

ALA Midwinter Highlights, January 20-24, 2017

Submitted by Sara Ring, ALA Chapter Councilor

Below is a summary from the American Library Association Midwinter Conference, followed by my full report (page 6).

Chapter Meeting Highlights

The Chapter Leaders Forum is offered at Midwinter and at ALA Annual every year and is a place to connect with other Chapter Leaders and to learn more about how ALA and the Chapters work together.

- The Tennessee Library Association presented about how they went through a major restructure.
 - They formed a task force to take the temperature of long-time members, new members, nonmembers, etc. They went to every library in Tennessee to see who TLA was not representing and found over 100 new libraries that were not TLA members.
 - With the new structure of the board, all the roundtables now get 1 vote on the board. They are thinking that the Chairs of the roundtables will have a representative to the board who will vote, which means the roundtables will be talking to each other more.
- Indiana's new Executive Director presented on their strategic planning process. After meeting with about 60 library leaders, members wanted more advocacy, higher quality professional development opportunities, and increased communication and accountability.
 - Their work plan is on their [website](#), and they even post YouTube video updates on the progress of the plan.
 - When trying to figure out who attended what conference, they mapped members vs. conference attendees using the tool Tableau.
 - They plan to ensure faces of color and millennials are on the board and in other leadership positions.
- The executive director from New York Library Association presented on how to host a successful legislative advocacy day.
 - They do a full day of professional development the day before library legislative day. That's how they get people to come to Albany, and stay for the next day. They get between 800-1,000 people for their library legislative day. They bring students and kids. When going into offices, that's who the legislators gravitate towards and want to hear from. And you're creating advocates at an early age.
 - Suggest holding a rally at your legislative day, it energizes the base. They have a parade of legislators that stop to speak (the legislators love to talk) at the rally.
 - At the last legislative day, they printed library advocacy message coasters, then planted them in bars they knew legislators would be at.
- Eli Mina, ALA Parliamentarian gave a really engaging talk on making meetings work. I like his "suffering is optional" outlook. If other people are dominating the discussion, you as a member of the board can and should speak up. He gave examples of how to respond (as a board member) to interruptions, personal attacks, rambling, repetitive debate, side conversations, unbalanced participation, unclear motions, and more.
- The end of the day was reserved for open discussions on topics of interest to the group.

- **Membership:** About half the room raised their hands when asked if membership has decreased. Texas has programs to keep members engaged year-round. They try to encourage new librarians to serve on committees.
- **Retiree Groups:** Texas Library Association has a round table called Alive. It's for library retirees and they go on cruises and trips together. The round table makes money on this. Indiana has a new retiree group to provide institutional memory and to mentor new library staff.
- **Revenue sources:** Texas Library Association sells coloring books and the funds go towards their disaster relief fund. They host vendor ads on their website too, and it's worked well for them. Texas Library Association and New York have planned giving (estate planning) options. One library association mentioned they offer READ license plate holders and those are popular.
- At the Chapter Councilor Forum, people shared what they are doing in response to the divisive election:
 - Texas is currently working on strategic planning to help affirm library core values
 - New Jersey is creating their own PSA, based on the Columbus, OH PSA that recently came out, which is excellent!: <https://youtu.be/cG4WEKmBRMU>
 - Illinois [created a message for library staff to share about inclusivity](#)

ALA Town Hall Meeting

The ALA Executive Board held a town hall-style meeting so that ALA members could share feedback and ideas about future directions of the Association. The meeting was held after hearing concerns expressed by members (via emails and social media) about the effect of the Presidential election on ALA advocacy efforts. It was a listening session for the ALA Board, and they are now reviewing all the feedback and plan to release a Q&A soon in response. There were many thoughtful comments made and what stood out to me was the call to really focus and come together on our core library values, and to talk about them to everyone. Sara Zettervall wrote a nice summary in ALA Cognotes [here](#).

