

CHAIR'S REPORT

A warm welcome to the branch Annual General Meeting. Thank you for taking time out this morning to attend the respective Interest Group AGMs and then staying for the branch AGM. The only interest group not meeting today is SLYSIG as most of the membership is teachers, and in terms of departmental regulations, meetings need to happen after hours. The SLYSIG AGM is happening tomorrow afternoon.

The current BEC includes the conveners/chairs of the local active interest groups (SLYSIG, WCHELIG, PACLIG, LiSLIG, SSIG and ICTLIG) with two (PACLiG and SSIG) leading the national interest groups. As your representative on the Representative Council, I chose not to be elected for any EXCO portfolio or serve as an additional member due to further studies. However, I form part of the task team to revamp the Liasa Website. You should all receive a mail in the next few weeks to comment and provide input for this site.

The BEC has met regularly either face-to-face or via email. We are investigating virtual meeting software, such as Big Blue Button, but have limitations in our team as not everyone has access to the internet. Our annual strategic planning meeting was held on 22 November 2014 in the picturesque Franschoek. The invitation is extended to all BEC and IG committee members and generally there is a good turnout. This time round, we went to the drawing board and engaged members to discuss what it is we want to achieve when our term ends. Just to mention a few things: A lively newsletter that attract members attention, getting more members involved through road shows creating more opportunities through workshops.

Once again it seems that the Western Cape has been left out of the road shows, but it is not the case. We are the proud host of the IFLA conference and hosted South African Library Week launch again. A

major element of the Roadshows is to meet the respective BECs, meet the leaders in LIS in the branch, and to meet members, and to visit libraries. The Roadshow in the Western Cape has been split over several visits. The launch of SA Library Week gave members an opportunity to meet LIASA EXCO, and in the run-up to 2015 IFLA Conference, members will have the opportunity to meet EXCO, all the directors of LIS in the branch, are in fact on the national organizing committee.

For the past three a national leadership weekend was hosted by the President of LIASA, to which not just the Representative Council were invited, but also the Chair Elects of the national interest groups. This weekend gave us as new REPCO the opportunity to interact and share ideas on what we would love to see happen in our term.

EVENTS

The Western Cape Branch has had an exciting year since the last AGM and since the new BEC has taken reigns: with the branch and most interest groups offering opportunities for ongoing professional education and development and networking there is no need to doubt about the increased Liasa membership fees.

Here is a brief run-down of what happened:-

- Conference 2014 – was a lovely experience and an exciting moment for us as the Western Cape is once again the title holders of the Librarian of the year award. Flippie will at some point give us his side of the story.
- Our Annual Breakfast 3 December 2014 was held at Simonsvlei Wine Estate with guest author, Nanette van Rooyen who shared some of her latest writings with us.
- As part of the SA Library Week celebrations, we were thrilled by the presence of the IFLA president, Sinika Sipila. The launch

was well attended and learners, poets, writers and librarians raised awareness of the burning of libraries.

- SLYSIG hosted a very popular Book Mending Workshop.
- The WC branch hosted the Mentoring Workshop.
- Several outreach / membership campaigns took place in sub-branches.

MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership stands at 327 (as of Monday 8 June 2015). At the AGM last year, we had 356 members. Of concern, is the number of people who completed membership forms online, and didn't make any payments or complete their installments? One is not considered a LIASA member until everything is paid up. This isn't just a challenge for this branch, but happens across the other branches as well. We have about 67 members who are inactive, meaning that they only did a part payment or just registered without any payment.

The BEC considers that all events held in the Western Cape are opportunities for membership recruitment and retention.

There have been a number of membership campaigns on the go, both nationally and within the branch. Last year we offered one member free breakfast at our Annual Breakfast in November and gave a price of membership. Sue Hardy was the proud recipient of the free membership.

FINANCES

The financial report will be presented by Lisa Kistain. No detail re the 2014 conference was communicated, meaning that we do not know if there was a profit or not, hence we do not know. Over to Lisa.

ELECTIONS / NOMINATIONS

This is not an election year but, we at the branch have space for an additional member to fill Righardt le Roux's position as an additional member. We have communicated the the call for nomination, but have only received one persons interest and await the nomination forms. If you are interested please avail yourself.

LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

The Western Cape Librarian of the Year, Flippie van der Walt, was named as National Librarian of the Year. Please note that we shall not have any drumroll this morning to announce the 2015 Librarian of the year as Liasa EXCO decided not to have a LOY election this year due to IFLA. I would love to ensure colleagues that we will proceed with this process from 2016 onwards.

COMMUNICATION

The branch continues to use various communication means to share with members - we use Google Groups - which gave us the opportunity to tidy up the list, so only paid-up LIASA members are on that group. As before, it is a moderated closed mailing list. However, for some reason COCT libraries block communication, hence none of the COCT librarian received communication re the AGM in time. Other means of communication had to be used.

Our Western Cape facebook group is very active with the LIASA Facebook group page. The Facebook page is a closed group, which means that either one has to apply to join the page, or be added. Applications to join the page are looked at carefully as we have been hit by spam previously when the group was open. Currently there are 238 members.

Notices are also posted to LIASAOonline listserv and to the national LIASANews Facebook and Twitter account.

There have been two issues of the newsletter this year.

CHALLENGES

These remain the geographical spread of the branch with members in outlying areas. As mentioned in last year's report, there is scope for three sub-branches in the Western Cape - Outeniqua (George) , Breede River Valley and West Coast. There is some work going on in the West Coast where members of the BEC have been active in promoting LIASA. But it remains a challenge. A possible solution is the use of technology like webinar software, but the challenge there is that not all institutions have internet access. We are exploring options such as the regional forums, but need to work out the logistics.

THANK YOU

Our thanks need to go to our sponsors and supporters, not just at this event, but all our events over the past year. We acknowledge and thank our institutions for their support which has ranged from financial sponsorship for events to providing venues for meetings and training.

One of the strengths of the Western Cape branch is the number of active interest groups we have - without them, it would be very difficult for the branch to provide the range of opportunities to members. We acknowledge and thank the interest groups and the committee members for their enthusiasm and commitment to LIASA, and to serving the LIS sector in the Western Cape.

Thank you for those members who are prepared to volunteer at the IFLA conference. To those BEC and IG members who are part of the LOC, I am thrilled by your dedication, professionalism and leadership!

Last but not at all least, I would like to say thank you to a fantastic team - "the Awesome Win Team". The spirit of co-operation, camaraderie, friendship and professionalism is alive and kicking! You

are truly awesome! These are indeed “LIASA members who are Leaders! “

It is just the start of the roller coaster, but I know we will hang in there to make you the members proud.

Samantha Bennett
Chair 2014 - 2016