

## LLAMA President's Message

### What a Year It's Been!

Catherine Friedman



As I write this column, I speed towards the completion of my Presidential year. It feels like it just started and now the end is almost in sight. It has been a fantastic year for me in terms of leading activities which have helped move our association forward and in terms of what I have learned from my many LLAMA colleagues. I thank you, the LLAMA membership, for teaching me the importance of being both a leader and a follower, and for giving me this opportunity to serve our association. I also want to thank the LLAMA member-volunteers and staff who, through their service to LLAMA, have been critical to the many successes we have had this year. And there have been many!

In response to a recommendation that came last summer from a group of ALA Emerging Leaders, in December LLAMA established a New Professionals Section to support new professionals and LIS students as they grow and develop their leadership skills and move into defined leadership roles. This new section is up and running and is focusing on four things to start: building an online presence, building connections with LIS schools and ALA Student Chapters, developing a conference “buddy” program (which will be tested at the ALA Conference this summer), and developing a social media strategy for all of LLAMA. If you are a new professional or an LIS student, please consider this new section as your “umbrella” group for activities related to leadership development and management skills building. Or if you are someone who works with new professionals or LIS students, please let them know about this new section within LLAMA.

To support the work and continuing education needs of librarians and library staff over the past year, several skilled presenters, many of whom are LLAMA members, have worked with LLAMA staff and the Continuing Education Committee to offer more than 20 webinars covering a range of leadership and management topics. Topics included using rubrics in hiring and evaluations, communicating with and managing intergenerational teams, project management, library

security, creating and showcasing multimedia spaces and services, and getting started with focus groups. I hope you were able to participate in many of these. Archived versions of many of these webinars are available to LLAMA members as a membership benefit. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to two complementary webinars that LLAMA offered this year and is freely making available the archived versions because of their value to students and recent LIS graduates: "Cover Letter and Resume Tips to Get an Interview" and "Interviewing Tips to Get a Job." Information about all these webinars and the process for developing new webinars can be found in the Continuing Education section of the LLAMA website. LLAMA welcomes ideas and proposals for new webinars.

To make sure that the ALA Conference & Exhibition this summer is an educational, productive, and fun experience for you, your LLAMA colleagues have been hard at work. Members of the LLAMA sections, committees, and Board have been developing preconferences, discussion and Top Trends sessions, full programs, and social activities. If you are able to attend this conference, please take advantage of all the great LLAMA programming that will be happening there. There should be something for every LLAMA member.

I personally invite you to attend the LLAMA President's Program which features Carrie Messina, Vice-President, Wynn|Encore Las Vegas, and takes place on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30-noon. Ms. Messina's presentation will focus on: "Leaders as Followers: You don't have to be in Charge to be a Leader." I look forward to you joining me as we learn more about this timely and relevant topic.

One other session at the ALA Conference I would like to point out will take place on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-11:30. At this session, LLAMA will be holding a "kitchen table conversation" to hear from you what you want from your association. This session will be led by Diane Bruxvoort, incoming LLAMA President. Please do come and share your thoughts and ideas.

And please feel free to attend the business meetings of any LLAMA groups. This is a great way to learn about a group that you might be interested in joining in the future. And don't miss the LLAMA Happy Hour on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-7:30, where you can meet and enjoy the company of your LLAMA colleagues. A complete list of LLAMA conference activities has been posted to the LLAMA website.

Lastly, this is a reminder that now is the time for you to volunteer your talents to LLAMA. Committee service will not only help you develop leadership skills while building a professional network of colleagues, but also allow you to influence and guide how LLAMA meets member needs in the future. Information about the division-level committees, which support the work of the entire division, and the section-level committees, which are more focused and essential to the development of our high quality programming, can be found on the LLAMA website along with the volunteer form. For full consideration for appointment, please submit your form by **May 30, 2014**.

As I reflect upon what this year has meant for me, I think back to what I wrote in my first President's Message about what wanting LLAMA, under my leadership, to be responsive, supportive, and collaborative. I said back then that if LLAMA were those things, then it would

provide the value sought by its members. As you reflect upon how you have developed your leadership skills, knowledge, and professional network over the past year, I hope that LLAMA has played some part in that. Ultimately, I hope that LLAMA has provided you with the value you want and expect.

Again, I want to thank you for your support of LLAMA and the work we do on your behalf. I look forward to seeing many of you out and about at the ALA Conference in Las Vegas. If you do run into me, please do say hello.

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