
Southern Appalachian Chapter Newsletter

Special Libraries Association

Summer 2009

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Greetings from the Chair

I am pleased to announce a tour of historic Rugby, TN, for the Southern Appalachian chapter of SLA on Saturday, Sept 12, 2009. We will meet at the Visitor's Center at 1:30pm (Eastern Time) for a documentary film and then a guided tour of the community. The folks at Rugby have also promised that we will be allowed extra time in the Victorian library, with over 7000 antique volumes from the original collection. The staff will provide gloves for our careful handling of some of these volumes (this is not a usual part of the public tour of the library).

The tour will cost \$6.50 per adult. Guests and significant others welcome. Directions can be found here: [Historic Rugby Map](#), or plug the address 5517 Rugby Hwy, Rugby, TN 37733 into your favorite mapping application.

PLEASE RSVP TO fred.rascoe@arnold.af.mil if you will attend.

Many of you are already familiar with Rugby, a Victorian community founded by noted author Thomas Hughes. More information can be found here: www.historicrugby.org. There are also links to other area attractions and bed & breakfast establishments if you are interested. This is a very interesting historical and culturally unique site that we have in our own backyard; I hope you can meet us there to see it.

Board Meeting:

The Chapter Board will have its Fall meeting that day at 10:30 Eastern Time in the Rugby community room; chapter members are welcome to come sit in. Some of the board will be having lunch at the restaurant afterwards, approximately at noon if anyone else wants to come along - just let me know when you RSVP.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or any board member. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Fred Rascoe, Chair

2009 Annual Conference Review

As we all know by now, the 2009 Conference marked SLA's 100th birthday. In addition to the birthday celebrations, there were exciting times for some of our individual chapter members as well.

Sharon Butcher, Reference Librarian AEDC Technical Library, was among those who participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery. In her words "It was a humble honor to participate, even if the day was terribly hot/humid....bad hair day. I don't know how the soldiers tolerate that heat/humidity, in the dress uniforms. Only those in front row handled the wreath over to the soldier. It is a very solemn, regimented ceremony, totally quiet. While saluting, we observed an aircraft from Reagan Airport gain altitude down field from where we stood. Seemed to make the occasion a little more special.

For photos and a more in-depth story see page four of the [Military Libraries Summer Newsletter](#)

Cynthia Manley had this to say about her SLA experience:

"I always enjoy attending the annual conference, and this year was no exception. I usually have a hard time selecting the sessions I want to attend. My mission at this conference was to learn more about cataloging tools and services."

I found the Tuesday morning session on "RDA and the Future of Cataloging" to be quite informative. Before going into the session I had no idea what RDA was and I came out with a much better understanding of RDA and its impact on cataloging. Barbara Tillett gave a very detailed explanation of RDA (resource description and access) that described why RDA is important to the cataloging process. I was impressed by the planning and coordination that has taken place and the testing that will occur before RDA is actually implemented."

I found the Tuesday afternoon session on "Practical Strategies for Improving ROI" to be interesting because my library director is currently quite interested in the idea of measuring the library's impact within the organization. The speakers provided several suggestions that may be useful in our situation."

Christi Underdown's review of her first annual conference balances the enthusiasm of someone just starting out with advice we can all use when planning conference attendance.

"The SLA 100th Birthday Bash started out with a bang... at least for me. Before the conference even began, this First Timer was a bit nervous about a various number of things, from wardrobe to the specifics of presenting a poster session to the prospect of meeting potential employers. I was able to relieve some of my tension with Facebook correspondences, touching base with cohorts I had met at the Leadership Summit in

January and via division and caucus listservs over the last few months.

From presentations to board meetings to candidate introductions to vendor schmoozing, there was so much variety from which to choose, I was wise to study the program before I even left the state of Tennessee. When I met some of my colleagues at the Pride Parade on Saturday, the experience singularly characterized the rest of my trip - full of lots of enthusiasm, open armed greetings, lots of walking, and parties, I mean networking, galore. Because of my pre-planning, I was not overwhelmed with all the information and still left myself opportunities for rest and flexibility.

One of the presentation topics I especially appreciated was "Be the CEO of your Life: Finding Balance in the Flexible Job Age", which discussed how to productively compromise between one's own work style and that of one's coworkers'. Also, Michael Edson, the Director of Web and New Media Strategy at the Smithsonian Institution, opened a discussion on "Envisioning the Future of Museums, Arts, & Humanities Libraries: The Smithsonian Commons, a Model Institution". I was extremely impressed with both his style and ideas, which can be demonstrated on [Slideshare](#). In addition, the most encouraging news just came out. From all of that inspiration, he and his team finally received permission to pursue a Commons area at "our nation's attic".

