

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS
University of Wisconsin-Madison
April 15, 2004 7:00-8:30 a.m.**

PRESENT: Koffi Anyinefa, Stephen Belcher, Elisabeth Boyi, Robert Cancel, Odile Cazenave (for Ambroise Kom), Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Jo Anne Cornwell, E. Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, Cilas Kemedjio, Janis Mayes (President), Mildred Mortimer, Eustace Palmer, Abioseh Porter, Janice Spleth, Wangui wa Goro, Hal Wylie.

I. CALL TO ORDER. The President brought the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

II. RATIFICATION OF AGENDA. The agenda was ratified as submitted.

III. RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES. Minutes of the Executive Council meetings in Boston were approved as corrected.

IV. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND UPDATE BY PRESIDENT.

A. VENUES FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES. The President reported on her successful efforts to acquire bids for future ALA conferences. She read a letter from Irène d'Almeida affirming a strong intent to offer the University of Arizona for 2007 and describing both the positive attributes of the site and the status of her discussions to date with the administration. A second letter from Henry Louis Gates expressed interest in hosting the ALA at Harvard in 2006. Janis Mayes discussed some of the circumstances surrounding Harvard's interest, emphasizing the importance of identifying a convener for 2006. Abena Busia and Renée Laurier at Rutgers might also be willing to serve as conveners in 2007. Eileen Julien, Carole Boyce Davies, and Kandioura Dramé have also been contacted about organizing future conferences, and overtures will be made to Manthia Diawara and Judith Miller at NYU. Abioseh Porter suggested that Drexel might be interested if the ALA could make contributions. Other possibilities being considered include Stanford and a New York area consortium consisting of Rochester, Syracuse, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Wangui wa Goro proposed London, and Elisabeth Boyi will make inquiries at Stanford. Janice Spleth offered to look into the possibilities at West Virginia University.

B. PROFESSIONAL LINKAGES. The President announced that ALA now has official affiliate status with the African Studies Association with all of the associated benefits, including having our name in the ASA program and links

with the ASA web site. Janis also sent a note expressing solidarity with the College Literature Association

- C. GRADUATE STUDENT RECRUITMENT.** A project was begun that involved identifying around 60 graduate programs that offer appropriate degrees and inviting them to support graduate student membership in ALA
- D. ALA PUBLICATIONS.** The President described the relationship between the Annual Series Editor and the Annual Editor for the Fez volume as positive. The volume, which will be in the vicinity of 500 pages, is nearly complete. The most recent ALA Bulletin is one of the largest that has been published. The editor continues to deal with the challenge of obtaining contributions in a timely manner. Reports from both the ALA Bulletin Editor and the Annual Series Editor are on the agenda.
- E. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE.** ALA Committees have been revitalized and are active. Chairs have stayed on and new members recruited. For the first time, the conference program has scheduled meetings of standing committees.
- F. OUTREACH INITIATIVES.** Efforts are being made to identify grant sources and potential donors. Robert Cancel, E. Anthony Hurley, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Alilko Songolo, and Janice Spleth have been appointed to serve on the fundraising committee. The Treasurer noted that the ALA has reached a point where it is necessary to prove its tax-exempt status annually.
- G. ALA ANNUALS.** The new membership form will now provide an option for purchasing annuals. The President encouraged the organization to support Africa World Press and requested approval of the publisher's proposal requesting financial support from the organization.
- F. AMENDMENT.** Regarding the amendment to the constitution inaugurating JALA, the President noted that there were discrepancies between the actual amendment as approved and the language that appeared in the bulletin. She proposed that the vote be postponed until the corrected amendment could be presented to the membership.
- G. PROPOSED NEW AWARDS.** The Awards Committee would like to add an award for a new book, film, or documentary. It is also considering an award for some aspect of teaching. This would mean that there would be awards for scholarship, teaching, and translation. The Translation Committee, appointed under Carole Boyce Davies, Kandoura Dramé, and Elisabeth Boyi and including Kandoura Dramé and Janis Mayes, needs to be revitalized.
- F. ELECTIONS.** More candidates are needed for the office of Deputy Vice-President. Members generally need to be encouraged to stand for office. With respect to the Executive Council, Stephen Belcher, who has received a

Fulbright Award for Guinea, will be stepping down as representative and will be replaced by the candidate who ran against him with highest number of votes. The Secretary was asked to check the previous minutes to identify the individual who will be finishing out his term.

G. MEMORIAL MOMENT. The President is planning a to devote fifteen minutes of the Annual Business Meeting to calling the names of members who have recently died. Eileen Julien has agreed to take charge of the memorial and will be contacting members to participate.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT. Robert Cancel reported that it was an unrepresentative year in terms of expenditures because the organization had elected to have 10 volumes of the ALA Annual sent to 87 libraries in Africa. Payment to Africa World Press during this fiscal period was in the sum of \$11, 167.91, the organization's largest expenditure. He noted that as revenues have increased the ALA's tax-exempt status has required more paperwork and suggested that the organization seek candidates for the office of treasurer that have some experience in that area. The President asked that the EC consider having an accountant look over our books as a matter of course. The Treasurer announced that the auditors for this year are Sonia Lee and Mark Lilleleht. The President thanked him for his report. She noted that there were no new funds generated from the Alexandria conference, but added that it was a great conference. Hal Wylie recalled that it has been customary for conveners to give the ALA 5% of conference revenues.

VI. PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT.

A. AMENDMENT. Hal Wylie addressed the new constitutional amendment concerning the creation of the Journal of the African Literature Association and noted that, through an error, what appeared in the ALA Bulletin was not the amendment itself but rather the guidelines for implementation.

B. HANDBOOKS. He announced that the new edition of the ALA Handbook for Officers was ready for distribution and could be obtained from JoAnne Cornwell.

C. PARTICIPATION IN ASA. ALA will have two official panels for the ASA meeting in the fall. Eileen Julien has organized a roundtable on the "Public Intellectual." Thelma Ravell-Pinto's panel will be called "South Africa, 10 AD."

