

Fall 2008

THE Trustee Voice

THE COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR ALBERTA LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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President's Message



Greetings, fellow trustees of Alberta's public libraries!

Since I was elected to this post at the AGM six months ago, I have been on a steep learning curve - listening, observing, reading, researching, asking, thinking - and have learned a great deal about what makes our organization, ALTA, what it is. The members of the Board, our Administrator, and I have worked diligently to understand its shortcomings, to appreciate its challenges, and to celebrate its successes. Allow me to share some of these with you.

Firstly, welcome to new ALTA Board Director from Area 3, Valdene Callin. Valdene replaces Melodie Stohl, who resigned from the Board due to increased commitments in her professional life.

Also, welcome to Area 6 Director Martin Shields in his newly elected role of Secretary/Treasurer, replacing Edmonton Public Library Rep. Colin Minor who resigned from the position for personal reasons.

We have launched our new website www.librarytrustees.ab.ca which performs many functions for us all: a member database; a purveyor of relevant, current information of interest to trustees; a method of registration for ALTA events such as trustee training workshops and the Alberta Library Conference (ALC) in

Jasper; a collector and distributor of nominations, resolutions, and other material for our AGM; a discussion forum and blog; library recruitment/employment info for trustees; educational resources such as online modules; and links to other relevant sites. Thanks to Lisa Holmes for her leadership in the development and administration of the website.

The Trustee Education Committee, chaired by Area 8 Rep. Carole Carpenter, responded to member requests and organized 4 trustee workshops for autumn of 2008. The committee is planning other workshops for the spring of 2009, which are jointly sponsored by ALTA and the Public Library Service Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs. The committee, including Area 4 Rep. Ian Morgan, is researching the offering of shorter, facilitated seminars to trustees and boards in need, and implementing other methods of delivery of educational resources. If your Public Library Board is willing to host a workshop, please submit a request form and contact your Area Rep who will work in tandem with the Ed. Committee to meet your needs.

Our third online module, Roles and Responsibilities, is just days from being available on the website to members. The creation of these trustee education modules has been spearheaded by Past President

Donna Campbell who also works with Area 7 Director Marie Logan as the Grants and Fundraising Committee.

Communications Committee Chair Honey Pell and new Director Valdene Callin have published this issue of Trustee Voice. They are considering digital editions in the future; the twinkle in Honey's eyes tells me she probably has many other great ideas in mind! Honey also acts as the volunteer Registrar for ALC.

ALC is run by two organizations - ALTA and the Library Association of Alberta (LAA). Our ALC Co-Chair is Ann Craig, the Rep. for Calgary Public Library. Ann is a seasoned Director on our Board, taking on this new role with her usual bubbly enthusiasm. She and her crew are planning the 2009 conference in Jasper - an experience not to be missed!

Advocacy is one of ALTA's key roles, and this year's MLA Consultation sessions on libraries gave Advocacy Committee Chair Joan McDonald (Metro Edm. Rep.) and V.P. Ray Skrepnek (Area 1 Rep.) a unique forum for their advocacy work. Both Joan and Ray joined me in representing ALTA at the session in Edmonton for Library Support Organizations. Every Director on the ALTA Board attended a consultation session somewhere in the province; trustees at either the local, regional, or provincial level speaking

directly with MLAs. In addition, ALTA joined LAA in publishing and distributing the Advocacy Guide.

Last but not least, Martin Shields and I are the Finance & Admin. Committee. We are working together with our accountants and administrator on more detailed and better organized accounting, budgeting, and book-keeping systems. We are also in the process of conducting a written, co-operative performance appraisal with our Administrator. Both of these activities are designed to streamline financial processes and ensure that our organization is as efficient and effective as possible.

These are some of the things that are happening at ALTA as we fulfill our mandate as trustees of public libraries. Libraries are on the top of the priority list for Municipal Affairs as they head into Budget 2009 - let us hope that our work in advocating for public libraries and in training library trustees continues to play a critically necessary role in Alberta's public libraries.

Great Public Libraries - Effective Trustees!

