

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS
AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
BOULDER, COLORADO, APRIL 2005**

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:15 and opened with introductions.

Present: Folabo Ajayi, Oty Agabajoh-Laoye (representing WOCALA), Debra Boyd, Bob Cancel, Phaniel Egejuru, Amy Elder, Wangui wa Goro, Ken Harrow (for Ngwarsungu Chiwengo), Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, Cilas Kemedjio, Mark Lilleleht (representing the Graduate Student Caucus), Janis Mayes, Soraya Mekerta, Abioseh Porter, Hal Wylie (President), Emmanuel Yewah

The Agenda was approved; the 2004 Minutes were accepted after amendments to be completed after the meeting in order to save time.

President's Report:

Hal Wylie gave no specific report but said his comments would emerge during the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bob Cancel distributed the Treasurer's Report, which, with minor changes, was accepted by the EC.

Auditor's Report:

- Bob distributed one of the Auditor's Reports, completed by Ben Lindfors. Much discussion ensued. A Motion that we table the Report until the second one, by Adlai Murdoch, is submitted as well, and the President and Bulletin Editor have a chance to correct them.
- The Endowment is earning interest again. In response to questions, the EC was reminded that the ALA Endowment was begun by Ben

Lindfors. It was agreed that the EC should develop a plan for spending from the Endowment for useful purposes.

Venues:

- Hal reported he has received no responses from some members who expressed interest in the past in hosting the 2007 ALA Conference.
- Nevertheless, several new possibilities have emerged. Ben Lindfors is exploring the University of Texas, Austin as the 2007 venue; another possibility at the University of West Virginia is being discussed with Janice Spleth; yet another venue might be Western Illinois University, and the possible host will report to the EC later in the week.
- Janis Mayes reported that Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is still interested in hosting a Conference at some future time at Harvard; she will contact the person there who organizes conferences on campus.
- Debra Boyd is eager to have an ALA Conference hosted at some point at an historically Black University and is working on this plan.
- Wangui wa Goro said that London could be back on the table for 2008, and Tony Hurley suggested that Dillard University be reconsidered.

JALA:

- The report by the Editorial Committee was postponed.

Travel Grant Committee:

- The Committee will be comprised of Kandioura Dramé, Chiar, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Anthonia Kalu, Janice Spleth, John Nimis, and Hal Wylie plus representatives from each of the Caucuses.
- Hal Wylie explained that the charge of this Committee is to create a format for awarding \$2,500 to a member of ALA traveling from Africa to an ALA Conference.
- The criteria for the award will be the proven scholarship of the recipient plus his/her financial need for travel to the ALA Conference.
- Tony moved that in case of a deadlock on the Committee, the ALA President will be the tie breaker. The motion passed.

New Business:

- Wangui moved that a Translation Caucus proposal be added to Friday's Agenda. The motion passed.
- Debra Boyd spoke about the problem of forming ALA panels at ASA; discussion ensued.
- Mark Lilleleht reported that he had spoken with Kasahoun about sending the tables of contents of the Annuals to the various on—line indexing agencies. The motion was made and passed that it be the on-going responsibility of the Deputy Vice-President, in consultation with the yearly series editors, to develop and maintain a list of the indexing services that receive copies of the ALA Annuals as published and, moreover, that the older Annuals be included as quickly as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8:

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 A.M.

Present: Folabo Ajayi, Oty Agabajoh-Laoye (representing WOCALA), Debra Boyd, Bob Cancel, Ann Carlson, Rebecca Clarke, JoAnne Cornwell (ALA Headquarters Director), Phaniel Egejuru, Amy Elder, Wangui wa Goro, Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, Cilas Kemedjio, Mark Lilleleht, Janis Mayes, Soraya Mekerta, Abioseh Porter, Hal Wylie (President), Emmanuel Yewah

Report of Headquarters Director:

- JoAnne Cornwell handed out copies of the *ALA Newsletter*; this issue is focused on the ALA caucuses.
- There are three major projects underway at Headquarters for which she needs feedback from the membership:
 1. Compiling a history of the ALA
 2. Indexing all of the *Bulletin* issues
 3. Compiling all of the Minutes of the ALA
- She would like the EC to begin consideration of providing some financial support for ALA Headquarters.

- More coordination is needed with the EC to supply Headquarters with an accurate list of ALA Members.

