The people of New Orleans welcomed the ALA Conference attendees with open arms and were appreciative of our presence there. ALA members responded by volunteering their time for clean-up projects, donating funds for local library rebuilding projects, and learning more about the impact of Katrina on the lives of the people of New Orleans. Final registration for the conference totaled 16,964 member and vendor registrations, which is about 1,700 less than the Orlando Conference in 2004. Relief funds totaling more than $1.37 million were contributed to local libraries from the ALA Library Relief Fund and the American Association of School Librarians Relief Fund.

Dues: In the spring election, members voted to increase membership dues, and the ALA Executive Board is working with ALA staff to develop plans for the use of the expected extra funds. The dues increase will be phased in over a three-year period, with new funds going to support the ALA strategic plan, Ahead to 2010. Initiatives included are support for legislation and advocacy (a GODORT priority), advancing the publishing and distribution of digital publications, expanding continuing education opportunities for members, and providing funding for research and development of new products and services.

Two specific initiatives for expenditure of the additional funds are of potential interest for GODORT members. First, GODORT members have long asked for improved web services, and plans now state that by 2010, the ALA budget will include $250,000 to be used to “continuously improve ALA’s technology capabilities in order to achieve the association’s goals and meet member needs.” Secondly, a potential opportunity for GODORT, about $250,000 will be made available each year as an “initiative fund” to be competitively awarded to ALA units for one-time initiatives to help improve organizational effectiveness.

GODORT Resolutions: All GODORT-endorsed resolutions presented to council by the ALA Committee on Legislation were approved including resolutions on support for EPA libraries, saving federal libraries, the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006 (FRPAA), and no-fee FDLP access to the PACER system. For the full text of the resolutions, see the GODORT Legislation Committee’s web site (www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortresolutions/index.htm) or the ALA Council web site (www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceb/council/council.htm).

Additionally, in response to many recent closings of federal libraries or funding cuts, council approved a request from the Committee on Legislation Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) and GODORT that ALA form an ad hoc committee on federal libraries to “assess the current situation of federal libraries” and report back to ALA. The ad hoc committee membership will include GODORT members.