- [View recording](#)

ALA Council I

- Librarian of Congress Carla D. Hayden was our special guest and thanked the library community for helping to make her confirmation possible.
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will be added as a 4th strategic direction of ALA.
- The 2016 ALA Annual Conference Council Actions document, [CD #9](#), lists what ALA has done with resolutions that passed in previous Council Meetings. There are several in the report, but I've highlighted a couple that have been discussed at previous MLA board meetings:
 - ALA's response to passage of [Resolution in Support of the Professional Cataloging Processes and Determinations of the Library of Congress](#): The Office of Government Relations shared the resolution with LOC Leadership and staff of the Senate Rules Committee, and met with House Appropriations Committee staff to discuss this issue. They will continue to monitor the issue in the 115th Congress.
 - ALA's response to referred [Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association](#): ALA President Julie Todaro appointed a subcommittee on improving

communication and coordination between ALA and its Chapters to identify potential solutions to improve chapter engagement by identifying roles for chapters in national ALA efforts, for ALA in Chapter efforts, and solutions to improve the communication between ALA and its Chapters.

ALA Council II

- [Freedom to Read Foundation Report, CD #22](#)
 - Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund gave grants to 6 different educational organization to support their observances of Banned Books Week. **Saint Paul Public Library** used its grant to help the library connect with people and inspire them to explore the world of ideas. They hosted a Banned Books Signing event featuring Minnesota authors from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds who had their books banned or challenged. Hosted “Storytime with a Public Official” and “Banned Books Night at the Movies (featured films based on banned books).”
 - New Fund, the Robert P. Holley Fund. Free one-year memberships in FTRF for LIS students. Application process currently under development and will be announced in the next several months.
- [Resolution on the Education Requirements for Future ALA Executive Directors, CD #14.1](#)

This was a resolution to amend the education requirements for the future ALA Executive Director to make the ALA-accredited master’s degree strongly preferred but not required. After much debate (see full comments on page), 75 voted yes to make the master’s degree strongly preferred, and 78 voted against it. It did not pass, so the job description stays as-is, with a master’s in library science required.
- [Resolution Establishing Family/Caregiver Status as a Protected Class in ALA Volunteer Work, CD #31](#). This resolution passed, and established “Family/Caregiver Status” as a protected class within the organization for purposes of volunteer work by members.
- [ALA Annual Conference Remodel Discussion, CD #40](#). There are a lot of changes coming, but they won’t be fully implemented until the 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans. The objectives are to have a more manageable and easy to navigate Annual Conference, reduce the campus size, have clearly articulated content streams that bring together both programs and peer-to-peer learning, reduced schedule conflicts between sessions on the same topic, and to increase sustainability.

ALA Council III

- [COL/IFC Joint Working Group on the Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons, CD #42](#). Comments received from the open comment period showed that the membership was very divided, so the working group chose to focus on areas that there was some consensus: the need for good, solid research, the need for training and education for library workers on how to deal with incidents, and the traditional role libraries play in providing a space where the community can come together and discuss issues. The part that did not make it into the revised draft was a resolve clause that calls on ALA to work with other professional association to support sensible and effective and national gun safety laws, oppose “gun friendly” state legislation, in particular any legislation that permits the carrying of

guns in or near libraries and schools. The majority of councilors spoke in support of this most recent draft, and the motion to adopt passed.

- [Committee on Legislation, CD #20](#). After a decade of advocacy work by ALA, activists, and government officials, the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Improvement Act of 2016 was signed into law. The new law codifies the “presumption of openness” for government documents for future administrations; harnesses technology to improve the FOIA process; limits to 25 years the period of time that agencies may keep records of their internal deliberations confidential; and strengthens the Office of Government Information Services.
- [Intellectual Freedom Committee, CD #19](#)
 - Now going to be tracking hate crimes via the Challenge Reporting Form. Since November, OIF has documented 9 hate crimes.
 - 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.
 - In 2005, Council adopted the resolution on Disinformation, Media Manipulation & the Destruction of Public Information, which 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. Introduced resolution on Access to Accurate Information, CD #19.10 (follow report link above to access this resolution). Through this resolution, ALA reaffirms the 2005 resolution, and adds these:
 - ALA opposes the use of disinformation, media manipulation, and other tactics that undermine access to accurate information;
 - Resolved, ALA encourages its members to help raise public consciousness regarding the many ways in which disinformation and media manipulation are used to mislead the public;
 - Resolved, ALA urges librarians and library workers to actively seek and provide sources of accurate information that counter disinformation;
 - Resolved, ALA supports the critical role public, academic, and school librarians in teaching information literacy skills that enable users to locate information and evaluate its accuracy;
 - Resolved, ALA will pursue partnerships with news organizations, journalism institutions, and other allies to promote access to accurate information and defend the role of journalists and the free press in American society.