Natalia Toroshenko



ALTA Board of Directors Nominations Form 2009/2010

Nominations are requested from all members in good standing with ALTA. Both nominators and nominees must be ALTA members; for area directors both must be serving in the area the nomination is being made.

NOMINATION FOR: (please check to indicate specific position)

- PRESIDENT or DIRECTOR FOR: PEACE (Area 1) PARKLAND (Area 3) CHINOOK ARCH (Area 5)
- METRO EDMONTON (Area 7)

NOMINEE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (h) _____ (w) _____ E-MAIL: _____

The candidate is now serving as a library trustee or has served within the past five years on the _____ Library Board(s)

2009 Dues for the Board they sit on were Paid to ALTA on (date): _____

NOTE: *the nominee or board the nominee currently serves on MUST have paid their 2009 dues by December 31, 2008 for their nomination to be accepted.*

I am aware of this nomination and would accept this position on the ALTA Board of Directors if I am elected.

Signature of Nominee _____ Date: _____

NOMINATOR: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (h) _____ (w) _____ E-MAIL: _____

The nominator is now serving as a library trustee on the _____ Library Board.

Signature of Nominator _____ Date: _____

Candidates – attach a *one-page information sheet* about yourself and your desire to serve on the ALTA Board.

Nominations must be received by midnight December 31, 2008 by regular mail or fax. No e-mail nominations will be accepted.

MAIL TO: Chair, Nominations Committee
32063, 2619 - 14 St. SW
Calgary, Alberta T2T 5X6

FAX TO: 780-435-1445

Notice of nominations will be sent out to all current members (i.e. paid up for 2009) through their or their Board's e-mail address on file at the ALTA office and will be posted on the ALTA website.

Edwin P. Whipple

"Books are lighthouses erected in the great sea of time."

William Shakespeare – Love's Labour's Lost

*"They are the books, the arts, the academics,
That show, contain and nourish all the world."*

Your 2008 ALTA Board

Carole Carpenter

Area 8 -
Northern Lights



Hi everyone. I am from the beautiful community of Smoky Lake in northeast Alberta. I am a baby boomer who is enjoying watching my grandchildren training their parents!

My husband I work in our family retail business. In my spare time I enjoy sewing, reading and Quadding on the Iron Horse Trail as time permits.

I retired from Municipal Politics in the fall of 2007 after serving 21 years on Smoky Lake Town Council. That included 9 years as councillor and 12 years as Mayor.

One of my first council committees was the Smoky Lake Library Board. I have remained active as a trustee for 21 years and as chair of the board for 15 years. I also served on Northern Lights Library System Board for a number of years.

I look forward to the next 2 years as ALTA rep.

Colin Minor

Edmonton
Public Library



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COLIN MINOR

When I was growing up in Regina, my father had a wonderful library in our modest house. Many a rainy day, I spent there, thumbing through the biographies of Hannibal and Genghis Khan, the novels of Dickens and Austen and the wartime chronicles of Churchill. One of my fondest summertime memories was taking the bus to the downtown Public Library. There I would spend the day reading through books, getting to know the staff and enjoying the companionship that libraries always offer. Years later when I was a graduate student at the University of Regina, I worked part-time in the campus library. Inheriting a love of books and reading from my parents, libraries have always been a crucial part of my life. I moved to Edmonton in the mid 1970's and worked for twenty-five years in the television and film production industries.

I am very proud to serve as a Trustee for the Edmonton Public Library and delighted to be a board member of ALTA serving the library trustees of Alberta.

Honey Pell

Area 2 -
Yellowhead



Honey has had a long-standing love affair with libraries. She remembers as a young girl in rural Manitoba, choosing books from a library catalogue and waiting anxiously for the books to arrive weeks later in a dark blue book bag placed beside the mailbox. Much has changed since then, with on-line requests and very quick inter-library loans. She understands the importance of libraries to all community members, not only for books, but as a place to obtain information and services, as well as being a gathering point for the community.

Honey graduated from the University of Alberta, with a degree in Education, has a Diploma in Forest Technology from NAIT, and a certificate in Farrier Science from Fairview College. She currently spends her days as a substitute teacher in Whitecourt.

