

Florida Library Association conference Summary

Daytona Beach, FL, March 1 to March 3, 2016

By Paul Wartenberg

I attended this year's conference for both the professional instruction as well as performing my duties as member of the FLA Outcomes and Standards committee.

Regarding the work on the state-wide standards: the committee completed a revised version for 2015 that the FLA advisory board approved this year. Our steps this year include creating a checklist to track the Outcomes we hope to accomplish for libraries using the Standards, and getting public libraries of various sizes and organization – small city, large city, county cooperative, countywide system – to test these Standards as pilot libraries.

The committee met on Wednesday March 2 to discuss and confirm our agenda, and to determine how we would make our full presentation to the conference the following Thursday March 3. At the presentation I assisted in the presentation of the document and our committee's plans for this year. I also answered questions alongside committee members from the audience.

I also accepted the role of Vice Chair for the Standards committee this year. This means I am expected to take on the Chair duties the coming year (2017), which will continue this project.

At the conference itself, I attended the Opening Session and speech by visiting speaker Four-Star General Ann Dunwoody who spoke on Leadership.

The conference sessions I attended covered:

- Cooperating with Local Schools: a presentation on outreach from libraries to schools regarding programs, shared activities, and education.
- The Mystery Writer's Breakfast: to listen to local mystery authors about their craft, and to find out how libraries can schedule and arrange local author events and book fairs.
- Flipping Library Instruction on Its Head: to see about how community colleges are coping with library and research instruction classes, to see about teaching techniques that might apply to the public library instructional classes I offer here at Bartow.
- The FLA Committee "Speed Dating" event: as a representative of the Standards Committee, I interviewed with prospective FLA members about our committee's work and how we were looking for new members.
- Writers Corner Connecting Local Authors: another outreach program about getting writers using library resources and getting libraries working with the creative communities in their areas.