

ALA Annual Highlights, June 22-27, 2017

Submitted by Sara Ring, ALA Chapter Councilor

Below is a summary from the American Library Association Annual Conference, followed by my full report, which begins on page 7.

Chapter Meeting Highlights

At the Annual Conference in 2016, Orlando, a “Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association,” CD #40, was submitted to Council for consideration. It expressed concern around communication between ALA and Chapters on ALA activities when it relates to a specific Chapter, and lack of involvement of Chapters in the early of development of major ALA initiatives. President-elect Julie Todaro moved to create a working group that she would appoint after becoming president to address chapter engagement and communication. The Subcommittee shared their report at ALA Annual 2017 and recommends these actions. See the full report [here](#).

Role for Chapters in National ALA Efforts

- Created a joint subcommittee of the ALA Public Awareness Committee and Chapter Relations Committee with three members from each that will work on state and regional participation in the “Libraries Transform” campaign.
- Reviewed liaisons and connections between the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) and other ALA Committees such as Committee on Legislation, Intellectual Freedom Committee. CRC representative being added to COL Grassroots Committee.

Roles for ALA in Chapter Efforts

- Enrich the “Chapter Leaders Forum”
- Continue support of Advocacy software system to help Chapters advocate at the state and local levels.
- Continue quarterly Chapter Advocacy Exchange Webinars
- Initiate “[Strong Library Association](#)” webinars in July 2017 (**Develop webinars for state library associations with and without an Executive Director**; focus on sharing best practices such as member recruitment, conference development, etc.)

Improve the Communication Between ALA and its Chapters

- Developed a “Chapter President-elect ALA Welcome Package” which was sent to new presidents-elects beginning in May 2017.
- Initiated “New Chapter Leader Orientation Webinar” on June 8. Twenty-five new chapter leaders participated in webinar on the ALA Chapter Partnership which focused on structure, communication, advocacy, and resources. **Next iteration will be in December for those new chapter leaders ascending after the fall conferences.**
- Ongoing participation in Council Orientation during Annual and Midwinter Conferences with an emphasis on new Chapter Councilors.
- Renew “Chapter Councilor Webinar,” that used to be an orientation to ALA Council.

- Two programs at ALA Annual 2017: Crisis Communication: Who Speaks for Your Library? and Partnerships to Strengthen School Libraries.
- Project State Ecosystems (ALA Chapters & AASL Affiliates Unite!) AASL, CRO, and OLA will work together to develop a more collaborative relationship and stronger coalition between ALA Chapters and AASL Affiliates.
- Retain the Chapter Relations Committee Subcommittee on Communications following the June 2017 Annual Conference. Will become a standing committee of CRC.

Steal This Idea

- At Council, the ALA Treasurer’s Report included sources of ALA revenue as a dollar infographic. Great idea! 38% of ALA revenue goes to professional and leadership development. For every \$1 in membership dues, an additional \$4 is generated for ALA’s mission.



- ALA Membership is down, but The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) division is one of two exceptions, as their membership is up. ALA is looking at the best practices ALSC are using. For example, all ALSC new members receive a personalized welcome packet from an ALSC member, a handwritten postcard from an ALSC board/committee member, and personal telephone calls and/or emails from ALSC leaders creating real engagement and showing value.

Federal Library Funding, Advocacy, and Legislative Issues

- During Council Meeting II, ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels said that we currently face the challenge of our generation, in regard to losing federal library funding. What is proposed/will be proposed is taking us back to 1956. There would be no LSTA without ALA. On an international level, our libraries are held in awe. They understand that libraries are synonymous with democracy, with education, with advancement, and with creating a more peaceful world.
- When describing the ALA Fight For Libraries campaign ALA President Julie Todaro stated “We are back at war.” We can’t go back 60 years. We must make as much progress as we can to affirm our values and protect our clients, their information, their reading habits, and to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities, and the new members of our communities.
- Phase One of the Fight for Libraries Appropriations campaign was very successful, especially in the Senate. More than 42,000 emails were sent to Congress. 1/3 of all representatives signed in the House. In the Senate, there was a 20% increase in the number of Senators signing for IAL

and 33% for LSTA. The federal appropriations process is a marathon, not a sprint, and we are at the beginning of that process.

- The [Corporate Committee for Library Investment](#) was launched (co-conceived by the Office of Government Relations and Gale/Cengage). Current membership is at 100. It includes individual companies and three national trade associations. It's mission is to maximize federal library funding. This is unprecedented corporate support for library funding.
- At the ALA Membership Meeting, Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director, ALA Washington Office, and Adam Eisgrau, Managing Director of the ALA Office for Government Relations gave an update:
 - <https://www.everycrsreport.com> While every CRS Report is freely available here, it doesn't ensure they will stay there. There is current legislation to require availability by law to the public.
 - National Library Legislative Day was a record success. 530 people from every state in the country attended federal library legislative day. On back of the badges, they included the asks so everyone would have easy access. More than 1000 gathered for virtual legislative day.
 - Stories of what the states do with LSTA are really key, and both offices encourage the Chapters to get the word out about telling your LSTA stories to the ALA Washington Office. See the "Tell Your Story" section on the [Fight for Libraries webpage](#). See [CMLE's website](#) for a good start to what libraries use LSTA money for in Minnesota.

