

MLA Board of Directors, Executive Director, and MLA Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Michigan Library Association as a Chapter Councilor at meetings during the ALA Annual Midwinter Conference in snowy Chicago this past January. The following is a summary of meetings, discussions, and resolutions. The full text of resolutions, tributes, and other reports and documents will all be found on ALA's website.

ALA 2015 Midwinter Conference – ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session – Saturday, January 31

ALA President's Report - Courtney Young

Courtney updated the audience on the status of the Career Development Facilitators (CDF) program. Twenty-two state chapters have been selected to participate in the inaugural program (this includes Michigan) This specific training will place special emphasis on the role of the librarian in helping patrons and job seekers.

ALA President-Elect's Report - Sari Feldman

Sari presented brief updates on her activities. She and her advisory committee members are refining her proposed presidential platform and key areas of focus for the 2015-16 presidential term.

Executive Director's Report - Keith Michael Fiels reviewed the association's strategic planning initiative and explained the process of discussions being held by ALA's committees and boards

Treasurer's Report - Mario Gonzalez

Mario reviewed the FY2014 audited financial results. He reported that total revenue in 2014 increased over 2013 by 2%. Dues revenue decreased by only 0.8%; he described this as good news. Total expenses decreased by 5.1%. Total net assets increased by nearly \$8 million over 2013.

Budget Analysis and Review Committee Report - Patricia Wand, Chair

Pat reported on FY2015 first quarter results. She also reported that BARC concluded it was unable to support the original Resolution to Allow Programs at Midwinter Meetings and recommended to the Executive Board that the Midwinter Meeting maintain its current footprint.

Endowment Trustees Report - Rod Hersberger, Senior Trustee

Rod reported that the value of the endowment for the calendar year ending Dec. 31, 2014 was \$40,735,091, which is an improvement over the 2013 year-end value of \$37,288,932.

Nominating Committee Report – Teri Switzer, Chair

The chair presented a slate. She also introduced the candidates for ALA President-elect: James LaRue, CEO, Larue & Associates, and Julie B. Todaro, Dean, Library Services, Austin Community College. There will also be two petition candidates: J.P. Porcaro, Librarian for Acquisitions and Technological Discovery, New Jersey City University ; and Joseph Janes, Chair, University of Washington Information School.

Presidential Candidate Forum followed after the meeting. Each candidate gave a five minute introduction on what he/she would do for ALA. Candidates then had an opportunity to answer questions from the floor.

ALA Midwinter 2015 ALA Council I – Sunday, Feb. 1

Courtney Young, ALA President, introduced guests, presented the rules for Council meetings and the agenda for the session.

Sari Feldman, Chair of the 2014-2015 Committee on Committees (and ALA President-Elect), presented the 2015 nominations for election to the ALA Executive Board. Three councilors are to be elected for three-year terms from the following candidates: Gladys Smiley Bell, Hampton University; John C. DeSantis, Dartmouth College; Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., Library of Congress; Loida Garcia-Febo, Information New Wave; Aaron W. Dobbs, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania; and Mike L. Marlin, California State Library. Bernard Margolis, State Library of New York, and John C. Sandstrom, New Mexico State University, were nominated from the floor.

Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director, reviewed Executive Board actions since the 2013 Annual Meeting.

ALA Midwinter 2015 – Sunday, Feb. 1 – ALA-APA Council Meeting

Keith Michael Fiels, ALA-APA Executive Director, introduced **Lorelle Swader, ALA-APA Director**, who made a brief report on recent ALA-APA office activities.

Mario Gonzalez, ALA-APA Treasurer, presented his report. At the end of 2014, revenues were down just over \$17,416 from 2013, which was an improvement over the loss between 2012 and 2013. Expenses were down \$5,077 over 2013.

ALA Midwinter 2015 – Monday, Feb. 2 – Council Session II

Mary Stansbury, Chair of the Committee on Accreditation, presented her committee's report. The committee recommended to Council adoption of updated accreditation standards. Information about the Standards, including the recommended revision, is available at <http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/standards>. Council adopted the updated standards.

Henry Stewart, Chair of the Policy Monitoring Committee, presented his report. Based on a review of Council actions at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference, the Committee found three items that required Council action. One, that each chair of an ALA committee must report on their work at least two times per year, second, to clarify the intent and structure of Membership Interest Groups, and third, a new interpretation of copyright be inserted in the Code of Ethics. All three recommendations were approved

Mary Rzepczynski, Chair of the Committee on Organization (COO), presented her report, which focused on information related to a clarification of the reappointment policy to the Budget Analysis & Review Committee (BARC). Because of a number of questions, this was referred back to COO.

