



Newsletter

Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Now Accepting Candidates

ALA-APA is now accepting candidates for the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program. This is the first national, voluntary certification program for LSS. Over forty candidates have applied since January 25, 2010. This certification program will help LSS achieve recognition for current & new skills and abilities, and increase access to continuing education opportunities. ALA/ALA-APA President Camila Alire affirms, "This certification program was much

needed for support staff in multi-type libraries across the country... I am excited that it has finally come to fruition." ALA-APA will award the LSSC to candidates who demonstrate achievement in six sets of competencies by completing approved courses or submitting portfolios that demonstrate their achievement. Candidates have four years from acceptance to complete the program. The LSSC is open to any library support

staff person with a high-school diploma or equivalent and the equivalent of at least one year of full-time experience in a library within the last five years. The application fee is \$325 for ALA members and \$350 for non-ALA members. More information: <http://www.ala-apa.org/lssc>. Direct questions to lssc@ala.org or call 312-280-2424.



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My Motivation for Certification By Karen Turner

People have asked why I wanted to do this program. I have spent most of my life working in a variety of libraries. I have worked overseas in military base libraries, doing a little of everything because they are basically public libraries. I have worked in small academic college libraries and was a work study student for 4 years at my alma mater, University of the Ozarks, Clarksville

Arkansas. I dreamt for years of getting my MLS but my husband was never stationed near an accredited school. When I worked for the University of Nebraska at Omaha library, I actually started a double major as they offered a bachelor's degree in Library Science. Then we got orders for Germany. After several years in bookstores, I eventually found my way back to a library.

As our daughters got older, another degree seemed low on my priority list, but I still dreamed. This is one way that I feel I can account for my career and even if I don't get a monetary increase, I will get recognized as having a certification. I'm so excited about the program. I have taken one online course towards one competency already and look forward to preparing my portfolio. If anyone has

If anyone has questions, please feel free to ask me; if I can't answer the question, I know who can!

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[Learn more about Karen on page 7.]

American Library Association
LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF
INTERESTS ROUNDTABLE
Steering Committee /
Membership Meeting
Boston, MA
Saturday, January 16, 2010

The meeting was
called to order at 8:05 a.m.
with the reading of our
mission as posted on our
website:

*To provide an arena within
ALA for addressing a wide variety of
issues of concern to library support
staff, including but not limited to*

The slate of nominees was approved.

Karen Strege, Co-director of the LSSCP, discussed the current status of the program and highlighted their new web pages at:

<http://ala-apa.org/lssc/>

The program officially opens Jan. 25th, and there was extended discussion on marketing and portfolio creation.

AnnaMarie Kehnast gave the President's report with written comments from John Chrastka. There was a discussion concerning more

partnerships with various roundtables and divisions so LSSIRT would be notable in the Annual program tracks. The Empowerment Conference has been discontinued due to a lack of funding, but a new track for Support Staff Interests has been created. There was more discussion about the Membership Pavilion at ALA Annual in DC and our proposed activities there.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Thank you for the warm welcome that I received at the LSSIRT executive committee meeting in Boston. It was energizing to meet such hard-working and gracious leaders, solidifying my understanding of your round table as strong and vigorous. As a trustee in small public libraries and half of a two-person school library team, I am very aware of the contributions that library support staff make to the services and vision needed to take a library from good to great. I know that one can depend on support staff for hard work and creativity. When I am elected

President. I also see the need for a diversity recruitment and retention toolkit providing online resources and training to portray the excitement of working in a library. The public needs talented library workers who reflect the communities they serve.


recent ALA presidents. For that, we must let the people in on the secrets of our libraries: libraries today are thriving, exciting places, indispensable for learning and literacy.

It's not the ALA way to "let someone else do it." It's not my way. Collectively, we can and will meet the challenges. ALA and APA need a leader who is dynamic and energetic and who will be a vocal advocate. I am eager to lead for change. Please go to www.skj4ala.com for more information on my platform. I appreciate your vote for me.


I am ready to use my energy, enthusiasm and experience as your ALA president.

