

5 Junior suites available April 14-18: \$75 single; \$84 double - suites have refrigerator and microwave (price includes taxes). 30 rooms available on April 13, 60 rooms available April 14-18: \$70 single; \$80 double; \$90 triple (price includes taxes). Parking and continental breakfast included

Memorial Union (1/2 block from conference site) Reserve by March 14, 2004. 800 Langdon St. Madison, WI 53706-1495 Ph. 608.265.3000. 4 rooms available, April 14-18: 2 rooms @ \$62; 1 room @ \$70; 1 room @ \$87 (suite)

Union South (8 blocks from conference site) Reserve by March 14, 2004. 227 N. Randall St. Madison, WI 53715-2236 Ph. 608.263.2600. 5 rooms available, April 14-18: \$62

University Inn (2 blocks from conference site) Reserve by April 1, 2004. 441 N. Frances St. Madison, WI 53703 Ph. 608.285.8040 or 800.279.4881 Fax 608.285.8051 Web <http://www.universityinn.org> 30 rooms @ \$79 rooms with one bed; \$79 for two beds (plus 13.5% tax). Free parking and continental breakfast

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Short-Course Dorms (10-15 minute walk from the Pyle Center, on Campus Bus route) Reserve by: April 7, 2004. 650 Babcock Drive Madison, WI 53706-1562 Ph 608.262.2270 (press "0" to bypass the messages) Fax 608.265.5905 Email dorms@cal.wisc.edu 30 rooms reserved (no children allowed) single \$32; double \$24/person; triple \$16/person; quad \$14/person. Free internet access; parking available: \$7/day weekdays, free weekends.

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

ALEXANDRIA EGYPT

March 20, 2003 7:00-8:30

PRESENT. Ory Agbajoh-Laoye (proxy for Helen Mugambi), Stephen Belcher, Elisabeth Boyi (President) Bob Cancel, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Kandjouura Dramé, Nana Banywa Home, Ambroise Kom, Janis Mayes, Eustace Palmer, Abioseh Porter, Michelle Rice-Maximin (proxy for Koffi Anyineta), Janice Spleth, Beth Willey (proxy for Cilas Kemedjio).

CALL TO ORDER. President Elisabeth Boyi called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m. She thanked members for being in attendance and for supporting the organization.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA. The agenda was adopted with the addition of an item to permit the discussion of sending the ALA Bulletin to African institutions.

RATIFICATION OF WASHINGTON D. C. MINUTES. The secretary was asked to correct the spelling of the names for two members: Koffi Anyineta and Lydie Moudlieno. Janis Mayes asked the secretary to state explicitly that the Human Rights Committee had been incorporated into the Issues Committee. The minutes were approved as corrected.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

A. ELECTIONS. Janis Mayes reported on the election procedures. She expressed her appreciation for the large number of individuals who were prepared to run for office and to offer their service to the organization. Due to a computer glitch, one of the candidates was erroneously left off the first ballot, and a second ballot had to be issued. As a result there were some complaints that ballots had not been received. Janis asked that in the future a process be put in place to confirm that only members in good standing receive ballots. There also needs to be some way to ensure that members do receive their ballots. Janis proposed that Headquarters be given additional support to help the process run more smoothly. She asked that in the future the Vice-President

should receive an updated copy of the membership list prior to the election. Robert Cancel suggested that the Vice-President choose a date by which the membership list would be closed for purposes of the election. Ory Agbajoh-Laoye suggested that we might want to consider electronic balloting, but there was some concern that African participants would not be able to vote electronically. Members are encouraged to update addresses regularly. The President congratulated Janis Mayes on recruiting candidates and encouraging participation of the membership in the nomination process. The Vice President noted that the organization is growing and that it needs to adjust procedures accordingly.

The President proposed that new members of the Executive Council be invited to attend its last meeting on March 22 prior to the Business Meeting. She observed that travel arrangements would make it difficult to convene the Executive Council on March 23 after the Annual Business Meeting. The Vice-President was asked to inform the President of the election results and to communicate with the new members so that they could plan on attending the last meeting.

B. CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. Janis Mayes, as Chair of the Constitutional Reform Committee, reminded the Council that there was an amendment on the agenda for the Business Meeting regarding the institution of a Deputy Vice-President. There was some discussion related to the need for providing similar procedures in the event that other officers were unable to serve. Janis suggested that formalizing such a procedure be considered in the future. Janis also raised the issue of handbook revisions and suggested that the Council examine proposed changes to officers' responsibilities in the Fall.