ALA-APA Council

The ALA Allied Professional Association is a nonprofit organization that promotes “the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers.” The ALA-APA is a companion organization to the ALA. There is a legal distinction between ALA (focused on membership as a whole) and ALA-APA (focused on the individual).

- There is a Certified Public Library Administrator Program (post-MLS certification program for public librarians) to further professional development and help librarians move to a higher level

of practical professional experience. Three new online courses offered on Library Marketing, Current Issues, and Serving Diverse Populations.

- [New APA Wellness website](#). **The website redesign was worked on by our own Jennifer McElroy who was the 2016 ALA Emerging Leader from Minnesota.**
- National Library Workers Day is on April 11, 2017. Library organizations are encouraged to host a celebration and submit a start to honor a great worker, team or department by visiting the [NLWD website](#).

Resolutions Passed During Council

- [Resolution Establishing Family/Caregiver Status as a Protected Class in ALA Volunteer Work, CD #31](#)
- [Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons, CD #42](#)
- [Resolution on Access to Accurate Information, CD #19.10](#)

Resolutions Not Passed During Council

- [Resolution on the Education Requirements for Future ALA Executive Directors, CD #14.1](#)

Full Report, ALA Midwinter, January 20-24, 2017

Below is my full report, organized chronologically, from ALA Council and related meetings I attended at the 2017 American Library Association Midwinter Conference. Some of the other Chapter Councilors also write blogs and report on the activities of ALA Council. Visit the [ALA website](#) to read other reports. All of the Council documents linked to below can be found on the ALA website [here](#).

Chapter Leaders Forum (Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

The Chapter Leaders Forum is offered at Midwinter and at ALA Annual and is a place to connect with other Chapter Leaders and to learn more about how ALA and the Chapters work together.

Update: ALA Chapter Relations Committee

This group was charged with looking at communications/relationships between chapters and ALA. They want ideas to implement immediately, and they're also looking at enhancements to implement in the next 6 months. They asked attendees of the Chapter Leaders Forum the following question: What about ALA would you like to know more about to help you function in your role as a Chapter Leader? We put up post-its on the board throughout the day.

Presentation: Tennessee Library Association: One Association's Journey of Restructuring

- Began a restructuring process with a conference theme: "Everyone at the table" to start to discuss how to be more inclusive. Later hosted a conference with the theme "Dare to imagine," that asked attendees to imagine starting everything from scratch.
- They had 40 members on their executive board, which was not working well. Their structure includes people who are not elected (some appointments).
- Formed a task force to take the temperature of long-time members, new members, nonmembers, etc. They found they had some groups that did the same thing (e.g. leadership committee, leadership round table).
- Held a two-day board retreat to look at restructuring of board
- Went to every library in Tennessee to see who TLA was not representing. Found over 100 new libraries. They will be looking at how to bring more members in from these libraries.
- With the new structure of the board, all the roundtables now get 1 vote on the board. They are thinking that the Chairs of the roundtables will have a representative to the board that will vote. And, the roundtables will at least be talking to each other more.
- Before changes are made, they will also need to change their mission, bylaws, etc of the association.

Presentation: Indiana: Preparing for the Future

Indiana's new Executive Director presented next (coming from a nonprofit background). During strategic planning process asked this question "Is it serving the mission, or is it serving the structure?"