Honey is a trustee on the Whitecourt and District Library Board, as well as a member of the Yellowhead Regional Library Board. Honey is proud to be the ALTA Area 2 (Yellowhead) Director.

Ian Morgan

Area 4 -
Marigold



My name is Ian Morgan. Resident of Okotoks and a Trustee of the Okotoks Public Library. I have worked as an Auditor, Civil Servant, Financial Manager, Chief Administrative Officer and in my spare time have performed numerous duties in the Air and Naval Reserves. Volunteer duties have included Church, Civic and Heraldic charities.

Your 2008 ALTA Board continues

Ray Skrepnek

Area 1 -
Peace



I have been interested in libraries for as long as I can remember. I became a trustee about ten years ago as one of my committee appointments when I got on the Municipal District of Fairview Council. We have a joint board with the Town of Fairview and, at the time, the Town was a Peace Library System member but the MD was not because of the freeze the province had placed on memberships.

One of my first priorities, when Systems memberships were opened up again, was for the MD to join. This was done about a year later after some difficulty. I have retained my position on our local board, Fairview Public Library, and am the treasurer and sit on the Budget and Policy Committees.

On the Peace Library System Board, I sit on the Executive and the Plan of Service Committee. I became the Alberta Library Trustees Association Representative for Peace Region, Area One, last year and currently am on the Executive Board and the Advocacy Committee. I am also the Vice President of ALTA.

Marie Logan

Area 5 -
Chinook Arch



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARIE LOGAN

Marie graduated from the University of Calgary with a BSc. Marie and her husband Glenn along with their family operate Wheatcrest Farms, a pedigreed seed production and processing facility and cattle enterprise. The family has lived on the Lomond area for six generations.

Marie has a strong commitment to enriching the lives of children and families in rural communities and believes that it is very important for communities to have access to information and services. She was awarded the Alberta Farm Woman of the Year, Rosemary Davis Award, and 4-H Hall of Fame for significantly enhancing the lives of rural Albertans through 4-H, library, and education initiatives.

Her present activities include Chair Horizon School Division, Director Alberta's Rural Development Fund, Founding Director Chinook Arch Library System, Past Chair Canadian 4-H Council, Zone Six Director Alberta School Boards, Director Vulcan County Adult Education Council, Director 4-H Foundation of Alberta, and Trustee Lomond Community Library.

Representatives from areas 3, 6, CPL, and Metro Edmonton will be highlighted in our next issue.

Public library statistics

Current Statistics (last updated April 9, 2008)

LIBRARY BOARDS and SERVICE POINTS

- 226 municipal and community library boards responsible for serving Albertans.
- 7 regional library systems serving 203 library boards, 287 municipalities, and 252 library service points.
- 311 library service points across Alberta from Acadia to Zama.

MUNICIPALITIES

- 360 municipalities in Alberta, including Metis Settlements, Improvement Districts and Special Areas
- 309 (85.8%) municipalities provide access to municipal library service.
- 51 municipalities do not provide any level of public library service (many of these are Summer Villages)
- 289 municipalities plus Edmonton and Calgary provide access to a system level of service.
- Only 0.64% of the provincial population does not have access to public library service

QUICK FACTS

About Alberta Public Libraries

- 51% of adult Albertans have used a public library in the last twelve months.*
- 27% of adult Albertans are estimated to have accessed public library service via the Internet in the last twelve months.*
- 47% of adult Albertans expect to access public library service via the Internet over the next twelve months.*

*SOURCE: RESEARCH INNOVATIONS INC. 2007

ALTA 2007 Member Survey Report

Over 1000 surveys were distributed online in 2007. 203 surveys were completed for a response rate of 20%. This is a good response rate for a membership survey.

LENGTH OF SERVICE: Of the respondents, 34% had served as public library trustees for between 1 and 2 years. 21% one year or less. 19% had served more than 3 years but less than 6, 15% between 6 and 9 years, and 11% of respondents had served as a public library trustee for over 9 years. Of note is that 55% of the respondents have served as trustees for 3 years or less. This creates opportunity for ALTA for continuing trustee skill development.