D. ELECTIONS. Hal contacted those who had been nominated in Boston. He complimented Headquarters on the appearance of the ballot. Arthur Drayton and Kandioura Dramé will help count the votes, and results will be available at the meeting on Saturday morning.

The President explained that the deadline this year had been extended and proposed considering a revision of the calendar for next year so that the

ballots might go out a month earlier. JoAnne Cornwell agreed and suggested that the ballot be ready by December 15. She asked that nominees be solicited at the Annual Business Meeting. It was suggested that a mailing be included in membership materials inviting nominations and that the practice be reinstated of proposing names for the ballot at the post-Business Meeting session of the Executive Council. The President expressed a desire that the nominating process be opened up to the membership. She also encouraged nominating those who have previously been on the ballot.

VII. REPORT FROM 2005 CONFERENCE CONVENER. Mildred Mortimer announced that the theme of the 2005 Conference to be held at the University of Colorado would be “Beyond the Printed Word: African Literatures, African Cultures.” The conveners envision three keynote speakers, including Boris Boubacar Diop as a member of the genocide project. The other two speakers will be the Fonlon-Nichols Award winner and the speaker for the Women’s Caucus luncheon. Graduate students are encouraged to submit. In addition to panels and roundtables, a series of seminars will be invited on the conference theme as was done for Madison. To date, the organizers have raised \$40,000-\$50,000. Abioseh Porter asked that the Call for Papers be made available by May 15 so it can appear in the next ALA Bulletin. Some reservations were expressed concerning the extent of funding.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT. The President adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a. m.

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS
University of Wisconsin-Madison
April 16, 2004 7:00-8:30 a.m.**

PRESENT: Koffi Anyinefa, Stephen Belcher, Elisabeth Boyi, Robert Cancel, Odile Cazenave (for Ambroise Kom), Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, JoAnne Cornwell, Michel Fouquois, E. Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, Cilas Kemedjio, Janis Mayes (President), Eustace Palmer, Abioseh Porter, Janice Spleth, Ousseynou Traore, Wangui wa Goro, Hal Wylie.

I. CALL TO ORDER. The President brought the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. She thanked the Treasurer for arranging breakfast for the Executive Council.

II. OLD BUSINESS.

A. DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUALS TO AFRICAN LIBRARIES. The President read a letter of appreciation from the Head of the Digital Research Library at the University of Asmara thanking the ALA for the volumes of the

ALA Annual that had been received. In response to her query about the availability of the volumes published from 1989-1993, the Treasurer responded that we were sending only those volumes published by Africa World Press. The President asked that the minutes indicate a response should be sent explaining the situation.

- B. **UPDATE ON FUTURE MEETINGS.** The President asked that the letter from Irène d'Almeida concerning the possibility of hosting the conference in 2007 be placed in the minutes. Rutgers cited construction projects on campus as the obstacle to serving as conference conveners through 2009 but expressed a strong interest in acting as the 2010 conveners. Abena Busia will be sending a formal letter. Aissata Sidikou-Morton at Princeton has expressed an interest in organizing the conference in 2006. The University of Illinois and London have also been talking about a possible conference in 2006.
- C. **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VACANCY.** The President raised the issue of Stephen Belcher's replacement on the Council and noted that the Secretary reported a tie between Rachel Gabara and Mark Lilleleht, the candidates for the Executive Council in the 2002 elections with the next highest number of votes. Because Mark is also on the ballot this year, it was decided to wait until after the election results were announced for the Council to make the appointment. The President asked that we establish a principle for making the decision. Abioseh Porter moved that in the event of a tie for membership on the Executive Council, the tie would be broken by a vote of the council. The motion carried.

III. REPORTS

- A. **ALA BULLETIN AND ON-LINE JOURNAL, JALA (JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION): TRANSITION AND TIME-LINES.** Abioseh Porter presented an outline of categories to be covered in a new newsletter that will disseminate organizational news in the place of the ALA Bulletin. In the discussion of procedural issues related to the creation of the on-line review JALA, it was decided that constitutionally it would be necessary to publish the corrected amendment concerning the proposal in the ALA Bulletin before bringing it to a vote. Abioseh Porter, as editor, announced that the ALA Bulletin would go to press in June and requested that material be sent in by the May 15 deadline. He thanked the President for her cooperation and support.
- B. **ALA HEADQUARTERS AND NEWLETTER.** The President congratulated Headquarters Director JoAnne Cornwell on her report and on the publication of the new handbook. Headquarters will put out two newsletters, one with the dues notice in the fall and one with the ballot in the spring. JoAnne Cornwell thanked the assistants, officers, committees, and

caucuses who helped with the handbook. Among its other responsibilities, headquarters has produced 200 copies of the handbook, its first newsletter, and letterhead paper for officers and conveners. She expressed a hope that graduate students might be recruited in the future as assistants. Printing costs at headquarters are in the vicinity of \$1000. The institution provides 20 hours of an assistantship and a course reduction for the director, as well as an allocation of paper. Because the original agreement between ALA and San Diego is expiring, the new administration is asking that the ALA make additional contributions, including the possible support for 10 hours of the assistantship (approximately \$2000). The President observed that the institution benefits from its affiliation with the ALA in terms of international recognition. In summarizing the situation at headquarters, she acknowledged that the institution is downsizing, but also that JoAnne's work as director, including the training and supervision of work-study students, is an important contribution to the organization. ALA needs to discuss whether it can offer support to headquarters and what the nature of that support might be. She suggested that the ALA might consider covering printing costs. After further discussion, it was agreed to provide JoAnne with some options for negotiation. The President agreed to write a letter of support for the Director, and for the organization to make a tentative commitment of \$2000 support for the next five years. The Council agreed to increase that sum to \$3000 if necessary. JoAnne asked permission to make tapes of speeches at the conference for the archives. Odile reminded her to obtain permissions and said that there were forms available.