- Met with about 60 library leaders. Asked about aspirations, challenges, and what changes would need to be made to overcome challenges
- Heard what people wanted, which included: more advocacy, higher quality professional development, and increased communication and accountability.
- Drafted a work plan (see [website](#)) and post YouTube video updates on progress.

- When reviewing current structure, they found they put on 15 library conferences a year. If they want to focus on advocacy and other things, they just can't do 15 conferences a year.
- They mapped members vs. conference registrants (Used Tableau as the tool) to see who was attending conference and from where.
- They wanted to make sure faces of color and millennials were on the board and in other leadership positions (the current makeup of the board was made up of white librarians about to retire).
- Worked on communications to non-members as well.

Presentation: How to Host a Library Advocacy Day and Influence People, New York Library Association

- The state cut 9 million out of the library budget this past year. Speaker advice: "Don't let a crisis go to waste!" The library community rallied around this.
- They do a full day of professional development the day before library legislative day. That's how they get people to come to Albany, and stay for the next day.
- They get between 800-1,000 people for their library legislative day.
- Hold a rally at your legislative day, it energizes the base. They have a parade of legislators that stop to speak (the legislators love to talk) at the rally.
- They have buses and coordinate transportation to the capitol.
- After, don't forget to tell people how successful it was, the outcomes/impact, and who attended!
- They printed library advocacy message coasters, then planted them in bars they knew legislators would be at.
- They bring students and kids. When going into offices, that's who the legislators want to hear from. And you're creating advocates at an early age.

Presentation: We've Got to Stop Meeting Like This (Making Meetings Work)

Eli Mina, ALA Parliamentarian gave a really engaging talk. Some of his talk was from a book he authored "101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them." Each attendee received a free copy of the book. Here are some highlights from the talk/discussion.

On Ground Rules

- Motions should be concise, heard, and written (everyone needs to know what they're voting on).
- Suffering is optional. If other people are dominating the discussion, you as a member of the board can and should speak up. The Chair could also set the ground rule that comments need to be brief to not run over time. Or, as Chair you could ask that no one speaks a 2nd time if there is someone else who has not spoken and wishes to speak. The handout also had other examples of how to respond (as a board member) to interruptions, personal attacks, rambling, repetitive debate, side conversations, unbalanced participation, unclear motions, and more.
- The handout also lists several fundamental discussion guidelines:
 - Order (one person speaks at a time; Chair or designated person keeps the speakers' lineup)
 - Focus (focusing on the group's core mandate; staying on topic; establishing outcomes)
 - Efficiency (on a per topic basis and on a per person basis)

- Decorum (remaining civilized and respectful; focusing on issues, not personalities)
- Safe environment (making it possible to share unpopular but necessary points without fear)

On Effective Decision Making

We need to make knowledge-based decisions (informed decisions). He is always heartened to hear statements like this: “Madame President, I was sure I was going to vote one way when I woke up. Now, hearing the discussion, I will be making a different, more informed decision.” This is democracy at work. Making informed decisions. For Chairs, his advice is to speak less, lead more.

The end of the day was reserved for open discussions on topics of interest to the group. Unfortunately, we ran out of time, but I wrote down a few ideas from other associations below.

Membership

- About half the room raised their hands when asked if membership has decreased. Texas has programs to keep members engaged year-round. They try to encourage younger members to serve on committees. Maryland found that rallying around a crisis they recently had got more members engaged.
- Texas Library Association has a round table called Alive. It’s for library retirees and they go on cruises and trips together. The round table makes money on this.
- Indiana has a new retiree group to provide institutional memory and to mentor new library staff.

Revenue sources other than membership and conference

- Texas Library Association sells coloring books and the funds go towards their disaster relief fund. They host vendor ads on their website, but they appear to be conference sponsorships. It’s worked well for them and at least one other association mentioned they also host vendor ads and it’s gone smoothly.
- Texas Library Association and New York have planned giving (estate planning) options.
- One library association mentioned they offer READ license plate holders and those are popular.

ALA Council I (Sunday, January 22, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)

At the first ALA Council meeting we heard the following announcements and reports, and voted to unanimously approve the nomination of Ann K. Symons for ALA Honorary Membership. You can read a nice summary by American Libraries of Council I [here](#).

