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TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Centennial Commission and 2009 Conference Planning Committee

DATE: 05 May 2008

RE: Centennial and 2009 Annual Conference Update

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Planning for SLA's Centennial and 2009 Annual Conference in Washington, DC, continues to move right along. We have settled on the theme:

Information to Inspiration: Knowledge & Vision Shaping the Future

Our vision as stated in our report to the Board in June 2007 is to use the Centennial celebration to make SLA members—and potential new members--proud to belong to this Association and to be in our profession. Our goal is to focus on our future, while at the same time commemorating our past. Another goal is to ensure that our units, especially chapters and divisions, actively participate in the celebration. We hope to involve every single SLA member in the celebration in one way or another.

We want all of the events surrounding the Centennial year to promote our members and our profession to our constituents, our bosses, the professional world, and the public at large. We will emphasize knowledge, vision, and leadership. Here are the major projects we are promoting:

- A contest soliciting multimedia submissions on what information delivery will look like in the future and what information professionals will be doing. There will be separate contests for students and for association units. A video announcement will be used to launch the contest in Seattle.
- A traveling exhibit which will go to all of the chapters over the next several years and find a permanent home at association headquarters. A graphics company has been selected and contract negotiations are underway.
- Oral histories and expectations of the future, prepared in conjunction with the SLA Fellows. Podcasts will be the medium. Standards have been established and interviews are about to begin.
- In conjunction with the Boston Chapter, a fall 2009 regional meeting (tentatively) at Bretton Woods, NH, where SLA was founded, to cap off the year. The meeting will have an information futurist feature, along with practical workshops.
- Various celebratory actions such as soliciting recognition from Congress, the President, and other world leaders; ringing the bell at the New York Stock Exchange; and distributing special SLA Centennial postage stamps.

Working with SLA staff, we have designed a Centennial website that links to a wiki and a variety of multimedia features. We plan to launch the Website at the annual conference in Seattle. It will include podcasts of the oral histories and excerpts of Guy St. Clair's history of SLA. It will also

feature podcasts or videos describing not only the value of information professionals but visions of the future for info pros in the knowledge culture.

An eye-catching logo for the Centennial and the conference has been developed featuring fireworks going off over the U.S. Capitol.

Planning for the 2009 Annual Conference itself is well underway. The marquis event will be a semi-formal gala held Sunday night at the beautiful National Building Museum, where Presidential inaugural balls are held. The Awards Reception will be held Tuesday evening in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress. Throughout both of these events, we will honor past, present, and future leaders, but there will be something for everybody. For the keynotes, we are going after the highest level speakers. Also, the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, has been invited to speak at the President's session, and other highly regarded speakers will be featured in spotlight sessions. Just after the annual business meeting and keynote address, attendees will be treated to a rousing concert finale by the U. S. Army Field Band. The D.C. Chapter's Local Planning Committee is also well underway with additional plans to make this conference memorable.

We have two sessions scheduled in Seattle for the division planners to meet and work on planning programs for the annual conference in D.C. These sessions follow an initial session held in January in Louisville. We have a Community of Practice and a discussion list for the planners, and we're making good use of the procedures that were developed for planning the Seattle conference. It is especially important to note the addition of Tom Rink, in his capacity as Division Cabinet Chair-Elect, to the Commission to help with the coordination of the divisions in conference planning.

In other planning, we are helping chapters think about how they can celebrate the Centennial, and we are making plans to kick off the Centennial year in January 2009 at the Leadership Summit in Savannah, Georgia.

Apropos of our theme, the Commission is excited to have utilized the **knowledge and vision** of SLA members to shape what will be a truly **inspiring** Centennial celebration!

Prepared by: Dav Robertson

Respectfully submitted:

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