- C. **ALA PROJECTS UPDATE: PRESENCE AFRICAINE.** Michel Fouqois from *Présence Africaine* was introduced to members of the Executive Council. The President noted that this was the first time that an editor from *Présence Africaine* had visited the ALA. The representative brought a copy of the journal and discussed future issues. He expressed his hope for a mutually beneficial association between ALA and *Présence Africaine*.

ADJOURNMENT. The President adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a. m.

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS
University of Wisconsin-Madison
April 17 2004 7:00-8:30 a.m.**

PRESENT: Koffi Anyinefa, Ada Azodo, Stephen Belcher, Wendy Belcher, Elisabeth Boyi, Robert Cancel, Odile Cazenave (for Ambroise Kom), Kassahun Checole, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Jo Anne Cornwell, Ken Harrow, E. Anthony Hurley, George

Joseph, Cilas Kemedjio, Janis Mayes (President), Micheline Rice-Maximin, Eustace Palmer, Abioseh Porter, Janice Spleth, Wangui wa Goro, Hal Wylie.

I. CALL TO ORDER. The President brought the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. She thanked the Treasurer for arranging breakfast for the Executive Council.

II. RATIFICATION OF AGENDA. The agenda was ratified as presented.

III. REPORTS FROM ALA STANDING COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES.

A. AWARDS COMMITTEE. Micheline Rice-Maximin submitted the report of the Awards Committee. It included the announcement that the recipient of the first Service to the Association Award had been selected. The criteria for selection includes: 1) outstanding service to ALA; 2) service to ALA related associations; 3) leadership in advancing and promoting ALA. A plaque is to be purchased by headquarters and presented to the recipient [Bernth Lindfors] at the ALA banquet. The recipients of the Graduate Student Awards, selected by the conference conveners, would be announced at the banquet as well.

B. ISSUES COMMITTEE. Ken Harrow reported on the activities of the Issues Committee. The committee acknowledged its action in mobilizing support for the annulment of the death penalty in the case of Aminata Lawal in Nigeria. The campaign for annulment was successful.

The committee decided to adopt as an action item the campaign supporting the women in the Congo in their present circumstances as victims of the conflict in the Congo and proposed the following resolution to be presented to the organization at the business meeting: “Whereas the violence against women in the Congo has reached dramatic proportions with an extreme severity of attacks, rapes, and violations of the moral and physical person of women, and whereas the ALA is determined to mobilized in defense of the rights and dignity of African peoples everywhere, and whereas this critical situation calls for immediate action, we call upon the members and officers of the ALA to participate in a campaign dedicated to ameliorate the condition of women in the East Congo. This will be a campaign involving the publicizing of the situation, supporting appropriately identified NGOs currently working on this issue, and working to extend awareness of the critical nature of the crisis through the resources available to the ALA.”

The committee decided to support efforts of Mariam Johnson, the widow of Lemuel Johnson, ALA former president, to ship his book collection to Fourah Bay University in Sierra Leone. Robert Cancel proposed that the Executive Council should agree to support the endeavor in principle.

The committee decided to further work intended to broaden our contacts with colleagues in Africa, including affiliation with organizations such as WARA.

It emphasized the need for books. Wangui wa Goro suggested that Book Aid might be a mechanism by which shipping could be facilitated. It was recommended that Mark Lilleht, as the new chair of the Issues committee, be encouraged to look into the possibilities.

The committee voted to present to the Executive Council and to the President the International Pen list of writers in prison and recommend that the president write the appropriate authorities on behalf of a few of those imprisoned.

- C. GRADUATE STUDENT CAUCUS.** Wendy Belcher reported on efforts of GSCALA to enable more African graduate students to join the association. She announced that more nominations were needed for sponsorees and expressed appreciation for the line on the membership renewal form offering members the opportunity to sponsor an African graduate student. She requested names of students who might be invited to join the caucus. The graduate panel planned for the conference had failed to materialize, and the prospect of graduate student panels in general has turned out not to be a subject of interest with some members opposing the prospect of institutionalizing a young scholars panel. The President thanked Wendy for her report and noted again that she had been in communication with graduate programs in African study to invite them to promote membership in ALA for their graduate students and to encourage them to send their graduate students to conferences.
- D. TEACHING AND RESEARCH.** Odile Cazenave reported that the Teaching and Research Committee had met and is in the process of re-examining its mission. For the moment, it has decided to focus on a small number of objectives. For next year, it plans to sponsor two panels, one on the teaching of an introductory African literature course and one on the archives. The committee has been active in interviewing authors and writers, but there is a need to address how this material can best be disseminated and utilized, including the possibility of creating a web site. Some questions were raised by Council members about copyright issues in the event that ALA materials were to be placed on personal web sites. Another project that the committee would like to address in the future is the need for annotated bibliographies on individual writers. Odile proposed sharing her permission form with JoAnne at Headquarters, and JoAnne raised the possibility that headquarters might be able to provide support for digitalizing. Abioseh proposed enlarging the ALA website to reproduce products related to teaching and research. Odile suggested that this might include syllabi that are brought to the roundtables. The President emphasized the importance of protecting the ALA web site as a reflection of the organization. Sonia Lee will be the new chair of the committee.
- E. AFRICA WORLD PRESS.** Kassahun Checole reported on activities on the African continent to promote African literatures including a recent conference

in Pretoria and a conference planned for September 2005 in Harare. He has met with South African officials about plans for teaching African literature in the schools and incorporating African languages in the government. He also announced that Africa World Press would be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the African Studies graduate program in Mexico City with the publication in of Matagari in both Spanish and Portuguese and the release in September of a Spanish-Swahili dictionary. Kassahun stated that progress is being made on the four outstanding annuals. The President announced that she had received a report from the Series Editor, Ousseynou Traore, and was impressed by the dialogue that had taken place during the year. Referring to the ALA annuals that had been sent to Africa, the publisher called attention to the many expressions of appreciation he had received from African institutions.

