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President's Page

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BY FANNIE M. COX

EKSTROM LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE



Where has the summer gone? With the Annual Fall Conference just around the corner, KLA members have been busy, because there are a few tasks left to complete. Of those tasks, one of the most important is advocacy and it is never ending. In May, ALA presented its 38th annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD). As President, I was fortunate to represent the Association as one of the fourteen librarians from the Commonwealth who participated in the event. Librarians who traveled to Washington were: Elaine Couch, Perry County Public Library Director; Leoma Dunn, Thomas More College Assistant Director; Emmalee Hoover, KSMA Legislative Chair; Geneva Huttenlocher, KPLA Past President; Sara King, KPLA President; Linda Kompanik, KLA Library Awareness Committee Chair; Matt Onion, Ashland KCTCS Library Director; Wayne Onkst, State Librarian; Paul Poland, Public Library Trustees Roundtable Chair; Lisa Rice, Bowling Green Public Library Director; Fred Tilsley, KSMA President-Elect; and myself. The first day, we attended ALA's workshop to develop our strategies and messages to convey to the legislators. The second day, we walked Capitol Hill, meeting with Senator McConnell, and Representatives Chandler, Davis, Whitfield, Yarmuth, and Rogers. Also, we met with the aides of Senator Bunning and Representative Lewis. The meetings were brief, usually lasting no more than fifteen minutes.

If you think the state's legislators pay no attention to constituents who advocate, think again. As we walked to the different offices to make our case for libraries, it was interesting to meet other people along the way visiting their legislators, advocating for issues of all kinds. In short, it seems like that old saying, "the squeaky wheel gets the oil," certainly

holds true. When people take the time to express their needs to their legislators, it's rewarding when their causes are acted upon. For example, Representatives John Yarmuth, D-3rd District, and Ben Chandler, D-6th District, both worked on legislation aimed at education (the College Opportunity and Affordability Act), showing their strong support for the issues we librarians came to Washington to talk about. Among the issues addressed in this legislation are the nation's student aid program and other programs for postsecondary education, as well as forgiving loans to teachers.

In our advocacy efforts, we concentrated on issues most relevant to librarians in Kentucky:

- Reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). If the IMLS program, Grants to States, is funded at \$171.5 million for FY 09, then funding for Kentucky will increase by \$185, 878 **FROM** \$2,374,218 for FY 08 State funding **TO** \$2,560,096 State funding for FY 09.
- Inclusion of the Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act with the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Reauthorization would require that a state-certified school library media specialist be placed in every school in America. Funds would also support the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program.
- Continued funding for the Government Printing Office (GPO), because access to government information is a public fundamental right and preservation of the information, regardless of the format, without the restrictions on copyright is paramount.
- Reinstating funding for the National Agriculture Library.

- Urging the FCC to accept ALA's plan for simplification of the E-rate application, which funds public libraries and consortia applications.
- Restoring safeguards for reader privacy, by reforming of the National Security Letters (NSL) and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), to repeal the REAL I.D. Act.

For information on the issues, go to Issues Briefs at <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nlld2008.cfm>

LET'S NOT FORGET THE UPCOMING 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

From October 1-4, 2008 the city of Louisville will be buzzing with librarians from across the United States and North America participating in this year's annual conference. This will be a monumental event for KLA, because the Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) National Diversity in Libraries Conference and the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) will join KLA and KSMA. For the first time in KLA history, these four library associations will come together.

Many people are working very hard to make this conference a success and I would like to thank everyone for their support thus far. President-Elect and Conference Planning Chair Debbe Oberhausen and her committee have planned an impressive line-up of speakers who will provide insights into a variety of topics related to the conference theme, "Spectrum of the Future." Each day offers something for everyone. Among the speakers are:

Ed Hamilton, nationally known Louisville sculptor

José Aponte, Director, San Diego County library system

Neal Petersen, world class yachtsman for South Africa who is physically disabled and discovered sailing by visiting public libraries

Dwayne Buttler, Endowed Chair for Scholarly Communication, University Libraries, University of Louisville

Tracie D. Hall, Assistant Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dominican University (former Director, ALA Office of Diversity)

Jim Rettig, ALA President and University Librarian, University of Richmond

Pamela Goodes, Associate Editor, *American Libraries*

Stephanie Bange, Children's Librarian, Dayton Metro Library

Joyce Valenza, library information specialist and columnist

Jane Bryant, Patient Education/Consumer Health Librarian, Chandler Medical Center Library, University of Kentucky

Diantha Dow Schull, former President/ Executive Director, Libraries for the Future (a.k.a. Americans for Libraries Council)

Ed Klee, trainer and consultant specializing in management practices and employee development

Eli Neiburger, Associate Director, IT and Product Development, Ann Arbor District Library

Marie Bradby, journalist and author

Devin Brown, Lilly Scholar and Professor of English, Asbury College.

Please remember that the pre-conference sessions require pre-registration. So plan to register early and get your hotel reservations in early also; last year the block of rooms went quickly. You do not want to miss this opportunity to learn about new approaches to problem-solving and to see old friends. Have some fun by attending the fourth annual Talent Show, and check out conference attendees' special skills. Pre-registration is required to participate. For more information on participating in the talent show, please contact Patrick Davison psdavi01@email.com, Reinette Jones rjones@uky.edu or Latisha Reynolds lmreyn01@louisville.edu.

Finally, some of the social events also require pre-registration: the opening night reception at the Muhammad Ali Center; a Friday night reception at the Western Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, the first full-service African-American public library in the United States; and, a bus trip through the Bluegrass to discover the Village Branch of the Lexington Public Library in Lexington, Kentucky. Visit <http://www.kylibasn.org/ndlc201.cfm> for more details about the conference you do not want to miss.

See you Wednesday, October 1st at the Louisville Marriott Downtown!

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