

ALA 2024 Annual Council Meetings - Michigan Chapter Councilor's Report

Below is a report of Council meetings and activities during the 2024 Annual conference. Agendas and council documents including committee reports are available online through the ALA website: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/documents>. [Recordings](#) and [minutes](#) will subsequently be available on their respective pages of the ALA website.

Annual Council sessions consisted of:

- [ALA Council Session I](#)
- [ALA Council Session II](#)
- [ALA Council Session III](#)

ALA Council Session I -

[Agenda](#)

Summary:

- [Implementation Report](#) on council actions taken at 2024 LLX
- [Review of Executive Board actions since LLX 2024](#)
- [Committee on Committees Report](#), nominations and [Tellers](#)
 - Additional nominations from the floor
 - Tatanisha (Tiki) Love
 - Shauntee Burns-Simpson
- [ALA Conference Committee Report](#)
- Resolutions
 - [Resolution to Support AASL School Library Chapters and ACRL Academic Library Chapters](#)
 - [Resolution Reaffirming ALA's commitment to Intellectual Freedom and issuing a Call to Action](#)

Resolution to Support AASL School Library Chapters and ACRL Academic Library Chapters

[The resolution](#) addresses a formerly unknown inequity in service and connection that some state school and academic library chapter members have in connection with ALA services such as advocacy and intellectual freedom resources, webinars and workshops. The resolution to

create a taskforce to map out chapter councilor responsibilities and communications to ensure that school and academic libraries are included in information sharing and included intentionally in chapter representation.

Discussion took place on how different library chapters relate to their state school library associations and how that may impact the task force's scope. Many school librarians commented that this was a necessary resolution as they have felt like the red-headed stepchildren of ALA for too long, and having their perspectives heard in today's landscape of library challenges was overdue and necessary. While many supported the resolution as a whole, there was considerable debate on specific items included and language which ultimately would be up to the taskforce to consider as a part of their work to present their recommendations at the 2025 annual conference. **RESOLUTION PASSES**

Resolution Reaffirming ALA's commitment to Intellectual Freedom and issuing a Call to Action

[The resolution](#) calls attention to the various challenges to intellectual freedoms that include censorship through removal of books in libraries and through booksellers, AI and social media misinformation campaigns, and certain state or local government actions to bar libraries from membership in ALA. It also thanks the support of library staff, advocates and other supporters for their work to ensure that free people read freely.

Discussion was in complete support for this resolution with many appreciating a national approach to these challenges that they are facing within their states and locally. **RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

ALA Council Session II -

[Agenda](#)

Summary:

- Agenda Review
- [Reports of ALA/Council Committees](#)
 - [Committee on Organization](#)
 - [Bylaws Committee](#)
 - [Policy Monitoring Committee](#)
 - [Publishing Committee](#)
- [Reports of Special Committees/Taskforces](#)
 - [LGBTQIA+ Taskforce Report](#)

- [New Business/Resolutions](#)
 - Discussion on the future of ALA
 - Discussion of LLX 2025
 - Operation Agreement

Reports of ALA/Council Committees

Committee on Organization

Items for council for vote on from COO:

1. Create a Makerspace Round Table - **TABLED UNTIL LLX 2025**
2. Change the name and charge of the Training, Orientation, Leadership Development Committee - **Recommendation Passed**
3. Create the ALA Affiliates Committee - **Recommendation Passed**
4. Discontinuance of Committee on Research and Statistics - **Recommendation Passed**

The discussion around the Makerspace Space round table focused on the necessity of creating a new round table in the midst of ALA restructuring their operating agreement and its purpose when there is currently a makerspace interests group as a part of CORE. Points were made that interest groups are established as a first step to gain support to then develop standing round tables, and a counter point by the Executive Director to postpone discussion until LLX due to the financial and staffing implications.. A motion was made to table discussion until LLX.

TOLD is requesting a name change to the ALA Leadership Development Committee. The new charge is as follows:

“To plan and coordinate training, orientation, and leadership development for member leaders at all levels across the association. To inventory training and orientation modules in divisions, round tables, and other association groups. To coordinate the ALA Committee Associate training program.”

The discussion around creating an ALA Affiliates Committee with the following charge:

“The ALA Affiliates Committee works to ensure all affiliates understand their responsibilities to and their benefits from ALA. This group will also promote opportunities for affiliates to work together on programming. The Affiliates Committee:

- Serves as a communication pathway between the Affiliates and ALA.
- Is composed of a chair, with one representative from each affiliate.
- Meets a minimum of quarterly, but may meet more often as needed.
- Meets annually in person at the Annual Conference.
- Coordinates an annual orientation to the Affiliates Program.