Jim Rettig, Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, presented the following recommendation to Council.

Resolved, that following amendment to the ALA Bylaws be presented to the ALA membership on the spring 2015 ballot: Amend Article XII of the ALA Bylaws to state: Robert's Rules of Order in the latest edition, shall govern the Association in all cases to which it can be applied and in which it is not inconsistent with the Constitution, the Bylaws, or special rules of order of the Association. Council approved placement of this amendment on the spring 2015 ballot.

Julius Jefferson, Jr., Chair of the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), presented his report. He highlighted litigation activities.

Follow developments on litigation activities and others at http://www.ftrf.org/?Current_Cases.

Mario Gonzalez, ALA Treasurer, reviewed the three strategic directions that guided the programmatic priorities. Those directions are Advocacy, Information Policy, and Professional Education and Development. He next presented the FY2016 programmatic priorities that are in line with the 2015 ALA strategic plan. They are also a guide in the preparation of the FY2016 budget. Council endorsed the following programmatic priorities:

- *Diversity*
- *Equitable Access to Information and Library Services*
- *Education and Lifelong Learning*
- *Intellectual Freedom*
- *Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession*
- *Literacy*
- *Organizational Excellence*
- *Transforming Libraries*

The Resolution on ALA Divestment from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions was withdrawn.

Council next considered the Resolution Encouraging Public Library Directors to Provide Funds for Trustees to Join ALA and United for Libraries. This motion was referred to the Committee on Resolutions for Council III.

Keith Michael Fiels announced a current total registration of 10,568 at the 2015 Midwinter Conference.

ALA Midwinter 2015 – Tuesday, Feb. 3- Council Session III

Courtney Young, President of ALA, presented Memorials and Tributes.

Susan Schmidt, United for Libraries Councilor, presented a Resolution Urging library Directors to Encourage and Support United for Libraries Memberships for Each of Their Trustees. Council approved the resolution.

Kent Slade, Chair of the Tellers, reported on the results of the Executive Board election. With 147 ballots cast, Loida A. Garcia-Febo, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., and Mike L. Marlin were elected.

Loida A. Garcia-Febo, Chair of the International Relations Committee, presented her report.

She presented a Resolution Recognizing and Supporting United Nations, Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Its 70th Anniversary.

Council approved the resolution.

J. Douglas Archer, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, presented the Committee's report. He highlighted several items from his written report.

During the 2014 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV, the IFC proposed revisions to 14 Interpretations to the Library Bill of Rights for inclusion in the 9th edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual. He announced that the ninth edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual will be available in April.

He also presented a Resolution Denouncing Recent Assaults on the Freedom of Expression as Exemplified in the Attack on *Charlie Hebdo*.

Council approved the resolution.

Vivian Wynn, Chair of the Committee on Legislation, presented the Committee's report. An important new subcommittee has been added to COL. FLAG is charged with the task of creating

a cadre of influential library advocates from every state in the United States. FLAG will be devising and implementing a proactive approach, enhancing our advocacy efforts to Congress. Advocates recruited by FLAG must have connections to one or more Members of Congress and agree to contact those Members of Congress when urgent legislative and policy issues arise. cadre members, we have been extremely successful, with a list of over fifty cadre members to date. We are asking councilors to help identify potential cadre members and to pass that information on to the FLAG chairs: Vivian Wynn (vwynn91@bellsouth.net) or Joan Reeves (jrreeves2@gmail.com).

She presented a Resolution on Preserving Public Access to Scientific and Technical Reports Available Through the National Technical Information Service.

Council approved the resolution.

Trevor Dawes, Chair of the Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, presented his report. The ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion was created in spring 2014 by then ALA President, Barbara Stripling. The charge of the Task Force reads as follows: The Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will develop a plan and strategic actions to build more equity, diversity, and inclusion among our members, the field of librarianship, and our communities. Because the work of the TF got underway in the fall 2014, it is still in the information-gathering phase.

Jane Glasby, Councilor-at-Large, presented a Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries and Schools in Gaza in 2014.

The resolution was defeated.

Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of ALA, announced that Midwinter attendance totaled 10,637.

Erica Findley, Councilor-at-Large, announced that a court decision in Kentucky is expected soon that could devastate funding levels for 99 of the 104 state's public libraries. She urged ALA to be prepared to provide any needed assistance. Keith Michael Fiels responded that ALA has already been assisting the Kentucky Library Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Burns
ALA Chapter Councilor for Michigan