Vice-President's Report:

- Debra Boyd announced that 141 votes for EC offices were received and will be counted immediately after today's EC meeting. She asked for suggestions for improving the election process. Discussion ensued:
 1. This year, we used the membership list of 2004.
 2. Debra should announce at the ALA Business Meeting that members should return their ballots before the ALA Conference.
 3. We need an earlier nomination deadline, and all candidates' statements should come in on time.
- Continued definition of the Deputy Vice-President: s/he should help with the on-line indexing of the *Annuals* and *Bulletin*; assist with outreach; submit information about the ALA Conference to other organizations that have calendars of professional meetings.
- The ALA panels at ASA will be ?????????
- A Resolution was presented that for elections, we should use the list of ALA members who had joined the year before, plus those who joined by February 1st. of the new year. The motion passed.

Editors for the Boulder Annual:

A Resolution was proposed and passed that Adeleke Adeeko and Mimi Mortimer be named as Editors for the Boulder Annual; the motion passed.

Caucus Reports:

WOCALA:

- Oty Agabajoh-Laoye reported that membership declined last year; there is a need for clarification that membership in WOCALA is open to all ALA members.
- WOCALA, she reported, was invited to the Zimbabwe Book Fair, where she represented the caucus; out of that meeting, two women writers from Africa are attending ALA; ALA needs more connection with women writing in Africa and to access their works; WOCALA is fielding two panels at ALA and a luncheon speaker.

A Resolution was made that: a) the ALA reimburse this year's registration fees for the African Women whom Oty invited; b) that individual ALA members, in the future, not invite speakers outside the aegis of the ALA. The motion was tabled until the Finance Committee meets.

Francophone Caucus:

- Ann Carlson reported that the filmmaker planned for this year's ALA had to be cancelled for lack of funds; she said there need to be clear guidelines for caucuses' ability to invite paid speakers.
- There will be a panel on the production of French African films
- She presented the Francophone Business Meeting Agenda.
- There is a desire within the Caucus to promote a stronger Francophone presence at ALA conferences.

A discussion ensued about the problem of meeting times for caucuses and for caucuses to be represented accurately on the ALA web site.

Graduate Student Caucus:

- Mark Lilleleht expressed the need for the Graduate Student Caucus to function as an important part of the ALA.
- He explained the Caucus' problem of losing leadership, since the leaders are graduate students; suggestions for a solution are welcome.
- At this year's ALA, Wendy Belcher gave a publishing workshop; there is a job market panel planned for the 2006 ALA.
- The Graduate Student Caucus promotes ALA sponsorship for graduate students from Africa. At present, there are 28 African graduate students receiving information from the Caucus, and new names and contact information is needed from ALA members.

Heinemann African Writers' Series:

Becky Clarke and Anthonia Kalu gave information about a new way to continue the African Writers Series begun by Heinemann.

- Heinemann has agreed to reprint its backlist of African writers but not to publish new works.
- Becky announced the establishment of a new publisher company for African and Caribbean literature and literary criticism, Ayebia Clarke.

- She proposed that ALA and Ayebia Publisher set up a joint committee to publish a literary journal to go in “new directions”; discussion ensued, but nothing was decided.

Reports From *Bulletin* and Series Editors:

- Abioseh Porter said that the *Bulletin* is on track in terms of issues coming out in a timely fashion.
- He needs more information from members to publish.

Thanks were given by the EC to Abioseh for his excellent last *Bulletin* and all his hard work.

- Emmanuel Yahwe reported that the Kansas volume is currently in production.
- He is planning to link the proofreading process with indexing by individual contributors.
- The San Diego, Wisconsin, and Alexandria Annuals are in the early stages of production.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9:

The meeting began at 7:07 A.M.

Present: Folabo Ajayi, Debra Boyd, Bob Cancel, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, JoAnne Cornwell, Phanuel Egejuru, Amy Elder, Wangui wa Goro, Anthony Hurley, Huma Ibrahim, George Joseph, Cilas Kemedjio, Sonia Lee, Mark Lilleleht, Janis Mayes, Soraya Mekerta, Abioseh Porter, Pamela Smith, Hal Wylie (President), Emmanuel Yewah

Bob Cancel reported on corrections to the Treasurer's Report and that Kassahoun will give a report on the Annuals.

Reports of the Committee Chairs:

Constitution Committee:

- Debra reported that information on *JALA* will be given at the ALA Business Meeting.

Pedagogy Committee:

- Sonia Lee reported that this committee presented two panels at the 2005 ALA.
- The Committee intends to interview the writers present at the 2005 ALA; an archive exists of previous conference interviews with writers that needs to be indexed by Headquarters; Becky Clarke has agreed that Ayebia Press will publish an index of the interviews once it is compiled.
- There is a plan to contact high school teachers and to secure their participation at future ALA Conferences to discuss the teaching of African literature.
- The Committee plans to discover in Ghana how African literature is taught there.

Awards Committee:

- Wendy Belcher (for Michiline Rice-Maximin) explained that no names were forwarded for awards.
- There are two separate graduate student awards: service and scholarship. Nominee for the Graduate Student Service Award was Mark Lillileht. There was no recommendation for the Scholarship award, and methods of selection for this award still need to be determined.