F. ALA ANNUALS. The President read the report submitted by the Series Editor. The Fez volume is nearly ready and will be submitted to the publisher as soon as the index has been completed. Much progress has been made on the Kansas volume. Contributors have had a chance to review their work; hard copy and electronic files will be submitted soon. The San Diego editors have completed their selection process and authors are being contacted. The Richmond volume has been published. Elisabeth Boyi asked that there be more publicity on the occasion of a volume's actual publication. Hal Wylie proposed working with Ousseynou to provide information for the newsletter.

G. PRESENCE AFRICAINE PROJECT. The President described her overtures to *Présence Africaine* concerning the possibility of having African World Press display and distribute Présence Africaine at the ALA and ASA exhibits. The cost would be about \$1500. The proposal would be that each publisher pay half of the expenses. She is negotiating with *Présence Africaine* to advertise the ALA Annuals and possibly to have *Présence Africaine* carry the Annuals in their bookstore.

IV. ALA TRAVEL ENDOWMENT. The President asked Anthony Hurley to elaborate on a proposal to create an ALA Travel Endowment. He introduced the following resolution to be discussed in the Executive Council and voted on at the business meeting: "Be it proposed that the ALA establish a Travel Fund to subsidize travel funding for scholars and teachers of African literatures and oratures in schools and institutions of higher learning in Africa to participate at ALA annual meetings." Possible sources of support might include special contributions from ALA past presidents, contributions from the ALA membership, and fundraisers. The selection committee will be composed of five ALA members deemed to be in good standing by the treasurer. Nominations for the committee would be solicited from the membership at the annual business meeting in the spring so that the Executive Council could vote on the committee membership at the fall meeting. The chair of the committee would be appointed by the President. Depending on funding available, one or two people could receive support. The recipient would have to be a

critic, teacher, or university professor in the field of African or African Diaspora literatures or oratures. The recipient must be able to demonstrate that he or she could not pay his or her own way to the conference and that support could not be provided from other institutional sources. Support would include airfare, hotel, registration, and the WOCALA luncheon. The President suggested that past ALA presidents might initiate the fund by voluntarily contributing \$50-\$100 each. Other members suggested that a line on the membership renewal form be allotted for the travel endowment, and that the fee for the sponsor category be increased. Several members expressed concerns about fairness and it was suggested that areas such as gender and geographical diversity be taken into consideration. The President stipulated that the fund should be distinct from funds raised by the conveners, although it was suggested that the selection of recipients might be linked to the conference theme, that the endowment might be included in other grant-raising efforts, and that it might also be used to subsidize registration. The committee agreed to present the resolution at the business meeting and to ask the members to empower the Executive Council to implement it.

V. ELECTIONS. Hal Wylie, Vice-President, reported on the election results:

Vice President	Debra Boyd	56 votes
	Phanuel Egejuru	32 votes
Secretary	Amy Elder	72 votes
	Maude Adjarian	17 votes
Executive Council	Emmanuel Yewah	50 votes
	Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka	49 vote
	Saroya Mekerta	38 votes
	Angelita Reyes	34 votes
	Adlai Murdoch	32 votes
	Mark Lilleleht	29 votes
	Beth Willey	26 votes

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- A. FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.** The President announced that the Financial Committee would consist of Robert Cancel (Chair), Anthony Hurley, and Thelma Ravell-Pinto.
- B. ANNUAL FOLLOW-UP.** A letter was received from Arthur Drayton detailing the status of the Kansas volume. Robert Cancel reported that the San Diego volume would be ready by summer.

ADJOURNMENT. The President adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a. m.

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
MADISON, WISCONSIN
April 17, 2004**

PRESENT. Moradewun Adejunmobi, Adeleke Adeeko, Susan Andrade, Koffi Anyinefa, Carol A. Beane, Steve Belcher, Wendy Belcher, Elisabeth Boyi, Debra Boyd, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Robert Cancel, Anne Carlson, Odile Cazenave, Kassahun Checole, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, JoAnne Cornwell, Rhonda Cobham-Sander, Marjolijn de Jager, Assia Djebar, Kandiora Dramé, Arthur Drayton, Aaron C. Eastley, Amy Elder, Raoul Grandquist, Olabisi Gwamna, Thomas Hale, Ken Harrow, Roberta Hatcher, E. Anthony Hurley, Dorothy L. Hurley, Huma Ibrahim, Karen Johnson, George Joseph, Eileen Julien, Kasongo Kapanga, Cilas Kemedjio, Keiko Kusunose, Renée Larrier, Sonia Lee, John Lemly, Mark Lilleht, Bernth Lindfors, Dean Makuluni, Janis Mayes (President), Judith G. Miller, Mimi Mortimer, Amira Nowaira, Tejumola Olaniyan, Eustace Palmer, Richard Priebe, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Angelita Reyes, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Joyce Hope Scott, Faiza Shereen, Aliko Songolo, Mamadou Soumare, Janice Spleth, Greg Thomas, Ousseynou B. Traore, Natasha Vaubel, Michèle Vialet, Wangui wa Goro, Beth Willey, Hal Wylie.

I. CALL TO ORDER. President Janis Mayes called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. and welcomed visitors. She asked speakers to respect the time limits and announced that Patricia Fahamisha Brown would serve as Parliamentarian.

II. RATIFICATION OF AGENDA. The agenda was adopted as presented.

III. MEMORIAL MOMENT: REFLECTIONS, RE-MEMORIES, CALLING OF NAMES. Eileen Julien, former ALA president, lead the assembly in a period of reflection for those who have recently died, including Edward Said, Lee Nichol's wife, Ahmadou Kourouma, Debra Boyd's mother, Aisha Fofani, Lemuel Johnson, Kristine Aurbakken, Jean Rouch, Dany Bebel-Gisler. Eileen concluded with a reading in French and English of Birago Diop's "Souffles."

