

ALA Midwinter Highlights, January 8-12, 2016

Submitted by Sara Ring, ALA Chapter Councilor

This is the full report from the ALA Chapter Councilor of highlights from the 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.

Chapter Relations Committee I (Saturday, January 9, 2016, 1:00 – 2:30)

The first meeting was mostly updates from various ALA staff.

- New director of public awareness, [Jeff Julian](#) was introduced
- Libraries Transform 3 year public advocacy campaign was discussed. ALA is interested in doing more training in this area.
 - [Toolkit and top 10 list](#) of ways to engage with the libraries transform campaign
 - ALA wants input and thoughts on the campaign from Chapters. Do we want them to come visit? Do we need speakers?
- Michael Dowling, Director of the Chapter Relations Office presented the following report:
 - Friday's Chapter Leadership Forum: Membership, Advocacy, Organizational Transformation was a success
 - The office is working on [Money Smart Week](#) for April 23-30, 2016. Libraries can participate by providing programming on topics such as: basic budgeting; managing student debt; retirement planning; home purchasing; saving money through couponing; and how to prevent identity theft. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has joined as a national partner. Libraries can order money smart week promotional materials through them. (e.g. poster). Last year libraries in 50 states participated in Money Smart Week.
- Don Wood, Program Officer for Chapter Relations, [discussed the ALA student to staff program](#). Criteria for participation is low barrier. (There is one student from the library program at St. Catherine University participating). They work 16 hours during the ALA conference and their travel, lodging, food is paid for. [St. Catherine University](#) has one student participating in the program and will be attending ALA Annual. ALA also currently partners with 39 chapters to provide ALA membership (MLA participates in the joint student membership program).
 - The ALA Chapter Relations office offered a Presentation Academy webinar (www.ala.org/offices/cro/projectsandactivities/crowebinars#pa) on Dec. 8, 2015 which originally originated from Virginia Library Association. Lisa Varga from VLA spoke more about this event. They developed it locally to address the lack of technical services speakers at their conference. They offered presentation training and proposal writing (Presentation Academy). VLA is working on a writing academy next. ALA is open to ideas for sharing programs like this with chapters.

- North Carolina reported that they worked with their local parks department to fix up little free libraries in city parks. Now they have a libraries build communities committee and plan to do more projects like this across North Carolina.
- Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director of the ALA Washington Office reported on these activities:
 - [ConnectEd Challenge](#): to help kids develop a love of reading. One card good for books, e-resources, transportation. This is an opt-out situation. White house is convening a meeting in mid-January of 30 jurisdictions that have started the initiative to discuss how the program is going. This is a partnership between ALA OPC, IMLS, and the White House. librarychallenge@imls.gov if you want to sign up to pursue this. This is one more way libraries are transforming early education. Publishers are giving 250 million dollars worth of books. White house is about to announce this initiative. Follow the [District Dispatch](#) for updates.
 - Every Student Succeeds Act: 2 million more in LSTA funding and 2 million more in school library funding. Will have a draft of new appropriation letter (dear appropriator letter to Senators and congressmen) in February. Important to increase the number of signatures and calls to our Senators and representatives. This will be really important in the next couple of months. The fight now goes to the local school districts.
 - Equal Employment and Opportunity Act: ALA is waiting for this to be implemented. State aid to libraries for workforce development services is there.
 - IRS Tax Form Outlet Program: This year an ALA committee worked with the IRS and they are sending instructions for all forms at the end of January. Libraries can reorder forms and instruction booklets.
 - Capwiz (going away) and Engage have been used for local advocacy. ALA wants to hear from the state chapters about what we want to see in a tool like this as they are evaluating other tools. Send feedback to Emily Sheketoff, esheketoff@alawash.org.

Council /Executive Board/Membership Information Session (Saturday, January 9, 2016, 3:00 – 4:30)

This session prepares ALA Council for the upcoming business that Council will address over the next 3 days. Here are links to all the reports presented.

