

ALA/AASL Report September 2007

AASL in Reno October 25-28. The 13th national conference “The Future Begins @ Your Library” will have lots of programs, tours, exhibitors and networking possibilities just for school librarians. Check it out at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/reno2007.cfm>

For Your 2007-2008 Calendar:

January 11-16, 2008 Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

June 26-July 2, 2008 ALA Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA

Irene Kwidzinski has stepped down as director elect of our region. Marilyn Joyce (ME) is the new director and Ann Perham (MA) is our new director-elect to the AASL board. Along with your state delegates to the Affiliate Assembly, they will be your voice at the national level. Irene will continue her involvement at the national level as she was voted Chair-Elect of the Affiliate Assembly on June 24, 2007 in Washington, DC. Region 1 is so proud to have someone from our region move into this important and honored position.

The ALA conference in Washington DC this past June was the best attended in ALA’s history—we numbered almost 30,000. It was an amazing conference with so many wonderful speakers and authors and sessions. Ken Burns shared a preview of his new documentary on World War II called *War* which premieres on PBS this month. Julie Andrews, chair for National Library Week 2008, fascinated us with a wonderful presentation about her life, career and her love of reading. The exhibits seemed to go on forever, I think I stopped by the Exhibit Hall 4 times and still never saw everything! The two affiliate assembly meetings were productive and listed below I have included AASL’s Long-Range Goals and efforts. This was my very first visit to Washington so I stayed two extra days at my own expense to visit the typical Washington sites, especially the Library of Congress. I also visited two school libraries: Sidwell Friends School in Washington and The Potomac School in McLean, Virginia.

AASL’s long-range goal continues to be making the profession viable in the future. All of their efforts fall under three main categories: advocacy, professionalism and alliances.

The goal of **advocacy** is being accomplished by the following:

1. This winter AASL conducted the first of its annual surveys to collect longitudinal data on school library media programs. The purpose of the survey is to collect relevant national data on hours, staff, collections, technology, usage and expenditures that members can use in advocacy messages. Nearly 5,000 survey responses were received. Initial baseline results will be presented at the national conference in Reno.
2. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) held a press conference on June 26th to introduce the Strengthening Kids’ Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act. Check out the details at http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslissues/SKILLS_Act.cfm and ask your legislators to support it.

3. ALA highlights school library funding problems nationwide at <http://www.ala.org/ala/news/libraryfunding/schoollibraryfunding.htm> . Perhaps you have a story to add.

The goal of **professionalism** is being addressed in several ways:

1. The official launch of the learning standards will occur at the national conference in Reno. Check out the second draft of the learning standards to get a good idea of what to expect http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/AASL_Learning-Standards-DRAFT2.pdf .
2. The 2008 fall forum will focus on assessment of the new learning standards. There is also a recommendation to offer the institute twice in one year in different locations to accommodate more attendees.
3. The Association has restructured committees in order to make AASL a more efficient, productive professional organization that welcomes member involvement. Check out committee and task force descriptions, responsibilities and an online volunteer form at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslgovernance/aaslcommittees/committees.cfm> . *Congratulations go to Susan Ballard who will be the chair of the Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force.*
4. The Board will assess the AASL blog established by Alice Yucht and volunteers. They want to create an official guiding document for its continuing development and evaluation. Participate in the blog by going to <http://blogs.ala.org/aasl.php> . It's a great way to keep in touch and discuss issues.
5. The 2007-2008 Emerging Leader Program enables new librarians to get on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership. Check it out at http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Main_Page .

The goal of **alliances** is being addressed by the following:

1. Co-sponsoring an ALA '08 program with REFORMA and the Children's and Young Adult Services Committee on "The Bilingual Mind: How Children Acquire and Use Language."
2. A joint project between AASL and YALSA "Gurus & Greenhorns: Mentoring the Next Generation of School and Youth Services Librarians." Contact Jennifer Habley jhabley@ala.org for more information.
3. Continued participation in the Partnership for 21stC Skills <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php> . A concept paper on strengthening 21st century skills-and K-12 results-with technology will come out in the fall.
4. A collaborative project with the International Reading Association and others "Making Every Moment Count: Maximizing Quality Instructional Time." Check it out at http://www.reading.org/downloads/resources/MEMC_070620.pdf .

Respectfully submitted,

Merlyn Miller