Hello fellow AkLA members:

During my year as President-Elect, and in the last month as President, I’ve learned that serving in this role is not simply tolerable but in fact quite enjoyable, due to the wealth of knowledgeable people there to help. Working with members of the Executive board (E-board) and Executive council (E-council) participants has been fun and informative; there are too many to name here all the people I’ve consulted with and relied upon for advice. We have enough personnel to ensure continuity but also some new folks on the board, including Linda Lyshol as Treasurer, and Patty Brown, our President-Elect. And of course I have to mention the State Library folks who are the “rock” that we build our association activities upon, relying on them to accomplish a great deal of the day-to-day business—the grants administered, the scholarships awarded, etc. Being involved is a great way to get to know librarians around the state, and get ideas and support for future endeavors. If you’re wondering how to get library-related projects accomplished, this is the organization you need.

As many of you know, AkLA has been actively working on building membership during the last six months or so, after a dip in our member numbers the last few years. Whether you’re a long-renewing member or a brand-new member,
this is a great time to get involved in the association, at whatever level you choose—run for office next time around, serve on a committee or roundtable, get great speakers or programs planned for Conference 2015, help set priorities, make things happen. Take a look at the aкла.org website to see who’s doing what, and call any one of us if you have questions or want to be more involved in some way. We’re all nice people who want you to participate, and this is a great time to start.

Thanks to Stacey’s recent work just as she was handing over the Presidential gavel, we have new lobbyists—David Robinson and Caren Rogers—helping AkLA through this legislative session. We’re still working on hiring a new Executive Officer, and that should be accomplished by the next newsletter. A number of folks around the state have been contacting legislators to support all the library projects, including the public library construction grants, OWL, Live Homework Help and the SLAM project. Your input helps, so don’t hesitate to be involved; it isn’t that hard to do!

As the year progresses, don’t hesitate to call or write with ideas, suggestions, concerns. I hope to meet more AkLA members and continue to build on the efforts of last year’s membership committee, growing our association in both numbers and involvement to meet your professional needs. 

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The votes are in, and The Log from the Sea of Cortez by John Steinbeck is the 2014 University of Alaska Southeast One Campus One Book selection!

In search of a respite from the national stage, Steinbeck and his close friend, biologist Ed Ricketts, embarked on a month-long marine specimen-collecting expedition in the Gulf of California. This exciting day-by-day account of their journey together is a rare blend of science, philosophy, humor and high-spirited adventure.

We are excited to begin exploring a variety of interdisciplinary themes related to the book!

Program options under development for AY 14-15:
• Katie Rodger (UC Davis) Keynote lecture and campus visit: Connecting Science and Story. Rodger has written extensively on Edward Ricketts, co-author of The Log from the Sea of Cortez as well as the inspiration for the character Doc in the novel Cannery Row. Rodger is a Steinbeck scholar and has edited and published two books of essays and letters of Ricketts.
• Katie Rodger writing workshop on Scientific Communication or Interdisciplinary Writing.
• Colleen Flanigan, artist, ocean activist and Senior TED Fellow, whose work on coral reef restoration and sculpture is absolutely fascinating. She focuses on reef ecosystems and how we can cross-pollinate art, science and our creativity to save biodiversity in oceans.
• Film Series: Dutch Harbor: Where the Sea Breaks its Back, Sea of Cortez documentary, Jack Calvin documentary
• UAS Sitka / Whalefest/ Sitka Sound Science Center/Sitka Conservation Society collaboration

Learn more at  http://www.uas.alaska.edu/ocob/  
Jonas Lamb
UAS
People join associations for personal and/or professional payoffs: the benefits they receive. However, the picture becomes more complex as the younger generation tends to blend the personal and professional dimensions of their lives. A study commissioned to investigate “the decision to join” (Dalton & Dignam, 2007) found that an individual’s decision to join (or renew) a professional membership focuses on a balancing act between the questions “what’s in it for me (the individual)?” and “what’s in it for us (the association)?” They found that the benefits for the common good (i.e., for the profession, for the industry or for mankind) only marginally outweigh the value of personal benefits for the individual. The challenge for associations is to work out how to ensure that the “us” is more important than the “me.” Associations specifically represent a collective viewpoint about worthwhile purposes that have little to do with personal gain. Some of the acknowledged advantages of associations:

- The ability to make the world a better place
- The wisdom of crowds
- User-generated content (e.g., volunteer contributions to research, education, etc.)
- Passion: a commitment to the group’s value proposition
- Camaraderie
- The cross-pollination of ideas in an open, trusted forum
- The invaluable network of peers

Medical Library Association

Annual meetings and conferences remain important as events that encourage face-to-face networking. Many library associations use these events as opportunities to welcome new members, for example through a new member, first-time attendee breakfast. At one of the Medical Library Association (MLA) annual meetings, then-President Lucretia W. McClure (n.d.) addressed the new members about what it meant to her to be a member. She highlighted five main factors:

- The opportunity to talk to people about matters of common interest. Talk to strangers: Learn about what they do and how their ideas and experiences might help you in your own career.
- The recognition of excellence and achievement: The association’s awards are often named after people who are or were leaders in the association. Their work, and the work of those who receive the awards, may inspire you to strive for excellence in your own area of work.
- Despite the amount of things that will happen to you during the course of your career, there will be the one constant of friendship and support from colleagues.
- When a problem arises, your colleagues in the association will be ready to offer you advice and guidance: The tradition is that we are here
(Library Assoc. - Cont. from pg. 4)

You may not be able to change the world all on your own, but you can have real power as a member of an association. McClure argued that an association ensures that people count. People can make the difference, so that it’s not about the individual, but about working with and for others: It’s about “us.”

For complete article: http://www.ifla.org/node/5756

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. #
Harnessed to the Pole: Sledge Dogs in Service to American Explorers of the Arctic 1853-1909
University of Alaska Press

In the second half of the nineteenth century, an epic race was underway in some of the most brutal stretches on the planet. Explorers from around the world hoped to stake their claim on the Arctic, with the North Pole being the ultimate prize. Those with the greatest success found that the fastest way to travel was on four legs—using a team of hardworking sledge dogs. #
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CALENDAR
ALA 2015 Midwinter Meeting, Chicago, IL    Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2015