ALA NAMES HONORARY MEMBER

Ann K. Symons was elected to honorary membership in the American Library Association in action recently taken by the ALA Council. Honorary membership, ALA’s highest honor, is conferred in recognition of outstanding contributions of lasting importance to libraries and librarianship.

Symons was nominated in recognition of her contributions to advocacy, access, intellectual freedom, and services to the LGBTQ community. As one of the most prominent school librarians nationally and internationally, she was among the first advocates for library service to LGBTQ communities.

Her career has been marked by tireless service and lasting contributions to the profession and to the American people.

Symons served as ALA treasurer 1992-1996 and was the 1998 ALA president. She has served on ALA Council as well as on numerous committees throughout the Association.

Symons will receive an honorary membership plaque in June during the Opening General Session of the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Cognotes, January 23, 2017
The New Year is upon us and so is the convening of the 30th Legislative Session of the State of Alaska. The libraries of Alaska rely heavily upon the public funds administered by our elected officials. As we enter this time of information gathering and decision making there are some very real ways that each member of the Alaska Library Association can get involved in our campaign for library support.

- **Know the names of your legislators.** An easy-to-use directory of Alaska’s State Senators and Representatives is available at [akleg.gov](http://akleg.gov). Find out who is representing your community and look at the roles they play. Legislators are generally more attentive to the constituents that they are directly responsible for representing. For example, when I look at the directory I see that one of the senators from Wasilla is the Chair of the Senate Education and Early Development Committee and a member of the Senate Finance Committee. He will play a key role in determining the future of many library programs; he needs to know that his decisions will have a direct impact on the people he serves.

- **Familiarize yourself with AkLA’s 2017 Legislative Priorities.** Established each year by the Executive Council, the Legislative Priorities are the issues most critical to the success of libraries in Alaska. The three areas of focus for 2017 are the recruitment and retention of certified school librarians and effective school library programs through Alaska’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), full funding for the programs and services of the Alaska State Library, and unrestricted access to information for all Alaskans. More information about each of these priorities is available on the AkLA website under the Advocacy tab.

- **Look for and respond to messages from the AkLA Advocacy Committee.** We have a hard-working team of librarians and library advocates keeping an eye on critical bills and budgeting within the legislature. Last year we succeeded in retaining the necessary funding for many library services. We will need to fight just as hard this year to insure the future of key programs like Online with Libraries, Live Homework Help, and the SLED databases.

All together Alaska’s library workers have a powerful voice. Please stand with us as we work toward safeguarding the future of our profession and our institutions.
I just returned from the American Library Association’s mid-winter conference in Atlanta where I participated in the meetings of the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) and chaired the meeting of the IFC Privacy Subcommittee. First of all, Atlanta was a great city in which to hold a conference with plenty to see and do, great restaurants, friendly people, and warmer weather!

The ALA mid-winter conference is the “business meeting” for the organization; it is low on presentations/sessions and high on meetings and committee work. The IFC was very productive and submitted a lengthy report of its work to ALA Council. Here are a few highlights:

- IFC and the Library & Information Technology Association (LITA) approved seven checklists that support the library privacy guidelines. The checklists provide practical steps libraries of any type or size can take to help protect the privacy of their patrons.

- IFC and the Committee on Legislation (COL) submitted a Resolution on Gun Violence which was approved by ALA Council. The resolution condemns gun violence and outlines steps libraries can take to engage their communities on the issue.

- IFC submitted a Resolution on Access to Accurate Information which was approved by ALA Council with some minor amendments to the wording. The resolution condemns the proliferation of disinformation and recommends that libraries work to counter it by promoting access to accurate information.

- IFC approved publication of a Q&A: Makerspaces, Media Labs and Other Forums for Content Creation in Libraries. The Q&A outlines a number of intellectual freedom issues and concerns to be aware of with respect to content creation in libraries.

- IFC approved Guidelines to Minimize the Negative Effects of Internet Content Filters on Intellectual Freedom. These guidelines offer advice on how to select, configure, and manage content filters for those libraries that have deployed them for whatever reason.

Mike Robinson
Chair, AkLA Intellectual Freedom Committee
Chair, ALA IFC Privacy Subcommittee
ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY GAINS 34,000 NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

When they registered their students online for the 2016-2017 school year with the Anchorage School District, parents had the option to enroll their child for a public library card. This year was the first time this program was offered, and an overwhelming 92% of families took advantage of the opportunity.