C. ISSUES COMMITTEE. Janis reported on the meeting of the Issues Committee which includes Ken Harrow, Debra Boyd, and Ngwarungu Chwengo. Dan Kunene has also agreed to join the committee. Ken Harrow was elected chair, and the committee has expressed its intention to solicit additional members from the body and to request items for the agenda from the members. As decided at the DC meeting, the committee wrote letters on behalf of the membership to the State Department and to the French Embassy regarding visas for African scholars. The French Embassy acknowledged the letter, but no response was received from the State Department.

BUSINESS MEETING PROCEDURES. All members in good standing will be entitled to vote, and their registration badges would indicate their membership. If individuals renew their membership at the meeting, they will be entitled to vote. It was determined that a quorum would be 10% of members in good

standing. According to the treasurer, this would be 35 members. The constitution requires a 2/3 vote of members present to pass an amendment.

SPECIAL CONCERNS. The President reported on the letter that she had sent to the President of the University of Arizona on behalf of Irène d'Almeida concerning an incident on campus involving the police.

FONLON-NICHOLS AWARD. Having confirmed that Fonlon-Nichols Award recipient Emmanuel Dongala would not be able to attend the conference, the President asked Ambroise Kom to prepare an encomium to deliver at the ceremony honoring Dongala. It was also suggested that Dongala be invited to e-mail remarks that could be read in his absence.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE. The President indicated that she had not been able to determine the current chair of the committee and that it appeared to have been dormant during the year. Robert Cancel announced that Odile Cazenave, former chair of the committee, had arranged for writers at the Alexandria conference to be audiotaped. Abioseh suggested that members of committees be asked to give their names to be published in the Bulletin.

GUEST WRITERS. Naana Banyirwa Horne remarked on the absence of Egyptian writer Nawal El Saadawi and asked if local writers had been invited to the conference. The Executive Council re-confirmed its principle of inviting writers from the host country to attend when ALA meets abroad.

ADJOURNMENT. The President adjourned the meeting at 8:20.

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

ALEXANDRIA EGYPT

March 21, 2003 7:00-8:30

PRESENT. Oty Agbajoh-Laoye (proxy for Helen Mungambi), Stephen Belcher, Wendy Belcher, Elisabeth Boyi (President), Bob Cancel, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Kandioura Dramé, Naana Banyiya Horne, Ambroise Kom, Janis Mayes, Eustace Palmer, Abiosseh Porter, Micheline Rice-Maximin (proxy for Koffi Anyinefa), Janice Spleth, Beth Willey (proxy for Cilas Kennedy).

MOMENT OF SILENCE. President Boyi asked that a moment of silence be observed out of respect for those who were dying in the war in Iraq.

RATIFICATION OF THE AGENDA. The agenda was ratified as presented.

RICHMOND ANNUALS. The President thanked Eustace Palmer and Kandioura Dramé for their report on the state of the Richmond Annual detailing the negotiations involving the series editor and the volume editors. It has been decided to keep the format of the Richmond annuals as it has been prepared but to return to the previous format for future volumes.

GRADUATE STUDENT CAUCUS REPORT. Wendy Belcher, chair of the Graduate Student Caucus, reported on the caucus project to recruit graduate students from the continent and to sponsor them by paying the \$5 membership fee. Names of prospective students are to be sent to Mark Lilleht, and the Caucus will maintain a data base for African students seeking a sponsor. Eleven students are currently being sponsored. The Executive Council was asked to facilitate the process by including an opportunity for sponsorship on the membership form. Among other activities, the Caucus proposed that future conferences include young scholars' panels and practical professional workshops such as the one that Wendy had organized for Alexandria on publishing. The President suggested that graduate student panels be a regular feature of annual conferences. Naana Horne recalled that a process was also being fine-tuned to recognize outstanding papers by graduate students.

FRANCOPHONE CAUCUS REPORT. Janice Spleth, chair of the Francophone Caucus, described the activities of the caucus for the Alexandria conference, including the organization of a panel on Andrée Chédid chaired by Anne Carlson. At the annual meeting of the caucus, new officers were elected for the 2003-04 year. The new chair will be Anne Carleson, the vice-chair is Drocella Rwanika, and the new secretary will be Michèle Chossat. Frances Novak will continue as treasurer. The Caucus is planning two panels for next year's conference in Wisconsin. Anne Carlson will be organizing a session on "Dance and Francophone Literature." Janice Spleth will be inviting submissions for a panel on "Elophrasis in Francophone Literature."

