

L S S I

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Support staff issues were central to the agendas in the Committee on Education (COE) meetings, held June 21 and 23, and in the Education Assembly session, held June 23, at the annual conference in Toronto. This was a direct result of the recent Congress on Professional Education: Focus on Support Staff (COPE3).

Since we both served as COPE3 delegates, fellow COE committee member Dave Dowell and I provided a summary about the Congress, outlined the ALA Executive Board's response to the COPE3 steering committee's final report, and enumerated next steps. I listed the following COPE3 recommendations as

items of specific concern for COE:

- 3.2.1 (Library Technical Assistant program accreditation)
- 4.1.1 (formal education recognized at all levels)
- 4.1.4 (development of a Continuing Education Clearinghouse)
- 5.3.1 (inclusion of support staff in language and agendas)

My report will concentrate on the discussions that followed regarding LTA accreditation and certification for support staff. These are brief summaries of the wide-ranging discussion:

a. The problem with the draft LTA program accreditation criteria document is that it is not binding (it sets no guidelines and standards). Finalizing the document is just the first step in a long process for getting LTA programs accredited by ALA. Nonetheless, the committee recognizes the need to move forward with changes to

the current document and get it to Council, ALA's policy-making body. (A full-committee discussion of the draft LTA Accreditation

Martha Parsons, LSSIRT Treasurer and COPE III Steering Committee Member

The ALA

(COPEIII)

was held six months ago, so it seems like a good time to take a look at what has been accomplished, and what is in the works.

Just a few weeks after the Congress, the COPE III Steering Committee Chair, Julie Huiskamp, sent a “memo on inclusiveness” to ALA staff, Divisions, and Committees. In it she outlined the importance of inclusiveness to support staff and asked that inclusive language be used in all ALA communications whenever appropriate and possible. As a result of that memo we have seen ongoing efforts by ALA to comply, including the Public Information Office revising the language in their press release template.

A significant accomplishment was that Implementation Recommendations were written, and then submitted and approved by the ALA Executive Board at their Fall 2003 meeting (Oct. 11). These recommendations were compiled by Mary Ghikas, ALA Senior Associate Executive Director, with collaboration from Lorelle Swader and other ALA staff, as well as review and feedback from the COPE III Steering Committee. The Implementation Recommendations

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ALA LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF INTERESTS ROUND TABLE STEERING COMMITTEE/MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Saturday, June 21, 2003**

- . Diane Fay announced the resolution to include support staff in the ALA salary survey will be presented to Council during this conference.
2. Martha Parsons reported the COPE-3 recommendations were well-received by the ALA Executive Board. Diane reiterated we can begin now to initiate action items. The inclusive language directive is being spread among all divisions and round tables. Jennifer will present a proposal to American Libraries for a quarterly column written by support staff. If accepted, the chair of the Publications/Communications Committee (currentr

