

LLAMA President's Message

Prepare to Be Inspired

Pat Hawthorne

In recent weeks, I've turned my attention to preparing for the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Preparing for ALA Annual is a rite of spring that brings lots of anticipation for me. This year, my anticipation is a bit different as my view is different. Having had the opportunity to serve all of you as LLAMA President this past year has been a wonderful experience filled with opportunities to learn more about the division and, more importantly, to learn more about our individual members and the challenges and opportunities you face and what you want and need from your professional associations. What I can say about this experience – without a doubt – is that it is so worthwhile that I highly recommend it. So if you are thinking about getting involved or getting more involved in LLAMA or want to explore options, I encourage you to get in touch with LLAMA President-Elect Catherine Friedman or any of the incoming LLAMA section chairs to discuss areas that might fit your interests. Learning more about you inspired the launch of the new LLAMA Member Spotlight as a way to celebrate the diversity of the division and the contributions of our members: <http://www.ala.org/llama/member-spotlight>

One of the most enjoyable aspects to my preparations this year has been delving into the works of Karol M. Wasylyshyn, our featured speaker for the 2013 Joint ACRL-LLAMA Presidential Program to be held in Chicago on Saturday, June 29 (10:30 – 11:30 a.m.). Thanks to the excellent efforts of the joint program planning committee, we will have an exciting speaker sure to provoke and inspire you and influence your thinking about leadership.

Wasylyshyn is many things – licensed psychologist, consultant, executive coach, published writer, presenter, and poet – all of which make her writing fascinating and compelling. Wasylyshyn has a wealth of experience working with executives as a coach at multiple levels in corporations of all types including GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Revlon, U.S. Steel, and The Vanguard Group. Her clinical training as a psychologist pairs well with her business background and has been key to her success as an executive coach focusing on leadership development. Her writing has both depth and breadth and is insightful and thought-provoking. Grounded in her training and supported by a research approach, she presents solid, well-organized information in an engaging manner that makes her work a good read. And it resonates with experience.

My preparation began with her book, *Behind the Executive Door: Unexpected Lessons for Managing Your Boss and Career* (2011, Springer). Drawn from her experience coaching more than 300 executives, she uses life histories, psychological assessments, leadership competency data, and her coaching notes to define and outline three leadership types – *Remarkable*, *Perilous*, and *Toxic*. Like the trained psychologist she is, she first describes the characteristics of each type in a scholarly manner that is grounded in her research methodology and writes in readable descriptions that illustrate the archetype. From here, she explores the lessons and then moves into specific lessons for each type. Using exercises, she allows the reader to identify leadership behaviors to explore the lessons specific to each of the three types.

What is different about her work is her focus on application. Rather than just tell us about the three leadership types, she shares lessons that can help you shape, reshape, and influence your relationship with individuals of each type whether that person is your boss, your boss' boss, other bosses, or co-workers. The lessons may be focused on managing relationships with each type of boss, yet I found tactics and strategies I think would be helpful in both professional and personal situations. I suspect that this is so because her work draws from the groundbreaking work of Daniel Goleman on emotional intelligence as well as other well-known individuals such as Eric Erikson, Anna Freud, Margaret Mahler, Mary Ainsworth, and Carl Jung as well as her own clinical psychology practice. In the end, Wasylyshyn's work offers timeless and essential lessons and insightful counsel that will make you feel you have your own executive coach in the room with you.

When I finished this book, I moved on to her more recent work – *Standing on Marbles: Three Leader Types in Verse and Imagery*. What a different work! Poems, yes, poems as a way to explore leadership. As different as this book is, it builds on her previous work. Illustrated by Richard McKnight, this collection of poems is unique. Focusing again on the three leadership types from *Behind the Executive Door*, she uses poetry – and her talent as a poet – to provide another perspective on leaders and leadership behaviors. Within the book, Wasylyshyn provides commentary on the poems which are vivid vignettes of the archetypes. After reading these poems, I am not sure I will view leadership in the same way ever again – which is, I think, what Wasylyshyn intended.

With these two reads, I have found myself seeking out some of her work, eager to learn more. If you want to do the same, visit her website -- <http://www.karolwasylyshyn.com/> -- and join us on Saturday morning in Chicago at ALA Annual for a presidential program that is sure to inspire you and get you thinking.

In closing, I'd like to thank the joint ACRL-LLAMA Presidential Program Committee for its efforts to plan this program. It's been a pleasure to collaborate with ACRL President Steven Bell and the ACRL committee members (Valeda Dent, Co-Chair; Kathy Boss, Kathleen Burlingame, and Brian Lym) and the LLAMA committee members who have helped to bring this program together (Lila Fredenburg, Co-Chair; Yolanda Cooper, Jenifer Abramson, Melissa Barger Brisbin). Thank you for your efforts in planning this program.

See you in Chicago!

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