WOCALA REPORT. Oty Agbajoh-Laoye, chair of the Women's Caucus, reported on the election of new officers: Amy Elder has been elected Chair, Thelma Ravell-Pinto will serve as Secretary, and Sonja Lee will be the Treasurer for the coming year. The Caucus inaugurated its series of roundtables this year recognizing outstanding women. This year's session was to be in honor of Mildred Hill-Lubin. The Caucus is trying to identify women writers who are victims of human rights abuse. WOCALA members are making an effort to be more active in the African Studies Association, and the organization is seeking outside funding. It was suggested that WOCALA membership be added to the list of opportunities included on the ALA membership form.

REPORTS FROM CONFERENCE CONVENERS.

Madison, Wisconsin (2004). The President informed the Council that the conveners were unable to be in Alexandria but had sent a written report on activities to date. Aliko Songolo, co-convenor for the 2004 conference, provided a detailed description of planning for the 30th anniversary conference of the African Literature Association to be held April 14-18 in the Pyle Center of the University of Wisconsin. The event will also celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Department of African Languages and Literature. Meeting rooms and exhibit spaces have been reserved. The conference is organized jointly by the African Studies Program and the Department of African Languages and Literature, with the former playing the lead role. The members of the core organizing committee are Aliko Songolo (Co-Convenor), Tejumola Olaniyan (Co-Convenor), James Delehanty, Magdalena Hauner, Linda Hunter, Rob Nixon, and Eileen McNamara (Support). The theme selected for the conference is "Verbal Performance and Visual Cultures." While focusing particular attention on the intersections among verbal, visual, and performing arts, the conference will be a forum for discussion of the full range of literatures from Africa and its diasporas.

The conveners have reserved nearly 300 rooms in university and independent hotels and note that several airlines currently land in Madison. In addition to a number of concurrent panels, the conveners plan to include a series of linked seminars that will allow participants to pursue a given question in greater depth than can be done in a single panel. Additional information about the seminars will be forthcoming. One of the highlights of the conference will be the reception at the Elvenhjem Museum of Art to inaugurate a major African art exhibit. The report included a Call for Papers with paper and panel proposals to be sent to Aliko Songolo (asongol@wisc.edu) or Tejumola Olaniyan (tolaniyan@wisc.edu). Deadline for submissions will be November 15, 2003.

Boulder, Colorado (2005). The conveners for the 2005 ALA conference at the University of Colorado were also unable to be in Alexandria, but Adeleke Adeke, one of the co-conveners, sent a written report. Adeleke assured the President that he had a strong commitment for funding from the usual funding sources on campus. An agreement with the Millennium Hotel has been finalized. Prospective speakers include Leila Sebbar, Aminata Sow Fall, and Edwidge Danticat. The theme chosen for the conference is "Beyond the Printed Word." The conveners announced their intention "to encourage studies of African expressive practices beyond verbal arts to include what we now call cultural studies."

BULLETIN EDITOR'S PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPENSES. The President asked that the Council approve reimbursement of the Bulletin Editor for photographic expenses as documented by receipts. The request was approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Robert Cancel, Treasurer, submitted his financial statement. Despite losses in the Endowment Fund due to fluctuations in the stock market, the total assets of the organization are listed as \$94,741.76. This includes \$38,256.65 in the ALA bank account and \$56,485.11 in the Endowment Fund.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT. Abioseh Porter proposed having an on-line Bulletin by 2003 with a new format. The Bulletin would be converted to a more journal-like appearance and distributed electronically to members except for those few who request hard copies. Abioseh also reported on the newsletter that Headquarters will be sending out. The Bulletin is currently both a newsletter and a journal. The expectation is that the newsletter will assume responsibility for professional items while the journal will feature more scholarly material, book reviews, and articles. Both will be available on-line. The

President asked Janis Mayes to contact Headquarters to identify potential problems and costs related to the newsletter.

ALA LOGO. A request to use the ALA Logo was denied on the general principle that the ALA prefers to retain control of material published under the logo. The President will confirm this decision with the party involved in the request.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS. It was agreed that committee chairs needed to be identified and contacted to ensure their ongoing effectiveness. The Secretary was asked to undertake this task.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

ALEXANDRIA EGYPT

March 22, 2003 7:00-8:30

PRESENT: Oty Agbajoh-Laoye (proxy for Helen Mugambi), Stephen Belcher, Bob Cancel, Ngwarungu Chiwengo, Kandoura Dramé, Kenneth Harrow, Naana Banyiwa Horne, Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, Ambroise Kom, Edris Makward, Janis Mayes, Elisabeth Boyi (President), Eustace Palmer, Abiosel Porter, Micheline Rice-Maximin (proxy for Koffi Anyiméfa), Faiza Shereen, Janice Spiehl, Beth Willey (proxy for Cilas Kennedyjio).