Because of this, an additional 34,000 students had access to a wide number of electronic resources and all of the print resources of the Anchorage Public Library. Access to these resources was often cost prohibitive for individual schools where PTA contributions may account for a large chunk of the library budget.

“For many of our students, not having a public library card creates a barrier to accessing the powerful tools that are provided for free to the citizens of Anchorage through the public library. ASD and the Anchorage Public Library are committed to removing as many of these barriers as possible,” said Ann Morgester, ASD library supervisor. “The shared library card project is a huge step in creating equity of access to library materials across the city, and I couldn’t be more pleased with the joint effort.”

This project stems from the White House’s ConnectED Library Challenge encouraging communities to create collaborations to get a library card in every student’s hand, and is the result of three years of behind-the-scenes preparation by Library and ASD staff.

Youth librarians are focusing this school year on training staff about the resources available to their students and encouraging them to use these resources in the classroom and during lesson planning.

Unfortunately, this year, the program was available only during online registration. Students new to the district, including all kindergartners, were not offered the choice. Next year this will change, and the option will be given at all types of registration. We hope to introduce an additional 8,000 to 10,000 students to the world of learning available from APL.

Elizabeth Nicolai
Youth Services Coordinator,
Anchorage Public Library

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Date: January 26, 2017
Subject: Get Ready for National Library Week - April 9-15
If your library is interested in purchasing marketing materials for National Library Week (Apr. 9-15), the American Library Association (ALA) store is open.

If you aren’t familiar with the ALA “Libraries Transform” theme, visit http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/

Daniel Cornwall
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OWL Program Manager, Alaska State Library
ALASKA NATIVE ISSUES ROUNDTABLE

The Alaska Native Issues Roundtable, together with the Alaska Library Network, has submitted a grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a two-year project beginning in the spring of 2018. The grant request proposes to provide student-centered, community-centered continuing education for Alaska public and tribal library staff working with indigenous populations and cultural materials.

The purpose of the project is to address gaps in training and professional education for community and tribal library staff, particularly those in rural Alaska, and also to help library staff strengthen their libraries as community anchors.

Most librarians work in isolation with few opportunities to meet face to face with other colleagues. In the past the Alaska State Library led the effort to provide meaningful continuing education to staff in small and dispersed libraries, but the current budget crisis in Alaska has significantly reduced available funding.

The changing economic landscape and rapidly changing climatic conditions mean that it is imperative that indigenous cultural treasures are preserved, curated, and made accessible for future generations.

In the first year of the two-year project, an institute will be offered at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Likely topics will be intellectual property considerations, emergency preparedness, preparation for digitization projects, preservation of existing photo and recorded collections, current practices in oral history collection, local indigenous language preservation, evaluation of collections, and development of libraries as local history and cultural centers, either stand-alone or in collaboration with other community anchors.

The second year, five to seven libraries will be selected through an application process for a week of customized on-site, hands-on training offered to the community library staff and other community agencies.

Visiting specialists will be chosen based on the needs of each community, and a specialist will spend a week training, assisting, and assessing the community’s project. After the visit, the specialist will present a topical webinar, based on his or her particular expertise and on-site activities, to all libraries in Alaska and elsewhere. These will be streamed, archived, and made available on both the Alaska Library Network and the Alaska State Library websites.

The grant process is competitive and there is no guarantee that funding will come through. Look for more information as developments unfold.

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Mr. Stratman knows the Alaskan bush. His writing is imbued with bits of Alaskan knowledge that will appeal to middle schoolers and adults alike. As an Alaskan middle school teacher with 30+ years of experience, I know what appeals to young teenagers, and this book should find wide acceptance in that market.

I would strongly recommend it for reluctant middle school readers who love outdoor adventure. "Cheechako" could be just the book to get them "hooked on reading." Will's adventures are the stuff that many teenage boys’ daydreams are made of. It will definitely find a place in my classroom library.

Gary Bagley
Alaskan Middle School Teacher
(Originally printed on Amazon.com)

ALASKAN EXPERIENCE CORNER

School Kids’ Community Guides and Histories

Submitted by Larry Hibpshman, Book Buzz Manager (Kenai).