- Librarian of Congress Carla D. Hayden was our special guest and thanked the library community for helping to make her confirmation possible.
- Appointment of the Tellers Committee for the ALA Executive Board and the Executive Director Search Committee Elections, [CD #10.1 Revised](#)
- Nominations for the Council Executive Board Election, [CD #11](#)
- Review of Executive Board Actions Since the 2016 Annual Conference, [CD #15-15.2](#).
 - *The Task force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion final report was approved and recommendations were referred to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Implementation Working Group.*

- *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will be added as a 4th strategic direction of ALA.*
- *From the floor, asked for an update on the [ALA sustainable libraries resolution](#) that was passed at ALA Annual 2015 Council meeting. The resolution encouraged all libraries and the association to be proactive in their application of sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, partnerships and library school curricula. Since then, ALA has incorporated it into a “news you can use” feature at midwinter. It was incorporated into the symposium on the Future of Libraries at ALA midwinter. The most critical piece is the impact it will have on operations. ALA plans to also incorporate it into the conference remodel implemented at ALA Annual 2018.*
- *Implementation of the 2016 ALA Annual Conference Council Actions, [CD #9](#). Note: I only included resolutions followed up on and not all that was mentioned in the report.*
 - *Response to passage of [Resolution Calling Upon Libraries to Build More Inclusive Communities](#): Shared with ALA news outlets, survey of groups such as REFORMA, American Indian Library Association, etc is in process and they will compile a list of actions undertaken by each group, along with the Office for Diversity, Literacy & Outreach Services.*
 - *Response to passage of [Resolution in Support of the Professional Cataloging Processes and Determinations of the Library of Congress](#): The Office of Government Relations shared the resolution with LOC Leadership and staff of the Senate Rules Committee, and met with House Appropriations Committee staff to discuss this issue. Will continue to monitor the issue in the 115th Congress.*
 - *Response to passage of [Resolution on the Restoration of the United Nations Depository Library System](#): ALA sent a letter to the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information at the United Nations, expressing its concern over the planned changes to the UN Depository Library Program. Received a thank-you, but they will be moving ahead as planned.*
 - *Response to referred [Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association](#): ALA President Julie Todaro appointed a subcommittee on improving communication and coordination between ALA and its Chapters to identify potential solutions to improve chapter engagement by identifying roles for chapters in national ALA efforts, for ALA in Chapter efforts, solutions to improve the communication between ALA and its Chapters.*
 - *Response to passage of [Resolution Urging Immediate Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled](#): The Office of Government Relations provided this Resolution to senior majority and minority staff of the Senate Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees, and relevant senior staff of the House Judiciary Committee.*
 - *Response to passage of [Resolution on Equity for School Libraries for the Department of Education Making Rules for ESSA](#): The Washington Office attended several listening sessions held by the Department of Education on ESSA regulations. Staff spoke to the equity issues regarding the funding and staffing of school libraries. The Washington Office also arranged a special listening session for AASL with officials of the Department of Education.*
 - *Response to passage of [Resolution on Equity for All in School Libraries](#): ALA Washington Office staff attended many meetings with Congressional staff at which they advocated for equitable access to effective school library programs.*

- ALA Honorary Membership Nomination, CD #34. *Ann K. Symons was nominated for ALA Honorary Membership. It was unanimously approved.*

ALA Town Hall Meeting (Sunday, January 22, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

After Council I, the ALA Executive Board held a town hall-style meeting so that ALA members could share feedback, concerns, and ideas about future directions of the Association. The meeting was held after hearing concerns expressed by members (via emails and social media) about the effect of the Presidential election on ALA advocacy efforts. It was a listening session for the ALA Board, and they are now reviewing all the feedback and plan to release a Q&A soon in response. There were many thoughtful comments made, and what stood out to me was the call to really focus and come together on our core library values, and to talk about them to everyone.

