obligation to continue, for 2008-2010. The Western Council Web site lists WLA as a provider.

We applied intending to use the Andrew Sanderbeck pre-conference, Hire Right the First Time, for certificate credits but technically any of the WLA sponsored pre-conferences or stand-alone workshops will qualify for credits.

CE Needs Assessment

With the assistance of UW Information School student Kara Fox, I developed an online continuing education survey. The CE survey was open for three weeks in September 2007 and 871 responses were received. Of these, the majority were from those: Working in a public library (77.8% of respondents), Working in circulation (30.7%), Not members of WLA (70.2%).

A continuing education focus group was held at the WALT meeting on Sept. 21.

Results of the online survey were shared with interest group chairs. Work still to be done includes analysis of the survey data, two or more focus groups (one using WLA's teleconference capability, the other in-person) and recommendations for how CE needs assessment can become a regular biannual process. Thanks to Jennifer Wiseman, I have an email list for those interested in focus groups, gleaned from the online survey.

NW Central

As CE coordinator I was invited to join the advisory group for NW CENTRAL (the Northwest Continuing Education Network of Training Resources for All Libraries), www.nwcentral.org, and the WLA Board approved my participation in that advisory group.

Graduate Study Scholarship

The WLA Board approved the awarding of one or more partial scholarships, in addition to the full \$6000 scholarship, dependent on money available in the restricted funds. The Board also asked the scholarship selection committee to explore possible expansion of the educational programs for which scholarships can be given.

COORDINATOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

Phil Heikkinen

The WLA Board approved its current strategic plan on September 7, 2007. This new plan, created at the June 7 Board Retreat, included sections titled WLA Vision for 2017, WLA Core Values, and Strategic Plan (which included the categories of Membership, Career Development and Continuing Education, Community, Advocacy, Governance, and Administration). The purpose of this new format is to allow for long-term direction while adjusting from year to year the specific tasks and timelines listed within each Strategic Plan area.

The plan is posted at <http://wla.org/about/strategic/2007StrategicPlan.pdf>.

The new strategic plan's strengths lie in its articulation of WLA's long-term vision for libraries, library staff members, and library supporters in our state; also in its list of six core values to guide our priorities and how we conduct ourselves as an association.

The plan's major challenges are those common to all planning documents: listing the appropriate short-term tasks that most directly support the major strategic areas, monitoring progress, and measuring success.

As of April 2008, about half of the two-dozen specific objectives and timelines within the six strategic areas have listed tasks and timelines. Of course, whether tasks and timelines are listed doesn't necessarily relate to whether we are making progress in specific target areas.

My major task between now and the time of the Board Retreat will be to contact the people listed in the Strategic Plan as responsible parties, add to the listed tasks and timelines, and confirm progress in each of the six strategic areas.

At the Board Retreat, we can assess how this plan has gone in its first year, review whether or not the Vision and Core Values statements remain accurate, review the six strategic areas, and decide whether and how to update the current objectives, tasks, and timelines.

My own recommendation is to pursue a plan that is as simple as possible. For example, we might list one or two objectives in each area that we consider our normal operations, such as sponsoring of workshops by interest groups at conferences, and one or at most two objectives that are new or ambitious in each strategic area.

This way, we can maintain what works and gradually add elements that strengthen our realization of WLA's Vision for 2017.

COORDINATOR OF CONFERENCE 2008

Karin Ford

Theme: "Sharing More Than a Border."

This is a joint conference of the Washington and Oregon library associations; the first since 2002 and the first one (as far as anyone seems to remember) to be held in Washington. Although there have been a few challenges in merging the practices and goals of the two associations, on the whole planning has gone very smoothly, thanks to an extremely effective and professional group of volunteer committee members. Everyone has worked hard to meet deadlines and plan the best possible conference.

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: Andrea Blake, Lynn Chmelir, Nancy Schutz, Dee Goldman, Maureen Cole, Elizabeth Iaukea.
- 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)
- Exhibits Coordinators: Michele Burke (Chemeketa Community College) and Lynn Red (Washington State Library)
 - Committee member: Olivia Ripka (Central Washington Univ)
- Local Arrangements Coordinator: Bridget Cain-Bushman (Multnomah County Library)
 - Committee member: Tina Smith (FVRL)
 - Evaluation: Rachel Bridgewater (Reed College)
 - Technology: Holly Blosser (FVRL)
 - Hospitality and Speaker Arrangements: Kate Rubick (Lewis & Clark College)
 - Meals & Breaks: Rose Jackson (Portland State Univ.); Smyth Lai (Kaiser Permanente)
 - Special Events: Arlene Weible (Oregon State Library)
- Communications & Publicity: Anne-Marie Deitering (Oregon State Univ) and Annanaomi Sams (Hanford Technical Library, PNNL)
 - Website: Nicholas Schiller (WSU Vancouver)
 - Program assistance: Carol Elledge (PNNL), Lisa Adams (Richland PL)
- Corporate Contributions & Fundraising: Jeanne Crisp (Sno-Isle Libraries)
- Administrative Support: Gail Willis (WLA) and Brooke Granade (FVRL)

The whole committee met in person (with some joining by telephone) four times between September 2007 and March 2008; subcommittees also met at other times. Much of the committee work has been accomplished via email.