CALL TO ORDER. The President called the meeting to order at 7:15.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Robert Cancel said that the year went well. He reminded the Council that ALA had made a commitment to mail annuals to Africa. The cost of mailing back issues of annuals is a one-time expenditure of \$12,000 that can be spread over two years. He proposes paying \$8000 the first year and \$4000 the next year. He agreed to give members an opportunity to sponsor graduate students and at the time they renew membership. The cost for sponsoring an African graduate student is normally \$5. Members might be encouraged to contribute \$10-\$15 for that purpose. Sponsoring an individual member is distinct from the "Sponsor" category for members paying \$100 annually. It was suggested that members in that category be recognized in the directory by having their names marked with an asterisk.

AWARDS. The Awards Committee, as appointed in San Diego, consists of Micheline Rice-Maximin, Ngwarungu Chiwengo, Cilas Kennedyjio, Helen Mugambi, and Joyce Hope Scott. The committee sent a report to Kandoura to be presented at ASA. The President asked that someone take the responsibility for collecting and evaluating graduate student articles. Micheline agreed to convene the committee in order to determine the chair. The members of the committee will serve as evaluators and are encouraged to make sure that awards can be made at Madison.

COMMITTEES. The secretary was asked to contact all members of committees by e-mail and request that they convene. She was also to ask to determine if members are willing to serve so that replacements can be made. Naana proposed publishing a list of committees in the Bulletin. Kandoura Dramé suggested that committees remain small. Janis Mayes asked that committees try to involve new members to give them a chance to participate in the organization.

REPORT OF CONVENERS. The President thanked Edris Makward and Faiza Shereen for organizing the Alexandria conference despite all of the obstacles. Faiza announced that 178 participants had been registered plus an additional 50 local students and scholars sponsored by the Alexandria Library. Most of the 178 came from the United States and Europe. Approximately 30 came from Africa. Many of the participants took advantage of the pre-conference package. In order to reassure ALA members, Faiza asked for additional government security despite her personal feelings that there would be no problems in that respect. Edris and Faiza assured the Council that the members supported the conference and that their decision to go ahead with the conference in Alexandria reflected the will of the ALA. She read a letter from the American Consul advising Americans to continue with their activities in Egypt. Janis Mayes congratulated the conveners on a wonderful conference and expressed appreciation for the work of student volunteers. The Executive Council also thanked the Star of Egypt. Faiza was asked to report on financial details of the conference at the business meeting. Faiza and Edris agreed to edit the annual with Annina Nowaira, if she is willing. The decision about accepting papers by members who had registered but who were finally not able to be present is to be left to the editors. The conveners plan to create a post-conference web page.

REPORT FROM ISSUES COMMITTEE. Kenneth Harrow announced that the Issues Committee proposed opening the committee to additional members. Human Rights will be one matter that the committee will consider. The committee will continue to report on the writers in prison. The committee brought two resolutions to the Council that it expects to present at the business meeting, one concerning freedom of expression and one condemning the unilateral actions of the United States in Iraq. After reviewing different versions of the resolutions, the Executive Council made suggestions for modifications.

ASA PANELS. Micheline Rice-Maximin distributed calls for papers for the 2003 ASA meeting.

ELECTION RESULTS. Janis Mayes announced that ballots had been counted and that Hal Wylie had been elected Vice-President. Anthony Hurley, George

Joseph, and Wangui wa Goro were the new representatives to the Executive Council. Kandjoura reminded us that the candidate with the next highest number of votes could be eligible to serve as Deputy Vice-President. Janis Mayes noted that the election was very close but that the candidate for Vice-President with the next highest number of votes was Debra Boyd followed by Phannal Egejuru and Thelma Ravell Pinto. Elisabeth thanked Janis for work on the elections.

TRANSITION.

