This spring, we made some changes in the APA. As APA revenues, like ALA’s, have been impacted by the economic downturn, we made the decision to reduce staffing and other costs in light of lower revenue projections for the remainder of the year. These actions were necessary because the APA cannot run a deficit, because by law the APA must be self-supporting, and because the 501c6 is a legal requirement if we are going to provide individual certifications as planned.

On April 13, Jamie Bragg, who was working as a half time Research Associate for the ALA-APA, moved over to ALA’s Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment Office, where she is now working, among other projects, on ALA’s soon to be launched Continuing Education Unit Program. Jamie was already working half time on the Library Support Staff Certification Program competencies, the development and implementation of which are being funded through a three-year IMLS grant. ALA-APA Director Jenifer Grady is also devoting 40% of her time to the IMLS grant, which will continue through July, 2010.

The FY2009 expenditure budget has been reduced from $184,000 to $159,000, and now reflects both payment of interest ($11,000) on the APA loan and a partial (just under $4,000) first payment on the loan principal. The revised FY2010 budget (attached) now provides for payment of interest and a $25,000 payment of principal, within reduced revenue projections and a reduced expense budget.

I wanted to make sure that Councilors were aware of these changes, because the reduced staffing will clearly have some impact on the ability of ALA-APA to do all of the things that members want it to. The ALA-APA Committees continue to do great work, which they will be reporting on at Annual. The ALA-APA is offering a strong selection of programs- http://www.ala-apa.org/salaries/confprograms.html. Subscriptions to Library Worklife continue to grow. A “Using Salary Data to Make the Case for Better Salaries” toolkit and training program is in development. The support staff certification program is moving along well ahead of schedule.

For the time being, we will be operating a somewhat smaller ALA-APA, with a two-thirds time director. As revenues from the certification programs and other services grow, and as the loan is repaid, we look forward to increasing the ALA-APA’s capacity to serve as a strong advocate, working in concert with ALA, for the interests of library workers.

Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

https://owa.ala.org/exchange/AmericanL_kbrow1/Inbox/[alacoun]%20ALA-APA%20Upda... 7/10/2009