

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION (LITA)

Executive Committee Meeting, Fall 2006

Friday, November 10, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, November 11, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

ALA Headquarters, 40 E. Huron Street, Chicago

Executive Meeting Room, 2nd floor

MINUTES

Present: Bonnie Postlethwaite, President, Mark Beatty, Vice President, Patrick Mullin, Past President, Michelle Frisque, Director at Large, Barbra Higginbotham (in at 10:30), LITA Councilor, Mary Taylor, Executive Director

Bonnie Postlethwaite called the meeting to order. Added to the agenda the ALA Election Committee proposed ballot change and moved the Forum discussions to later in the agenda.

Pat Mullin moved and Mark Beatty seconded confirming the email vote approving minutes from the Executive Committee meeting at the 2006 Annual Conference. Three voted yes; one abstained; motion passed.

Pat Mullin led the Forum 2006 debriefing. Almost 400 registered for the Forum in Nashville; this is the 2nd highest registration. Two of the three keynotes were well received. Rankings on the overall evaluation are all okay but some comments were negative. The last speaker did draw a good crowd. Having to take elevators to breakouts on five floors and the long narrow meeting rooms were negatives. Overall pleased with the content; only one repeat; several speakers did multiple programs which lead to scheduling issues. Overall very good comments and lots of excitement. Received lots of questions about the next Forum demonstrating interest. The AV provider was good, very attentive. Discussed overall evaluation form; recommend asking a maximum of five questions. Discussed strategies to provide wireless.

Bonnie Postlethwaite led the Forum 2007 discussion. Mary La Marca is the LITA National Forum Planning Committee Chair. The theme is Technology with Altitude: Ten Years of LITA National Forums. The call for papers was available at the 06 Forum and is posted to the LITA web site. Ideas for keynotes and programming are welcome. The contract is being negotiated for the 2008 LITA National Forum.

Mary Taylor led the Forum 2009 possible regions discussion. Two regions, the Northwest and Southwest were approved for consideration.

The Spring Meeting dates and location are: April 27-28 in Chicago. The meeting will start on the 27th at noon and end on the 28th at 3:00 pm.

Pat Mullin lead the discussion on the FY2006 Closing budget report:

- Charges for non-serial publications (the LITA Guides) warehousing and handling are beyond our means; need to ask Publications Committee to review current publications and remove from inventory as soon as possible.
- Administrative costs have been going down primarily due to staffing changes (Administrative Assistant position not filled; Deputy position empty for six months).
- ITAL expenses were up due to the 40th anniversary additional pages and mousepad distribution.
- ITAL revenue needs to be watched for impact of online availability.
- Job site revenues are up.
- No new Guides were published in 2006; two are planned for this year.
- Annual Conference preconference had good vendor support that helped bottom line.
- Midwinter workshop also did well.
- Reserve is at a point where establishing an endowment is possible.
- Strategic initiatives we might want to invest in include: Regional Institutes experiment with online delivery, membership recruitment and retention, membership survey.

Recommendation: revisit endowment and strategic initiatives possibilities at Midwinter.

Bonnie Postlethwaite reported on the Emerging Leaders program. One hundred finalists have been selected. Michelle Boule is one of them and is the candidate LITA offered to sponsor. It has been announced that this will be an ongoing program next year. The program requires a two year commitment from the leaders with one year of support.

Mark Beatty led a discussion on the Town Meeting for 2007. Mark is planning to work with Michelle Boule and/or others to consider LITA's online presence. He will set the environment using OCLC's environmental scan and the Pew Foundations work in this area and tie these into the LITA Strategic Plan. At the Town Meeting Mark will work with BIGWIG, etc. and break up into small groups to do a snow cards exercise addressing LITA's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and needs. Working through these four areas, trends will be identified regarding where we are going, what needs to be done, and what's good that we can build on. Then, working with BIGWIG et al., Mark will come up with a targeted survey.

Bonnie Postlethwaite reported on plans for the strategic planning segment of the Saturday Board meeting. Diane Bisom, chair of the Assessment and Research Task Force, has been invited to participate along with Jeff Treziak and Steve McCann, Task Force members, and Pat Ensor, chair of the Membership Development Committee.

Bonnie Postlethwaite reported on her plans for the President's Program. We will be following the same program pattern as the prior two years starting with the Top Tech Trends, then the Awards Reception, and then the President's Program. The President's Program will feature Chuck Haddix and Michael Winkler.

Mary Taylor reported on membership recruitment and retention, goal setting, establishing relations between the LITA Board and ALA IT and Conference Services.

Bonnie Postlethwaite reported on plans to recruit new ITAL and Acquisitions Editors. John Webb's term as ITAL editor ends in June 2007 with the 2007 September issue. Kathlene Hanson's term as LITA Acquisitions Editor is completed at the end of Annual Conference 2007. Dan Marmion, Publications Committee chair, has been advised that interviews for both positions need to be completed at Midwinter and the Publications Committee recommendations are due to the Board at the second Board meeting (Monday afternoon) in Seattle.

Mark Beatty reported on plans to submit a program proposal to PLA for the National Conference. The program would be similar to Top Tech Trends but focus on public libraries.

Pat Mullin reported on the recent ACRL Summit on Technology and Change in Academic Libraries. The summit focused most on change. Robert Zemsky is writing a white paper; he was hired to run the event.

The Committee reviewed the Committees and IGs reports following Annual Conference: Need to follow up with David Altenhof, chair of the Web Coordinating Committee, about posting the Web policies to the LITA Manual and deciding where to post the procedures received from the Web Task Force. The Publications Committee asked for the stipends to be increased; the full LITA Board discussed this at Annual Conference. Given the timing of the two editor changes, the Executive Committee did reconsider the request. Pat Mullin moved and Barbra Higginbotham seconded the motion to reaffirm the decision made by the Board at Annual Conference to keep the stipend at the current level. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee agreed to the ALA Election Committee request to limit ALA Activities to 200 words, Offices Held in State & Regional Library and Other Associations to 200 words, and Honors and Awards to 100 words with the addition of a ballot category "Links for Further Information" which would enable candidates to refer votes to candidate blogs, web pages, etc. for additional information.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Future Executive Committee meetings:

Midwinter Executive Committee Meeting in Seattle, Friday, January 19, 4:00-5:00