ALA Annual Conference 2018
Michigan Chapter Councilor's Report

Below is a brief report of Council activities and other information from the recent American Library Association conference. All Council documents, committee reports, and resolutions from conference can be found online at:

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/documents

ALA Strategic Directions

The four strategic directions of ALA are:

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

More information online at: http://www.ala.org/aboutala/

Work for Review of ALA Organizational Effectiveness Continues

"(ALA) President Jim Neal has 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." Also released and distributed at the conference was the recent Organizational Effectiveness Plan. Now Past-President, Jim Neal, will continue to lead the effort to review the effectiveness of ALA and will work to create a final report for recommended changes to implement. Some big change proposals are already under consideration, including the member initiated proposal to combine the ALA divisions of ALCTS, LLAMA, and LITA, for which a discussion meeting was held at conference. Of relevance to the Chapters of ALA (Michigan Library Association included), the question was asked: "How can we take this conversation to the states?"

Lois Ann Gregory-Wood and Don Wood Retire

ALA Council Secretariat, Lois Anne Gregory-Wood, was honored at the ALA Annual Conference for her retirement, in recognition of 50 years of service to ALA. Lois Ann's husband, Don Wood, was also honored with a resolution for his many years of service. Don will retire in December, from his position in the ALA Chapter Relations Office. Council earlier approved the Lois Ann Gregory-Wood Fellows Program to give " . . . ALA members an opportunity to gain an understanding of library governance and provides support to attend Annual and Midwinter Conferences." Donations to honor Lois Ann through the new program can be made online at: https://ec.ala.org/donate/projects

Libraries Transform!

MICHIGAN LIBRARIES TRANSFORM®

Custom state chapter logos have been added to the *Libraries Transform!*, the national multi-year library awareness campaign from ALA. The new State Chapters Libraries Transform Toolkit, to foster and support state chapters' use of the campaign, is now available online. The kit includes templates for customizable *Because* statements as well as state chapter TRANSFORM logos. Custom state logos can be distributed by the state chapter.

More information online at: http://ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/state-chapters-toolkit

ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability Report

Sustainability ROUND TABLE

Council reviewed the report of the ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability.   "The ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability was formed in 2017 by the ALA Executive Board in response to the ALA Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries and the need to spark the development of actionable initiatives to further this work. The Special Task Force membership includes individuals with a variety of specialties, academic, public, and rural, as well as library architecture." Recommendations highlight " . . . the adoption of the "triple bottom line" framework of sustainability to guide our work: To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are threefold: environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable."

IFC Releases New Social Media Guidelines

The Intellectual Freedom Committee released new Social Media Guidelines for libraries, in their report to Council. The guidelines include " . . . a policy and implementation framework for public and academic libraries that use social media. It includes suggestions for creating social media policies but is not intended as a comprehensive list of requirements or legal advice." The report of the IFC includes the full text of the Social Media Guidelines, as well as other items of interest, including approved revisions of "Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, " "Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights," and "Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights."

OFFICE FOR *Intellectual Freedom* American Library Association

President's Report

The report of the ALA President, Jim Neal, reviewed the efforts of the association for the past year, and highlighted the establishment of the new ALA Policy Corps. "ALA has launched . . . Policy Corps to expand our ability to advocate on key policy issues on behalf of the library community. Participants will focus on issues for which deep and sustained knowledge are necessary and on skills needed to be effective in targeted policy advocacy work." The Policy Corps include member Lance Werner Director, from Michigan's Kent District Library, and Fellow Larry Neal, Director from Clinton-Macomb Public Library in Michigan.

The full President's Report may be read online.

Policy Updates

Council approved updates of the ALA Policy Manual, including the following, among others:

Net Neutrality: An Intellectual Freedom Issue

Visual and Performing Arts in Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

ALA Policy Opposing Sweatshop Labor and Support Union Businesses

ALA Executive Director [Requirements]

Key Action Aras

Strategic Directions

The full Policy Monitoring Committee report can be read online.

Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Racial Segregation

Council approved a resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Racial Segregation. This resolution of the American Library Association: "Acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, and inhumanity of racially segregated libraries; Apologizes to African Americans for wrongs committed against them in segregated public libraries; Commends African Americans who risked their lives to integrate public libraries for their bravery and courage in challenging segregation in public libraries and in forcing public libraries to live up to the rhetoric of their ideals; Welcomes all African Americans to libraries, recognizing in particular those who were forced to use segregated libraries; Encourages libraries to defend, in their policies and in their actions, the *ALA Code of Ethics* principle 1 – "We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests," as well as calling for wide publication of the resolution. The full resolution may be read online.

Resolution to Reunite Detained Migrant Children with their Parents

The Committee on Legislation brought a *Resolution to Reunite Detained Migrant Children with their Parents* to Council for approval. Council approved the resolution. The full text of the resolution, among others brought forth from the COL, may read online in the committee's report.

New Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries Round Table Approved

Council approved motions brought forth from the Committee on Organization, including the establishment of a new Round Table. "The Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries Round Table will be to foster critical thinking and advocacy through member engagement and collaboration across the association. Members will encourage the incorporation of comic books and graphic novels in library services, programming, and collections for libraries of all types through efforts including organizing professional development opportunities, creating resources, and promoting community outreach." Press release with background information is online. Council also approved COO's recommendation to rebrand ALA committee Interns as ALA and Council Committee Associates. The committee's full report may be read online.

Other Reports to Note

ALA Executive Director's Report

Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF)

International Relations Committee (IRC)

Treasurer's Report on FY2019 Programmatic Priorities

Washington Office Report

Report submitted by:

Steven K. Bowers
Executive Director
Detroit Area Library Network

ALA Councilor for the Michigan Library Association
MLA Board of Directors, President

Overview of Chapter Councilor Events at ALA

There are lots of 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 encourage 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.

*The future of Council Forums is currently under review.