Council Reports/News

ALA President-Elect's Report

Jim Neal's vision will be taking an outward view, not an inward focus. The theme for "external" initiatives will be **Libraries Transform: Libraries Lead**. He will:

- Advance the work of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force
- Expand leadership development programs
- Invest in political advocacy for library support and for key information policies
- Build expanded partnerships and relationships with important organizations in the library field (Library of Congress, OCLC, National Archives, DPLA, etc). One action initiative will be to convene a meeting to bring together experts from the library and journalism communities to discuss the state of "fake" news and the role we play as libraries in literacy.
- Embrace advocacy for school libraries as foundational to our work to prepare students to be college and career ready, and who love to read.

ALA Executive Director's Report

If you read one report from ALA (besides mine, of course!), this should be the one. It's a really nice birds-eye summary of all ALA activities over the past year. I also have highlights further down in my full report on page 7.

The ALA [Committee on Legislation](#) report lists these as priority issues and efforts:

- Work to protect net neutrality at the FCC and to prepare for possible Congressional action to reverse the FCC 2015 Open Internet Order.

- Privacy and surveillance matters, particularly efforts to reform Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (similar to past work on Section 215 of the Patriot Act, the library piece) to afford the public greater privacy protection, and ongoing efforts to reform the 30-year-old Electronic Communications Privacy Act.
- Pending bills to ensure access to government information online and make permanently available to the public at no charge reports prepared for Members of Congress by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) as a matter of law.
- A broad range of Copyright issues, including proposals to relocate Copyright Office out of Library of Congress; to reform key provisions of Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and, legislation to remove authority of Librarian of Congress to appoint Register of Copyrights.

Implementation of the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting Council Actions, [CD #9.1](#) and [CD #9.2](#)

- Implemented recommendations of the Task force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion into the [ALA Strategic Plan](#)
- Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) released a new site on lifelong literacy, the [ALA Literacy Clearinghouse](#). This brings together resources from across ALA that promote literacy across the lifespan, from early childhood literacy to adult literacy.
- ALA Midwinter 2017, ALA Council adopted the *Resolution Establishing Family/Caregiver Status as a Protected Class in ALA Volunteer Work*, CD #31.12217. ALA disseminated this to all ALA division, round table, and committee staff liaisons.
- At ALA Midwinter 2017, ALA Council adopted CD #19.10, *Resolution on Access to Accurate Information*. The Resolution was sent to ALA divisions, offices, round tables, and other organizations for their consideration and use.
- At ALA Midwinter 2017, ALA Council adopted the Revised *Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons*, CD #42.1. The resolution was disseminated through all of ALA's multimedia forms and also sent to the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. ALA Headquarters Library has developed a LibGuide called [Gun Violence and Libraries](#).

[Freedom to Read Foundation \(FTRF\)](#)

Membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation is the critical foundation for FTRF's work defending First Amendment freedoms in the library and in the larger world. I encourage your organization or institution to join as an organizational member. (\$100.00 for organizations, \$50.00 for personal members).

- New litigation: FTRF has joined an amicus curiae brief filed in the case of ***Higginbotham v. City of New York***, a lawsuit filed by Doug Higginbotham, a photojournalist who was arrested while shooting video of a 2011 Occupy demonstration in New York City from his vantage point on top of a phone booth.

The FTRF Developing Issues Committee reported on the following that raise significant Constitutional issues for libraries:

- The disappearance of online government information and publications under the new administration.

- The new administration's repeal of the FCC broadband privacy rules and its effort to repeal net neutrality.
- The privatization of essential government functions.
- "Fake news" displacing facts and truthful reporting.
- Open carry and guns in libraries.
- Efforts in the states to criminalize and punish public protest.

Center for the Future of Libraries

Formed in October 2013, the Center for the Future of Libraries goals include identifying emerging trends, promoting innovation techniques to help librarians and library professionals shape their future, and building connections with experts and innovative thinkers to help libraries address emerging issues. Miguel A. Figueroa from the Center for the Future of Libraries was a keynote speaker at the 2015 MLA Annual Conference.

- Reminder to sign up for the "Read for Later" newsletter: <http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/future> This is a weekly wrap-up of news and articles to help libraries think about the future of our collections, spaces, services, partners, and roles in the community.

Conference Accessibility Task Force

At the 2016 Midwinter Conference, ALA Council passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Conference Accessibility Task Force charged with researching accessibility at ALA conferences and meetings, and producing a final set of recommendations for facilitating improvements at future meetings. There are 81 recommendations in total in this report.

Intellectual Freedom Committee (OIF)

OIF celebrates their 50th Anniversary this year. Here are a couple highlights from the past year.

- Partnered with others to offer monthly online learning on intellectual freedom history, privacy, and ethics.
- Began tracking hate crimes in November 2017. There have been 30 reports logged since then.
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* has been the subject of two very public challenges in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In New London-Spicer School District (MN), the request from parents was to remove the book from the curriculum and replace it with material that "does not contain passages that conflict with the traditional family values held by many in this community." Earlier this month, the school board voted 4 to 2 in favor of allowing *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* to be used in the curriculum as an option.
- There are several other emerging Intellectual Freedom issues mentioned in the report:
 - Speakers invited to universities, schools and public libraries, who are then disinvited after protests.
 - Self-censorship in schools, by public and university administrators intervening in controversial displays.
 - Public school textbooks and curricular challenges, extending the idea of parental notification.
 - New issues related to social media such as "what public comments must be accepted in library FB and Twitter feeds" and "What are the limits of employee free speech on their own FB page, or on the library's?"

