

Executive Directors Report

Fall is a busy time at SLA as in most other workplaces. In addition to the programs that are supported and delivered there is a ramp up of Committee and Conference planning work. This year we have the added projects associated with Life Cycles Capacity building, the Public Library Engagement and supporting SLAs broader strategic directions.

1. Life Cycles Capacity Building Project: SLA received support from Sask Culture and the project leaders to assist with transitioning some administrative support functions in-house. B- Creative has and continues to provide an invaluable service and we expect to have an ongoing working relationship. The Life cycles project identified some advantages to building in- house administrative capacity and broadening the current role. The project has afforded us the opportunity to explore possibilities in this regard.

2. Committee Highlights: We are fortunate to have a slate of dedicated returning committee members along with enthusiastic new members. In keeping with a more structured approach to Committee work, committee chairs have identified priorities and key areas of work for 2018-19. The following are examples of some initiatives that will be undertaken by SLA committees.

Membership Committee: This Committee is exploring the development of a membership card. The Committee is recognizing that it's important to have a "document "that identifies members and enables SLA to solicit benefits for card holders. Over the course of 2018-19 the committee will identify recruitment approaches and attempt to understand why memberships may lapse.

Program Committee: In addition to supporting program delivery the Committee is looking at program evaluations. It is important to use an evaluative approach to determine if programs should continue or continue in their current form.

Continuing Education (CE): The CE Committee received five applications for the summer 2018 CE grant adjudication. One category two grant was awarded for up to \$1000.00. Through 2018 -19 the CE Committee will continue to explore how to better promote CE grants to SLA members as well as continue to investigate SLA using a Ministry of Education resource called ED online to broadcast learning opportunities to members.

Advocacy and Development Committee: The Advocacy Committee will provide input and support to SLA response to the *Public Library Engagement* in addition to exploring what further information and tools might be provided/developed by SLA for the use of libraries.

Conference Committees: Tasha Maddison, 2019 Conference Chair along with the Executive Committee and Program Planning Team are hard at work planning a top notch conference for May 3-4 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Saskatoon. The call for Program Proposals has just been distributed. Beginning in December the SLAte will include monthly updates.

3. Strategic Planning

During the August Retreat, the Board of Directors worked with Dawn Martin, consultant to develop a draft Strategic Plan. The Board is currently reviewing and refining the draft with a view to engaging members in the process of finalization. We expect this process to be iterative as we look at various forums and approaches for member engagement. The Board has discussed a combination of focus group discussions and a workshop approach.

Finally, it's important to remember that we are a member driven organization. Please do not hesitate to raise issues, ask questions and bring views forward.

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