Registration:

Based upon registration for the 2002 joint conference and subsequent OLA and WLA conferences, we projected 710 full registrations and 270 one-day registrations. As of March 28, we had 921 conference registrations (both full and one-day) and 195 pre-conference registrations. (Of course, many of the pre-conference registrants will also attend the conference.)

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.

The registration numbers are on track to exceed projections. Thanks to Jeanne Crisp's efforts, we also exceeded our projected corporate revenue of \$10,000, with \$10,625 committed in sponsorships and program advertisements.

The exhibits are fully booked, so exhibitor revenue should meet or exceed projections.

Liisa Sjoblom and I have been diligent in trying to keep administrative expenses under control. We were also able to find two strong speakers for the Keynote and Banquet whose expenses should be under budget. So, we're optimistic that we'll come close to meeting the profit goal.

Facilities:

The primary conference site is the Vancouver Hilton Hotel and Convention Center. Additional sleeping and meeting rooms (primarily for pre-conferences and luncheons) are reserved at the Red Lion at the Quay. Both hotels have been good to work with, although the Red Lion has been somewhat more accommodating and less “corporate.”

The demand for sleeping rooms exceeded the capacity of the Hilton and Red Lion, so Bridget Cain-Bushman quickly booked additional rooms at the Homewood Suites and the Shilo Inn. We may have overestimated the number of people who would commute to the conference from the Portland-Vancouver metro area.

Conference Schedule and Programs:

On Wednesday, there will be eight pre-conferences (a two-day Certified Public Library Administrator workshop), and five full-day and two half-day pre-conferences. (Only one planned pre-conference did not make the minimum registration requirement.) The All-Conference Reception will be combined with the Meet & Greet on Wednesday evening. Powell’s Book Store is hosting a reception at the store from 7-9 p.m. The WLA Society Gaius event will run from 8:30-10:00 p.m.

The Opening Session on Thursday will feature a keynote by Thomas Frank, author of *What’s the Matter With Kansas?* and editor of *The Baffler* magazine; in addition to welcomes by the OLA and WLA presidents, the FVRL director and the mayor of Vancouver.

We have 60 programs scheduled for Thursday and Friday, including three “Showcases” which will provide attendees an opportunity to hear about innovative programs and services being offered in Oregon and Washington libraries.

Several organizations are sponsoring breakfast programs. Each association will hold separate business luncheons on Thursday and awards luncheons on Friday. The Presidents’ Banquet on Thursday will feature Dr. Stuart Robertshaw, aka “Dr. Humor,” talking about the value of humor in the workplace.

Interest group and committee meetings are scheduled for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Exhibits

As noted above, the exhibit space has been fully booked with 65 booths and 12 tables in the two exhibit halls. Additional tables for OLA, WLA, ALA, and PNLA will be in the lobby area. The Washington State Library is providing an Internet Café with six computers.

COORDINATOR OF CONFERENCE 2009 Sally Chilson

Planning is underway for the 2009 WLA conference in Spokane. The contract with the Red Lion Hotel at the Park has been in place for quite some time and the budget, theme and logo have been approved by the WLA board. “Seed money” has been approved for the conference, but because of anticipated changes in WLA accounting, no separate account has been established as it is thought that a separate bank account will no longer be needed.

Theme: “Impact and Influence”

Conference Committee:

- Conference Coordinator: Sally Chilson (Spokane Public Library) with ample assistance from Rayette Sterling (Spokane Public Library)

- Program Coordinators: Heidi Chittum (Eastern Washington University)
 - Committee members: Georgette Rogers (Liberty Lake Public Library) Mary Wise (Central Washington University) Dixie Taylor (North Central Regional Library District)
- Treasurer: Jean Dart (Spokane Public Library)
- Registrars: Katie Cargill (Eastern Washington University)
- Pre-conference Coordinators: Mary Ross
- Interest Group Coordinators: Elizabeth Iaukea (Pierce County Library)
- Exhibits Coordinators: Lynn Red (Washington State Library)
- Local Arrangements Coordinator: Cindy Wigen & Debra Park (Spokane Public Library)
 - Evaluation: Andriette Pieron (Neill Public Library)
 - Equipment & Technology: Mary Ann Goodwin (Spokane Falls Community College)
 - Hospitality and Gifts: Peggy Bryan (Whitman County Library District)
 - Meals & Breaks: Gina Rice (Spokane County Library District)
 - Special Events: Debra Park & Rayette Sterling (Spokane Public Library)
 - Communications & Publicity: Beth Gillespie (Spokane County Library District) & Eva Silverstone (Spokane Public Library)
- Corporate Contributions & Fundraising: Jeanne Crisp (Sno-Isle Libraries)
- Association Coordinator: Gail Willis

Registration projection:

Based on numbers of attendees of prior conferences in Spokane, we are projecting 350 full registrations & 50 one day registrations.

