

ALA 2019 Midwinter Meeting – Michigan Chapter Councilor’s Report

Below is a brief report of Council activities and other information from the 2019 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting. All Council documents, committee reports, and resolutions from conference may be found online at: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/documents>

ALA Strategic Directions

The four strategic directions of ALA are:

- **Advocacy**
- **Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion**
- **Information Policy**
- **Professional & Leadership Development**

More information may be found online at: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/>

Marsha Burgess, ALA Council Secretariat

Marsha Burgess was introduced as the new ALA Council Secretariat. Burgess succeeds Lois Anne Gregory-Wood, who served in this role for over 30 years.

Holly Robinson, Projectionist

Holly Robinson was introduced as the new Projectionist. Robinson succeeds Danielle M. Ponton, who served the ALA Council for over 20 years. Ponton was recognized with a Resolution of Appreciation at ALA Council I.

ALA-APA

ALA-APA Director Lorelle Swader provided highlights from her report to Council. APA has revived its Health site, including resources for those experiencing job loss and financial difficulties. ALA Treasurer Susan Hildreth gave the ALA-APA Financial Report. ALA-APA’s finances are strong, finishing FY2018 in the black. ALA-APA will pay off its loan to ALA. ALA-APA began its work with a loan from ALA due to its classification as a lobbying organization. ALA-APA is on both Facebook and Twitter.

President’s Report

The report of the ALA President, Loida Garcia-Febo, included a review of the efforts of the association for the past year. Garcia-Febo highlighted her National and Global Library Tours, including her invitation to speak at the European Union Parliament to advocate for libraries. Garcia-Febo is the first ALA President to be granted this honor.

The full [President’s Report](#) may be read online.

Policy Updates

Council approved three updates of the ALA Policy Manual:

- Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: *An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*
- Services to People with Disabilities: *An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*
- An Amendment to the ALA Policy Council Resolutions: Guidelines for Preparation of Resolutions to Council

The full [Policy Monitoring Committee Report](#) may be read online.

Adopted Resolutions

Council adopted the following resolutions:

- [Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship](#)
- [Resolution Proposing a Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting for ALA Council](#)
- [Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity](#)
- [Resolution in Support of Civil Rights Protections for People of Diverse Gender Identities](#)
- [Resolution Observing Public Domain day on January 1, 2019](#)
- [Resolution on Public Access to Congressional Research Service Reports](#)
- [Resolution Commending the Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act](#)
- [Resolution Celebrating the U.S. Ratification and Passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act](#)

The full text of all resolutions may be read online.

Review of ALA Organizational Effectiveness Continues

At the 2018 Annual Conference, “(ALA) President Jim Neal...announced the formation of the ALA Organizational Effectiveness/Governance Review: Steering Committee, a broadly-representative committee that will work to align ALA’s organizational structure, policies and rules with the association’s 21st century values, key action areas and strategic directions.” Steering Committee members distributed drafts of remodeling options at the Midwinter Meeting to Council and at several open sessions designed to gather feedback. Online feedback sessions are planned.

The full report of the [Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness \(SCOE\)](#) may be read online.

The Future of the ALA Midwinter Meeting

The ALA Conference Committee included a report on the potential future of the Midwinter Meeting. Midwinter attendance has declined in recent years, negatively impacting association revenues, member perception, and exhibitor participation. The committee considered several options, ultimately moving forward with discussion of a new event that would allow the association to focus on the identified needs of members and exhibitors. A decision on the format and schedule of this new event is expected to be in place by June 2019, with the event fully in place in Winter 2021. All sites contracted beyond 2021 will undergo review for their appropriateness for the new format.

The full [ALA Conference Committee Report](#) may be read online.

ALA Council Forum III

The ALA Council III agenda was revised to address a racialized incident at ALA Council Forum III. The Forums are loosely structured events, recommended, but not required, for Councilors to discuss and work on resolutions, other agenda items, or topics of interest that may be covered at Council meetings. Accounts of the incident that took place at Council Forum III may be read online. I attended this session. The essential elements—most notably, one Councilor’s verbal attack on another Councilor—have been widely publicized, and we have necessarily focused our attention on the Councilor who was attacked. As I have continued to reflect on this incident and this meeting, it is clear to me that this is a complex situation, and the likelihood of an event like the one at Council Forum III has been building for some time. Further complicating matters, ALA is undergoing significant personnel and organizational changes. Ultimately, it is my view that the ALA Code of Conduct was violated, and it was evident that all of us, from Councilors to Board members, could have done more to thoughtfully address this incident and care for one another at the time it occurred and in the hours following. I will keep MLA apprised of further developments.

Other Reports to Note

[ALA Executive Director’s Report](#)

[Treasurer’s Report on FY2020 Programmatic Priorities](#)

[Washington Office Report](#)

Report submitted by:

Submitted by Jennifer L. Dean, ALA Chapter Councilor, MLA Board of Directors

ALA Councilor for the Michigan Library Association MLA Board of Directors

Overview of Chapter Councilor Events at ALA

There are numerous meetings for chapter councilors at the Midwinter and Annual meetings. Below is a breakdown of the main meetings that chapter councilors should have on their schedules:

Chapter Leaders Forum – This day-long Friday pre-conference always provides an opportunity for the chapter councilors, state association executives, and other chapter leaders to meet, present, discuss, and learn about what chapters are doing, what issues are being faced, and how the chapters can work together and with ALA.

Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) I and II – This ALA committee is charged “To develop and recognize chapters as integral components of ALA.” Chapter councilors are encouraged to attend their two meetings at each conference. Information online at: <http://www.ala.org/groups/committees/ala/ala-crc>

Chapter Councilor's Forum – Always held between the two CRC meetings, the forum is an opportunity for chapter attendees to discuss chapter related topics, updates, and concerns. Chapter Councilors should make this a priority to attend.

Council Forums I, II, and III – Held prior to each Council meeting, the Council Forum events are for all interested individuals to discuss and work on resolutions and other agenda items or possible Council interest topics that will or may be covered on forthcoming Council meeting agendas at the conference. These meetings are open to anyone and they are recommended but not required for Chapter Councilors.

Council Meetings I, II, and III – Mandatory attendance for all Council Members, including Chapter Councilors, the meetings are the official venue for Council business. Council meetings are held in the mornings at the main conference center venue. All materials for meetings are posted on the Council Documents page and should be read prior to each Council meeting at the conference. Councilors may find it easiest to download the documents to a mobile device before each meeting for accessing materials during Council: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council-documents>

ALA Members Meeting – Typically held immediately following Council I, this official member meeting is part of every conference. Council Members should attend this meeting.

In addition to meetings, there are numerous programs and events that may be of interest.

It is the responsibility of the Chapter Councilor to report to the chapter, usually via written report or email, after attending conference.