[Sara Kelly Johns is an LSSIRT member]

communication within the
membership. I will continue to
advocate for the recognition
and inclusion of Library
Paraprofessionals and support



to other libraries in the State of New Jersey. I have also had the opportunity to attend many ALA conferences. When I traveled to my first ALA conference we didn't have our own roundtable, which for me being support staff is a major accomplishment. I would like to bring more awareness to New Jersey Library Assistants in the existence of LSSIRT and ALA and encourage them to become involved by joining and attending LSSIRT meetings and the 2 ALA conferences. I would like to let other library assistants know that they too can make a difference if they get involved.



LSSIRT Councilor's Report — Jennifer S. Kutzik

ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston, MA
January 17-19, 2010

COUNCIL I: BARC (Budget Analysis and Review Committee) Chair James G. Neal reported the net revenue for 2009 General Fund was \$213,296. The Endowment Fund Report by Dan Bradbury (Senior Trustee) revealed that the Endowment Fund achieved market value of \$28,680,000 by the end of 2009 and thereby recovered most of the losses that occurred since high point of its value was reached at the end of 2007 of \$31.22 million. A "Resolution Declaring and Promoting 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research" was passed unanimously.

ALA-APA COUNCIL The Library Support Staff Certification program will commence on January 25, 2010 and hopefully realize sufficient revenue to reverse the downward fiscal direction of ALA-APA. The ALA-APA ended 2009 with a deficit of \$15,244 and has failed to repay any portion of the initial \$250,000 loaned by ALA for startup back in 2003. The debt has been raised to \$275,000 in order to give ALA-APA the opportunity for the Certification Program to establish a sufficient influx of revenue.

COUNCIL II: APPROVED, the FY2011 programmatic priorities for the American Library Association:

- Diversity
- Equitable Access to Information and Library Services
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession
- Literacy
- Organizational Excellence

Rod Hersberger (ALA Treasurer) reported on the current situation of ALA's budget and steps anticipated

for FY 2011 to contain what is expected to be another very challenging year of shortfall in revenue and rising costs.

COUNCIL III: Kevin Reynolds (TN) and J. Linda Williams (MD) were elected to the ALA Executive Board for the term 2010-2013. Mario Ascencio, Chair of the ALA Committee on Legislation, presented the report of COL and several action items. "Resolution on Transparency and Openness in the Federal Government" was passed unanimously. "Resolution to Support Digital Information Initiatives at the U.S. Government Printing Office" was passed. "Resolution on Universal Access to Broadband" was passed unanimously. Beverly Lynch, Chair of the International Relations Committee, presented a "Resolution on Rebuilding Libraries and Archives Damaged or Destroyed by the Earthquake in Haiti." This resolution passed unanimously. A "Resolution in Support of 2010 Spectrum Presidential Initiative" was passed unanimously.

ADOPTED: Memorials for John Clifford Mortimer, Mary Alice Hunt, J. Michael Rothacker, Ken Davenport, Sallie Farrell, Eliza Atkins Gleason, Effie Lee Morris, James "Jim" Raymond Przepasniak, Walter Reandeanu, Judith Serebnick, and John Charles (Charlie) Fox. (The last memorial was proposed by LSSIRT).

ADOPTED: Tributes for Jeanne Sugg, and Sonia Sotomayer.

All Council documents from ALA Midwinter Meeting 2010 at:
<http://tinyurl.com/ykk86dy>

Jennifer S. Kutzik, LSSIRT Councilor (Thanks to fellow Councilor, James B. Casey, Oak Lawn Public Library, IL, for sharing his reporting.)



ALA President-Elect
Roberta Stevens with
LSSIRT Councilor
Jennifer S. Kutzik

LSSIRT presented a Council memorial resolution for John Charles (Charlie) Fox, who passed away August 3, 2009.

Charlie served as Editorial Director of *Library Mosaics*, the magazine for Library Support Staff from 1998-2005.

Read the full resolution here:
<http://tinyurl.com/yas6gqo>