- Increased restrictions on government information, both on government websites and in the relocation of government deposits to less accessible library spaces.
- Legislative trends in states that include efforts to incorporate prayer and religious expression into the curriculum and life of public schools, mandatory filtering initiatives, proposals to suppress public protests, and state privacy legislation.
- Net Neutrality.

Resolutions Passed During Council

[An American Library Association Statement on Global Climate Change and a Call for Support for Libraries and Librarians, CD #41](#)

This Resolution was brought to Council from the ALA Virtual Membership meeting. The first resolve clause recognizes that human interactions are affecting Earth’s climate system, and that there is a large and growing base of factual data to support this. The second resolved clause supports librarians and library workers in our roles for providing robust and accurate reference and referral services, access to data and information resources, and instructions in their use in assisting climate stakeholders’ and library users’ greater understanding of global climate change.

[Resolution on Libraries as Responsible Spaces, CD #44.2](#)

During Council II, this Resolution was introduced by the Committee on Diversity. There was some discussion on this, mainly on the original language “Safe Places” vs. the revised language “Responsible Spaces.” The resolved clauses are:

- Urges libraries to embrace the mantle of responsible spaces by adopting and enforcing user behavior policies that protect patrons and staff from harassment while maintaining our historic support for the freedom of speech.
- Encourages libraries to develop community partnership programs with and promote services to underrepresented and unacknowledged community members.
- Encourages libraries to sponsor programs fostering meaningful and respectful dialogue in community.
- Directs the Committee on Diversity, with the support of the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services and the ODLOS Advisory Committee, to develop, provide, and disseminate materials and programming for libraries that deter hate, foster community, and oppose bigotry toward or oppression against any group.

Memorial Resolution: [Robert Henry ‘Bob’ Rohlf, M-#12](#)

Minnesota submitted a memorial resolution for Bob Rohlf, former MLA President, former Director of Hennepin County Library, ALA Councilor, PLA President, and much, much more. I’ve included the full resolution at the end of my full report. I drafted the resolution and the rest was written by Janice Feye-Stukas, Gretchen Wronka, and Bill Asp, all colleagues who knew him well.

Full Report, ALA Annual Conference, June 22-27, 2017

Below is my full report, organized chronologically, from ALA Council and related meetings I attended at the 2017 American Library Association Annual Conference. All of the Council documents linked to below can be found on the ALA website [here](#). If there are no direct links listed below, the report was not yet available online at the time my report was written.

ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session (Saturday, June 24, 2017, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

ALA President-Elect's Report, James (Jim) G. Neal, ALA President-Elect, CD #29.1

- Jim Neal's vision will be taking an outward view, not an inward focus. The theme for "external" initiatives will be **Libraries Transform: Libraries Lead**. He will advance the work of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, expand leadership development programs, invest in political advocacy for library support and for key information policies, build expanded partnerships and relationships with important organizations in the library field (Library of Congress, OCLC, National Archives, DPLA, etc), and embrace advocacy for school libraries as foundational to our work to prepare students to be college and career ready, and who love to read.
- One of many action initiatives from the above will be to convene a group of divisional librarians to develop a program of deep advocacy training. The goal of the cohort is to have a group of professionals who can speak on privacy, immigration, school libraries, net neutrality, etc. When someone is called upon to speak to a congressional committee, public official, news organization, etc, there will be a pool of dynamic, knowledgeable speakers to call on.
- Another action initiative will be to convene a meeting to bring together experts from the library and journalism communities to discuss the state of "fake" news and the role we play as libraries in literacy.

ALA Executive Director's Report, Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director, CD #23.1

I highlighted a few below, but other topics covered in the report include Net Neutrality, Project Welcome: Libraries Serving Refugees and Asylum Seekers, A summary of an ALA session "Partnerships to Strengthen School Libraries," the 50th Anniversary of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, and reports from all the ALA Offices. **If you read one report from ALA (besides mine, of course!), this should be the one.** It's a really nice birds-eye summary of all ALA activities over the past year.

- Phase One of the Fight for Libraries Appropriations campaign was very successful, especially in the Senate. More than 42,000 emails were sent to Congress. 1/3 of all representatives signed in the House. In the Senate, there was a 20% increase in the number of Senators signing for IAL and 33% for LSTA.
- The [Corporate Committee for Library Investment](#) was launched (co-conceived by the Office of Government Relations and Gale/Cengage). Current membership is at 100. It includes individual companies and three national trade associations. It's mission is to maximize federal library funding. If libraries are successful, they are. This is unprecedented corporate support for library funding.
- About 15 states have participated in the ALA advocacy boot camps (including Minnesota).

- Membership is down. During the recession, we lost about 60,000 library jobs (estimated). 20,000 of those 60,000 were people with professional degrees. So membership drops have happened before. The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) division is one of two exceptions, as their membership is up. They are looking at the best practices they are using. For example, all ALSC new members receive a personalized welcome packet from an ALSC member, a handwritten postcard from an ALSC board/committee member, and personal telephone calls and/or emails from ALSC leaders creating real engagement and showing value. Though there have been losses in membership overall, we are doing far better than most other associations.

Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) Report, Ann M. Martin, Chair, ALA CD #33.1

- BARC reviewed the Resolution on Library Services to Refugees and Displaced Persons. There would be significant financial impact in terms of staff support. Found it’s most effective and most cost efficient for existing bodies within ALA to do this work.

ALA Treasurer’s Report, Susan H. Hildreth, CD #13.2

- Showed sources of ALA revenue as a dollar infographic. Great idea!



- 38% of revenue goes to professional and leadership development. For every \$1 in membership dues, an additional \$4 is generated for ALA’s mission.



- Projecting a 1.5% deficit (not a very big deficit).

ALA Endowment Trustees Report, Rodney Hersberger, Senior Endowment Trustee, CD #16.1

- For FY18 there will be a 5% spending or payout rate from the ALA endowment. 1.8 million will be available for units for scholarships, awards, and other activities.
- The market has been seemingly unfazed by persistent political uncertainty
- Pleased with return on investment

ALA Membership Meeting (Saturday, June 24, 2017, 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

Memorials

All members stood as these people were recognized. Bob Rohlf's memorial resolution was written by Janice Feye-Stukas, Bill Asp, Gretchen Wronka, and myself.

- [Eric Moon, M-#10](#)
- [Marija Sanderling, M-#11](#)
- [Robert Henry 'Bob' Rohlf, M-#12](#)
- Pauling Manaka (or acknowledgement)
- Amanda Rudd (oral acknowledgement)

Tributes:

- [Harry Bruce, T-#2](#)
- [Keith Michael Fiels, T-#3](#)

Update on Federal Funding and Strategies for the ALA Membership

Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director, ALA Washington Office, and Adam Eisgrau, Managing Director of the ALA Office for Government Relations

- <https://www.everycrsreport.com> While every CRS Report is freely available here, it doesn't ensure they will stay there. There is current legislation to require availability by law to the public.
- Summarized past work on Section 215 of the Patriot Act (the library piece). Now, [FISA 702](#) (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) is coming out. This is similar to the Patriot Act, and both ALA Offices will be working on this.
- National Library Legislative Day was a record success. On back of badge, they included the asks so everyone would have easy access.
- ALA Offices also working on defending Net Neutrality, federal funding for libraries, and a lot more.
- Corporate Committee for Library Investment recently formed. Companies each wrote their congressmen to tell them how important it is to fund libraries. Current membership is over 100.
- Stories of what you do with LSTA are really key, and both offices encourage the Chapters to get the word out about telling your LSTA stories to the ALA Washington Office. See the "Tell Your Story" section on the [Fight for Libraries webpage](#). See [CMLE's website](#) for a good start to what libraries use LSTA money for in Minnesota.

ALA Council I (Sunday, June 25, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

At the first ALA Council meeting we heard the following announcements and reports, and voted to adopt the Resolution "An American Library Association Statement on Global Climate Change and a Call for Support for Libraries and Librarians, CD #41." You can also read an American Libraries summary [here](#).

[Nominations for the 2017-2018 Council Committee on Committees Election, CD #12](#)

[Nominations for the 2017-2018 Planning and Budget, CD #12.1](#)

[Appointment of the Tellers Committee for COC and PBA Elections, CD #12.2](#)

ALA Executive Director Search Committee Report, Courtney L. Young, EDSC Chair

- Search process firm finalists were selected to help ALA with the Executive Director search. Isaacson Miller was the firm selected to assist with the search process. The position was posted on June 16th to 18 job sites and through social media. Virtual interviews will be done in mid-September. In-person interviews will be done in late September. The top 2 candidates will be moved to a final set of interviews slated for late October.

[ALA President's Report, Julie B. Todaro, ALA President, CD #21.1](#)

- Book Club Central: *No one is Coming to Save Us* is the book pick by BCC Captain Sarah Jessica Parker. It's like *The Great Gatsby*, but better.
- The Fight for Libraries campaign is advocacy at the federal level. "We are back at war." We can't go back 60 years. We must make as much progress as we can to affirm our values and protect our clients, their information, their reading habits, and to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities, and in our new members of our communities.
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The task force has morphed into a small workgroup. Working on implementing 50+ recommendations of the task force.
- Fake news: Jim Neal's initiative will push the fight against fake news (partnership with journalists, and others). They asked the LibGuide community to create fake news content. There are over 5,000 pages now.
- Net neutrality continues to be discussed at the national level, and even though some will give into complacency, all need to be involved in this particular issue.

[Review of Executive Board Actions Since the 2017 Midwinter Meeting, CD #15.3-15.4](#)

Implementation of the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting Council Actions, CD #9.1 and CD #9.2.

Note: I included resolutions followed up on and only a few other updates, but not everything that was mentioned in the report.

- Implemented recommendations of the Task force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion into the [ALA Strategic Plan](#), CD #35-35.2 and CD #37
- Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) released a new site on lifelong literacy, the ALA Literacy Clearinghouse. This brings together resources from across ALA that promote literacy across the lifespan, from early childhood literacy to adult literacy.
- The Resolution on Gun Violence was implemented. Created a LibGuide on gun violence, and looking at other ways to talk about issues, share policies, and organize and provide resources on the blog.