SATISFACTION WITH ALTA PROGRAMS: Between 33% and 40% of respondents had not used nor attended the ALTA services or programs (ALTA website, Trustee Voice, ALTA Announces, Trustee Orientation Workshops, and Communication for their ALTA representative). 67% of respondents had not used the Trustee Training video, which is not unexpected as it is now almost 10 years old. 65% had not used the ALTA online training modules. The lack of high speed internet services in many rural areas of the province have hampered the use of this service. The Supernet at public libraries makes the online modules available from the public library site but not from home.

30% of respondents stated they had no contact with their Area Representative. Of those who did have contact, 66% were satisfied, 21% were dissatisfied, and 13% were neutral. This is an area to focus on for improvement in the future.

Of those who had used the Online Training modules, only 7% were dissatisfied, with 57% satisfied and 37% neutral. Of those who used the ALTA Website (including ALTA Announces), 68% were satisfied, 4% were dissatisfied, and 28% were neutral. Of those who attended the Trustee Orientation Workshops, 83% were satisfied, 11% were dissatisfied, and 6% were neutral.

Respondents preference for communication with ALTA were, in priority order, Area Representative reports, the Trustee Voice, ALTA's website, ALTA Announces (e-newsletter on the ALTA website), and Area Representative visits. The responses to this part of the survey reaffirm ALTA's decision to continue to improve the ALTA website while also continuing the paper-based Trustee Voice.

PREFERENCES FOR FUTURE ALTA TRUSTEE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: Trustees responding to the survey indicated that Board and Staff Relations/Responsibilities and Strategic Planning were the two trustee development topics most preferred, at 72%. The next two topics of interest were Board Governance, and the Libraries Act and Regulations (68%). The next development program requested was Board Development (recruitment, orientation and retention) (66%), followed by Developing Budgets (49%), Understanding Financial Statements (41%), and, at 38%, Running Meetings. ALTA used the results from this to seek funding for two online modules covering Board/Staff Relations and Strategic Planning.

ALTA TRUSTEE DEVELOPMENT FORMATS: The respondents to the survey indicated their preference for the format of future ALTA Trustee Development programs, in priority order, would be:

- Mini Conference in their Area
- Seminars on special topics in their Area
- The current Trustee Orientation Workshops
- Online training modules,
- Mini Conferences in another Area
- Trustee Conference in a different location every two years
- Videoconference Sessions or Teleconference Sessions

The responses to this part of the survey will provide ALTA with the information necessary to review the forums for Trustee Development into the future. The Mini Conferences provided in 2006/2007 were a pilot project that were well received; interest in having ALTA offer more services/programs of this type is high. A new format (Special Topic seminars) will be investigated.

The majority of respondents (between 70% and 91%) preferred all of the above formats to be one day in length, with the exception of the Trustee Conference, for which two days was preferred. The majority of respondents preferred to have all of the above formats held on a Saturday. The next preference was for a combination of Friday night and all day Saturday.

The Board of ALTA wishes to thank all those trustees who took the time to respond to the ALTA survey. The information provided will be valuable as ALTA moves forward and continues to work to improve its programs and service offerings to their membership.



