

Working Well Together

Budding Flowers Moon Month or Zaagibagaa-Giizis

by Lorie Roy

This year of service as your president has brought many gifts—chief among them the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and colleagues and establish strong, new connections. This has also been an educational experience for me as I continue to learn how to work with ALA members and those interested in libraries, librarians, and librarianship.

Whether it is meeting with task forces; chairing meetings of the Association's governing Council, the Executive Board, the Executive Committee, and the ALA-Allied Professional Association; or answering calls from the media, service through communication is a subtheme of any ALA president's year. Much of what ALA accomplishes is through the committed energies of strong volunteers who serve on various committees.

For example, I collaborated with ALA's Association of College and Research Libraries' Education and Behavioral Sciences Section on five podcasts called *Making the Meeting: Resources for Effective Meetings*. Accompanied by tip sheets or summaries of advice on handling meetings, the podcasts are designed to help committee members gain confidence in conducting meetings and making them more effective.

ACRL EBSS past Chair Lisa Romero has led these efforts. ALA Parliamentarian Eli Mina provided the content and served as talent for the podcasts. Elias Tzoc, digital initiatives librarian at Miami Universi-

ty in Oxford, Ohio, is preparing Spanish-language translations for the tip sheets.

The podcasts address five content areas: organizing and planning meetings; committee chair responsibilities; sharing discussion and work load; avoiding and handling difficult meeting committee communication; and recording minutes and understanding and employing parliamentary procedure. Watch for news about these resources and a new website on meeting effectiveness and let us know how you are using these materials in your committee training and leadership-orientation events.

In April, libraries received copies of the *Livestrong Survivorship Notebook* from the Lance Armstrong Foundation. Communities across the nation are organizing events to recognize May 13 as Livestrong Day, an opportunity to recognize grassroots efforts and to draw attention to the need to make cancer prevention and survivorship a national priority. Let me know about your library activities and receive a Presidential Wellness Citation.

This month I will join you at the New Jersey Library Association Conference in Long Branch; the Art Libraries Society of North America's Annual Conference in Denver; the International Reading Association Annual Convention in Atlanta with Reading Is Fundamental coordina-

tors; and the 40th anniversary of the Smithsonian Libraries at the National Museum of History in Washington, D.C., where I will also gather with many ALA members and advocates May 13–14 for National Library Legislative Day. Members are also invited to plan and participate in a Virtual Library Legislative Day. For more information, visit www.ala.org/nlld. From D.C., it's on to Tucson, Arizona, where I will deliver the spring commencement address at my alma mater, the University of Arizona's School of Information and Library Resources.

Finally, I will be a first-time attendee at the Canada Library Association National Conference and Trade Show May 21–24 in Vancouver,

British Columbia. My friend and colleague CLA President Alvin Schrader will chair conference events.

I continue to post weekly summaries of activities on my blog and on the ALA membership electronic list. Visit www.lorieneroy.com for the latest updated calendar. Along with many ALA members, I also have an active presence in Facebook. I look forward to seeing you face-to-face and virtually as well as during ALA's Annual Conference in Anaheim. ■

ALA President LORIE ROY is professor at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Information. She is enrolled on the White Earth Reservation, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.



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