- At ALA Midwinter 2017, The ALA Council defeated a motion to amend the educational qualification for the ALA Executive Director to make an ALA-accredited Master's Degree or a CAEP-accredited Master's Degree with a specialty in school library media a strongly preferred but not required education qualification. At the 2000 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, TX, the ALA Council on January 18, adopted the Resolution on Requiring Professional Librarian Credentials for the Executive Director of ALA, ALA CD# #44, which was inadvertently not included in the *ALA Policy Manual*. At the 2017 Annual Conference, the Council Policy Monitoring Committee will bring a recommendation that this policy statement be incorporated into the online *ALA Policy Manual*.
- ALA Midwinter 2017, ALA Council adopted the *Resolution Establishing Family/Caregiver Status as a Protected Class in ALA Volunteer Work*, ALA CD#31.12217. ALA disseminated this to all ALA division, round table, and committee staff liaisons. At the 2017 ALA Annual Conference, the Council Policy Monitoring Committee will report on any ALA policy implications related to the resolution.
- At ALA Midwinter 2017, ALA Council adopted ALA CD #19.10, *Resolution on Access to Accurate Information*. The Resolution was sent to ALA divisions, offices, round tables, and other organizations for their consideration and use.
- At ALA Midwinter 2017, ALA Council adopted the Revised *Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons*, ALA CD#42.1. The resolution was disseminated through all of ALA's multimedia forms and also sent to Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD; and Dr. Anne Schuchat, Acting Director, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA; review the post [here](#), and the ALA Headquarters Library has developed a LibGuide called *Gun Violence and Libraries*, that includes links to resources on firearm safety in libraries and other important information on this topic.

[New Business: An American Library Association Statement on Global Climate Change and a Call for Support for Libraries and Librarians, Julie B. Todaro, CD #41](#)

- This was brought to Council from the ALA Virtual Membership meeting. The first resolve clause recognizes that human interactions are affecting Earth's climate system, and that there is a large and growing base of factual data to support this. The second resolved clause supports librarians and library workers in our roles for providing robust and accurate reference and referral services, access to data and information resources, and instructions in their use in assisting climate stakeholders' and library users' greater understanding of global climate change.
- There was almost an hour of discussion spent on this resolution. There was concern that it was too narrow in the opening Whereas clause that referred to the federal government and Donald Trump specifically. Amended to remove Trump's name passed. There was a motion to insert a Whereas clause that recognized the work of DataRefuge. It was defeated, as there is support to recognize the work of this group in a new resolution to be brought to ALA Midwinter 2018.

Discussion Topic: “How Can We Make Every ALA Member an Effective and Sustained Advocate for Federal Funding, Federal Legislation and Federal Policies that Impact Libraries and Library Users?”

We received an update, but ran out of time for the discussion.

- 530 people from every state in the country attended federal library legislative day.
- Corporate Committee for Library Investment launched in May.
- Almost half the senate signed LSTA letters.
- House IAL letter, just 3 percent Republicans signed on. Note: There is wide support for libraries on both sides of the aisle. Republicans don't want to look like they are signing on to spend more money. It's not as split (Democrat vs. Republican signers) as the numbers show, but they encourage us to get into local offices.
- The federal appropriations process is a marathon, not a sprint, and we are at the beginning of that process.

Chapter Councilors Forum (Sunday, June 25, 2017, 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.

Chapter Relations Committee, Subcommittee on Communications

See the full report [here](#). Background: At the Annual Conference in 2016, Orlando, a “Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association,” CD #40, was submitted to Council for consideration. The proposed resolution expressed concern around communication between ALA and Chapters on ALA activities when it relates to a specific Chapter, and lack of involvement of Chapters in the early of development of major ALA initiatives. President-elect Julie Todaro moved to create a working group that she would appoint after becoming president to address chapter engagement and communication. The Subcommittee on Communications recommends these actions.

- **Role for Chapters in National ALA Efforts**
 - Created a joint subcommittee of the ALA Public Awareness Committee and Chapter Relations Committee with three members from each that will work on state and regional participation in the “Libraries Transform” campaign.
 - Reviewed liaisons and connections between the Chapter Relations Committee and other ALA Committees such as Committee on Legislation, Intellectual Freedom Committee. **CRC representative being added to COL Grassroots Committee.**
- **Roles for ALA in Chapter Efforts**
 - Enrich the “Chapter Leaders Forum”
 - Continue support of Advocacy software system to help Chapters advocate at the state and local levels.
 - Continue quarterly Chapter Advocacy Exchange Webinars

- Initiate “[Strong Library Association](#)” Webinars in July 2017 (Develop webinars for state library associations with and without an Executive Director; focus on sharing best practices such as member recruitment, conference development, etc.)
- **Improve the Communication Between ALA and its Chapters**
 - Developed a “Chapter President-elect ALA Welcome Package” which was sent to new presidents-elects beginning in May.
 - Initiated “New Chapter Leader Orientation Webinar” on June 8. Twenty-five new chapter leaders participated in webinar on the ALA Chapter Partnership which focused on structure, communication, advocacy, and resources. Next iteration will be in December for those new chapter leaders ascending after the fall conferences.
 - Ongoing participation in Council Orientation during Annual and Midwinter Conferences with an emphasis on new Chapter Councilors
 - Renew “Chapter Councilor Webinar”
 - Two programs at ALA Annual 2017: Crisis Communication: Who Speaks for Your Library? and Partnerships to Strengthen School Libraries
 - Project State Ecosystems (ALA Chapters & AASL Affiliates Unite!) AASL, CRO, and OLA will work together to develop a more collaborative relationship and stronger coalition between ALA Chapters and AASL Affiliates
 - Retain the Chapter Relations Committee Subcommittee on Communications following the June 2017 Annual Conference. Will become a standing committee of CRC.
- Suggestions for topics for councilor webinars?
 - Add plug for chapter leaders forum that happens at every ALA Midwinter and Annual Conference.
 - Add chapter relations meeting to Lois Ann’s (ALA Council Secretary) list that she sends out before every ALA conference.