- [View recording](#)
- [Read captioned text](#)

Since the town hall, you may have noticed ALA released these two press releases: "[ALA affirms support for NEH, NEA](#)" and "[ALA denounces recent FCC Lifeline revocations, report retractions.](#)"

ALA-APA Council (Sunday, January 22, 2016, 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

ALA Council I was followed immediately by the ALA APA Council meeting. The ALA Allied Professional Association is a nonprofit organization chartered in the State of Illinois for the purpose of promoting "the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers." The ALA-APA is a companion organization to the ALA. ALA promotes library service and librarianship. There is a legal distinction between ALA (focused on membership as a whole) and ALA-APA (focused on the individual).

- ALA-APA Executive Director's Report, [CD #5](#)
 - *There is a Certified Public Library Administrator Program (post-MLS certification program for public librarians) to further professional development and help librarians move to a higher level of practical professional experience. 3 new online courses offered on Library Marketing, Current Issues, and Serving Diverse Populations.*
 - *They support the Library Support Staff Certification Program that offers library support staff the opportunity to commit to professional development.*
 - *New APA Wellness website: www.ala-apa.org/wellness **The website project was worked on by our own Jennifer McElroy who was the 2016 ALA Emerging Leader from Minnesota.***
 - *National Library Workers Day is on April 11, 2017. Library organizations are encouraged to host a celebration and submit a start to honor a great worker, team or department by visiting the NLWD website: www.ala-apa.org/nlwd*
- ALA-APA Treasurer's Report, [CD #4](#)

Chapter Councilors Forum (Sunday, January 22, 2016, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

These are less formal than Council business meetings, and the agenda is whatever people wish to discuss. The question was asked: What are chapters doing in response to divisive election?

- Texas is currently working on strategic planning to help affirm library core values

- Some are using the ALA Public Awareness campaign Libraries Transform to say that Libraries are open to all
- New Jersey is creating their own PSA, based on the Columbus, OH PSA that recently came out, which is excellent!: <https://youtu.be/cG4WEKbBRMU>
- Illinois created a message for library staff to share about inclusivity: <https://www.ila.org/news/633/we-are-here-a-statement-on-inclusion-from-the-illinois-library-association>
- One Chapter mentioned they use ALA's core values

Council II (Monday, January 23, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

At the second ALA Council meeting we heard the following announcements reports, and voted on 2 resolutions. You can also read a summary by American Libraries of Council II [here](#).

- Proposal to amend 2015 ALA Strategic Directions by adding a 4th Strategic Direction: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, CD#35.
Unanimously approved by Council.
- [Tellers Report on the ALA Director Search Committee Council Election, CD #10.3](#)
2 Councilors elected. Amy Spence Lappin (NH), Mario M. Gonzalez (At-Large)
- [Policy Monitoring Committee report, CD#17](#)
Voted on 2 items that passed. To define a sub-division as a Division or a Roundtable and an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights regarding religion in libraries.
- [Constitution and Bylaws Committee, CD #25](#)
Voted on 3 items that all passed. Item 1 recommended 200 petition signatures to run for ALA president-elect or treasurer, which means amending the bylaws. Item 2 recommends that Council place an amendment to the ALA Constitution on the spring 2017 ballot for a vote by the ALA membership. Item 3 grants Latino Literacy Now ALA Affiliate Status.
- [Committee on Organization, CD #27](#)
- International Relations Committee Report, CD #18
3100 librarians from 140 countries attended IFLA in Columbus, Ohio in August 2016. ALA supports 150 members for ALA-FIL Guadalajara Free-Pass Program, 150 members from 26 states participated to review and purchase Spanish-language materials for their communities at the Guadalajara Book Fair. Planning another trip to Cuba that coincides with the Havana Book. ALA has a 3 year U.S./Germany Library Partnership, and there will be four German-focused programs at 2017 ALA Annual in Chicago. ALA held its third successful SIBF-ALA Library Conference in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Libraries Transform continues to attract interest from abroad, with 350 libraries from 65 countries outside the U.S. signing up.
- [ALA Council Resolutions Committee, CD #32](#)
Looking at bringing the activities of this group into compliance with the charge. They can do

more! Looking at doing more training on the resolution creation/how to submit process. Provided workflow charts outlined the current process for resolutions that come in through Council, members, committees, and subunits.

