TO: ALA-APA Board of Directors

RE: 2017 Spring Meeting Report

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:
No action requested.

CONTACT PERSON:
Lorelle R. Swader
312-280-4278
lswader@ala.org

DATE: March 24, 2017

BACKGROUND:

The ALA Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) is a nonprofit professional organization established “to promote the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers.” To that end, the ALA-APA is focused on two broad areas:

- Certification of individuals in specializations beyond the initial professional degree.
- Direct support of comparable worth and pay equity initiatives, and other activities designed to improve the salaries and status of librarians and other library workers.
CPLA Program

The Certified Public Library Administrator (CPLA) Program is a voluntary post-MLS certification program for public librarians with three years or more of supervisory experience. Its aim is to further professional education and development and help librarians move to a higher level of practical professional experience. There are 291 enrollees in the program since it launched and 91 graduates.

LSSC Program

The Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program offers library support staff the opportunity to commit to professional development and continuing education through the completion of competency sets developed and implemented by the ALA-APA. The program has recently had a total of 530 enrollees and currently has 165 graduates.

Celebrate National Library Workers Day (#NLWD17)

National Library Workers Day (NLWD) is Tuesday, April 11, 2017. It is a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. The ALA-APA helps libraries and individuals prepare to celebrate by featuring a range of creative suggestions on its website (see Celebration Ideas). The National Library Workers Day webpage encourages friends, patrons, employers and co-workers to “Submit a Star” by providing a testimonial about a favorite library employee. Each testimonial (listing first names, library type and city/state location only) will be posted on the NLWD’s Galaxy of Stars page. If your library is planning to recognize and honor your library workers this year, please send your stories to libraryworklife@ala.org. They will be posted in Library Worklife, the official newsletter of the ALA-APA. Be sure and share your celebrations on Twitter, using #NLWD17 and/or post to the NLWD Facebook page. For more information, visit the ALA-APA National Library Workers Day website.

Equal Pay Day

This year Equal Pay Day will be observed on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Tuesday was selected to represent how far into the work week women must work to earn what men earned the previous week. Women are typically paid just 79 cents on average for every dollar paid to men — and that number has barely budged in a decade. (For women of color that figure is even less.)

Equal Pay Day was originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men’s and women’s wages. Because women earn less, on average, than men, they must work longer for the same amount of pay. NCPE is a coalition organization and ALA was one of its charter members. Currently, ALA-APA is one of
NCPE’s 94 organizational members and is one of its 20 board members through representation by Michele “Mike” Leber.

Promotional Items

APA has promotional materials available for purchase. Keepsake t-shirts and tote bags are on sale in ALA and division conference stores with the slogan, “Libraries Work because we do @alaapa”.

APA on Social Media

APA has a strong presence in social media. Once again, the ALA Archives department, housed at the University of Illinois, is supporting the celebration of NLWD by providing a series of digital photos highlighting the hard work of library staff from throughout history. These photos are posted on Facebook and Twitter.

You can always join the conversation and support for APA by following it on Twitter @alaapa or liking it on Facebook. In addition to the main APA page on Facebook, fan pages have also been developed for NLWD and LSSC. APA Wellness can be found on Twitter @APAWellness.

Acknowledgements

In closing, I would like to thank the hard working volunteers of all of the various APA committees and supporters, without which we would not be able to continue the work of advocating for library workers.

I would personally like to acknowledge the support of the MPS, Finance, ITTS, Membership and Governance Office staffs for their overall support of the APA. And finally, I would like to acknowledge the APA’s staff and consultants (Beatrice Calvin, Kimberly Redd, Pamela Akins and Jamie Bragg) for their dedication, commitment and hard work in getting the work done.