How are states working with Trustees?

- Often more trustees in a state than librarians. The person speaking (I didn’t catch where she was from) said her trustees are poised and ready, but don’t have a network. A list of national resources to give to board members would be useful. (E.g. United for Libraries). A Chapter Councilor who is from an Academic Library does not necessarily know to bring back United for Libraries information.

Who is Using Engage and How?

- Maryland used it because they had a bill to take the state library out of department of education. But also used it for federal legislation advocacy.
- Nebraska had an issue that came up politically and it was a successful tool.
- Massachusetts has been using it heavily. They have two different lists now.
- Virginia has been using it successfully.

Council II (Monday, June 26, 2017, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

At the second ALA Council meeting we heard the following announcements and reports, and voted to adopt the Resolution on Libraries as Responsible Spaces, CD #44.2. You can also read a summary by American Libraries of Council II [here](#).

Report of the Tellers on the COC and PBA Election Results, ALA Councilor Vivian Bordeaux, Chair, CD #12.3

- These 4 Councilors were elected to serve on the Council Committee on Committees: Ismail Abdullahi, Roberto Carlos Delgadillo, Martin L. Garnar, and Eboni Henry. These five were elected to serve on the Council Representatives to the Planning and Budget Assembly: Jennifer Ferriss, Danielle Jones, Vivian McCain, Maria Taesil McCauley, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, and Tyler Dzuba.

Committee on Diversity, ALA Councilor Martin L. Garnar, Chair, CD #44 – CD #44.2

The Committee on Diversity moves the adoption of two action items.

- CD # 44.1, Definitions of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This was a recommendation from the final report of the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. See the full report to view the definitions.
- CD # 44.2, Resolution on Libraries as Responsible Spaces passed. There was some discussion on this Resolution. Mainly on the language “Safe Places” vs. “Responsible Spaces.” The resolved clauses are:
 1. Urges libraries to embrace the mantle of responsible spaces by adopting and enforcing user behavior policies that protect patrons and staff from harassment while maintaining our historic support for the freedom of speech.
 2. Encourages libraries to develop community partnership programs with and promote services to underrepresented and unacknowledged community members.
 3. Encourages libraries to sponsor programs fostering meaningful and respectful dialogue in community.
 4. Directs the Committee on Diversity, with the support of the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services and the ODLLOS Advisory Committee, to develop, provide, and disseminate materials and programming for libraries that deter hate, foster community, and oppose bigotry toward or oppression against any group.

Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC), ALA Councilor Christopher J. Corrigan, CD #17.1

- The Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC) reviewed all actions taken by the ALA Council during the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting for possible incorporation into, addition to, or changes to the ALA *Policy Manual*, and it offers one point of information and finds the following two items that require Council action. Council passed both items.
 1. Item #1: At the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting, Council adopted CD#31, Resolution Protecting Families and Caregivers. They reviewed, and found it did not affect current ALA Policy.
 2. Item #2: At the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting, Council defeated the Resolution on the Education Requirements for Future ALA Executive Directors (CD#11). PMC moved to amend section A.4.1 to read: *The Executive Board shall review administrative decisions made in the*

*internal management of Headquarters by the Executive Director. And, PMC moved creation of the following section for the Policy Manual (A.4.1.1 Executive Director). The Executive Director shall be authorized to carry out the provisions of the budget including hiring and firing of staff without submitting matters previously authorized or individual appointments to the Executive Board except in the form of reports of action. Any action by the Executive Director shall be subject to review by the Executive Board upon request of any member of the Executive Board. **An ALA-accredited Master's Degree or a CAEP-accredited Master's Degree with a specialty in school library media is a required qualification for the ALA Executive Director.***

Committee on Organization (COO), Sue Considine, Chair, CD #27.1

- Action Item 1: Recommended that the *Website Advisory Committee* name be changed to *ALA Information Technology Advisory Committee*. And recommended the charge be expanded as all technology is web-enabled in some fashion now and that trend will continue. The new charge will include all ALA technology services and products, whether used by ALA members, staff, or the public. These changes all passed.

International Relations Committee (IRC), Leslie B. Burger, Chair, CD #18.1 – CD #18.2

- 475 librarians from 59 countries are attending the Conference this year.
- ALA will provide information and resources at the ALA stand at the upcoming IFLA Congress in Wroclaw, Poland, in August
- ALA's second tour to Cuba took place February 10–17, with 25 librarians. For the first time, Cuban librarians have been able to attend an ALA Conference.
- Libraries Transform continues to grow internationally with 445 participants from 79 countries.

