



Global Headquarters
331 S. Patrick Street
Alexandria, VA 22314 USA
1-703-647-4900
Fax: 1-703-647-4901
www.sla.org

BOARD DOCUMENT

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Pam Rollo, Immediate Past President and Caucus Board Liaison
DATE: 22 December 2006
RE: Caucus Reauthorization

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors approves the reauthorization of the following caucuses effective January 2007, through the Leadership Summit 2010.

- Architecture, Building Engineering, Construction and Design Caucus
- Association Information Services Caucus
- Baseball Caucus
- Inclusion Caucus
- Information Futurists Caucus (pending acquiring a new convener by February 28, 2007)
- International Information Exchange Caucus (pending acquiring a new convener by February 28, 2007)
- Natural History Caucus

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors approves the dissolution of the Women's Issues Caucus.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In keeping with SLA's guidelines, members of the caucuses listed above are requesting that they be reauthorized for a period of three years.

IMPACT ON MEMBERS: Caucuses provide an organized community of members without the structure of a division. They relate to areas of interest that do not fall within the scope of any one Division and do not conflict with any other established subunit of the Association.

IMPACT ON ASSOCIATION STAFF: None.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Based on current membership figures there is a combined membership of 356. These caucuses generate a combined income of \$4,272. The combined annual budget allotment for these caucuses is \$2,563. There are significant indirect costs to support the caucus members: hosting and support of discussion lists, hosting and support of web sites, providing the platform for annual conference programming and marketing, leadership training, officer insurance, membership marketing, dues invoicing and collection, etc.

PROBLEM/S TO SOLVE: Securing conveners for two of the caucuses.

SCENARIO HISTORY: The initial period of authorization for a Caucus is for no more than two (2) years. The Architecture, Building Engineering, Construction and Design Caucus has been authorized for two years and is up for its first reauthorization. The other caucuses have been in existence for some time and reauthorizations by the SLA Board of Directors shall be for three (3) years each.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS/BENEFITS: Caucuses provide a community for SLA members which are not covered by divisions. Board liaison Pam Rollo will poll the caucus members for the caucuses where there are vacancies. Due to the timing (holiday season) it may take a few weeks to communicate with the members to secure a new convener.

ANY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES TO SOLUTIONS: If conveners are not secured and coached, two significant communities will be lost.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Architecture, Building Engineering, Construction and Design Caucus
Membership: 53
Convener: Dennis Hamilton

The Architecture, Building Engineering, Construction and Design Caucus has been in existence for two years.

The convener of the Caucus, Dennis Hamilton, recommends that the caucus be reauthorized for the next three years. The caucus has a web page, an active discussion list, had an annual business meeting and informal dinner at last annual conference. They are planning an annual business meeting and program in 2007 at annual conference.

The convener is in process of identifying a new convener to take his place.

The discussion list is open to anyone, SLA member or not.

-
- Association Information Services Caucus
Membership: 78
Convener: Megan Galaida

The caucus convener recommends that the Association Information Services Caucus be reauthorized for another three years.

Due to personal and professional changes, Megan was unable to do much for the caucus this past year. Their only activity has been maintaining the KAIS discussion list where members can post questions related to association libraries.

Megan has identified a new KAIS convener: Merrilynn Drews, Director of the Association Knowledge Center at ASAE. Megan will meet with her and transfer the KAIS records to her care and then notify HQ and have Merrilynn join the relevant discussion lists (Leadership, Conference Planners, etc.).

The caucus has a discussion list but it is not exclusive to members only. They decided several years ago to open the list to any association, council, society or similar information center staff as a way to promote information sharing and networking among these librarians

The convener had also hoped to increase KAIS and SLA membership among the list's nonmembers but has not been able to dedicate the time to recruitment that it needs.

- Baseball Caucus
Membership: 89
Convener: Tony Landolt

Hi Linda

1) Yes I do recommend that the Baseball caucus be reauthorized for another three years.

2) at the annual conference we usually do baseball activity's.
baseball games, museums, and speakers who are from the baseball field.

3) yes, I will continue on as convener.

4) yes we do have a discussion list.
70 people are active. most are members of are caucus.

thanks

tony landolt

- Inclusion Caucus
Membership: 13
Convener: Liz Blankson-Hemans

The convener recommends that the caucus be reauthorized for another three years.

The caucus shows value to its members through the following programs/activities:

- o Created a brochure and a blog for members
- o Participated in the 2006 Diversity Breakfast, and hope to continue this with the DLDP going forward
- o Formed key partnerships with the DLDP committee and some divisions
- o Presently the caucus is the only vehicle within the association that addresses diversity as a broad issue. We serve as a platform for diversity resources/sharing/learning to SLA and it's members, particularly the up-and-comers seeking to learn about SLA's commitment to inclusion. Whilst we work with, and are very closely affiliated with the DLDP committee, in reality the DLDP charge is fairly narrow (annual awards, programming for breakfast). The Inclusion Caucus broadens the scope much for those who currently equate "DLDP" with "diversity awareness", and offers so much more in conjunction with DLDP and other caucuses addressing specific diversity issues e.g., Gay & Lesbian, or Womens Issues

At present, the conveners remain. They are working on a successor although it hasn't formally been discussed.