2.3 Roles and responsibilities

2.4.1 Each member of the ALTA Board shall:

- Represent their Area by bringing forward information, updates and issues from their Area for information and consideration by the ALTA Board, and taking information back to their Area after each ALTA Board meeting.
- Maintain and foster two-way communication between ALTA and the membership and prepare written reports of activity (particularly on local issues) for each regular Board meeting
- Promote membership in ALTA and encourage all public library boards in their Area to join ALTA.
- Have attended an ALTA Trustee Workshop
- Ensure their Alternate Area Representative is kept up-to-date with ALTA business
- Develop and maintain positive relations among ALTA's membership including non-systems library boards
- Recommend to the Education Committee library boards in their Area that would benefit from an ALTA workshop or appropriate skills development or educational programs or services organized and/or sponsored by ALTA. Represent ALTA and present an overview of ALTA, its structure, membership benefits, programs, services and representation at each ALTA sponsored workshop, skills development or educational program or service in their Area.
- Be committed to the work of ALTA
- Be knowledgeable of the ALTA Bylaws and Policies and review the Bylaws and Policies on a regular basis
- Approve ALTA's Business Plan and budget annually recommending same to the members at the AGM for their approval.
- Stay current, knowledgeable and well informed on issues impacting public library service in Alberta as well as on issues for trustees of Alberta's public library boards.
- Have or acquire the skills and knowledge to be able to contribute to one or more areas of governance, policy, finance, programs/services, or advocacy.
- Be willing and able to serve on Committees which may meet Friday evenings or Saturday mornings immediately prior to the regular Board meeting, or at other times as determined by the Chair of the Committee.
- Attend all ALTA Board regular meetings and the ALTA Annual General Meeting.
- Declare any conflicts of interest to the President; refrain from participating in discussions on any issue for which you have declared a Conflict of Interest.
- Vote on all issues brought forward at ALTA meetings except those involving a conflict of interest
- Support and participate in special events including fundraising
- Conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times.

Alberta Library Trustees Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 24, 2009 • 3-4:30 pm • Jasper Park Lodge

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS AND SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

As passed at the ALTA 2005 AGM, regular trustee members and individual trustee members, may propose resolutions, vote in ALTA elections, attend and speak at the AGM, vote on resolutions and bylaws. Members must be in good standing.

Regular trustee members – All trustees on Member Library Boards*
Past trustee members – former members (within the last five years) of legally constituted Library Boards

Individual trustee members – Trustees where the legally constituted Library Board chooses not to belong to ALTA

*Member Library Boards – Legally constituted Library Boards under the Alberta Libraries Act.

Resolutions must be submitted to the ALTA office by mail by December 31, 2008. Resolutions received in the prescribed format and validated by the Resolutions Committee will be circulated to the ALTA membership in good standing 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting (to be held April 24, 2009). Circulation will be by posting on the ALTA website, and emailing to all ALTA members in good standing at their last known e-mail address, as noted on their membership form. Please note that in many cases this is the e-mail for the Board or the Library, so members are encouraged to check with their library staff and Board Chair for their copy of the resolution, or check the website by February 25, 2009.

Resolutions must be in the prescribed format, which includes:

- Name of the sponsoring person and their affiliation with ALTA
- Background to the resolution, including the rationale for the resolution
- Documentation to explain the resolution including statistics, external comparisons, or other valid information that will serve to inform the membership

The rationale shall not exceed 1000 words.

Note that resolutions from the floor must be in the prescribed format and presented in writing, and must be received by the Chair of the Resolutions Committee (the Vice President) before the call to order of the meeting. To be heard, resolutions from the floor must receive a two-thirds majority approval of the membership present and voting at the AGM.

If you wish to submit a resolution for the 2009 AGM, please send it in the format outlined above, to be received by December 31, 2008, to:

Chair, Resolutions Committee – RESOLUTIONS
Alberta Library Trustee Association
6-24, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2V5

Award of Excellence

BLACKFALDS LIBRARY

The Alberta Library Trustees Association is pleased to announce the winner of our 2008 Award of Excellence, The Blackfalds Public Library Board.

and implemented services/projects to meet those needs
In particular, Boards will have served their communities

The ALTA Board of Directors established the Award of Excellence to recognize Library Boards that have enabled and supported their libraries to provide on-going

Blackfalds Library Award of Excellence presentation



excellent service to their communities over a five year time period.

Criteria for the award is as follows:

In general, eligible Library Boards should have:

- enabled and supported their libraries in the provision of on-going excellent library service to their community over a five year time span
- identified present or future needs in their community

in at least three of the following ways:

- assessed and responded to future and changing needs or circumstances in their community
- exhibited innovation and creativity in meeting community needs
- embarked on successful fundraising activities to support projects/services that better meet community needs
- established mutually beneficial partnerships with other community organizations through shared planning and sponsorship of services and programs
- enabled their libraries to expand their services/programs to meet community needs

ALTA President Natalia Toroshenko (L) presents the Award of Excellence to Loretta Cooper, Chair of Blackfalds Public Library Board (Center) while Mayor of Blackfalds, Melodie Stol (R) was on hand to offer congratulatory remarks.



