

Carolyn Tate, President of LSSIRT, is reporting that the Round Table continues to represent the interests of all support staff in a manner that brings library workers to the forefront. This includes:

**Better Salaries Task Force.** This Task Force, created by Mitch Freedman, ALA President, addresses the issue of salaries for all library workers. Gene Kinnaly represents support staff on this Task Force and serves as facilitator for the Support Staff Working Group (SSWG). Diane Fay, LSSIRT President-Elect, is a member of the Task Force and serves as facilitator for the Union

**Third Congress on Professional Education: Focus on Support Staff.** This Congress will be held at the College of DuPage in Illinois on May 16-

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# 3rd Congress on Professional Education

*Reported by Martha Parsons*

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Martha Parsons

Ali Poffinberger attended two meetings of the Committee on Education (COE) at the ALA Mid-winter meetings as an observer for LSSIRT. She reports that being a member of COE also requires attendance at the Library Education Assembly, which is an information exchange session for all ALA groups with education-related activities/committees.

At the Annual meeting in Toronto, COE will be examining the current draft of LTA criteria document (for accrediting LTA programs). The group will be recommending changes to Council, but expects work on the document may take a year or more. Martha Parsons has placed the draft of this document at the website <http://colt.ucr.edu/alaedu.html>. Karen Brown will represent COE at COPE III.

The current membership of COE is comprised mostly of Library School Educators. The committee is reorganizing after considerable work on certification for MLS holders, now the responsibility of ALA/APA. Poffinberger worked hard to make good contributions as an ob-

server and as a result has been appointed to this committee by Carla Hayden.

COE will be developing a database, the "Continuing Education Clearinghouse." This database will hold links to information on continuing education opportunities offered anywhere in the United States (especially ALA-sponsored programs), at every level of library work. Information will be added to the database via a web form, and will be time-sensitive. Poffinberger recommended that the information be archived when it leaves the database, since those planning future continuing education events might wish to know what speakers and topics have been used in the past. The database is to go live as of October 2003.

The charge for the Library Educa-



The Candidates for ALA President were invited to meet with the LSSIRT Steering Committee at the business/membership meetings held in Philadelphia. Both candidates accepted.

In separate sessions, Carol Brey, director of the El Pasco, TX Public Library and Herman Totten, professor in the School of Library Science, and Faculty Assistant to the President of the Univ of North Texas, made opening remarks regarding their respective campaigns, then answered a set of five questions developed by the Steering Committee. Questions focused on how to improve the support given paraprofessionals and their concerns within ALA.

Initial questions asked how the candidates would correct the under representation of paraprofessionals within ALA and how ALA might increase monetary support

for paraprofessional membership and attendance at meetings. Both candidates mentioned that they would promote the leadership role played by the ALA president on support staff issues and would use the president's power to appoint paraprofessionals to vital ALA committees. As for the money issue, Totten said that he would examine funding models, such as Friends of the Library, which often underwrite conference attendance. Brey pointed out that "we must put our money where our mouth is"; that library directors need to fund support staff at the same rate they fund MLS holders.

Both candidates were asked their views on certification of paraprofessionals and the accreditation of LTA programs. Totten noted that this is a "wonderful time for ALA to take a leadership role on this at multiple levels, especially for LTA programs." Brey advised the

Steering Committee to pursue the 95ssional

Cindy Ahrens is Chair of the LSSIRT Fundraising Committee. She reports that Committee members are needed. You do not have to be present at ALA to participate

because most of the work can be done electronically. All ideas and suggestions are welcomed.

Ahrens' initial Fundraising report to LSSIRT talked about smaller fundraising efforts for the Round Table to consider, but after attend-

ing an ALCTS Fundraising Committee meeting at Midwinter, Ahrens discovered that LSSIRT needs to look at a much BIGGER picture. Instead of a silent auction or raffle of quilts (with each state association) at the LSSIRT professional table, ALCTS proposes projects, workshops and/or conference activities. Then they look for sponsors (e.g., an ALA-approved list of vendors, sponsorship of workshops or receptions). Ahrens is going to work with the Chair of ALCTS to get more insight into how this is done.

Ahrens has obtained a copy of ALCTS Fundraising Policy and Pro-

cedures. She will see how these can work for LSSIRT. Although it may be too late to plan a fundraising activity for Toronto, LSSIRT can focus on Orlando for 2004.

Dorothy Morgan is the Financial Help is needed to work on Fundraising—first developing policy and procedure to present to LSSIRT in Toronto, then to implement fundraising proposals for the Round Table.

Any member who is interested in contributing through serving on this committee (and Ahrens wants to say that she offers treats at in-person meetings), please contact Ahrens at cahrens@hclub.org, or call 952-847-8581. Everyone is welcome!

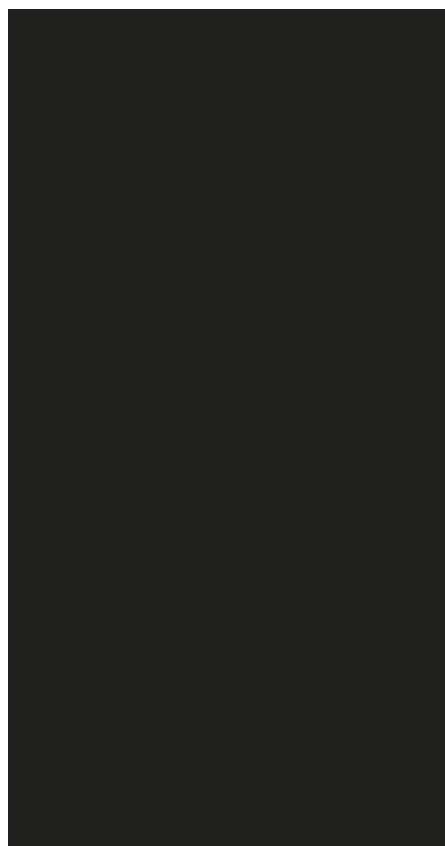
Dorothy  
Morgan

Dorothy Morgan is the Financial Advisor for LSSIRT and in that position attended the Budget Analysis and Review Committee meeting and the Planning and Budget Assembly. She reports that one of the key points that was brought out at the meetings was the importance of strengthening an organization to succeed in the 21st century and the ways in which this is accomplished. They are to develop a mission, a vision statement and to establish priorities (strategic planning that may impact our finances—Strategic Plans should

cial planning—a budget should interface with long term strategic plans.

During the BARC meeting, attendees learned about budgets and various ways of putting them together. They learned how to read the ALA Performance Report—key concepts, financial terms, the budget process, fund structure, division and Round Table funds. The important point to remember is that Revenue minus expenses equals Net Asset Balance and these balances are allowed to be carried forward from year to year. Expenses should never be more than projected revenue.

Identified were major revenue sources; major expense areas; major programs (new/existing) and their financial impact/



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The ALA Better Salaries & Pay Equity Task Force met during the 2003 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia for the purpose of reviewing Task Force accomplishments to date and to plan for future activities of the Task Force.

Key accomplishments include (1) the creation and subsequent updating of the Advocating for Better Salaries and Pay Equity Toolkit, available online at <http://www.ala-apa.org/toolkit.pdf>; (2) the creation and maintenance of the MONEY-



Gene Kinnaly

**Visit the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) at:**

**[www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our\\_Association/Round\\_Tables/LSSIRT/](http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Round_Tables/LSSIRT/)**

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