Discussion ensued:

- The decision was made to refer the issue of appointing members to the Awards Committee and the method of selecting awardees to the EC for further consideration.
- The Resolution passed that the EC support the Service Award to Mark Lillileht

Issues Committee:

- Mark Lillileht reported that the Issues Committee responded to the attack on Ngugi and Njeeri and has compiled an archive of news reports and responses to this event.
- It is discussing the implications for scholars and writers of the Homeland Security Act.

- The Committee present the EC with a Resolution deploring the atrocities occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and requesting that the ALA help publicize the work of Amnesty International and other organizations working for an alleviation of the suffering in the Congo and, also, make a financial contribution to them. In this regard, The Issues Committee resolved that the ALA should donate no less than 5% of its yearly revenue to charitable organizations supporting ALA's general goals and to be determined at the fall meeting of the EC,
- Lemuel Johnson's book collection is intended for Fourah Bay College. Eustace Palmer and Ken Harrow are estimating the cost of shipment and are working on the mechanics of transporting the books to Africa. The Committee requested that the EC underwrite the shipment to the amount of \$6,000.

Discussion ensued. It was decided that the Resolutions on contributing to charitable organizations in the Congo and elsewhere and supporting the shipment of Lemuel Johnson's books should go to the ALA Finance Committee for further consideration before coming to the EC.

Employment Committee:

- Huma Ibrahim reported that this Committee presented a panel on tenure at this year's ALA Conference.
- Huma asked that the EC make its desires for the goals of this Committee clear.

Discussion ensued. It was decided that the Employment Committee should do research on the situation of people of color in the Academy.

Finance Committee:

- Thelma Ravell-Pinto stated that the Finance Committee is concerned with three issues: the Auditors' Report; Travel Grant Committee; Finance Committee duties.
- The representatives on the Travel Grant Committee from the three ALA Caucuses should come to the ASA EC meetings each year.
- The Finance Committee should present recommendations to the ALA EC about the types of projects to be funded and the amounts to be allocated at the ASA EC meetings each fall.
- The Travel Grant Committee should set up its own criteria.

Ad Hoc Publications Committee:

- On behalf of the Committee, Janis Mayes presented the EC with a proposed list of members of the Committee (Daniel Kunene, Pamela Smith, Carole Boyce Davies, Renee Larrier, Anthonia Kalu, Cecil Abrahams, Manthia Diawara, Suzanne McCrae, Janis Mayes, Wangui wa Goro, Carrol Coates, Odile Casnave, Phanuel Egejuru, Greg Thomas, Eustace palmer, Cilas Kemedjio, Joe McLaren).
- Janis proposed that Abioseh Porter be appointed Editor of *JALA*, that Kandoura Dramé be appointed Associate Editor, and that, in the future, the EC invite suggestions for Committee membership from the ALA as a whole.

Membership on the Publications Committee was accepted, and the Motion passed.

2005 Conveners' Report:

- Mimi Mortimer reported good attendance at the Boulder Conference, between 230 and 250 participants,
- Only one panel had to be cancelled, although there were some technical problems, and there were many well-attended events, for example, the WOCALA luncheon, where there were 97 – 105 in attendance.

Venue 2006:

- Kofi Anyidoho, one of the conveners of the 2006 ALA Conference in Ghana, May 17-21, said that the Conference theme will be "Pan-Africanism in the 21st. Century."
- The Conference will be co-hosted by Manthia Diawara, Director, Institute of African-American Affairs, New York University, Kofi Anyidoho, Director, Humanities Institute & Head of the English Department, University of Ghana, Legon, and Awam Amkpa, Academic Director, NYU-in-Ghana, NY. A letter of invitation to the ALA by Anne Adams, Director of the DuBois Center in Ghana was read.
- Flight arrangements, the Conference meeting locale, the list of speakers, and possible tours in Ghana are under discussion.

Discussion ensued. A Resolution passed for the EC to reconvene at 3:00 this afternoon to discuss the proposed dates of the 2006 Conference.

Election Results:

- Debra Boyd presented the ALA 2005 Election results, the votes counted by herself, Joseph McLaren, and Donald Morales, April 8, 2005 at 11:37 A.M.

1. Vice President

Eustace Palmer	52
Thelma Ravelle-Pinto	43
Phanuel Egejuru	36

2. Treasurer

Anthony Hurley	113
----------------	-----

3. Executive Council

Becky Ayebia Clarke	63
Mark Lilleleht	58
Keiko Kusunose	51
Oty Agbajoh-Laoye	50
Ada Azodo	47
Fahamisha Brown	40
Wendy Belcher	36
Greg Thomas	19

- A Resolution was passed that Oty be appointed to replace Tony Hurley for a one year term and that she may run again in the future.