Elisabeth introduced Janis Mayes as the new President. Janis thanked Elisabeth and Kandjoura for their contributions as well as the other members of the Executive Council. She introduced the new members who were present, Anthony Hurley and George Joseph. Kandjoura asked that the outgoing members of the Executive Committee be recognized for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

March 22, 2003

PRESENT. Kofi Anyidoho, Stephen Belcher, Wendy Belcher, Debra S. Boyd, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Kerstin Bolz, Elisabeth Boyi (President), Eckhard Breiting, Dennis Bruntus, Bernadette Caillet, Anne Carlson, Robert Cancel, Michèle Chossat, Gerardo de la Fuente, Kandjoura Dramé, Aaron C. Eastley, Phannal Egejuru, Maureen Eke, Nivvin El Asdoudi, Magda El-Nowiemny, Annie Gagiano, Dorothy Hurley, E. Anthony Hurley, Kenneth Harrow, Naana Banyirwa Horne, George Joseph, A. Akinyemi, Eman Karmouty, Alfred Taligoola Kisubi, Ambroise Kom, Keiko Kusunose, George Lang, John Lenly, Ghislaine Lydon, Suzanne MacRae, Edris Makward, Tom Maroukis, Janis Mayes, Joseph McClaren, Soraya Meketa, Stephen Meyer, Ahmed Moustafa, Patrick Mutana, Micere Githae Mugo, Anja Oed, Amy Ogden, Nihl Osundare, Eustace Palmer, Pushpa Parekh, Abioseh M. Porter, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Janice Spleth, Manal Sultan, Louise Viljoen.

I. CALL TO ORDER. President Elisabeth Boyi called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

II. RATIFICATION OF AGENDA. The agenda was adopted as presented.

III. RATIFICATION OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (SAN DIEGO). The minutes of the San Diego meeting were approved as printed in the *ALA Bulletin*.

IV. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

A. ELECTION REPORT AND MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS. Vice President Janis Mayes reminded all members to vote in elections and to encourage others to do so. She reported on the counting of the ballots and announced that the new Vice President would be Hal Wylie. She conveyed a message from him expressing his gratitude and promising to live up to the record that his predecessors had established in these threatening times. The three new members elected to the Executive Council are E. Anthony Hurley, George Joseph, and

Wangui wa Goro. The Vice-President thanked all those who agreed to stand for office. A motion was passed to destroy ballots.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT AND AUDITORS' STATEMENT. Robert Cancel expressed his appreciation to our hosts. He submitted a written financial statement showing that the ALA bank account has a current balance of \$38,256.65. The Endowment Fund, suffering from the decline of the stock market, has fallen to \$56,485.11 as of December 2002. The Association's current total assets now stand at \$94,741.76.

The Treasurer reminded the organization of its commitment to Africa World Press to send back issues of the ALA Annuals to 85 African university libraries at a cost of \$12,000 for packaging, insurance, and mailing. He proposes paying \$8000 this year and \$4000 the following year instead of trying to pay all of the expense in one year. The costs will go down in subsequent years in which only one annual will have to be mailed.

The Auditors, Eckhard Breitung and E. Anthony Hurley, verified that the financial statement was accurate, and a motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was suggested that future reports include losses in brackets.

C. ANNUAL SERIES EDITOR'S REPORT. In the absence of the Annual Editor, the President announced that the Richmond volume would be forthcoming.

D. COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

1. CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. The Vice-President as Chair of the Constitutional Reform Committee read a constitutional amendment to create the position of Deputy Vice-President:

"The candidate who receives the second highest number of votes in the election for Vice-President becomes Deputy Vice-President. The Deputy Vice-President is a voting member of the Executive Council. The Deputy Vice-President assists the President and Vice-President in their duties. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice-President, the Deputy Vice-President becomes the interim Vice-President for the remainder of the term of the Vice-President. S/he may run in the next ALA elections [as Vice-President]."

The amendment was voted on and passed with 30 members voting for it, one against, and six abstaining.

2. RESEARCH AND TEACHING COMMITTEE. The President proposed the revitalizing of the committee for the future.

3. ISSUES COMMITTEE. Kenneth Harrow, as Chair of the Issues Committee, thanked Janis Mayes for her initiative with regard to the Issues Committee. He asked that issues be directed to him in areas that address the committee's mission. He noted that one of these areas is Human Rights and that Mineke Schipper has downloaded names of writers on the continent who have been identified as victims of human rights abuse. He asked that new members be suggested for the committee and invited the addition of writers, other than those listed by PEN, who have been the object of human rights abuse and the names of other Human Rights organizations that might be able to expand our list of writers who have been imprisoned or executed. Harrow read the names of writers who have recently been sentenced or killed. He suggested that a web site could be maintained to make information about the victims available to the membership. Other suggestions included an affiliation with PEN's Rapid Action Network.