Budget:

The budget projects conference expenses of \$79,560.00 and revenue of \$83,875.00 for a profit of \$4,315.00

Facilities:

As is generally the practice in Spokane, the 2009 conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park. It is located near downtown Spokane and has ample parking. It has been newly updated in the last year from the public spaces to the guest rooms and looks like quite a different and more upscale facility than when we have been there in the past.

Conference Schedule and Programs:

The conference schedule will be a typical WLA conference with Wednesday pre-conferences and receptions. Programs will run Thursday and Friday, with the WLA business meeting luncheon on Thursday and awards luncheon on Friday. The first keynote speaker will be Thursday morning with the banquet keynote speaker on Friday night.

Program and pre-conference proposals will be due July 25. The final program should be determined by October.

The local arrangements committee is pursuing special events to enhance the conference at local venues in Spokane

Keynote and Banquet Speakers:

Our first choice for a keynote speaker for Thursday morning is Jan Sanders from Pasadena Public Library and she has accepted at a reasonable fee.

For a banquet speaker, we have been pursuing Paula Poundstone, but despite an initial positive response from her manger, we have not heard from her agent and are going to pursue other options.

Arising Questions:

The committee is concerned about how the relationship with Melby, Cameron, and Anderson will change how we “do” conference. To this end, I will discuss this with Kristin Crowe.

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.

Library Closures

The disturbing trend of library cutbacks and closures continues around the nation. In Jackson County, Oregon, a large and flourishing library district was shuttered for months because of a funding crisis. It has now reopened under private management, with reduced hours and staff in most areas. As these situations become more frequent, ALA’s response becomes more routine and less newsworthy. But we can prepare for them, and perhaps even avoid them, by making use of ALA’s resources, like this wiki page on the Value of Libraries

http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Value_of_Libraries

One success to report is the pending re-opening of the Environmental Protection Agency’s library network [see further details below].

Intellectual Freedom

WLA joined forty-three other state library associations in support of an important "Resolution on the Need for Legislative Reforms to Assure the Right to Read Free of Government Surveillance", which ALA Council adopted at Annual Conference in June. This assisted the ALA Washington Office’s efforts to modify the USA PATRIOT Act, among other activities. For background and updates, see the Office of Intellectual Freedom’s Issues page:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifissues/Default883.htm>

Support for School Librarians

The March 2008 issue of Alki supplied great coverage of the “Washington Mothers” who so effectively advocated for school library funding at the state level. I noted that the first photo features the three moms supported by the presidents of the American Association of School Librarians and of ALA—ample testimony of the importance of this effort to the library community nationwide. As soon as word reached ALA, the organization acted to support the group, and continues to do so. Here is a video posted on ALA’s Advocacy Resource Center website:

<http://www.ala.org/ASCLATemplate.cfm?Section=Issues#spokane>

featuring ALA President Lorienne Roy and the moms themselves. Even though adverse weather kept numerous eastern Washingtonians from crossing the passes to attend, the people attending the rally clearly demonstrated their determination and spirit. Here is the mom's coalition's site: <http://www.fundourfuturewashington.org/>

Environmental Protection Agency Libraries

One of the highest-profile of the federal library networks was hit with major budget cuts last 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> [This page was last updated since May 2007.] Since then, ALA has continued to advocate for restoring the library system. Partly as a result, in December Congress directed the EPA to reopen the libraries. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility reported that some EPA staff remain concerned about the effectiveness of a restoration effort overseen by the same people that worked to destroy the network. This perception was reinforced by the release of a report by the Government Accountability Office criticizing EPA management practices, titled "Environmental Protection: EPA Needs to Ensure That Best Practices and Procedures Are Followed When Making Further Changes to Its Library Network". GAO-08-304, February 29 2008. Highlights are available at: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d08304high.pdf> Personally I am very proud of ALA's work on this campaign and intend to support it even after my term ends next year.

Other Environmental Issues

A couple of councilors have begun raising environmental issues for libraries: one asked "are you aware of any libraries preparing for the possibilities of power shortages?" She pointed to an article in Congressional Quarterly, which starts: "America may be speeding toward power shortages and rolling blackouts, according to new studies and a host of experts, as the demand for power outpaces industry's moves to meet it."

<http://public.cq.com/docs/gsgreensheets110-000002606224.html>

A group has raised issues around "green conferencing", which include consideration of whether to cut back the number of in-person meetings to reduce travel-related greenhouse gas emissions. ALA headquarters staff have worked with hotels on green issues for years and proposals for reducing meetings have arisen in the past, with little results so far. But perhaps the climate-change connection will supply more momentum this time.

At ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia, a number of Councilors joined in the Task Force on the Environment's initiative "Cup by Cup for a Greener ALA"; we brought our own drinking cups so as not to use disposables. I brought one from the Washington State Ferries dated 1994.