But you too can submit to the Alaskan Experience column (ILbombastico@yahoo.com)

Children can and do write community history. Teachers often organize local history publication projects, especially for exceptional children. They should be encouraged to do so. Publication often consists of printing and distributing a few local copies, which makes them rare finds—and which is too bad! Sometimes they’re the sole accounts available about a community. Here are publications of which I am aware—

History of Brevig Mission. 1969. Brevig Mission 7th and 8th grade students (teacher Hugh Foy) produced this history, which includes a note by Larry and Laura Rorem who pastored the Lutheran Church ca. 1972. A federal agency (Department of Interior)

(Cont. on pg. 7)
reprinted it about 1972, but I doubt it is easy to find an original today. I found a photocopy at Juneau’s Urban Eskimo curio shop. The text reveals these young people’s pride in their village and provides a few facts that may be unknown outside this remote and isolated community. Student drawings and maps are a valuable documentary resource.

Ketchikan, an Alaskan City. This large, colorful book of essays and drawings reflects community industrial and economic life. Among them are drawings showing that Alaskan kids know the difference between purse seiners, long liners, and set netters! Apparently only three copies were produced, to fulfill grant requirements. In 2014, the Alaska State Archives transferred its copy to the Ketchikan Museum.

Sand Lake. History, 1987 (Anchorage area). These elementary age children interviewed 14 people, from Sand Lake Homestead families and others significant in community development, including Ella McRae, Vernon Risch, Mildred Muth, and Bob and Kathy Evenson. The pamphlet is well organized and includes unique illustrations and a bibliography.

Petersburg. Similar to the Sand Lake story, with children’s writings and interviews with longtime residents.

Yakutat. This community history was produced by Yakutat High School students. Students did original primary resource research at the Alaska State Archives and probably elsewhere.

CAN OTHER READERS OF NEWSPOKE PROVIDE FURTHER EXAMPLES?
Anchorage Chapter – AkLA
Save the Dates for 2017 AkLA-A Events

Tuesday, April 4, 7-8:15 PM, Anchorage Public Library space at Sears Mall:
AkLA Anchorage conference planning. Hear from the 2018 AkLA Conference Co-Coordinators, Erik Carlson and Stacia McGourty, about current plans, what’s needed, etc. for the 2018 AkLA conference in Anchorage.

Tuesday, May 2, 7-9 PM, place TBD:
InterLibrary Lush: Come celebrate the end of the semester and the start of summer by socializing with your fellow library professionals.

June: no event; enjoy the summer!

For the rest of the year, we are working to plan these events, subject to change; details will be sent when available:

July: BBQ at Doug’s house/fundraiser for scholarships to attend the 2018 AkLA conference in Anchorage.

Tuesday, August 1, 7-8:15 PM at Loussac Library:
Come see and tour the renovated Loussac Library.

Tuesday, September 12, 7-9 PM at TapRoot:
Trivia night at the TapRoot. Last time, we won.

Tuesday, October 10, 7 PM:
In this joint event with FLIP (Future Librarians and Information Professionals), we’ll hear from Sarah Pace, who is interning at the Consortium Library and completing a cumulative e-portfolio as part of her MLS degree. Campus parking is free on Fridays

Tuesday, November 14, 7 PM at UAA/APU Consortium Library:
Session about advocacy

Friday, December 8, 7-9 PM, place TBD:
InterLibrary Lush: Come celebrate the end of the semester and the start of the holidays by socializing with your fellow library professionals.

Hope to see you at these events in 2017!

Ruth Terry
AkLA-A Vice President
rterry9@alaska.edu
GENERAL GUIDELINES TO PUBLISHING IN NEWSPOKE

Alaska Library Association Newsletter

Not accepted: paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons, libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

Accepted: Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably tasteful, of appropriate length, “decently” well-written; author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes. This may include length, perhaps spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences... (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in Newspoke.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three AkLA members).

If the Newspoke editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspoke Committee.

think spring
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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CALENDAR

National Library Week          Apr. 9-15, 2017
Medical Library Assn., Seattle, WA May 26-31, 2017
ALA Annual Conf., Chicago, IL   Jun. 22-27, 2017
Assn. Rural & Small Libraries Conf., St. George, UT Sep. 6-9, 2017
Amer. Assn. School Librarians, Phoenix, AZ Nov. 9-11, 2017
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver, CO Feb. 9-13, 2018
Public Libraries Conf., Philadelphia, PA Mar. 20–24, 2018
ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA Jun. 21-26, 2018