F. CONVENERS OF COMING ALA CONFERENCES. President Boyi summarized reports of conveners for the 2004 and 2005 conferences. The next conference will be held at Madison, Wisconsin, April 14-18, 2004. The theme chosen by the conveners is "Verbal Performance and Visual Cultures." Everything is running smoothly, hotel reservations have been made, a travel agency has been contacted, and funding has been acquired. Further details will be available in the ALA Bulletin. For the Boulder conference in 2005, planning is still in the preliminary stages, but funding has been obtained from the University of Colorado. A further report is expected from the conveners at the meeting of the Executive Council scheduled for the ASA meeting in the fall. Concerning future bids, the President announced that there had been an expression of interest from Tunisia. Edris Makward reminded the members that we have already held meetings in North Africa. Possible venues might be Uganda or Kenya.

G. OTHER ITEMS. President Boyi welcomed new members and invited them to consider attending future conferences.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS FROM THE ISSUES COMMITTEE.

Kenneth Harrow, Chair of the Issues Committee, proposed two resolutions, one dealing with human rights and a second with the war in Iraq. The human rights resolution was amended to read: "Resolved: We would like to take the occasion of our meeting in Africa to reaffirm our own commitment to the freedom of writers to express themselves in various forms, to publish, and to disseminate their

works, and to readers having open access to the works of writers, including scholars, creative writers, filmmakers and journalists." The second resolution was amended to read as follows: "Resolved: The African Literature Association, committed to the freedom of writers to express themselves, and to the rights of people to have open access to their writings, is also committed to the respect for the dignity and autonomy of peoples everywhere. We firmly believe that the experiences of colonization in Africa and the struggles for liberation strongly supported by the ALA throughout its existence have made us aware of the terrible consequences that colonialism brought to colonized peoples. It is in respect of that awareness that we protest in the strongest possible terms against the invasion, bombardment, and regime change in Iraq." Both resolutions were approved by the members and are to be sent to the appropriate authorities by the president of the ALA. It was also proposed that messages of appreciation be drafted for our hosts in Alexandria, including the governor.

B. REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT CAUCUS. On behalf of the Caucus, Wendy Belcher asked the assistance of members in identifying graduate students for membership in the ALA. The Caucus is currently involved in a drive to recruit African graduate students from the continent, and it is working with the Executive Council to allow members the opportunity to contribute \$5 toward the dues for African students who would otherwise not be able to join. In order to make graduate students more comfortable at meetings, the Caucus is working with the EC to arrange for graduate student panels. There are also initiatives to incorporate more professional workshops into the annual conferences.

C. WOCALIA REPORT. Fahamisha Patricia Brown thanked the members for their support of the Caucus luncheon and encouraged those who did not attend to pay dues and renew their membership. Other announcements will appear in the *ALA Bulletin*.

D. FRANCOPHONE CAUCUS REPORT. Anne Carlson, newly elected chair of the Francophone Caucus, thanked the conveners for providing an opportunity for the Caucus to meet and for including numerous Francophone activities on the program. She announced that the Caucus had sponsored a panel at the conference on Andr e Chedid, who was invited but could not attend. She expressed appreciation for the presentation in French by Path  Diagne and thanked Charlie Sugnet for providing Francophone films for the Alexandria conference. New officers for the coming year include: Anne Carlson, Chair; Drocella Rwanika, Vice-Chair; Michele Chossat, Secretary; and Frances Novak, Treasurer. For the 2004 ALA conference in Madison, the Caucus will be sponsoring three panels. Anne will be organizing a panel on dance in Francophone literature, and Janice Spleth will be chairing a panel on ekphrasis. Those who would like to become a member of the Caucus can send their names to the Chair. Dues of \$15, which are optional, may be sent to Frances Novak. Items for *The Baobab*—events, calls

for papers, or the announcement of publications of interest to Francophone scholars—may be sent to Hal Wylie.

E. EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT.

Janis Mayes, as incoming president, commended Elisabeth Boyi for her work as president and her ability to put the needs of the organization beyond those of individuals.

F. RESOLUTION ON FUTURE MEETINGS. Dennis Brutus introduced a resolution that would preclude the ALA from holding future conferences in the USA beyond those currently being planned. He was reminded that, according to the proposal approved at the 1981 ALA conference, a motion of this importance could not be acted on at the annual meeting without prior notification of the membership. With the understanding that the resolution could not therefore be passed at the Alexandria meeting, a vote was requested to determine the sense of the body. The vote supported the motion, with 16 in favor, two against, and two abstaining.

VI. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned by President Boyi at 7:15.