- Coordinates the Affiliates program at ALA Annual Conference featuring the work of the Affiliates.
- Creates and maintains the Affiliates Handbook

The Committee on Research and Statistics discussion focused on the lack of clear charge with the support of ALA to create a process for the expected work of the committee to continue at the organizational level with a plan to be presented at LLX in 2025. Council has voted to dissolve this committee.

The remaining items in the report include a Policy Revision working group, COO Review and Information gathering and an updated committee roster.

Bylaws Committee - Motion Carried

The Bylaws Committee has brought to council a motion to update language from Article 13 Section 1 Review and Approval. The new language will be as follows:

“The Executive Board shall review and approve the annual budget, including the budget objectives, as part of the budget process.”

Policy Monitoring Committee

The Committee has discovered several resolutions that should be removed from the manual that were considered outdated, contained dated language or represent specific political issues that hold less relevance today. All items brought to council were voted to be removed by council.

Publishing Committee

The committee brings to council a request to approve the creation of an ALA journal publication ethics policy as outlined in the report.

Reports of Special Committees and Task Forces

LGBTQIA+ Taskforce Report

The taskforce was charged over the last year to create a way to track employer discrimination and retaliation against LGBTQIA+ library workers. The committee recommends the following:

1. that ALA implement the survey to inform further data collection on this topic. The survey should be widely distributed and then given to ODLOS to track, analyze, and

institutionalize support for LGBTQIA+ library workers in an ongoing and sustainable manner.

2. that ODLOS centralize organization-wide resources and make them accessible to all.
3. that a committee be formed to analyze and gather resources and if there is an absence of resources, that resources be developed.
4. that the ALA Board of Directors' Rainbow Roundtable and NALCo representatives work directly with this committee to ensure the development and establishment of centralized and ongoing resources.

New Business

1. 2025 LLX discussion on the reasoning for two executive board members no votes on the skeleton schedule for this conference. Both board members still supported the schedule as a whole, but had specific items they opposed. Details about these items can be found in Executive Council recorded meetings minutes.
2. Small group discussion on the future of ALA with the prompt "What are 1-2 things ALA can do in the next year". Discussions held in large group with individual councilors speaking at the mic with their aspirations and concerns for ALA's future.
3. The Operating Agreement was not discussed.

ALA Council Session III

- Memorials, Tributes and Testimonials
- Tribute Resolutions Recognizing/Honoring
- Report of Officers
 - ALA Treasurer's Report
- Reports of ALA Council Committees
 - Tellers Report on the CoC and PBA Election Results
 - Intellectual Freedom Committee
 - Committee on Legislation
 - International Relations Committee
- Resolutions
 - Working Group for ALA Societal Statements Guidelines
 - Resolution to Update Recently Removed Language in the ALA Policy Manual
 - [Recognition of Retiring Councilors and Executive Board Members](#)

[ALA Treasurer's Report](#)

Overall, there are concerns with the fiscal health of the association over the next fiscal year. There has been incredible progress from the lowest point in 2020, but the next few years will be closely watched.

[CoC and PBA Election Results](#)

CoC Members

[ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee](#)

REVIEW OF INTERPRETATIONS OF THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

In preparation for the publication of the eleventh edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual, the Intellectual Freedom Committee began review of the Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights and other ALA policy documents addressing library users' intellectual freedom and privacy. Five working groups were formed to review the five interpretations deemed to be in most need of review and revision:

- Restricted Access to Library Materials
- Diverse Collections
- Prisoners' Right to Read
- Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors
- Access to Resources and Services in the School Library

THE OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Since January, the Office for Intellectual Freedom has expanded the number of available initiatives intended to support librarians, library staff, board members, readers, and students fighting censorship in their communities.

- Book Resumes
- Intellectual Freedom Helplines
- Lawyers for Librarians

[Committee on Legislation](#)

Federal subcommittee asking for 15% cut to IMLS, 13% reduction to the Department of Education and other cuts.

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to:

Approve the "Resolution Urging Library Workers and Supporters to Participate in the 2024 Elections," the Committee on Legislation's report.

[Freedom to Read Foundation Report](#)

Resolutions

[Working Group for ALA Societal Statement Guidelines](#) - Motion Passes

[Resolution to Update Recently Removed Language in the ALA Policy Manual](#) - Motion Defeated

President-Elect Discussion

The Executive Board will meet in closed session to select a candidate for President-Elect in early July. Council will convene for a confirmation vote in late July.