Tribute to Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of ALA

- Thanked Council, the Executive Board, the past and current president, and future president. Talked about ALA colleagues, ALA staff, division heads. We currently face the challenge of our generation. What is proposed/will be proposed is taking us back to 1956. There would be no LSTA without ALA. Told a story about visiting New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina when they made the decision to still hold the ALA Annual Conference (which brought cheers). He also discussed his early library work. On an international level, we are held in awe of our libraries. They understand that libraries are synonymous with democracy, with education, with advancement, and with creating a more peaceful world.

Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), Martin L. Garnar, President, ALA CD#22.1

- 20th Anniversary of the Internet's "Legal Birth Certificate." It was a unanimous Supreme Court decision striking down the Communications Decency Act. The Court's conclusion that "the vast democratic fora of the Internet" merits full constitutional protection has meant that libraries can make content available on the Internet knowing that their digital materials enjoy the same constitutional protections that apply to the books on their shelves, and that their patrons have a right to freely and fully access online content.

- Victory in Supreme Court decision *Packingham v. North Carolina*, handed down on June 19, 2017. The lawsuit challenged a North Carolina law that makes it a felony for any person on the State's registry of former sex offenders to access a wide array of websites, including Facebook, YouTube, and the New York Times, simply because those sites also permit minors under the age of 18 to have accounts on those sites. Under the law, the government need not prove that the accused had contact with, or gathered information about, a minor; the accused can be punished for simply engaging in an activity fully protected by the First Amendment. FTRF was part of filing an amicus curiae brief in support of the First Amendment.
- ***Tobinick v. Novella*** lawsuit ended successfully. In that case, Tobinick, a dermatologist, sought damages from Dr. Steven Novella, a Yale professor of neurology, after Novella published a blog post criticizing Tobinick's off-label use of a drug to treat Alzheimer's Disease. Tobinick argued that because Novella's blog includes advertising, Novella's blog post is a form of commercial speech subject to federal and state unfair competition claims under the Lanham Act. But if a blog post with advertising is "commercial speech," then every book, newspaper and magazine that contains advertising or is offered for purchase would be subject to a threat of litigation, effectively chilling the commercial publication of both news and opinion.
- A third victory was achieved in the case of ***Noah Gonzalez, et al., v. Diane Douglas, et al.*** (formerly *Arce v. Douglas*). The lawsuit, filed by students in the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) to challenge the constitutionality of the Arizona statute that forced TUSD to cease its Mexican-American Studies program and remove certain books from its classrooms, is back in the trial court after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the case for a new trial on the plaintiffs' equal protection and First Amendment claims.
- New litigation: FTRF has joined an amicus curiae brief filed in the case of ***Higginbotham v. City of New York***, a lawsuit filed by Doug Higginbotham, a photojournalist who was arrested while shooting video of a 2011 Occupy demonstration in New York City from his vantage point on top of a phone booth.
- The FTRF Developing Issues committee reported on several developing issues that raise significant Constitutional issues for libraries:
 - The disappearance of online government information and publications under the new administration;
 - The new administration's repeal of the FCC broadband privacy rules and its effort to repeal net neutrality;
 - The privatization of essential government functions;
 - "Fake news" displacing facts and truthful reporting;
 - Open carry and guns in libraries;
 - Efforts in the states to criminalize and punish public protest.
- Membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation is the critical foundation for FTRF's work defending First Amendment freedoms in the library and in the larger world. Encourage your organization or institution to join as an organizational member. (\$100.00 for organizations, \$50.00 for personal members).

Center for the Future of Libraries, Susan Kent, Chair, CD #39

- Formed in October 2013, the Center for the Future of Libraries goals include identifying emerging trends, promoting innovation techniques to help librarians and library professionals shape their future, and building connections with experts and innovative thinkers to help libraries address emerging issues.
- Reminder to sign up for the “Read for Later” newsletter: <http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/future> This is a weekly wrap-up of news and articles to help libraries think about the future of our collections, spaces, services, partners, and roles in the community.

Conference Accessibility Task Force, ALA Councilor Christopher J. Corrigan and ALA Executive Board Member Mike L. Marlin, co-chairs, CD #37.1

- Presented the final report of ALA’s Conference Accessibility Task Force. At the 2016 Midwinter Conference, ALA Council passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Conference Accessibility Task Force charged with researching accessibility at ALA conferences and meetings, and producing a final set of recommendations for facilitating improvements at future meetings. There are 81 recommendations in total in this report, divided into 3 categories: Before Conferences, During Conferences, and After Conferences.

Council III (Tuesday, June 27, 2017, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)

At the third ALA Council meeting we heard the following memorials, tributes, and reports. You can also [read a summary](#) by American Libraries of Council III.

Memorials

Note that Minnesota submitted a memorial resolution for Bob Rohlf, former MLA President, former Director of Hennepin County Library, ALA Councilor, PLA President, and much, much more. I’ve included the full resolution at the end of my report. The resolution from crafted by Janice Feye-Stukas, Gretchen Wronka, and Bill Asp, all colleagues who knew him well.