Translation Caucus:

- Pamela Smith and Wangui wa Goro asked for a Motion to create TRACLA, the Translation Caucus of the ALA.
- There was a focus on translation at the Richmond, VA ALA Conference.
- The recognition of the significance of African languages is a main impetus behind the desire to form this Caucus.

The decision was made to ask the presenters to bring complete documentation for TRECLA to tomorrow's EC meeting for discussion and a final determination.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

Extra EC Session, 3:00, April 8:

- Kofi proposed that the Conference Committee should make the final determination about the dates of the Conference. The May dates appear to serve most people's schedules, but a small change is still possible.

Discussion ensued. A Motion passed that the EC accept the proposed dates of May 17-21, 2006 be accepted.

The meeting adjourned.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 A.M.

Present: Folabo Ajayi, Debra Boyd (President), Rebecca Ayebia Clarke, JoAnne Cornwell, Amy Elder, Wangui wa Goro, Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, Mark Lilleleht, Soraya Mekerta, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Abioseh Porter, Hal Wylie, Emmanuel Yewah

2006 President, Debra Boyd, called the meeting to order at 7:15. New EC Members were introduced, and a group picture was taken.

A Motion passed to destroy the 2005 EC ballots.

Continuing Business:

JALA

- Abioseh stated that the on-line version of *JALA* will be available in 2006. A print version will be available for members who prefer one.
- In response to a question about the proposed Media Liaison Committee, he suggested forming a small Committee, which would

serve as a search committee for the Media Liaison Officer and, also, to set up guidelines for this Officer. Eustace Palmer moved that the EC form an Ad Hoc Media Subcommittee; this Committee will select an individual to help the ALA with its media contacts, subject to EC approval. Discussion ensued, and the Motion passed; it was decided that the EC should select members for this subcommittee by the end of two weeks.

- Debra appointed the Ad Hoc Committee: Thelma Ravell-Pinto, JoAnne Cornwell, Anthony Hurley, Fahamisha Brown. A message will be sent to the ALA Membership asking for volunteers. Thelma will chair.
- The ALA Membership Directory will appear as part of *JALA*

Translation Caucus

- Wangui handed out the draft constitution and reported that over fifty people have expressed approval of TRACLA.

Discussion ensued; the Motion to accept TRACLA as an official caucus of the ALA passed. George Joseph suggested we put Caucus affiliation on the Agenda for future consideration by the EC.

Travel Grant Committee

- The President will contact Kandioura Dramé and ask him to serve as Chair of the Travel Grant Committee.

Venues

- The EC accepts the conveners' proposed dates of May 17 – 21 for the Ghana Conference.
- 2007 remains undetermined, but Janice Spleth will send the EC a bid letter in the near future.
- Wangui will explore the possibility of an ALA Conference in London in 2009, but she will need a partner institution.
- Rutgers University is a possible venue in 2010.
- Harvard and Howard Universities will continue to be contacted.

Discussion ensued:

- Soraya suggested the EC consider changing the ALA Conference dates so as not to conflict with the CLA Conference.
- Pholabo recommended exploring the possibility of having joint conferences with other organizations sharing our scholarly interests. In regard to this idea,
- Mark suggested that when the call for papers from Ghana comes we find a way to inform the CLA of the details,

New Business:

- Tony raised two problems: 1) the inactivity of the Awards Committee; 2) the treatment at this Conference of some graduate students

Discussion ensued.

- Thelma said that she would like to chair the Awards Committee; she also indicated that the EC needs to specify the duties of the Deputy Vice-President. JoAnne suggested, and Soraya moved that one of the responsibilities of the Deputy-Vice President should be as Liaison to work with the Ad Hoc Committees. The Motion passed.
- Hal nominated Thelma as the Chair of the Awards Committee; the Motion passed.
- Oty suggested that new members of the ALA be identified, so mentoring can take place.
- Debra recommended that the EC compile a photo documentary of ALA; members should be solicited to send materials for the project. She also said that we need a written record of ALA Conferences. Pholabo remarked that we should instruct future conveners that filming of talks should be undertaken.
- George resolved that Debra, Abioseh, Don Morales, and Joseph McClaren meet and propose a budget for a visual documentary of the ALA. The Motion passed.
- Pholabo was chosen to be added to the Finance Committee.
- EC discussed establishing a standard protocol for the transition of new EC Officers. It was agreed that the Vice-President and President will draw up and circulate protocols for transition. An official Kente with the ALA logo will be obtained to symbolize the transition of Presidents.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 A.M.