

Compiled by Lettycia Terrones.

I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the Los Angeles Chapter of REFORMA. My name is Lettycia Terrones, and I have served as president of the Los Angeles Chapter of REFORMA—The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. I would like to share with you the many accomplishments that our dedicated Los Angeles chapter members contributed this year in support of our organization’s mission.

Fundraising

Our chapter members are a dedicated bunch, and their work has directly contributed to the effort to recruit more Latinxs to the library profession. REFORMA Los Angeles’s annual fall scholarship fundraiser affords us an opportunity to give back to our communities by raising money to offering scholarships for the next round of Latinx librarians.

Our annual fall scholarship fundraiser was a huge success, and as a result, REFORMA LA was able to award three one thousand dollar scholarships to Latinx graduate students currently enrolled in accredited Master of Library and Information Science programs at UCLA and San Jose State University. Anita-Marie E. Martinez and Janet Garcia were awarded the Elizabeth Martinez Scholarship, and Jimmy Zavala was awarded the Dr. Karin Durán Scholarship. The REFORMA LA chapter held an awards luncheon on June 5, 2016 at the East Los Angeles Public Library to recognize the scholarship winners.

We were delighted to have New Mexico State Library Commissioner and former Executive Director American Library Association Elizabeth Martinez in attendance at the luncheon. Ms. Martinez gave an inspiring keynote address to our winners and attendees. She emphasized our need to effect change at an institutional level by working to increase the number of Latinx doctoral students in LIS. Ms. Martinez also shared excerpts of the memoir she is currently writing.

Because of our active fundraising, the Los Angeles Chapter was able to award one \$250 dollar Día de los Niños Mini-Grant. This year’s winner was Dr. Romelia Salinas for her Día community program held at California State University, Los Angeles on April 29. Inspired by this year’s Newbery Medal winning book *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena, with illustrations by Christian Robinson, Romelia’s program at Cal State LA welcomed a new audience to celebrate a day of cuentos and libros.

The Los Angeles Chapter also awarded Anna U’Renn, MLIS student at San Jose State an ALA Student Travel Grant in the amount of \$250.

The REFORMA Los Angeles Chapter also extended a warm and enthusiastic welcome to J. Carlos Rodriguez. Carlos is now the University Library Dean, at California State University Los Angeles.

At the luncheon, we also had an opportunity to recognize our current secretary and in-coming public information officer, Juan Guillermo Garcia who was awarded the prestigious Spectrum Scholarship Award for 2016-2017. Our graduating MLIS students included Sylvia Aguiñaga, whose organization DIY Girls empowers girls by teaching coding and applying science, tech, engineering, and math (STEM) skills in creative ways is making big waves in library innovation.

The following chart reflects our Chapter’s fundraising for the 2015-2016 year:

| REFORMA Los Angeles Chapter Funds Raised 2015-2016 | | |
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| Check from Reforma National | \$902.00 | |
| Westcom | \$347.80 | |

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| LAPL Rare Books Tour | \$203.00 | |
| Fall 2015 Fundraiser | \$2,426 | |
| Awards Luncheon Fundraiser | \$647 | |
| TOTAL | \$4,525.00 | |

Outreach

Promoting school libraries is also important to our members. This year, outreach efforts included partnerships with school libraries in Bellflower and Compton, California. The efforts aim to support existing school libraries in need of collection development and services. Over 420 books were given to students at Compton Elementary School as well as Craig Williams Elementary School.

REFORMA member and incoming Los Angeles chapter treasurer, Sonia Bautista, is also spearheading a library outreach project with the Salvadoran Consulate. Named *La Biblioteca Prudencia Ayala de el Consulado de El Salvador*, the project was created to serve the children and families that visit el Conulado de El Salvador.

Throughout the year our chapter members participated in outreach and fundraising efforts to support REFORMA’s *Children in Crisis Project*. Members tabled at the *Central American Refugees in Detention - Rethinking US Immigration* conference held at UCLA on September 17, 2015. Members also presented storytimes at the May 7, 2016 fundraising event for *Children in Crisis* held at *La Librería*, a bookstore in Los Angeles that specializes in Spanish language children’s books.

Recruitment and Retention

Following a series of meeting discussions, our chapter members approved new chapter bylaws to better reflect our chapter’s goals to recruit and support new members. Our bylaws now include the following standing committees: Fundraising and Awards Committee, Public Relations and Marketing Committee, and the Membership Committee.

REFORMA LA meeting documents and bylaws are accessible from our new website reformala.org. Chapter members also extend a huge thank you to Edwin Rodarte for building and maintaining our chapter website.

REFORMA LA began a monthly newsletter to showcase and support the important contributions that our members make through their dedicated library service.

Incoming Officers for 2016-2017

On behalf of the REFORMA Los Angeles Chapter, I would like to extend our congratulations to the newly elected 2016-2017 Chapter Officers:

Incoming President, Celia Avila (Los Angeles Public Library); Vice-President/President-Elect, Bredny Rodriguez (Biomedical Library UCLA); Treasurer, Sonia Bautista (Commerce Public Library); Juan Guillermo Garcia (Glendale Public Library); and, Web-manager, Edwin Rodarte(Los Angeles Public Library).

We look forward to their leadership and innovation in the coming year, and are certain that their many professional assets will surely benefit the work of the Los Angeles Chapter of REFORMA and help us reach our organization’s mission to promote library services to Latinx and our Spanish-speaking communities.