

ALA Midwinter 2017 Michigan Chapter Councilor's Report

Below is a brief report of Council activity from ALA Midwinter 2017. All Council documents, reports, and resolutions from Midwinter 2017 can be found here:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/council-documents-midwinter-and-annual-conference-2017>

Chapter Leaders Forum

The Chapter Leaders Forum pre-conference was held to engage Chapter Councilors and other leaders from the various regions throughout the country. The agenda included "Tips for a Successful Library Advocacy Day," "Making Meetings Work," and discussion on how chapters are involved with ALA work. The forum attendees were also updated on the work of the Chapter Relations Committee and work from ALA including the new ALA Advocacy Bootcamp.

Chapter Relations Committee

The Chapter Relations Committee held two meetings at Midwinter, which many Chapter Councilors also attended. The committee is focusing on efforts to strengthen communications between ALA and chapters. Attendees had numerous opportunities to provide input on the open process for the work that will go into revising communication methods.

ALA Executive Director to Retire

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels has announced his retirement, which is set for July 17. Fiels hopes to remain involved as a personal member of ALA. Council approved membership of the Executive Director Search Committee. A contentious split Council vote narrowly approved retaining the standing policy that requires the Executive Director of the ALA hold an ALA accredited MLIS or equivalent degree. The [defeated resolution](#) called for the policy to be amended to make a library degree highly preferred instead of required for the Executive Director.

Intellectual Freedom Committee, Privacy Subcommittee and Choose Privacy Week

"This fall, the IFC's Privacy Subcommittee partnered with the LITA Patron Privacy Interest Group to create seven checklists to provide libraries with practical guidance on implementing the Library Privacy Guidelines published by the Intellectual Freedom Committee in 2016. These include:

1. Library Privacy Checklist Overview
2. Library Privacy Checklist for Library Websites, OPACs, and Discovery Services
3. Library Privacy Checklist for Students in K-12 Schools

4. Library Privacy Checklist for Public Access Computers and Networks
5. Library Privacy Checklist for E-book Lending and Digital Content Vendors
6. Library Privacy Checklist for Data Exchange Between Networked Devices and Services
7. Library Privacy Checklist for Library Management Systems / Integrated Library Systems”
[Intellectual Freedom Committee \(IFC\) Report](#) (with checklists)

Amended Resolution on Gun Violence Adopted

The ALA membership approved a Resolution on Gun Violence a year ago at the ALA Midwinter 2016 conference. The ALA Council formed a working group to review the resolution to address several areas of concern to various groups and individuals in the association. Council approved the “[Revised Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons](#)” at this year’s conference, calling for:

- Directors of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to publicly announce that their respective agencies will resume funding non-political, comprehensive research on causes and effects of gun violence in the United States; ensure that such research, and any uses to which such research is put by the NIH or CDC, does not violate the “Dickey Amendment” prohibition on the advocacy or promotion of gun control; and sponsor robust research for the dual purposes of “preventing firearm injuries” and identifying “ways to prevent firearm deaths . . . without encroaching on the rights of legitimate gun owners;”
- Libraries to collaborate with appropriate local agencies to provide training and education for library workers related to the presence of guns in the workplace; and
- Libraries to support community discussions around all aspects of guns in society.

Resolution on Access to Accurate Information

“In 2005, Council adopted the resolution on Disinformation, Media Manipulation & the Destruction of Public Information, which presciently recognized the growing problem of disinformation and its impact on access to public information and civic discourse. Because of a growing trend over the past several years of not only information disappearing from the public domain, but also actual disinformation propagated across multiple media platforms, the committee felt this resolution should be reaffirmed and updated to reflect the current media environment.” A new resolution was approved to state ALA’s concern on this matter. The Executive Director will disseminate the resolution to various outlets and use the resolution as a basis for promoting work of the association.

Resolution Establishing Family/Caregiver Status as Protected in ALA Volunteer Work

Council passed a [Resolution](#) to value the contributions of its volunteers on committees and other groups and recognize the importance of their families. It was noted that such a resolution was needed because some members had previously been dismissed from volunteer positions because of absences due to family circumstances. The resolution stated that:

- No section of the organization shall use family status to jeopardize or sideline an individual's path as a volunteer in the organization.
- Family status shall extend to any member's children, spouse/partner, parents, or any other family member in a traditional or non-traditional sense.
- While an individual's family status shall not be used to determine if a person shall be chosen for a committee or volunteer opportunity, the organization shall make every effort to make appropriate accommodations for persons with family status issues.
- While periods of appointment may not be changeable particularly for elected positions within the organization, absences at meetings will not be grounds for immediate loss of position.

New Strategic Direction of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Adopted

The Council approved expansion of the [ALA Strategic Directions](#) to include "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion." The four ALA strategic Directions now include:

- Advocacy
- Information Literacy
- Professional and Leadership Development
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

ALA Annual Conference Remodel

Information was made available about the changes to take affect at the ALA Annual meeting. The planned [ALA Annual Conference Remodel](#) includes addressing several longstanding issues brought forth from the membership, including:

- Shrinking the overall footprint of the conference, including having most program sessions and discussion groups at the main conference venue
- Offering a single application process for all ALA programming, including divisions, roundtables, and interest groups
- Having one hour sessions

Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy

The latest of issue of the [Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy](#) is now available. "JIFP, a quarterly journal published by the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom, provides a forum for discourse on intellectual freedom and privacy issues arising in libraries, archives and educational institutions. JIFP is available by subscription for \$50 per year. Individual and institutional subscriptions are available online via the [ALA subscription order form](#)."

Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Membership

“Membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation allows us to continue building our organizational capacity to support our litigation, education, and awareness campaigns; it is the critical foundation for FTRF’s work in defending First Amendment freedoms in the library and in the larger world. I strongly encourage all ALA Councilors to join me in becoming a personal member of the Freedom to Read Foundation, and to have your libraries and other institutions become organizational members. Please send a check (\$50.00+ for personal members, \$100.00+ for organizations, and \$10.00+ for students) to:

Freedom to Read Foundation
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Alternatively, you can join or renew your membership by calling (800) 545-2433, ext. 4226, or online at www.ftrf.org.”

Reports Presented to Council

- [Implementation Report on Council Actions](#)
- [Treasurer’s Report on Programming Priorities](#)
- [Endowment Trustees Report](#)
- [Policy Monitoring Committee \(PMC\) Report](#)
- [Intellectual Freedom Committee \(IFC\) Report](#)
- [Committee on Legislation \(COL\) Report](#)
- [President’s Report](#)
- [Freedom to Read Foundation \(FTRF\) Report](#)
- [Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report](#)
- [Committee on Organization \(COO\) Report](#)
- [President Elect’s Report](#)
- [Washington Office Report](#)
- [ALA Resolutions Committee Report](#) (with flowcharts on how to bring forth resolutions)
- [Budget and Analysis Review Committee \(BARC\) Report](#)
- [ALA Conference Accessibility Task Force \(CATF\) Report](#)

Report submitted by:

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