IV. RATIFICATION OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (SAN DIEGO). The minutes of the Alexandra meeting were approved as printed in the ALA Bulletin.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. OPENING REMARKS. The President thanked Faiza Shereen, Amira Nowaira, and Edris Makward, the conveners of the

Alexandria conference. She also thanked the members of the Executive Council, especially those members whose terms are ending: Koffi Anyinefa, Ambroise Kom, Eustache Palmer, Elisabeth Boyi, and Janice Spleth. She also expressed her thanks to those who served on committees. She praised the organization on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary and asked all those to stand and be recognized who attended the first meeting of the ALA in Texas in 1975. She asked for a round of applause to honor the “Founding Poets,” the creative individuals who brought the idea of the ALA to fruition.

Summarizing the activities of the past year, the President recalled her theme of “Dynamic Intellectual Activism and Scholarship: ALA Culture Relit during Wartime.” She reminded the body of her increased emphasis on ALA membership participation at every level of the organization and on the involvement of new members, old members who always come but who are not active on committees, and old faithful members. To this end, the committee structure has been revitalized during the year. The Issues Committee has been revived with Ken Harrow as chair. She read the two resolutions approved in Alexandria, one opposing the invasion of Iraq and one affirming freedom of expression. The Awards Committee will be presenting two awards for the first time, one for outstanding service and one for graduate students. She commended the committee for its work. She announced that the Issues committee would be presenting a resolution on Congolese women, unanimously endorsed by the Executive Council, and that it has been doing work throughout the year on human rights abuses. The Teaching and Research Committee has already begun work on next year’s annual conference; there will be two panels and a roundtable, and the committee will work with conveners on outreach in the public school. The audio archives continue to go and is being expanded at the same time that care is being taken to preserve the integrity of the intellectual property of the ALA. The new chair will be Sonia Lee. The new chair of the Issues Committee will be Mark Lilleht. Micheline Rice-Maximin will chair the Awards Committee.

The President next reviewed efforts to raise the visibility of ALA scholars and scholarship at both the national and international level. Because of her initiative, the ALA now has a formal affiliation with ASA and is linked to the website. A formal commitment has been made to send all ALA Annuals for inclusion in the MLA bibliography. Contact has been made with the College Language Association to request that the organizations work together to avoid scheduling conflicts and to establish an affiliation. One of the Madison panels was devoted to examining ways to increase ALA’s role in MLA. A project was begun to enable *Présence Africaine* and *Africa World Press* to work together to promote the books of both presses. AWP has agreed to display and distribute volumes published by *Présence Africaine* at ASA and ALA

conference exhibits; *Présence Africaine* is considering making the ALA Annuals available in their Paris bookstore. The ALA sponsors three publications, the ALA Bulletin, the Annuals, and the ALA Newsletter. Members are encouraged to purchase the Annual, and there will be a place on the membership renewal form for that purpose. She announced the appearance of the first ALA Newsletter. The association voted in San Diego to transform the ALA Bulletin into an on-line journal, JALA (Journal of the African Literature Association). Since the change involves a constitutional amendment, it was to have been published in the ALA Bulletin prior to being voted on at the annual meeting, but because there was an error in the language of the amendment as printed, it was decided to make the correction and publish the amendment again before bringing it to a vote next year. The Annuals Series Editor, Ousseynou Traore, has submitted a report. He announced that the Richmond volume has been published and is available, and the Fez volume is being indexed. Arthur Drayton, the editor of the Kansas volume, has been in touch with the Series Editor and progress is being made. Robert Cancel reported that the San Diego volume is on track. Faiza Shereen announced that papers are still being accepted for consideration in the Alexandria volume.

The President went on to discuss some of the organization's challenges and measures that have been taken for self-improvement. With respect to elections, concern about problems related to the timely receipt of ballots have led to a decision to move up the deadline to December 15 for providing headquarters with election information. The ALA Bulletin Editor is being encouraged to set deadlines for submissions and to publish the bulletin regardless of whether all materials have been received. A subcommittee has created guidelines to define the duties and prerogatives of the volume editors and the Annual Series Editor. Efforts have been made to reach out to members and involve more people in committees. The President has supported the efforts of the Graduate Student Caucus, and letters have been written inviting programs in African or African Diaspora Studies to send graduate students to the next annual conference in Boulder. There is also an effort to resume the translation project that was inaugurated under Kandioua Dramé's presidency.

Eileen Julien raised the possibility of a future joint meeting with the College English Association. She also asked for clarification concerning the functions of JALA and the ALA Newsletter. JoAnne Cornwell responded that the newsletter is taking over some of the functions of the bulletin and will allow members to hear from the organization more often in between issues of JALA. It would include conference announcements, job announcements, organizational history, news from committees and caucuses, excerpts from speeches, member activities (grants, promotions, awards), and other information. Discussion ensued about the need to distribute copies of JALA to those who might not have access to a computer. The President responded to queries about the relationship between Research in African Literatures and the

ALA by confirming that it would remain the same. Other comments concerning the implementation of JALA addressed the issue of legal liability, the creation of the editorial board, the selection process for papers, and the need for continued bibliographical work. The President agreed that a number of questions related to logistics still needed to be resolved and asked that suggestions and concerns be forwarded to the Executive Council for further discussion. JoAnne Cornwell observed that the bibliography had to date been Abioseh Porter's project and would depend on his workload.