USA PATRIOT Act

At Midwinter, the Freedom to Read Foundation reported on its continued opposition to "the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act that undermine our civil liberties and threaten our right to privacy in what we read and view." The lawsuits they have joined "have accomplished their immediate aims without producing a definitive judgment on the underlying question of the [act's] constitutionality." One suit still underway challenges the use of National Security Letters—administrative subpoenas that FBI field agents can issue on their own authority without judicial review. Their report can be read here:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/othergroups/ftrf/ftrfinaction/reportstocouncil/ftrfreportmw2008.pdf>

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/usapatriactlibrary.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).

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 15. 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/>.

Other Councilors from Washington?

I'm excited to report that three people from Washington ran for ALA Council this year: Linda Shippert, Jay Starratt, and Will Stuiwenga. At least eleven other people ran for other offices within ALA.

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.

PNLA REPRESENTATIVE Katie Cargill

There was a PNLA board retreat in Nov. 2007 and another one in Feb. 2008 at Dumas Bay Center. At these retreats, PNLA holds their board meetings. There will also be a board meeting at the PNLA Conference which will be held in August.

The conference committee continues to work on the 2008 conference. The conference will be held in Post Falls, Idaho, on Aug. 6-9th, 2008 at Templins Resort.

b) Conference 2009 will be held at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula on August 5-8th. A possible speaker might be Dr. Thomas Lipinski.

c) Conference 2010 will be held at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, B.C. on August 11-13, 2010.

d) Two proposals have been submitted for the 2011 conference site in Washington. We are continuing to review proposals.

A notice was sent out to the WLA listserv about mentors for PNLA Leads. Washington received great support for this project. There were many applications for mentors from Washington. PNLA Leads takes place in October of this year. It will be held at Schweitzer Mountain. Applications are being accepted for the Leads Institute. Check the PNLA website for more information.

Nominations are being accepted for the offices of 2nd Vice-President and Secretary. The new officers will take over at the Conference.

PNLA is discussing a survival plan to help them be better prepared for the future and to communicate what PNLA has to offer. Future goals discussion will take place at the business meeting in August. Some strategic planning may take place at the October, 2008, retreat.

WLFFTA REPRESENTATIVE Carol Schuyler

WLFFTA sponsored two programs in the 2008 annual conference. Laura K. Lee Dellinger of the Metropolitan Group will talk about creating the connections needed for success in the community. Whether working on fundraising, a capital campaign, or a levy lid lift, stories must be told about the library being an essential community resource. At the WLFFTA Breakfast, Paul Mortimer of The Collins Group will demystify fundraising for volunteers and give easy-to-follow and specific suggestions for the many ways that volunteers can help their organization build satisfying relationships with donors. This is the second year that the Breakfast has had a timeslot within the conference itself.

WLFFTA is cosponsoring a fall workshop featuring Evelyn Clark, author of [Around the Corporate Campfire: How Great Leaders Use Stories to Inspire Success](#). This workshop is the perfect companion to Laura Dellinger's conference presentation. One workshop will be held on the Westside of the State, one on the Eastside.

Planning is underway for the 2008 Forums. These biennial events focus on the needs of Friends and Foundations and offer the opportunity not only to learn from presenters, but to share with other library supporters successes, challenges, and opportunities.

Marilyn Mitchell, member of the Steering Committee, will be attending the National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. in May. Carol Schuyler, as Chair of WLFFTA, was a member of the Legislative Planning Committee.

2008/09 Goal:

Develop a strong Steering Committee

Update the "Friends Handbook"

INTEREST GROUP REPRESENTATIVE Elizabeth Iaukea (Individual Interest Group Reports submitted appear in the last section of this report.)

This was a great year for the Interest Groups. Although one of our IGs, NextGenWA decided to put the wheels of dissolution into motion, we hope that their former members will continue to be active in the Association in other capacities.

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

Annual Retreat: Our June Retreat was both fun and productive; we met in Federal Way to get to know each other and try to get a handle on our new responsibilities. We covered the process for submitting conference presentation proposals, IG financial information, how chairs could stay in touch with their constituency, workshops, website presence and currency, annual business meetings, by-laws and mission statements, and mentoring new leadership for each Interest Group. Lots of great ideas were generated for the 2008 joint conference and many connections

were made between IGs to co-sponsor programs and strategies developed to acquire additional support from our Oregon counterparts. Other noteworthy retreat activities revolved around the Strategic Plan, where we set goals for the IGs to meet at least once annually and to (co-) sponsor at least one standalone workshop each year.

Strategic Plan: The IG Coordinator and the IGs were included in several areas of the WLA Strategic Plan. One of these was *Career Development and Continuing Education*, where the IGs were tasked to “sponsor (or co-sponsor) a workshop every year” and to “meet at least quarterly, in person or online.”

