

ALA Council 2020 Fall and 2021 Midwinter Virtual Meetings – MLA Chapter Councilor’s Report

Below is a brief report of ALA Council activities in Fall 2020 and adjacent to the 2021 Midwinter Virtual 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**
- **Information Policy**
- **Professional & Leadership Development**
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion**

More information, including ALA’s core values, key action areas, and information about ALA governance may be found online at: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/>

Fall 2020 Council Meetings

Council met twice in the Fall to conduct official Council business.

- The first meeting was held in September in response to requests from Councilors, Divisions, and members for more information on the ALA budget. Although full information was not available due to ALA’s outsourcing of its finances to an external firm, Council was satisfied with the information provided and that ALA staff were working diligently to provide the requested information. The Council voted to adopt the FY21 Annual Estimates of Income. In addition, Executive Director Hall provided information on a five-year pivot strategy designed to address declining membership and revenue.
- The second meeting was held in December following six deep dive sessions specifically devoted to the Forward Together recommendations: <https://forwardtogether.ala.org/>. Following lengthy discussion and a series of amended resolutions, Council adopted resolutions designed to move the Forward Together recommendations on for further discussion and action by Council through the creation of a timeline.

A series of six deep dive sessions were held by the Forward Together Working Group in September through November to help Councilors and others understand the Forward Together recommendations, to discuss and debate aspects of the recommendations, and propose amendments and changes. These sessions and a comprehensive survey conducted in November resulted in the Final Report of the Forward Together Working Group presented to Council at Midwinter 2021. The final report is available online: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2035%20Forward%20Together%20Working%20Group%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

The newly formed Forward Together Resolutions Working Group is currently meeting to develop a series of resolutions to ensure that the Council can take action on the Forward Together recommendations. Council will continue to discuss and debate the Forward Together recommendations, using the resolutions process to make amendments and ultimately vote on the adoption of Forward Together.

Midwinter Virtual 2021 Council Sessions

Similar to the ALA Virtual event in Summer 2020, Council sessions did not conflict with Midwinter Virtual programming. Council sessions were offered separately via Zoom, and registration information was provided to anyone who was interested. This offered the opportunity for more people to attend or observe Council business—whether they were ALA members or not. This also saved money for MLA—since no travel or registration was required, the Councilor did not require reimbursement for Council activities for Midwinter. This will be true for the virtual ALA Annual conference, as well. MLA will provide information to members for registering for ALA information sessions and Council meetings as ALA Annual 2021 approaches.

President's Report

President Julius C. Jefferson reported on his activities in the first half of his presidential year, many of which had been converted from in person to virtual. President Jefferson's focus has been on advocacy to date, with plans to begin the equity, diversity, and inclusion work and ALA branding items on his agenda following Midwinter.

- Holding Space Tour: Two-week virtual advocacy tour highlighting the essential and invaluable work of tribal, rural, Historically Black College and University (HBCU), school, and under-served libraries, featuring 87 panelists including library patrons/students; local, state, and federal officials; involvement from 12 state associations; 2 ALA Affiliates and 3 State Libraries; 4,367 total registrations, and 1,988 total event attendees
- Library Stabilization Fund Act: Bill introduced by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) & Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI) to bolster library services and address financial losses due to COVID-19
- ALA Connect Live events: Including topics such as EDI, Advocacy, reopening libraries during COVID-19, intellectual freedom and the REALM project, and LIS students
- Congratulatory video to Congressman Andy Levin (D-MI-09), MLA's legislative awardee, for their annual awards ceremony

The full President's Report may be read online:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2021%20Presidents%20Report%20Midwinter%202021%200.pdf>.

Adopted Resolutions

Council adopted the following resolutions:

- RESOLUTION in Support of Broadband as a Human Right
- RESOLUTION to Condemn White Supremacy and Fascism as Antithetical to Library Work
- RESOLUTION in Opposition to Facial Recognition Software in Libraries
- RESOLUTION to Prioritize Library Workers to Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine
- RESOLUTION on the Misuse of Behavioral Data Surveillance in Libraries

The full text of all resolutions, including several memorial and tribute resolutions, may be read online: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/annual-and-midwinter-2021>.

Five-Year Pivot Strategy

Executive Director Hall discussed ALA's five-year pivot strategy, which seeks to grow ALA's membership and annual revenues over the next five years by doubling ALA's streams of growth and revenue from three to six. ALA's need to rethink and renew its business plan as well as COVID-19's impact on the association and libraries more broadly necessitated a new strategy for moving the organization forward. The plan includes feedback from ALA staff members, leaders and staff of peer associations and library organizations, and ALA member and executive groups. An overview of the plan is available here:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2036%20ALA%205-Year%20Pivot%20Stretgy%20Update.pdf>

Highlighted Reports

ALA Executive Director's Report:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2023%20Executi%20Director%20Report%202021%20Midwinter.pdf>

Treasurer's Report on FY21 Programmatic Priorities:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2023%20Executi%20Director%20Report%202021%20Midwinter.pdf>

President-elect's Report:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2029%20Presid%20ent-Elect%20MW%20Jan%202021.pdf>

ALA-APA

ALA-APA will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. Establishment of the ALA-APA was authorized by the ALA Council in June 2001.

National Library Workers Day (NLWD) will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. On this day, library organizations are encouraged to host a celebration and submit a star to honor a great worker, team or department by visiting the NLWD website: www.ala-apa.org/nlwd. Submit a story about your celebration to: libraryworklife@ala.org. If you want to view or share the posts, just

like ALA-APA on the NLWD Facebook page or follow the APA's Twitter feed @alaapa. Be sure to use the hashtag #NLWD21. Celebration ideas and promotional materials will be available.

ALA-APA also offers support for employee wellness. More information is available on the ALA-APA Wellness website: <https://ala-apa.org/wellness/>.

Report submitted by:

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

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we do
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Overview of Chapter Councilor Events at ALA

Below is a breakdown of meetings attended by chapter councilors:

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

While conferences have been virtual, CLF has been scheduled as a half-day virtual event, featuring similar content and format to the day-long in-person event. Meeting ALA staff members in person and learning from members and staff from other chapters are highlights of this event.

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 should check the Documents page, ALA Connect, and email for updates and information regularly while Council meetings are in progress, as updates and information may be sent on short notice. 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>

While conferences have been virtual Council meetings have been held separately from conference events, making it possible for more people to attend and observe Council. Councilors should have a reliable internet connection and the ability to move between browser windows to manage the meeting site, voting site, and Council documentation while Council is in session.

ALA Members Meeting – This official member meeting is part of every conference. Council Members should attend this meeting and encourage others to attend.

It is the responsibility of the Chapter Councilor to report to provide a written report to the Chapter after each conference.