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2014 ALA Annual Conference

American Library Association
Annual Conference 2014
Report of President Barbara Stripling

Projects and Initiatives

Libraries Change Lives

Throughout my presidential year,

expression. Adults are turning to innovation spaces in their libraries to develop and learn how to knit, and create an array of useful and inventive products using 3D printers. These activities have been highlighted this year in a number of my interviews, through a series of webinars, at ALA conferences, and in a Maker Faire hosted by the White House.

Libraries are increasingly becoming host sites for TED talks and TEDx events. To foster continued expansion of the library TED network, we offered a special session at ALA. Another will be offered at Annual. TED talks were also the subject of an ALA webinar this year.

Community Engagement

The final strand of **Libraries Change Lives**, community engagement, is designed to sustain and amplify ALA's community engagement focus from the last several years. A year project, **The Promise of Libraries in Transforming Communities**, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation developed in collaboration with the Harwood Institute for Public Involvement. A new cohort of 10 libraries has been selected to receive intensive training, 18 months of monthly coaching and peer dialogue, and continued access to distance learning sessions to enable the libraries to "turn outward" to their communities and engage with their communities in new ways. The project is designed to strengthen librarians as community leaders and change agents and strengthen their capacity as a lead library support entity. The new tools, resources, and support mechanisms developed through this grant will benefit all types of libraries.

Declaration for the Right to Libraries

part in our town's educational opportunities." Miss Ginny continues, "We value our community's support and plan to use the Libraries Change Lives annual celebration... for as long as I'm here, anyway. I'm 73 years old, so I figure I have 15 more years, at least!"

Due to overwhelming interest, the Declaration continue to be used by libraries in their advocacy and community engagement efforts and continue to be available on the ALA website (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration/libraries>) and the Ilovelibraries.org website (<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/declaration/sign>) for downloading and online signature. Also available online are support resources and a toolkit. The Office for Advocacy will continue to assist members as needed and ask librarians contact the Office with details about their use of the Declaration.

Leadership Development

The second cohort of librarians has been selected to participate in the ALA Leadership Institute: Lead to the Future. This leadership initiative was launched as a presidential initiative in 2013 by Maureen Sullivan. This year's cohort will be selected in the fall of 2014. For more information, contact the Office for Advocacy at (301) 541-3111 or advocacy@ala.org.

Board/Council, ASCLA and the Accessibility Assembly, the Committee on Diversity and the Diversity Council, the Chapter Relations Committee, the Committee on Membership Meetings, GLBTRT, and SF

The following areas provide a framework for the Task Force plan, with other ideas to be provided by Task Force itself:

- 1) Develop programs and other opportunities for members to learn about and engage in the issue;
- 2) Build strong advocacy and awareness at ALA meetings and conferences;
- 3) Work in partnership with the ALA Committee on Diversity and the Office of Diversity to centralize and coordinate activities including a permanent online repository through ALA Connect in which a diversity and inclusion "toolkit" of resources and related materials can be housed and accessed by the membership at large.
- 4) Use the Orlando conference as a platform to provoke a national dialogue;
- 5) Collaborate with local Black and Hispanic/Latino community members and organizations in Orlando to determine the best ways for ALA members to be supportive of them. This will include compilation of a list of African American and Hispanic/Latino businesses in Orlando for ALA members to patronize;
- 6) Develop communications directed toward the public;
- 7) Support efforts by ALA to reach out to national organizations with vested interest in fighting racism and all forms of discrimination and in increasing equity and inclusion in our society, as reflected in ALA Policy on Diversity B.3 (e.g., NAACP, La Raza, Urban League);
- 8) Develop an assessment plan to measure the impact of Task Force efforts.

Strategic Directions for ALA

As you know, ALA has been engaged in community conversations with our members over the past couple of years focused on reimagining ALA. The ALA Executive Board has been developing a plan to move the "reimagining ALA" conversations forward into strategy. We realize that any changes we make to our organization must be based on very careful assessment of member needs and wishes because, although we serve three constituencies (members, libraries, and the public), we must primarily be responsive to members.

We started with large con

- ALA shall focus on a diverse set of policy areas that includes: intellectual freedom, privacy, civil liberties, telecommunications, funding for education and research programs, funding for libraries, copyright and licensing, government information, and literacy
- **Professional and Leadership Development**
 - ALA shall provide professional and leadership development of librarians and library workers that focuses on high quality professional practice and the future of libraries and information services

Media Activity

Media activity is one of the interesting aspects of the presidential year. Throughout the year, I have responded to requests for interviews by journalists from print publications, television, and radio. The interviews are coordinated by the Public Information Office in Washington Office. The focus of the interviews has varied greatly, including public policy issues, makerspaces, the transformation of libraries, the

	Conference San Antonio, TX	
4/114/13/14	ALA Executive Board Spring Meeting Chicago, IL	Presiding
4/144/15/14	Declaration Signing University of Michigan; Ann Arbor Public Library - Ann Arbor, MI	Speeches
4/23/14	Emerging Leaders Webinar	Webinar Presentation
4/247/14	NYLA SLS Conference Syracuse, NY	Welcome and Facilitation
4/294/30/14	11 th Congress of Latvian Librarians - Riga, Latvia	Speech
5/25/3/14	National Summit Libraries From Now On: Imagining the Future	Welcome; Facilitation
5/55/6/14	National Legislative Day Washington, DC	Speeches; Legislative Visits
5/10/14	Beta Phi Mu Syracuse, NY	Speech

I set five goals that I hoped to accomplish this year:

- x Strengthen ALA support for transformation process
- x Champion the values of intellectual freedom, equitable access to information, and democratic conversation
- x Empower community voices
- x Foster diversity in library leadership
- x Build a strong, collective ALA voice

Through the dedicated work of Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director, Mary Ghikas, Senior Associate Executive Director, all ALA staff, member leaders, and members, we have made progress in each of these areas by connecting to deepening important initiatives already in place. I am confident that ALA will continue to offer essential leadership and support for the future of libraries and the library profession under the wise guidance of your next president, Courtney Young.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as ~~2014-2013~~ 2013-2014 President.