Representatives from the ALTA Board were pleased to be guests at a special Dinner and Open House held in celebration of the Blackfalds Library Board's achievement on Friday, October 24th, 2008.

ALTA President Natalia Toroshenko presented the award to the Chair of the Blackfalds Public Library Board, Loretta Cooper. Congratulatory remarks were also given to the Board on behalf of the Town from Mayor Melodie Stol. The evening concluded with a tour of the new library facility and some wonderful roundtable discussions with members and supporters of the Blackfalds Library Community.



Alberta Library Trustees Association ALTA

Why Belong?

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Education, Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities for Alberta Library Trustees

As an ALTA member you enjoy these benefits:

- ALTA Trustee handbook
- Website www.librarytrustees.ab.ca
- Access to on-line trustee orientation modules
- Access to trustee education workshops
- Participation in the Alberta Library Conference at reduced rates
- Access to travel and registration subsidies to the Alberta Library Conference
- Information on what is happening in the library community both provincially and nationally
- Direct representation to the Minister's office
- Voting rights and eligibility to run for the ALTA executive
- Representation on other library associations
- Be eligible for ALTA's Award of Excellence
- Send a delegate to the ALC and be eligible for the Lois Hole Award
- Attend the ALC if selected as the Honorary Life Membership Award winner
- Join CLTA as an associate member

Fee Structure for ALTA for 2009

Library Board

1-200 pop.	\$40
2001-5000 pop.	\$75
5001-20,000 pop.	\$125
20,001-100,000 pop.	\$250
Over 100,000 pop.	\$500

Library Systems

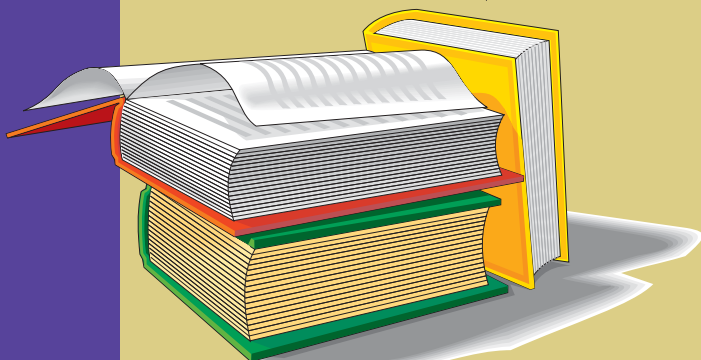
Up to 100,000	\$250
Over 100,000	\$500

Others

Past Trustee	\$50
Supporter	\$50

Individual Members 75% of the corresponding Member Board as per the following schedule:

1-200	\$30.00
201-5000	\$56.25
5001-20,000	\$93.75
20,001-100,000	\$187.50
Over 100,000	\$375.00



Board of Directors 2008-2009

Executive

PRESIDENT Natalia Toroshenko

PAST PRESIDENT Donna Campbell

SECRETARY TREASURER Shortgrass
Martin Shields

VICE PRESIDENT /Peace (Area 1)
Ray Skrepnek

Directors

Peace (Area 1)
Ray Skrepnek

Chinook Arch (Area 5)
Marie Logan

Yellowhead (Area 2)
Honey Pell

Shortgrass (Area 6)
Martin Shields

Parkland (Area 3)
Valdene Callin

Metro Edmonton (Area 7)
Joan MacDonald

Marigold (Area 4)
Ian Morgan

Northern Lights (Area 8)
Carole Carpenter

Calgary Public Library
Ann Craig

Edmonton Public Library
Colin Minor

Upcoming Events

ALTA Board of Directors Meeting
January 17, 2009 in Calgary, AB

ALTA Board of Directors Meeting
March 7-8, 2009 in Calgary, AB

Alberta Library Conference
April 23-26, 2009 in Jasper, AB



Alberta Library
Trustees Association

6-24, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton, AB T5J 2V5

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E-mail: admin@librarytrustees.ab.ca

www.librarytrustees.ab.ca

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