- [Freedom to Read Foundation Report, CD #22](#)
 - Highlighted newest litigation case in North Carolina, *Packingham v. North Carolina*. The law makes it a felony for persons who are registered sex offenders to access a wide array of websites, including *Washington Post*, *Facebook*, *YouTube*, and *New York Times*. To enforce, law enforcement are going through *Facebook* trying to find sex offenders. The case is going to the Supreme Court in February. Libraries should read the summary in the report because may get questions why *Freedom to Read Foundation* supports this.
 - *Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund* gave grants to 6 different educational organization to support their observances of *Banned Books Week*. **Saint Paul Public Library** used its grant to help the library connect with people and inspire them to explore the world of ideas. Hosted a *Banned Books Signing* event featuring *Minnesota* authors from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds who had their books banned or challenged. Hosted 2 others events: “*Storytime with a Public Official*” and “*Banned Books Night at the Movies* (featured films based on banned books).”
 - *New Fund*, the *Robert P. Holley Fund*. Free one-year memberships in *FTRF* for *LIS* students. Application process currently under development and will be announced in the next several months.

- [Resolution on the Education Requirements for Future ALA Executive Directors, CD #14.1](#)

ALA’s Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels is retiring and a search for a new Executive Director is underway. This was a resolution to amend the education requirements for the future ALA Executive Director to make the ALA-accredited master’s degree strongly preferred but not required. Lots of debate on this one, more than any other resolution at Council this year. Comments for making it required included “What message would be send to library schools that a master’s degree is not required to run the association that does the accreditation?” and “making it required would mean we required someone who has grounding in library values.” Comment for making it strongly preferred included “we may be excluding excellent candidates who have run nonprofits successfully that have the experience in fundraising, etc that someone with a library degree may not have” and “state Chapters have executive directors that have completely turned their organizations around with the nonprofit background.” After much debate, 75 voted yes to make the master’s degree strongly preferred, and 78 voted against it. It did not pass, so the job description stays as is, with a master’s in library science required.

- [Resolution Establishing Family/Caregiver Status as a Protected Class in ALA Volunteer Work, CD #31](#)

This resolution passed, and established “Family/Caregiver Status” as a protected class within the organization for purposes of volunteer work by members. The second resolved clause states that ALA values the contributions of its volunteer members and recognizes the importance of their families as motivators and assistants in the individual’s work in the organization.

- [ALA Annual Conference Remodel Discussion, CD #40](#)

There are a lot of changes coming to ALA Conference. They won't be fully apparent until the 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans. In December 2016 the ALA Conference Committee posted a conference remodel proposal to ALA Connect for member comment. The proposal was also shared with Council during Council II, but also the night before during the informal Council II Forum (8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.). Objectives are to have a more manageable and easy to navigate Annual Conference, reduce the campus size, clearly articulated content streams that bring together both programs and peer-to-peer learning, reduced schedule conflicts between sessions on the same topic, and to increase sustainability. Here are a few things that jumped out at me:

- *45% decrease in number of assignable rooms for programs and meetings*
- *One-hour sessions, with option to start before 9:00 a.m. for a 1.5 hour session or end the day with a 1.5 hour session.*
- *A central, open submission site for all program submissions*
- *Contributed programs will be juried and use a common rubric, timetable, and assessment framework*

Council III (Tuesday, January 24, 2016, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

At the third ALA Council meeting we heard the following announcements reports, and the Resolution on Access to Accurate Information, CD #19.10, passed. You can also [read a summary by American Libraries](#) of Council III.

