

Happy New Year!

It's going to be an exciting year for SLA and many celebratory activities are being planned to mark our association's diamond anniversary. To start, the One Book One Province Program has developed a wonderful page on SLA's site at <http://saskla.ca/program/one-book-one-province>. Watch for further announcements about this and forthcoming events on SLA's various communications channels!

I'm thrilled to announce that boards from both SLA and the Manitoba Library Association (MLA) officially endorsed Alix-Rae Stefanko to be the first elected representative to hold the shared Prairie Provinces seat on the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB) Board for a one year term. The endorsement was communicated to CFLA-FCAB in December 2016 ahead of its first AGM and first elected board on February 1, 2017 in Toronto. Alix-Rae is the President of MLA, Secretary of the CFLA-FCAB Executive, and has been the Prairie Provinces Representative on the federation's interim board. SLA's Board has drafted guidelines for inclusion in the association's handbook to address filling the new CFLA-FCAB shared seat and responsibilities of the position. It will be SLA's turn to elect an individual from its membership for a two year standard term starting in 2018.

I'm very pleased to announce that Carol Todd was appointed in December as SLA's new Communications Assistant. It is a one year contract position and Ms. Todd will help coordinate association communications. She brings a wealth of writing, promotions, and project management experience to SLA.

SLA's Board of Directors will meet in Saskatoon on January 22 for a strategic plan and mid-year discussion of board work. The day-long business meeting of the board will occur the following day. On January 31 Judy Nicholson and I will be attending the annual Partnership Retreat in Toronto. I'm proud to represent SLA and report on the many activities that all our committees and office staff are doing. It's also very rewarding to share successes and challenges that all provincial and territorial associations are facing.

It isn't too early to start thinking about nominations for upcoming board vacancies. Consider putting your name forward. Trepidation with committing to such an endeavor is human nature. I like to think that there are three different opportunities for members to engage with SLA and other library workers from across Saskatchewan. The first is to become a member on one of our various committees. They all work on exciting projects and meetings are done by teleconference. The second method is to become a Member-at-Large, attend five face-to-face meetings, be involved in higher level committee projects, and participate in fun board social activities. Running for a member of the Executive Board has more responsibility but is also very rewarding personally and professionally. Every SLA volunteer is officially acknowledged for their contributions to the association. Engagement with SLA at any level is greatly appreciated and I'm available to talk and answer questions. My phone number is 306.585.5418. More information on these opportunities will be posted soon.

Finally, SLAte continues to accept submissions for its Comings and Goings section. We like to publish what are members are doing in their workplaces!

Best,
Michael Shires, President