- B. ELECTION REPORT AND MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS.** Vice President Hal Wylie thanked Arthur Drayton and Kandioura Dramé for their assistance in counting the votes. He announced that new Vice-President would be Debra Boyd with 56 votes. Phaniel Egejuru, with 32 votes, will be the organization's first Deputy Vice-President. Amy Elder has been elected secretary with 72 votes. Maude Adjarian received 17 votes. The new members of the Executive Council will be Emmanuel Yewah (50 votes), Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka (49 votes), and Saroya Marketa (38 votes). Other candidates were Angelita Reyes (34 votes), Adlai Murdoch (32 votes), Mark Lilleleht (29 votes) and Beth Willey (26 votes). Thelma Ravell-Pinto moved to destroy ballots. The motion carried. New members of the Executive Council were asked to obtain a copy of the new handbook from
- C. TREASURER'S REPORT AND AUDITORS' STATEMENT.** Robert Cancel introduced the auditors, Mark Lilleleht and Sonia Lee who proclaimed the books to be in order. He submitted a written financial statement showing that ALA revenues and expenditures from February 2003-February 2004. Expenditures exceeded revenues during that period because of the one-time cost of sending the first ten volumes of annuals to African libraries. Because of the problems with the stock market, no additional investments have been made of late in the Endowment Fund (Pax). The Treasurer suggested that the ALA consider having an accountant look at the books in order to deal with the increasing complexity of retaining our tax-exempt status. The increase in membership will contribute to the financial health of the organization. Robert thanked RAL for continuing to send volumes to Africa with ALA paying the cost of mailing. He announced that his term was ending and encouraged the membership to consider nominations for his successor. The Association's current total assets now stand at \$75, 761.40. Bernth Lindfors asked that we consider amending the resolution requiring the treasurer to commit 10% of revenue to the Pax Fund.
- D. ALA HEADQUARTERS REPORT.** JoAnne Cornwell began her report by replying to earlier questions about what the ALA Newsletter would be doing that the ALA Bulletin does not, emphasizing that it would be cheaper and that more copies could be produced. It could therefore be used to publicize the activities of the ALA and its members and to enhance the visibility of the organization. She encouraged members to send materials to headquarters that

might belong in the archives. A major achievement of the Headquarters is the new handbook for officers. She asked for input from members and invited those on committees to take home copies of the handbook. Eileen Julien expressed her appreciation for the new handbook and declared it a “miracle.” JoAnne reminded the membership that the original commitment of San Diego to maintain the Headquarters was for five years and is coming to an end. Because of changes in the administration, it may be necessary to re-negotiate the arrangement. The Executive Council will be writing a letter in support of the Director and helping to evolve a strategy for this transitional period. There was some concern expressed that the lower dues level for ALA was inconsistent with dues paid in comparable organizations.

E. INTRODUCTION OF ALA COMMITTEES

- 1. AWARDS COMMITTEE.** Micheline Rice-Maximin, chair of the Awards Committee, announced the members of the committee: Tuzylene Allan, Joyce Hope Scott, Cilas Kemedjio, Oyekan Owomoyela, John Conteh Morgan, Wndy Belcher, Renée Larrier, Pamela Smith, Naana Horne, and Chiwengo Ngwarsungu.
- 2. TEACHING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE.** Odile Cazenave, chair of the Teaching and Research Committee, introduced the following members: George Joseph, Marjolijn de Jager, Dorothy Hurley, Sonia Lee, Patricia Lawrence, Judith Miller.
- 3. ISSUES COMMITTEE.** Members of the Issues Committee were invited to stand for recognition. Members for the past year included Ken Harrow (Chair), Mark Lilleleht, Sada Niang, Molaria Ogundipe, Chiwengo Ngwarsungu, Fahamisha Brown, Debra Boyd, Olabisi Gwamna, Daniel Kunene, Alfred Kisubi, Mineke Schipper, Carole Boyce Davies and Thelma Ravell-Pinto.

F. CAUCUS AND COMMITTEE REPPORTS.

- 1. WOMEN’S CAUCUS.** The Chair of WOCALA, Amy Elder, reported on the activities of the Caucus. For the Madison conference, the Caucus had brought in Micere Mugo as a speaker for the luncheon at which Mildred Hill Lubin was honored as the first woman in the WOCALA initiative to recognize outstanding women in African literature. She announced the election of Angelita Reyes as secretary and invited members to contact the officers with panel proposals for next year’s conference. The Caucus has named a field representative to promote WOCALA in West Africa. It is working in cooperation with the conference conveners to arrange for a speaker next year.

- 2. AWARDS COMMITTEE.** Micheline Rice-Maximin, chair of the Awards Committee, announced that the guidelines for awards will be available on the ALA website and that nominations are invited. She asked the members to observe guidelines and to share information with those who might not receive the ALA Bulletin or have access to the website.
- 3. GRADUATE STUDENT CAUCUS.** Wendy Belcher, chair of GSCALA, introduced the new chair for the coming year, Mark Lilleleht, who reported on the activities of the Caucus. The Caucus is creating its own website. Its two primary projects for the year included efforts to provide a professional workshop at every conference and a sponsorship program to help involve graduate students from the continent. She asked the members to propose sponsorees by sending their names and contact information to the chair of the Caucus. GSCALA will then arrange for a sponsor to send a check to the Treasurer. She suggested that members ask colleagues on the continent for nominees. The Caucus is interested in recruiting new members, and graduate students are invited to get in touch. Eileen Julien suggested the possibility of expanding the sponsorship initiative to help bring students from the continent to the conferences.
- 4. FONLON-NICHOLS PRIZE COMMITTEE.** Eileen Julien, chair, reported on the activities of the Fonlon-Nichols Prize Committee. It is working on the codification of procedures. Nominations for next year's award should be submitted by July 1. The criteria for the award are based on the human rights contributions of the nominees.
- 5. FRANCOPHONE CAUCUS.** Anne Carlson thanked the conveners for providing plenary sessions and panels on Francophone literature and for hosting the numerous French-speaking writers and playwrights. Officers for next year include Anne Carlson (chair), Roberta Hatcher (vice-chair), Michèle Chossat (secretary). The Caucus is interested in adding new members, dues are \$15 and are optional, but members are encouraged to pay. The Caucus is currently discussing the possibility of awarding a prize for Francophone writing. Information for the Caucus publication Autour du baobab may be sent to Hal Wylie.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ALA CONFERENCES.

- 1. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO (2005).** The President announced that the ALA Conference for 2005 would be held at the University of Colorado in Boulder, April 6-10. The theme of the conference will be

“Beyond the Printed Word: African Literatures, African Cultures.” The conveners are Mildred Mortimer and Adeleke Adeeko.