Memorials & Tributes

- [J. McRee \(Mac\) Elrod, M-#1](#)
- [Robert \(Bob\) Alan, M-#2](#)
- [Valerie Bross, M-#3](#)
- [Sandra \(Sandy\) Friedman Dolnick, M-#4](#)
- [Nettie B. Taylor, M-#5](#)
- [Ruth Gordon, M-#6](#)
- [John Shuler, M-#7](#)
- [Karen Avenick, M-#8](#)
- Warren (Jim) Haas (oral acknowledgement)
- [Tribute: Emily Sheketoff, T-#1](#)

- [Report of the Tellers on the ALA Executive Board Council Election, CD #11.1](#)
3 Councilors were elected to the ALA Executive Board: Patty M. Wong, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, and Trevor Dawes.

- [COL/IFC Joint Working Group on the Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons, CD #42.](#)
COL/IFC were the committee that formed a Joint Working Group for this resolution after it was referred to committee at ALA Annual 2016. The task forced opened the resolution up to member comments. Their intent was to craft a resolution that speaks to and for all of us. Comments showed that the membership was very divided. The working group chose to focus on areas that

there was some consensus: the need for good, solid research, the need for training and education for library workers on how to deal with incidents, and the traditional role libraries play in providing a space where the community can come together and discuss issues. The part that did not make it into the revised draft was a resolve clause that calls on ALA to work with other professional association to support sensible and effective and national gun safety laws, oppose “gun friendly” state legislation, in particular any legislation that permits the carrying of guns in or near libraries and schools. The majority of councilors spoke in support of this most recent draft. The motion passed to replace the latest draft in place of the original, and the motion to adopt passed.

- [Committee on Legislation, CD #20](#)

- *After a decade of advocacy work by ALA, activists, and government officials, the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Improvement Act of 2016 was signed into law. The new law codifies the “presumption of openness” for government documents for future administrations; harnesses technology to improve the FOIA process; limits to 25 years the period of time that agencies may keep records of their internal deliberations confidential; and strengthens the Office of Government Information Services. ALA honored for Top Lobbying Victory by The Hill for the reform of FOIA.*
- *Moved that the Resolution Concerning the Creation of the Deaf Culture Digital Library be postponed indefinitely. The concept of a Deaf Culture Library is in its early stages. It is too soon for ALA to take a position. Motion to postpone indefinitely passed.*

- [Intellectual Freedom Committee, CD #19](#)

- *Now going to be tracking hate crimes via the Challenge Reporting Form. Since November, OIF has documented 9 hate crimes.*
- *The new issue of the Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy is now available at journals.ala.org/jifp*
- *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.*
- *In 2005, Council adopted the resolution on Disinformation, Media Manipulation & the Destruction of Public Information, which 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. Introduced resolution on Access to Accurate Information, CD #19.10 (included at the very end of the report). Through this resolution, ALA reaffirms the 2005 resolution, and adds these:*
 - *ALA opposes the use of disinformation, media manipulation, and other tactics that undermine access to accurate information;*
 - *Resolved, ALA encourages its members to help raise public consciousness regarding the many ways in which disinformation and media manipulation are used to mislead the public;*

- *Resolved, ALA urges librarians and library workers to actively seek and provide sources of accurate information that counter disinformation;*
 - *Resolved, ALA supports the critical role public, academic, and school librarians in teaching information literacy skills that enable users to locate information and evaluate its accuracy;*
 - *Resolved, ALA will pursue partnerships with news organizations, journalism institutions, and other allies to promote access to accurate information and defend the role of journalists and the free press in American society.*

- [FY2018 Programmatic Priorities, CD #13.1](#)
Asked for action on FY 2018 programmatic priorities. Added 4th strategic direction on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Motion to approve programmatic priorities passed.

- [Conference Accessibility Task Force, CD #37](#)
This Task Force was formed as the result of a 2015 Council resolution (Resolution Concerning Accessibility of ALA Conferences and Meetings for People with Disabilities). Working on a survey that will go out mid-February to gather information about experiences at conference (and for people who did not come to conference). Training subcommittee identified 4 different target groups within ALA: ALA Permanent Staff, ALA Division and Round Table Leadership, ALA Conference Presenters, and ALA General Membership.

- **Announcements**
ALA Midwinter registration numbers: 5,410 attendee 2,916 exhibitors, 66 complimentary, 8,995 Total (compared to 11,600 in Boston).