- [ALA Presidents Report, Council Document #21](#): ALA President Sari Feldman showed the new Libraries Transform video and talked about the public awareness campaign.
- [ALA President-Elect Report, Council Document #29](#)
- [ALA Executive Director Report, Council Document #23](#): This is a really good report to look at to get a birds-eye view of ALL the activities ALA is involved in. Keith Michael Fields also introduced Jody Gray, the new Director of the Office for Diversity, Literacy

and Outreach Services and James Larue Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation.

- [Budget Analysis and Review Committee Report](#), Council Document #33

ALA Presidential and Treasurer Candidates' Forum (Saturday, January 9, 2016, 4:30 – 5:30)

The forum was recorded and can be accessed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktLPu6fb2M8

- Christine Lind Hage, Director, Rochester Hills Public Library, MI
- Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, Professor and coordinator for information literacy services and instruction at the University of Illinois (UI) at Urbana-Champaign
- James G. Neal, Vice president for information services and University librarian at New York's Columbia University
- Susan H. Hildreth, the sole candidate for treasurer, executive director of the Califa Group, Pacific Library Partnership, and Peninsula Library System and administrator of the NorthNet Library System in San Mateo, CA.

ALA Council I and ALA-APA Council (Sunday, January 10, 2016, 8:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.)

At the first ALA Council meeting we heard the following announcements, reports, and voted on one resolution:

- Nominations for the Council Executive Board Election, [Council Document #11](#)
- Appointment of the Tellers Committee for the ALA Executive Board Election, [Council Document #11.1](#)
- Review of Executive Board Actions Since the 2015 Annual Conference, Keith Michael Fiels, [Council Document #15-15.1](#)
- Implementation of the 2015 ALA Annual Conference, [Council Document #9](#)
- [Resolution Against Islamophobia, Council Document #32](#) was voted on my Council and passed.

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 promote 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, [Council Document #5](#)
 - Currently 495 enrollees in the LSSC (Library Support Staff Certification) program and 135 graduates
 - Equal Pay Day AND National Library Workers Day will be celebrated on April 12, 2016. 85% female in the profession. Send stories to APA about your celebrations. More information will be pushed out soon.

- Follow them on social media! They are on [Facebook](#) and Twitter @alaapa.
- ALA-APA Treasurer's Report, Mario M. Gonzalez, [Council Document #4](#)
 - FY16 budget revenue looks good. Library Work Life subscriptions are up. Net revenue of 14,040.
 - They used the extra income to pay down the loan they have out.

Creativity, Innovation and Change: Libraries Transform in the Digital Age!

(Sunday, January 10, 2016, 1:00 p.m.– 2:30 p.m.)

This was an open time slot for me, and related to the ALA Libraries Transform initiative, so I attended. I did a separate write-up about this session and published it via the Minitex News platform [here](#).

[ALA Council Forum II](#) (Monday, January 11, 2016, 10:00 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.)

Reports of ALA/Council Committees:

- [Policy Monitoring Committee, Council Document #17](#)
- [Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Council Document #25](#)
 - Joint council of Librarians of Color application for affiliate status with ALA was approved
- [Committee on Organization, Council Document #27](#)
- [International Relations Committee, Council Document #18](#)
 - IRC welcomed Donna Scheeder, President, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Scheeder is the first U.S. President of IFLA since Robert Wedgeworth (1991–1997). Scheeder's term will run through the 2017 IFLA Congress.
 - IFLA World Library and Information Congress is in Columbus, OH this year, August 13-19, 2016
 - 50 \$1,000 scholarships will be available to help a diverse group of librarians, library staff, and students attend.
 - Taking a group to Cuba and this coincides with the Havana Book Fair
 - Work continues on the new ALA International Strategic Plan

Reports of Special Committees and Groups:

- [Freedom to Read Foundation Report, Council Document #22](#)
 - Freedom to Read Foundation is a non-profit legal and educational organization affiliated with the American Library Association. FTRF protects and defends the First Amendment to the Constitution and supports the right of libraries to collect - and individuals to access - information. It was fascinating to hear about what the Freedom to Read Foundation has been doing to defend reader privacy.
 - One of the ongoing priorities for the Freedom to Read Foundation is the preservation of reader privacy and the right of the library user to read and

inquire free from any surveillance or unwanted interference by the government. They joined two different *amicus curiae* (literally means friend of the court) briefs to challenge the government's bulk collection of phone metadata without a warrant and to support the right of libraries to challenge warrantless surveillance on behalf of their patrons.