2. **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON (2004).** The President recognized the conveners, Aliko Songolo and Tejumola Olaniyan, and thanked them for a marvelous conference, judging it to have been spectacular in every way, with 25 invited guests, fine panels, and the inclusion of meeting times for ALA standing committees. She thanked them for their work and noted that this was the 30th anniversary of the organization and third time that its annual meeting had been held in Madison.

3. **BIDS FOR FUTURE VENUES.** The President addressed the question of future venues for the ALA and reported that she had written to several institutions soliciting bids. These included the University of Arizona, the University of Maryland, Howard, Harvard, Princeton, and others. There were two institutions that provided strong letters of intent for 2007: the University of Arizona and Rutgers. Recently, Rutgers has had to change its bid to 2010 because of construction projects interfering with traffic on campus. For 2006, there has been communication from Harvard, NYU, and Princeton. Wangui wa Goro has also expressed interest in hosting the conference in London or Cambridge in 2006. Ernest Emenyonu, who is at Flint, Michigan, has also indicated a possible bid for 2006. The President encouraged these institutions to submit written bids. In response to a query about meeting in South Africa, the President responded that no bids had been received.

B. ELECTION OF ANNUALS EDITORS-MADISON CONFERENCE.

Thelma Ravell-Pinto moved that Aliko Songolo and Tejumola Olaniyan be named as editors for the volume of the ALA Annuals to be produced from the Madison conference. The motion was approved.

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. **AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION REGARDING PAX.** Bernth Lindfors moved to amend the resolution requiring the Treasurer to contribute “10% of the previous years revenue to the endowment account” by adding the clause “ when market conditions are favorable” to the description in the handbook of the Treasurer’s duties. The motion was approved by acclamation.

2. **RESOLUTION ON THE CONGO:** Kenneth Harrow, on behalf of the Issues Committee, introduced the following resolution on women in the Congo: “Whereas the violence against women in the Congo has

reached dramatic proportions with an extreme severity of attacks, rapes, and violations of the moral and physical person of women, and whereas the ALA is determined to mobilized in defense of the rights and dignity of African peoples everywhere, and whereas this critical situation calls for immediate action, we call upon the members and officers of the ALA to participate in a campaign dedicated to ameliorate the condition of women in the East Congo. This will be a campaign involving the publicizing of the situation, supporting appropriately identified NGOs currently working on this issue, and working to extend awareness of the critical nature of the crisis through the resources available to the ALA.” The motion was seconded by Patricia Fahamisha Brown, and Amy Elder asked that WOCALA be considered a co-sponsor. Aliko Songolo spoke in support of the resolution but asked that it be expanded to include men and children as well. He expressed concern for the apparent recognition of East Congo as a separate political entity. Ken agreed to accept these modifications as a friendly amendment and to work with Aliko to rephrase the resolution. The motion carried.

3. RESOLUTION CREATING TRAVEL ENDOWMENT. The President proposed a resolution creating a fund to subsidize travel to the ALA conferences for African members. Dorothy Hurley moved that the resolution be accepted. As a result of discussions, it was amended to read: “Be it proposed that the ALA establish a fund to subsidize travel and conference expenses for scholars and teachers of African Literatures, broadly defined, in schools and institutions of higher learning in Africa to participate at ALA annual meetings.” The motion passed.

4. CLOSING ACTIVITIES. Thelma Ravell-Pinto expressed appreciation for the work done by Janis Mayes. She received a round of applause. In the presence of nine former ALA Presidents, Hal Wylie was installed as the next president of the association.

VII. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned by President Hal Wylie at 5:15.

Submitted by Janice Spleth, Secretary of the ALA

**MINUTES
ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Sunday, April 18, 2004**

Pyle Center, University of Wisconsin at Madison

Present: Folabo Ajayi, Steve Belcher, Debra S. Boyd (Vice President), Bob Cancel (Treasurer), JoAnne Cronwell (Director, ALA Headquarters), Amy Elder (Secretary), Wangui wa Goro, Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, Kasongo Kapongo (for Ngwarsungu Chiwengo), Cilas Kemedjio, Janis Mayes (Past President), Janice Spleth (Former Secretary), Hal Wylie (President), Emmanuel Yewah.

Hal Wylie, called the meeting to order and introduced the new members of the Executive Committee. He then asked for and received approval of the meeting Agenda. Hal expressed his pleasure at serving this next year as ALA President and his expectation that he and the Executive Committee will work hard together during the coming year to advance the goals of the organization.

1. The first item of business was to ask Joanne Cornwell, to design a new ALA letterhead reflecting the changes in the Executive and to verify their addresses, e-mails, phone numbers, and faxes for inclusion. She agreed to do so.

2. Next, discussion centered on finding a replacement for Committee member, Steve Belcher, who is leaving for Guinea. The decision was made to consider both Rachel Gabara and Mark Lilleleht, who tied for the position in the last election, both coming in second, behind Steve. Janice Spleth was asked to summarize their candidate statements, made at the time. Discussion of the candidates followed her summary, and a vote was taken. The results were 12 to 2 in favor of Mark Lilleleht.

3. The next agenda item was to propose a slate of candidates for next ALA President. The nominees were Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Phaniel Egejuru, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Eustace Palmer, and Thelma Ravell-Pinto. The question arose as to whether the Deputy Vice-President automatically succeeded to the Vice-Presidency and Presidency; the answer was there was no automatic succession. Nominees from the EC for the next Treasurer were Anthony Hurley and Pat Alden. Nominees for the Executive Council were Oty Agbajo-Laoye, Wendy Belcher, Gaurav Desai, Rachel Gabara, Mark Lilleleht, Emily Ngo-Ngui, Aissata Sidikou, and Greg Thomas. Debra Boyd will consult with the nominees to determine their availability and willingness to run for the office. She suggested that in the future the need for nominations should be announced at the ALA Business Meeting and a sheet be passed around to allow attendees to suggest candidates. This proposal was agreed to.