- [Eric Moon, M-#10](#)
- [Marija Sanderling, M-#11](#)
- [Robert Henry ‘Bob’ Rohlf, M-#12](#)
- [Dorothy Evans, M-#13](#)
- [Joy L. Lowe, M-#14](#)
- Pauline Manaka (oral acknowledgement)
- Amanda Rudd (oral acknowledgement)

Tributes

- [Harry Bruce, T-#2](#)
- [Keith Michael Fiels, T-#3](#)
- [20th Anniversary of Victory in the Communications Decency Act \(CDA\) Case, T-#4](#)

ALA Treasurer’s Report, Susan H. Hildreth, CD #13.3

- Approved the FY2018 Budgetary Ceiling at \$66,674,990.

- ALA is facing a deficit of 753,000 out of a 51.5 million budget. That's only 1.5% of the overall budget.

Committee on Legislation, Ann Dutton Ewbank, Chair, CD #20.1

- Phase One of the Fight for Libraries campaign secured record numbers of support in House and Senate.
- Over 500 people (record capacity) attended National Library Legislative Day. More than 1000 gathered for virtual legislative day.
- Gale (in collaboration with the ALA Office Of Government Relations) started vendor/business allies for libraries called the Corporate Committee for Library Investment.
- Though the fight for federal funding has been on the forefront, these are also priority issues and efforts:
 - Work to protect net neutrality at the FCC and to prepare for possible Congressional action to reverse the FCC 2015 Open Internet Order.
 - Privacy and surveillance matters, particularly efforts to reform Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to afford the public greater privacy protection, and ongoing efforts to reform the 30-year-old Electronic Communications Privacy Act.
 - Pending bills to ensure access to government information online and make permanently available to the public at no charge reports prepared for Members of Congress by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) as a matter of law.
 - A broad range of Copyright issues, including proposals to relocate Copyright Office out of Library of Congress; to reform key provisions of Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and, legislation to remove authority of Librarian of Congress to appoint Register of Copyrights.

Intellectual Freedom Committee, Pamela R. Klipsch, CD #19.11-CD#19.13

- The Intellectual Freedom Committee moved the adoption of the following action items, and they both passed Council:
 - CD # 19.12, "Politics in American Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights"
 - CD # 19.13, "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights"
- Over the winter and the spring the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) partnered with others to offer monthly online learning on intellectual freedom history, privacy, and ethics.
- OIF celebrates their 50th Anniversary this year.
- Began tracking hate crimes in November 2017. There have been 30 reports logged since then.
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* has been the subject of two very public challenges in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In New London-Spicer School District (MN), the request from parents was to remove the book from the curriculum and replace it with material that "does not contain passages that conflict with the traditional family values held by many in

this community." Earlier this month, the school board voted 4 to 2 in favor of allowing *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* to be used in the curriculum as an option.

- There are several other emerging Intellectual Freedom issues:
 - Speakers invited to universities, schools and public libraries, who are then disinvited after protests.
 - Self-censorship in schools, by public and university administrators intervening in controversial displays.
 - Public school textbooks and curricular challenges, extending the idea of parental notification.
 - New issues related to social media such as “what public comments must be accepted in library FB and Twitter feeds” and “What are the limits of employee free speech on their own FB page, or on the library’s?”
 - Increased restrictions on government information, both on government websites and in the relocation of government deposits to less accessible library spaces.
 - Legislative trends in states that include efforts to incorporate prayer and religious expression into the curriculum and life of public schools, mandatory filtering initiatives, proposals to suppress public protests, and state privacy legislation.
 - Net Neutrality.

Announcements

- ALA Annual registration numbers: 22,591 (vs. 15,359 in 2016 at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando)

**2016-2017 ALA Memorial#12_62317_ACT
2017 ALA Annual Conference**

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Robert Henry 'Bob' Rohlf

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Minnesota Library Association (MLA), and the public library community lost a valued member and colleague on June 6, 2017, with the death of Robert Henry 'Bob' Rohlf;

Whereas Robert Rohlf was the founding Director of Minnesota's first multi-county public library system, the Dakota-Scott Regional Library;

Whereas, he was recruited to the Library of Congress as Coordinator of Building Planning for the proposed James Madison Memorial Library in Washington, the largest library building in the world;

Whereas he returned to Minnesota to lead the Hennepin County Library System as Director for 25 years;

Whereas at Hennepin County Library System, he planned and built 14 new branch libraries and managed to acquire increased budgets every year;

Whereas The Library Journal named him one of the "Ten Outstanding Library Directors in the Country";

Whereas he was President of the Minnesota Library Association;

Whereas he was President of the Public Library Association;

Whereas he chaired the joint ASCLA, LAMA and PLA committee that created the Certified Public Library Administrator program;

Whereas he was a Life Member of ALA and served for 16 years on ALA Council, 4 years in 4 different decades;

Whereas he led the Robert H. Rohlf Associates consulting firm with projects in over 40 states and six countries;

Whereas he had a significant impact on the structure and operation of library services through authoring major studies, such as the 1962-63 Illinois library systems study which resulted in the formation of cooperative library systems statewide;

Whereas Robert Rohlf performed many volunteer activities including being a charter member of the Minnesota Humanities Commission, built houses for Habitat for Humanity, delivered Meals on Wheel as well as serving on various community organization boards; 8.now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the significant contributions of Robert Rohlf over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and colleagues.

Mover: Sara Ring, Minnesota Library Association Councilor

Seconders: ALA Personal Members: Gretchen Wronka; Janice Feye-Stukas; and William Asp,

Final version: 06.22.17—9:00pm