At the conference, the Align in '09 campaign honestly dominated the conference more than the 100th birthday. Looking forward was the major focus rather than glancing at the history of the last century. We heard again and again about how our labels are tripping up our advocacy, which is our best tool to show our administration and clients how much we should be valued. The Association Name Change was also on everyone's lips, but our board unfortunately kept their cards and specific ideas on the matter quite close to their collective chests.

Of course, the receptions and luncheons with free food and drink was a great plus, in addition to the free swag of vendors. Bless their hearts, most of them had no idea what to do for a "music archives cataloger", but at least I will never have to buy another pack of Post-It Notes and pens for the rest of my life. Honestly, I took advantage of my employer's generosity and sent home a box full of tchotkes, which I then distributed among our staff of eight. Souvenirs seem to be easy to acquire at conferences.

All in all, I had fun, although I had to fund most of my trip on my own. Next year will be more difficult, since I will no longer have a student discount or a friend with whom to stay in New Orleans. The networking was the greatest benefit, but mostly for my personal projects within the organization and my current job search. The Leadership Summit in January gave me many more ideas to help our specific chapter and my present position within my organization. When 2010 comes, I will have to judge my potential conference investment upon my needs then compared to the benefits I experienced this year."



As for me, given my recent retirement, this may have been my last Annual Conference. My favorite session was the opening keynote with General Colin Powell. He was animated and entertaining, traits I would not expect from a General. But he also showed a firm grasp on the importance of information and knowledge management.

This conference also marked the 21st anniversary of the Solo Librarians Caucus as well as the 18th anniversary of the Solo Librarians Division. Marty Rhine, Judith Siess and I were honored at the Solo Business meeting for our efforts to make the Caucus a Division. Marty established the caucus and was the first convener; I was the last convener and transition Chair. Judith became the first Chair. The three of us have often referred to this process in terms of giving birth. Our “baby” is now all grown up and doing quite well.

---Barbara Borrelli, SAC Secretary

SLA Alignment Project

One hot topic over the past few years has been the proposal for changing the name of SLA. This has led to the formation of the SLA Alignment project to “bring clarity and unity to the core identity and values of the profession and the Association”. As a part of this project some chapters may be merged, split, or have their geographic boundaries redrawn. These changes will not be entered into lightly and members are encouraged to share their thoughts. More information including presentations by Janice Lachance and Gloria Zamora is available at <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/alignment/index.cfm>

For background information, begin with the SLA publication [Positioning Information Professionals for the Future](#).

On Twitter, you can share your thoughts by using the hashtag #slaname. You can also post your ideas to a wiki set up for the discussion at <http://wiki.sla.org/display/align/SLA+Name+Change>

SLA Reading Club

[The Reading Club](#) just launched, sponsored by SLA's Leadership & Management Division (LMD) as a global initiative to celebrate SLA's Centennial – 100 years of developing innovative information leadership. We encourage everyone in the SLA community and beyond to join us.

[The Reading Club](#) promotes knowledge-sharing and the exchange of creative ideas, insights and trends. We support continuous learning to develop leadership skills and to

help achieve professional success. We're looking for new ideas and new resources and we're looking to have some fun.

We'll be posting on selected titles, but we encourage everyone to post on whatever they are reading. Full details are on our [Titles List](#). Our initial titles are:

Reinventing Knowledge: From Alexandria to the Internet by Ian McNeely and Lisa Wolverton

Orbiting the Giant Hairball: A Corporate Fool's Guide to Surviving with Grace by Gordon MacKenzie.

We're also looking at the [BusinessBalls](#) Website and two titles featured at the recent 100th SLA Conference:

Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us by Seth Godin (also SLA 2008 keynote speaker)

"**The Hidden Traps in Decision Making**," Harvard Business Review (classic reprint) by Hammond, Raiffa & Keeney.

We encourage the formation of other Reading Clubs within our blog framework. An SLA Division or Chapter, or even a business group, could select a title and have their own members join and comment.

Everyone is welcome to comment on postings. You can also contribute postings about your own reading or about the blog's featured titles, but you have to register for that. Please contact our blog owner, Alex Grigg, at agrigg@lexmark.com.

We're looking forward to hearing about what you're reading at [The Reading Club](#): (<http://sla-divisions.typepad.com/readingclub/>)

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