4. Committee Reports:

A. Anthony Hurley, reporting for the Finance Committee, announced plans to establish closer links with international scholars to help further internationalize the ALA; he passed out a report of the Finance Committee's recommendations for expanding the ALA to meet this goal. Robert Cancel suggested that Fulbright scholars in the U.S. should be invited to ALA conferences, since they would have few expenses if they chose to attend. He also suggested contacting the European Union, which has funding, to help with internationalization. Janis Mayes recommended contacting the American Council of Learned Societies for help with internationalization. The full report of the Finance Committee is attached below.

ALA Finance Committee: Meeting of 4/17/04

Robert Cancel, Janice Spleth, Hal Wylie, Anthony Hurley, (Thelma Ravell-Pinto)

The Committee reviewed the mission of the ALA, with a view to establish funding priorities in line with this mission. Consequently, the Committee discussed and agreed in principle on the major objective of using our funds to internationalize the ALA, in order to ensure our survival and growth in accordance with our mission. Spending suggestions for achieving this objective include:

1. establishing links with relevant associations, programs, and departments in Africa and the Caribbean and South America
2. expanding our program of mailings of books and journals to Africa
3. provide funds to subsidize travel funding for scholars and teachers of African literatures to attend ALA annual meetings
4. establishing a mechanism for increasing the involvement of African students in African institutions

The Committee also agreed that future spending should also consider the following projects:

1. preparing an information sheet of funding opportunities at the state, federal, and international level to assist Conveners
2. providing seed money to assist Conveners

The Committee extends an invitation to the membership at large to submit any ideas they may have about spending priorities to the Committee. The Committee will report on a finalized recommendation of spending priorities and present a resolution to the Executive Committee at the fall meeting.

Be it proposed: That the ALA establish a Travel Fund to subsidize funding for scholars and teachers of African literatures and oratures in schools and institutions of higher learning in Africa to participate at ALA annual meetings.

The EC commended Anthony Hurley and Robert Cancel for an excellent report.

B. Hal announced he was appointing a new committee, the ALA Employment Committee, to look into the problem of employment for scholars and writers teaching African literature. One of its projects would be to compile as much information as possible about the current job situation. The following ALA members were suggested by the EC as possible MEMBERS OF THE NEW EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Mark Lilleht, Cecil AbrahamS, Kofi Anyinefa, Fahamisha Brown, Maureen Eke, Roberta Hatcher, Huma Ibrahim, Angelita Reyes, and Aliko Songolo.

C. Hal also announced the need for an ad hoc Publications Advisory Committee in view of the plan to transform the current ALA Bulletin into the on-line Journal of the African Literature Association (JALA). He asked outgoing President Janis Mayes to chair the committee, and she agreed. The new Committee will also need to discuss plans for a

newsletter, which will absorb some of the functions of the present Bulletin. After some discussion, the following individuals were suggested for inclusion on the Publications Advisory Committee: Susan Andrade, Abioseh Porter, JoAnne Cornwell, Carole Boyce Davis, Kandoura Drame, and Eileen Julienn.

5. Future ALA Conference Venues

Hal presented the following possibilities and agreed-upon locations and years:

2005 University of Colorado at Boulder, Mimi Mortimer and Adeleke Adeeko, Conveners

2006 We have no formal bid yet, but the following locations have been suggested, and Hal will write formally to the listed contacts: NYU in conjunction with LEGON University in Ghana; Judith Miller to be contacted. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Frieda Ekotto to be contacted.

University of Michigan, Flint; Ernest Emenyonu to be contacted.

University of Illinois, London campus; Wangui Wa Goro to be contacted.

Harvard University; Henry Louis Gates, Jr. to be contacted.

Princeton University; Aissiata Sidikou to be contacted.

2007 University of Arizona; Irene D'Almeida to be contacted.

2008 No suggestions yet.

2009 or 2011 University of Ife, Nigeria; Folabo Ajayi to be contacted.

2009 Rutgers University; Abena Busia to be contacted.

Discussion ensued about whether the ALA Constitution stipulates that the organization should hold its conference outside of the U.S. only every five years. It was determined that no such regulation exists in the Constitution. Debra Boyd raised the benefit of holding a Conference at an historically Black university in the U.S. She was asked to explore this possibility with Soraya Mekerta at Spellman University and Carol Beane at Howard University. Expressing the long-standing desire of the organization to hold a Conference in South Africa, the EC asked that Thelma Ravelle-Pinto and George Joseph inquire about the University of the Western Cape as a possible future venue. George said that they would.

BAHIA University in Brazil was also mentioned as a desirable location in the future.

Carol Boyce Davis will be contacted about this possibility.

6. As the next item of business, Hal raised the idea of honorary memberships in the ALA to reward exceptional service. He hoped the first honoree would be Steven Arnold. Other possible honorees mentioned were Lee Nichols, Gerald Moser, and Mildred Hill-Lubin. A lengthy discussion followed. The idea of honorary memberships was generally accepted, and it was decided that Steven Arnold should be the honoree right away. It was further decided that future honorees should be decided by the Awards Committee rather than the EC, since making such decisions is already their task and in the hope of their establishing guidelines for honorary memberships.

7. New Business:

Hal made the announcement that a three-way agreement had been finalized between the ALA, Africa World Press and Présence Africaine. It has been agreed that:

- A. Africa World Press will display and sell selected *Présence Africaine* journals and books at its booth at both the ALA and the ASA conferences each year.
- B. *Présence Africaine* will display and sell selected ALA annuals and journals at its bookstore in Paris.
- C. The ALA will pay to Africa World Press \$900 per year to support this arrangement. *Présence Africaine* will also pay to Africa World Press \$900 per year.
- D. The \$1800 paid to AWP will support the rental of tables at the two conferences per year and wages for one worker to supervise the tables.

Wangui Wa Goro will sponsor one or more African literature panels at the Zimbabwe Book Fair, one of which will be a WOCALA panel.

Having completed its business, the EC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Elder, EC Secretary