Currently WALE, CAYAS, WLFFTA, WALT, and possibly RIG have definite plans for workshops in 2008: CAYAS holds both Spring and Fall workshops; each take place in two locations on either side of the Mountains. WALE holds a 2 day conference each year and this year plans to add two pre-conference workshops to the schedule, which the community will have the option to participate in as standalone workshops. WALT and WLFFTA are currently discussing co-sponsoring a Fall workshop that will be offered in two or more locations. RIG is still in the information-gathering stage with their standalone workshop plans; anticipating delivery for Fall 2008 or Spring 2009. Although we have fallen short of our goal, we have made progress in the area of workshops. In retrospect, more input from the IGs themselves should have been gathered before committing them to this goal. For some, workshops (and meetings – see below) is simply not something they find benefit in.

CAYAS and WALT both meet at least quarterly for several hours; additionally WALT meets several times a year using web conferencing. RIG, being largely comprised of iSchool students, seems to have meetings with key members more informally in that context. Other groups take advantage of email, the listservs, and the telephone to communicate with their membership. The IG and CE Coordinators hope to provide training at the 2008 Retreat that will introduce the web conferencing software that WLA plans to purchase and share best practices for meeting facilitation. We hope that this technology will break down some of the barriers to meetings and workshops. The new website will also come with blog capability which should further foster communication in the IGs.

In discussing the concept of workshops and meetings with several groups I have come to understand that for some, their sole reason for being is to sponsor a program at the annual conference – to ensure that they have something in their subject area to attend. Other groups have significant overlap in membership with another group and meet in that context instead. This is something I'd like to explore more with the IGs at the 2008 Retreat, and that I feel the Membership Committee needs to address in the broader context of “what value does WLA membership bring to individuals and their institutions?”

The IG Coordinator (with the CE Coordinator) also agreed to “work with WALT to provide training or resources on effective workshops and conference presentations.” No action has been taken on this to date.

The IG Coordinator was also given responsibility for several aspects of *Community* in the Strategic Plan, to “energize IGs to build relationships with groups outside of WLA, and to “increase IGs’ mutual support and idea sharing.” The joint conference was an excellent opportunity to make connections with Oregon groups, especially those that overlap state lines, such as REFORMA and ACRL. All the IGs were strongly encouraged to seek sponsorship with one or more of these groups and except for a few exceptions were successful. Time will tell how strong these bonds prove to be. Mutual support and idea sharing will be a focus of the 2008 Retreat, where we will discuss setting up a blog on the WLA website where the IG Coordinator and officers from the individual IGs can communicate throughout the year, to ask questions and share ideas. We will also propose the idea of quarterly or semi-annually web conference meetings for this group as another way to stay connected.

WLA Website and Individual IG Pages: One of the biggest challenges we faced this year was the transition to a new ISP and losing the Webmaster. IGs struggled to stay patient as this process proved longer and more cumbersome than anticipated, due to the amount of file clean-up necessary to make the move. The IG Coordinator has been working closely with the IGs and the Communications Coordinator to maintain the webpages and listservs

through this process, and devise a plan for getting the IGs up-and-running with the new content management system that will be used for the webpages. They have planned meetings with representatives from the IGs at the 2008 conference to help them work through the process of converting their existing web content to the new format and process. Additional help will be provided one-on-one via email or web conference and can be continued at the 2008 Retreat.

2008 Joint Conference: The Interest Groups submitted 43 proposals for the 2008 conference, most of them joint proposals with other Washington IGs and their corresponding groups in Oregon; they will co-sponsor many others. The IG Coordinator attended most meetings of the Conference Planning committee, either in person or via conference call, to advocate for the IGs. A joint conference meant that there were no pre-approved funds set aside from WLA to support the conference; this change in procedure was a little confusing to some IGs who were accustomed to having more support from WLA to fund speakers. The result was several requests for supplemental funding that were put to the WLA Board; all were approved.

This year the Meet ‘n Greet (MnG) will be held in conjunction with the All-Conference Opening Reception on Wednesday night. We believe the slight change in format will better fit with the joint-conference format (Oregon doesn’t have a corresponding event like this). Most of the groups have reserved tables in the MnG/Reception hall and will have literature and members available to interact with conference-goers. This is a great opportunity to recruit and renew interest in groups and to promote the conference programs they’re sponsoring. Most of the groups have indicated that they will have baskets or other prizes available and will hold individual raffles for these. The more groups you visit, the more raffle opportunities you’ll have!

Looking Forward to 2008-2009: Lots of things have been mentioned in this report that are in the works. Our tasks are:

- Web Design consultation sessions (with the Communications Coordinator) at the 2008 Conference to help IGs transition to the new process for maintaining their web presence.
- Training at the 2008 Retreat on use and best practices for web conferencing software that should stimulate the IGs use of this technology for meetings and workshops.
- Possibility of setting up a blog on the WLA website, and/or holding several virtual meetings to foster communications between the IGs and their Coordinator
- Program proposals for the 2009 conference!
- Possible revision of priorities for IGs in the Strategic Plan
- Working with the IGs, Treasurer, and the Board to simplify how restricted and non-restricted funds are handled

I’ve learned a lot this year and hope to use this experience to help make 2008-2009 an even better year for the IGs!

REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

LEGISLATIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mike Wirt & Martha Parsons, co-chairs

The Legislative Planning Committee (LPC) met twice in person since the committee’s last annual report and also held weekly conference call meetings during the short 2008 legislative session.

At the annual pre-session meeting in November 2007 legislative priority recommendations were developed. They were subsequently approved by the WLA Board and served as the guidelines for this year’s efforts in Olympia. The committee’s February 14 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. The conference calls provided updates, opportunities for committee member input on strategies, and a time for task assignments for specific pieces of legislation.

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 small group of committee members for action level ratings.

The 2008 legislative session was particularly positive with respect to funding for the broad spectrum of libraries, especially for a tough supplemental budget year. One of the biggest successes was school library funding, where WLA worked behind the scenes with "the three moms" from Spokane and WLMA obtain \$4 million in stop-gap funds and impress the Joint Task Force on Basic Education with the need for school library programs. The community and technical college system received a \$750,000 appropriation for statewide digital library resources, 50% of its request but a step in the right direction. Finally, the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library's \$341,000 appropriation will enable the continuation of current programs when the Washington State Library takes over on July 1. Outside of the budget, there was a minor change to the multi-year levy lid lift bill approved last session and a bill that would have allowed for election of public library trustees died in committee.

There'll be a report posted in mid-April on www.wla.org that summarizes the final outcome of measures affecting the library community.

On the Federal level, last May Washington State was represented at the annual ALA Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. by a contingent consisting of 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. This year's delegation will be identical except that Mary Jo Torgeson of Puyallup will replace Brian Soneda and state librarian Jan Walsh will join the group.

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

Alki continues to be published 3 times per year, under the editorship of Margaret Thomas. Committee membership changes have occurred. The indexing project continues. The search for an assistant editor has concluded.

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

The Washington Library Association 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. Committee members are still attempting to contact elusive contributors.

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

Ana Alvarez, 2007's Maryan E. Reynolds scholarship winner, indicated she did not have the time to serve as the *Alki* intern. Michael Wood, of the ISchool, agreed to serve as the *Alki* intern.

The Alki Task Force submitted a report of recommendations to the WLA Board.

Alki Committee membership – current committee members are;

Margaret Thomas, Editor	term expires 7/08
Mary Wise, Committee Chair	term expires 3/09
Sue Anderson	term expires 10/09
Nancy Huling	term expires 2/08
Lynne King	term expires 9/08
Erin Krake	term expires 12/08
Brian Soneda	term expires 3/09
Rayette Sterling	term expires 12/08
Deanna Sukkar	term expires 9/09

Ex officio board members:

Michael Wood, Alki Intern	term expires 4/08
Jennifer Wiseman, Coordinator of Communications	

Assistant editor/editor position – will be filled by an excellent candidate and an announcement will be made soon.

Alki Indexing Project (from Tami Robinson): “I’m just chugging along slowly but surely. There is really nothing new. At this point it is just me working on the indexing a little here and a little there, as time allows.”

FEDERAL RELATIONS COORDINATOR Rand Simmons & Kristie Kirkpatrick, co-coordinators

Throughout the year, Kristie and Rand advised members of the Washington Library Association of federal legislation important to Washington libraries asking member to consider taking action.

National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.

The Washington Library Association was well represented at National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 2, 2007 with a briefing for participants on May 1. The purpose of NLLD is to inform Washington State’s senators and representatives about federal legislation that is important to Washington’s libraries. WLA delegates included Rand Simmons, Mike Wirt, Brian Soneda, Kristie Kirkpatrick, and Marilyn Mitchell (WLFFTA representative).

We were able to attend Senator Patty Murray’s constituent coffee and to meet directly with Senator Maria Cantwell and later attend her constituent coffee. Visits were made to all congressional offices. Working in two teams, delegates visited senators and representatives or their congressional staffs.

Among the topics discussed were the importance of LSTA – The Library Services and Technology Act – and the closing of EPA regional libraries one of which is located in Seattle. Following NLLD, legislators from across the country, including Senators Cantwell and Murray, rallied to save the EPA libraries from closure. Eventually, President Bush signed an appropriations bill mandating the reopening of four EPA libraries. While we can claim that this was in direct response to National Library Legislative Day we believe we were instrumental in raising the awareness of this important issue in the minds of our Senators and Representatives.

The 2008 delegates for the May 13 and 14 National Library Legislative Day are: Kristie Kirkpatrick, Rand Simmons, Mike Wirt, Jan Walsh, Mary Jo Torgeson and Marilyn Mitchell (representing WLFFTA). Among the topics for discussion will be the re-authorization of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Virtual Library Legislative Day

John Sheller participated in a Virtual Library Legislative Day on May 2.

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. Both Kristie and Rand are now contacts for Washington.

REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT Patience Rogge

Patience Rogge has faithfully represented the Washington Library Association's membership in the Washington Coalition for Open Government for four years. Her commitment on the part of the Association has been essential to its participation with the Coalition as a partner.

WLA STANDING COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

ARCHIVES AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE Kristy Coomes

Organizational Structure was a major activity this last year as WLA sent out an RFP requesting professional management organizations to bid on managing the Association. The search committee met with a consultant and identified proposed content for the RFP and Kristy Coomes developed the draft and final document that was sent to potential bidders. Melby, Cameron and Hull were selected by the search committee based on their response to the WLA proposal.

Work continued on the WLA archives, discarding duplicates and other material that need not be kept as identified in the archival schedule. More boxes remain to be reviewed and sorted.

No major changes in Bylaws occurred. Activity was primarily reviewing the Bylaws to assure that all voted changes had been made within the Bylaws text in readiness for the coming changes in WLA association management.

AWARDS COMMITTEE Jan Walsh

The Awards Committee met in a conference call on March 4 and reached agreement on Awards to be presented at the 2008 Conference. Their decision was then approved by the Board. The WLA Awards will be awarded as follows:

WLA Lifetime Membership, Honorary Membership

Three Moms from Spokane

- *Lisa Layera Brunkan*
- *Denette Hill*
- *Susan McBurney*

WLFFTA Distinguished Service Award/Trustee Award #2

*Ken Mattson
Trustee, Camas Public Library*

WALE Employee of the Year Award

*Katie Cargill
Eastern Washington University Libraries*

Candace Morgan Intellectual Freedom Award

*Susan B. Madden
Retired*

CAYAS Award for Visionary Library Service to Youth

*Whitney Edwards
Assistant Manager, Colville Public Library, Libraries of Stevens County*

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE Robin Rousu

The Elections Committee met at the WLA office on 22 February to count and validate the election of WLA officers for 2008-2010.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE Kim Hixson

The Finance and Operations Committee has not met this year. Please refer to Treasurer Reports for most recent fiscal information.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE Mike Wessells

Compared to some recent years, the past year has been relatively quiet on the intellectual freedom front. The IFC has not needed to mobilize forces to face specific challenges, nor has the committee had to meet in session between conferences. Wouldn't it be nice if Intellectual Freedom principles were such a given that the IFC had only boredom to contend with? This is not projected to be the case. We participated in the awards process for WLA with specific emphasis on the Candace D. Morgan Intellectual Freedom Award. We are working to prepare continuing education opportunities around the state. An example this year was the IFC Chair's program at the staff training event presented by the Yakima Valley Regional Library in March. During the coming year, cooperating with IFIG, we hope to develop a series of programs and speakers from which libraries may choose for staff development in the area of intellectual freedom.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE Will Stuivenga

A teleconference meeting of the Dues Task Force has been scheduled for April 11 at 2:00. The Dues Task Force members are as follows:

Lisa Adams, Richland Public Library; Diane Cowles, Seattle Public Library; Priscilla Ice, Spokane County Library District WLA Treasurer; Kay Vyhnanek, Washington State University; Will Stuivenga, Washington State Library--Chair, WLA Member Services Committee; Martha Parsons, ex officio WLA President; Gail Willis, ex officio, WLA Association Coordinator; Kristin Crowe, ex officio Incoming Executive Director; Jennifer Wiseman, ex officio-WLA Coordinator of Communications

Charge for the Dues Task Force:

The Dues Task Force will review WLA's dues structure and policy, including reciprocal membership. The TF will review current minimum and maximum dues for individual members, and will propose ways to maintain the minimum membership dues rate at a level that is sustainable for the Association.

The TF will consider and respond to these questions:

- 1) Is WLA's dues structure for individual members fair and reasonable in approach? Does the structure promote membership among a range of library employees and supporters, in an equitable manner? What changes, if any, should be made to this structure?
- 2) Does the current individual membership dues rate cover the cost of a membership to the Association? Should the minimum individual dues rate be raised? If the minimum individual dues are raised, should the maximum individual dues be raised as well?
- 3) Is there a mechanism that could be written into WLA bylaws to raise the individual minimum membership dues rate automatically, under specific circumstances? (For example: Every four years, there will be a review of whether the minimum individual membership covers the cost of a membership to the Association. If the minimum dues are found to fall below 90% of this cost, it is automatically raised to. . .)
- 4) Does WLA continue to accept the concept of reciprocal membership? Under what circumstances is a reciprocal membership arrangement acceptable? Under what circumstances would it not be acceptable? (Currently, apart from a program of limited-time joint membership for ALA/WLA for library students, WLA has one reciprocal membership program with the Washington Library Media Association.)

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Diane Cowles

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 Jennifer Bisson, chair

This year we awarded 1 full and 2 half scholarships as well as 8 conference grants (3 to our 3 scholarship winners). Winner of the Maryan E. Reynolds Scholarship is Bo Kinney. Elizabeth George & Amy LaVare were awarded the partial scholarships. Conference Attendance grants went to the three of them and Traci Harpine, Kathy Johnson, Cat Miller, Linda Tally and Anna Wiggs. It was an excellent batch of applications for both awards. Through increased marketing we more than tripled the applicants. The pool was really very stellar!