The caucus has a discussion list which is open to all who are interested in Diversity issues.

Many thanks
Liz

Inclusion Caucus Co-Convener

Liz Blankson-Hemans
Director (International)
Information Professional Development
Dialog, a Thomson business
* 14 Great Queen Street , London WC2B 5DF
(+44 (0)20 7344 2854
" liz.blankson-hemans@thomson.com

-
- Information Futurists Caucus
Membership: 127
Convener: Lucy Wegner

I am the titular convener of the Information Futurists Caucus, but I will say honestly that I have done nothing with it in the past year. My work commitments have prevented me from putting effort into it, beyond updating the web page.

Due to my inactivity, the caucus shows no activity. There are quite a few members, and I think there is potential there, but I'm not the person to develop it. I would like to step down from being convener, with many apologies.

Lucy Wegner

- International Information Exchange Caucus
Membership: 134
Convener: Sharon Mehl

Staff recommends that this caucus be reauthorized. The convener has resigned without identifying a successor. The caucus has a strong membership, has an active discussion list and a website.

The caucus holds an annual business meeting at conference and participates in the international reception at conference.

Staff posted a plea on the discussion list and has already received indications of interest in becoming a convener.

- Natural History Caucus
Membership: 49
Convener: Ruth Gustafson

I highly recommend that the Natural History Caucus be re-authorized for another 3 years.

The website is very thorough and useful (thanks to Adam Schiff's excellent maintenance) and has been cited in a standard Reference work: "The New Walford: Guide to Reference Resources," published by Facet Publishing.

Here's the annotation that was given for the site: Natural History Reference Sources, Special Libraries Association, Natural History Caucus. "Substantial regularly updated links section including lists of natural history libraries and museums (US and international), bibliographies and reference sources. A very good compilation produced under the auspices of the Caucus, which is a network of natural history libraries in the USA, founded in 1991. The website also provides information about the work of the Caucus."

As new incoming convener, I conducted a survey of the NHC membership which received 31 responses (out of about 50 members). I am in the process of working through the top interests and choices of the membership for planning of next year's NHC meetings, activities and services. We co-sponsored the Baltimore Aquarium field trip and I assisted in program planning for the DBIO programs at the Baltimore conference. With the agreement of the DERM chair, NHC

joined the Sunday Baltimore conference lunch meeting. This was important as many NHC members informed me that they could not make the Wednesday afternoon recommended 2006 caucus meeting slot as they already would have left the conference. We celebrated our "official" 15th anniversary during our annual business meeting, but the members pointed out that a group of natural history librarians have been meeting since the mid 1980s. I hope to compile a short history of the caucus from these early dates to preserve this before many of the older members retire.

This is my 2nd year as convener and, when Steve Johnson recruited me, I agreed to a three-year stint (for Baltimore 06, Denver 07 and Seattle 08) as I was most pleased to assist in planning for conferences mainly Western in location. I am heavily involved in DBIO planning for Denver.

The caucus has a discussion list which non-SLA members may join.

The e-mail list is fairly active (with 5-10 messages monthly). See the archive at <http://mailman1.u.washington.edu/pipermail/nhc/>

-- Ruth Gustafson
SLA Natural History Caucus Convener, 2006-2008

Ruth Gustafson
Reference Librarian
Biological & Agricultural Sciences Reference Department
<http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/bioag/>
Shields Library Phone: (530)752-1883
University of California, Davis FAX: (530)752-5251
100 North West Quad ragustafson@ucdavis.edu
Davis, CA 95616-5292 bioagref@ucdavis.edu

-
- Women's Issues Caucus
Membership: 31
Convener: Jeanne Miller

As Convener of the Women's Issues Caucus since 2001, I reluctantly recommend that the Caucus NOT be reauthorized. In the time since I have been Convener, we have held at least two business meetings. Before these meetings, I sent a message to the list (and included in the meeting description) that these meetings were to discuss the continuation/goals/purpose of the caucus. The attendance was one person other than myself.

The only traffic on our list has been generated by me, and that has received little or no response.

We have co-sponsored two or three programs with Divisions (Management and Advertising); however I have not had a lot of interest in planning these events from members of the Women's Issues Caucus.

It has always been unclear to me whether members of the Caucus were primarily interested in libraries/collections related to women's issues or in their personal lives as women who are

librarians. Probably for some people, like me, it's a combination of both. However, given the small membership (around 30) and the lack of activity and interest, I think that the Caucus is not

serving either need at this time. It may be that when the Caucus was formed there was more interest in women entering the workplace, or it may be that many of the "working women's" issues are now family issues. In my opinion, the Management Division addresses some of these needs, and I expect that the new inclusion caucus may also address some.

I have certainly benefited from participating in SLA activities as a Caucus Convener, but I don't at this time think that the Caucus is viable.

Jeanne Miller, Convener