- A plug for membership: Personal membership (\$10 Student | \$35 Regular | \$50 Contributing). Organizational membership levels (\$100 Organizational Member | \$250 Organizational Sponsor)

Officer Reports

- FY2017 Programmatic Priorities, Mario Gonzalez, ALA Treasurer, [Council Document #13.1](#) and [cover sheet to CD#13.1](#).

ALA Executive Board Candidates' Forum (Monday, January 11, 2016, 12:00 p.m.– 1:30 p.m.)

[Candidates for Executive Board](#) presented and Council asked questions. We voted later that day and here are the 3 representatives who were elected:

- John C. DeSantis, Dartmouth College
- Karen E. Downing, University of Michigan
- Andrew K. Pace, OCLC

Chapter Councilors Forum (Monday, January 11, 2016, 4:30 p.m.– 5:30 p.m.)

These are less formal than Council business meetings, and the agenda is whatever people wish to discuss. This year, everyone brought a local chocolate from their home state.

- There was discussion about how we can make better use of our time when Council ends early. For example, there was interest in discussing how we can participate in and implement the Libraries Transform public awareness campaign in our states.
- It was proposed that the Chapter Councilors Forum time be moved at ALA Annual so that it falls between the two Chapter Relations Committee meetings. This is so we would be able to bring any Chapter related issues to the last Chapter Relations Committee meeting (we didn't have that opportunity at ALA Midwinter)

ALA Council Forum III (Monday, January 11, 2016, 8:30 p.m.– 10:00 p.m.)

These are less formal than the official Council business meetings and attendance is not required, but is highly encouraged. People bring their resolutions to these forums to garner support and take suggestions for wording and other changes to their resolutions that they bring forth to Council.

[ALA Council III](#) (Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.)

Some of the resolutions were held until this meeting, because they needed more discussion. The following resolutions were discussed and passed (with little discussion or opposition):

- [Resolution Concerning Accessibility of ALA Conferences and Meetings for People with Disabilities](#)
 - Strong support for this resolution. A task force has since been created by ALA President as a result of this resolution passing.
- [Resolution to Replace LC Subject Heading Illegal Aliens with Undocumented Immigrants](#)
 - This was proposed to ALA already through the recommended channel, but LC rejected the proposal, hence the resolution.
- [Resolution Supporting the 2015 Advocacy Implementation Plan and Libraries Transform campaign](#)
 - There was some discussion at the informal Forum the night before about why this was needed. Many libraries are still not aware that ALA has an [Advocacy Implementation Plan](#).

Memorials:

- [Shereen Marx](#)
- [Kuang-Hwei \(Janet\) Lee-Smeltzer](#)
- [Richard C. Fyffe](#)
- [Billy Charles Beal](#)
- [Allene Farmer Hayes](#)
- [Linda Waddle](#)

Tributes

- [Resolution to honor James H. Billington, former Librarian of Congress](#)
- [A Tribute Honoring Barbara Blosveren on the Occasion of Her Retirement](#)

Other Business

- [Report of the Tellers](#), Kent Slade, Chair, Council Document #11.2: As mentioned earlier in this report, the following Council members were elected to the Executive Board: John C. DeSantis, Dartmouth College, Karen E. Downing, University of Michigan, Andrew K. Pace, OCLC
- Intellectual Freedom Committee, Pamela R. Klipsch, Chair, [Council Document #19 and 19.2](#)
 - In Libris Libertas publication will start very soon, a newsletter on intellectual freedom
- [Committee on Legislation](#)

Announcements

- Final ALA Midwinter registration: 10,805 total