

## ALA Midwinter 2018 Michigan Chapter Councilor's Report

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

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

### ALA Current Priorities

*Take a Stand for Libraries* was released, noting current ALA Priorities including:

- **Museum and Library Services Act of 2017**
- **Protecting the Right to Research**
- **Bringing Broadband to Tribal Lands**
- **Restoring Net Neutrality**

More information visit: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/currentpriorities>

Sign up for the ALA Legislative Action Center at: [ALA.org/takeaction](http://ALA.org/takeaction)



### #FundLibraries



The President's proposed federal budget for 2019 was released on 2/12/2018. Of great concern to libraries, the proposal included the elimination of IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) and IAL (Innovative Approaches to Literacy), among others. In response, the ALA has released an

Action Alert, and encouraged everyone to contact their representatives to ask them to fund libraries.

A website with easy contact forms has been set up at: <http://www.ala.org/fundlibraries>

The President had proposed the same budget eliminations last year. Contacts from constituents via the efforts of ALA and others last year seemed to help elected officials to override the President's recommendations for the 2018 fiscal year, in which library funding was held flat or increased. The same is hoped for the 2019 budget.

### Office of Library Advocacy (OLA)

Office of Library Advocacy reported that the "Big 3" issues that continue to trend in libraries include: library funding, cuts in school libraries, and a rise in privatization. As ALA administration looks at reorganizing for efficiency the future makeup of OLA is uncertain. Chapters are asked to consider sending a letter of support stating how they value OLA. <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/ola>

## ALA anticipating Major Changes for Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is proposing to review its organizational and conference structures. This may mean major restructuring for the association. One major initiative includes looking at “integration and realignment opportunities” for ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA, i.e. combining these divisions into one. The association is planning on delivering a final report in summer 2019, with implementation of various recommendations to follow. Also of note, it is anticipated that a new Executive Director for ALA will be hired and in place by the ALA Midwinter conference in January 2020.

## AASL Standards, ESSA, and Michigan School Libraries

American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of ALA, has recently released its new [National School Library Standards](#). The [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) was also recently passed. Most states are tackling integration of both, including the state of Michigan, which is working on its implementation plan for the new legislation. ESSA replaces *No Child Left Behind*. Of note, the Michigan Department of Education has released a [memo supporting placement of accredited school librarians](#), and work has been done to include school librarians in the state’s implementation plan for ESSA. MAME (Michigan Association for Media in Education), the statewide association for school library media specialists, hopes to continue work with others in the state to help rebuild the presence of school librarians in Michigan, which has greatly declined in the past decade.

## Joint Conference of Librarians of Color 2018



“Founded in 2015 the Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc. (JCLC Inc.) mission is to address the professional and personal development, continuing education, and collegial networking needs/requirements of librarians of color and to promote library and information services to communities of color through targeted national conferences, programs and events.”

The 3rd National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color will be held September 26-30 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. More information online at: [www.jclcinc.org](http://www.jclcinc.org)

## Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries

A support toolkit for collection development policies and challenges has been released online at: <http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>. The toolkit is meant to provide libraries guidance including basic components of a selection policy, procedures for when a challenge is brought against the collection, and other documents from ALA.

## Libraries Transform!



*Libraries Transform!*, the national multi-year library awareness campaign from ALA, is adding custom logos for each state to their free toolkit. In March a State Chapters Libraries Transform Toolkit will be released, to foster and support state chapters' use of the campaign. The kit will also include templates for customizable *Because* statements. Once the new kit is released there will be a webinar on how to use it. More information online at: <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/>

### **Net Neutrality and Visual and Performing Arts Library Bill of Rights Interpretation Statements Passed**

The ALA Council approved two statements brought forth by the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, including one titled *Net Neutrality, Intellectual Freedom, and Censorship* as well as a clarifying statement on *Visual and Performing Arts in Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*. Both documents were meant to address current issues and challenges experienced by libraries. Full text of the statements can be found online in the [Intellectual Freedom Committee \(IFC\) Report](#).

### **Lois Ann Gregory-Wood Fellows Program Established**

Council approved the establishment of the Lois Ann Gregory-Wood Fellows Program in honor of Lois Ann Gregory-Wood's approaching 50-year anniversary of service with ALA. The award will provide one to two scholarships annually. "The purpose of the award is to give ALA members who have been working in libraries or who have been library trustees/friends an understanding of ALA governance and to help them engage in the governance of the Association at any level and to ultimately to provide a larger pool of ALA members who are interested in ALA governance. This program gives a jump start by making possible attendance at major professional governance activities within ALA."

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