Next year we will close the application date a little earlier so as to have more time for choosing out top candidates for interviews.

WLA INTEREST GROUPS

REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL INTEREST GROUPS

CAYAS Angela Nolet, chair

CAYAS had another busy year. Our fall workshop **Programs Galore** met with rave reviews in Ellensburg and Lacey. Our spring workshop **Building Baby Brains through Story and Play** is set to occur this May in Ellensburg and Tacoma.

CAYAS evaluated 28 program proposals for the 2008 OLA/WLA program slate. We feel confident that the programs selected, including a preconference event, will be enjoyed by conference attendees.

CAYAS reorganized this year. We purchased USB drives for board members to keep CAYAS documents on. We will back up the drives at each meeting on an external hard drive. We created documents that outline each board member's responsibilities with a timeline, so new board members have a complete picture of what they need to accomplish when they join the board. We spent part of our October meeting evaluating our binders and created guidelines for what information to keep and for how long.

OLE Bonnie Gerken, chair

For the 2007 Conference in Tri-Cities, OLE sponsored two programs. "Large Print: Finding the Best for your Readers" was presented by Theresa Gemmer who filled in at the last minute for a speaker unable to attend. She did an excellent job of presenting information about large print publishing and selection. Scott Condon (Everett Public Library) gave an inspirational session entitled "Beyond Information: Reading for Pleasure, Discovery, and Personal Growth". OLE also participated in the Meet and Greet and held their annual business meeting.

For the 2008 Conference in Vancouver, WA, OLE submitted six program proposals of which four were selected for the conference. The sessions cover the topics of book discussion groups, public and school library collaboration, booktalks, and community partnerships. OLE will participate in the Meet and Greet and hold their annual business meeting to elect new officers at the conference.

SRRT Barbara Menne, chair

At the 2007 WLA Conference, SRRT sponsored 2 seminars with REFORMA, one on its own, and participated in the Meet N Greet.

3 programs:

- Celebrating Buenos Tiempos/Good Times at your Library
- At the Same Table: Management and Union Perspective on Conflict Resolution in the Workplace
- Opening Doors, Breaking Down Barriers: Providing Great Reference Service for All

At the 2008 WLA-OLA Joint Conference, SRRT will sponsor one seminar with OLA-SRRT and two seminars with REFORMA.

- Library as Third Place: Using Conversation Cafes to Promote Civic Discourse
- A Curandera presents Traditional Latino Health Practices and Beliefs
- Salud si Puede/Good Health is Possible: Reaching out to the Latino Community

WALT (Washington Association of Library Trainers) Jennifer Fenton

WALT members continue to provide valuable support to library trainers throughout the Washington Library Association and beyond. Members participate in WLA Conference and preconference sessions, attend meetings and events, and share training resources with colleagues.

WLA 2007:

A. Officers for 2007 were selected as follows:

- Jennifer Fenton, Sno-Isle Libraries, Chair
- Laurel Steiner, King County Library, Vice-Chair
- Darlene Pearsall, King County Library System, Secretary/Treasurer
- Jeanne Fondrie and Holly Blosser, Whatcom County Library System, Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Program Co-Chairs
- Kandy Turk, Sno-Isle Libraries, Webmaster

B. At the WLA 2007 conference, WALT sponsored and presented the following:

Pre-conferences:

- **Exploring Supervision as a Career Step** by Cindy Schaeffer
- **Straight Talk for the Supervisors: How to Effectively Manage Employee Performance** by Lin Schnell
- **Faces in the Library: Intercultural Communication Skills** by Alysyan Croydon

Sessions:

- **Help! Email is eating my day!**
- **Learn from your living room: An online learning solution for Washington state.**
- **Don't distress: De-stress with yoga.**

At the OLA/WLA 2008 conference, WALT is sponsoring and/or presenting:

Pre-conferences:

- **Fundraising: A Certified Public Library Administrator (CPLA) course**
- **Hire Right the First Time**

Sessions:

- **How to Sell Your Ideas**
- **The New PowerPoint: How to hit your target without bullets**
- **SHOWCASE: Library Staff Training and Development**
- **Learning on Their Schedule-Best Practices for Creating Self-Paced Online Library Tutorials**

To continue its commitment to learning technologies and have more frequent meetings, WALT conducted several virtual meetings in addition to quarterly in-person meetings. Jennifer Fenton, WALT chair, also attended the WLA Retreat/Board meeting in Federal Way.

Based on the results of the WLA Training Needs Assessment, WALT members are planning a fall 2008 workshop and working on plans for additional workshops in 2009. The presenter for the 2008 workshops will be Evelyn Clark, author of “Around the Corporate Campfire: How Great Leaders Use Stories to Inspire Success.”