

**Pennsylvania Library Association Officer and Director Nominees**  
Terms beginning January 2021

Here are the biographical and platform statements for the Statewide elected positions. The positions open for election are:

First Vice-President/President Elect	(Serving January 2021 – December 2021)
Second Vice-President/Conference Chair	(Serving January 2021 – December 2022)
❖ 2022 Hilton, Harrisburg	
Third Vice-President/Membership Chair	(Serving January 2021 – December 2023)
Director-at-Large – Three (3) seats will be filled	(Serving January 2021 – December 2023)

Deadline to vote is **Monday, August 10, 2020**. Members will receive their ballot via email through SurveyMonkey.

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*\*Ballot order determined by lot.*

Questions about the process? Call 717.766.7663 or email [admin@palibraries.org](mailto:admin@palibraries.org)

# Pennsylvania Library Association Officer and Director Nominees

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### **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT ELECT**

#### **Jen Knisely**

Jen Knisely has been the executive director of the Altoona Area Public Library (AAPL) since 2011. Beginning her library career as a work study student at the AAPL in 1994, Knisely has held various positions including: Technical Aide, Youth Services Coordinator, Outreach Services Coordinator and Children's Services Director.

In 2013 she was awarded the Juniata-Conemaugh Chapter's Exceptional Service Award and in 2019, she received a Certificate of Merit from the Pennsylvania Library Association.

Knisely holds a B.S. in Rehabilitation Services Education from Penn State University and an M.S.L.S. from Clarion University.

#### **Knisely's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Director-at-Large
- Member, Organizational Sustainability Task Force
- Member, Juniata-Conemaugh Chapter (2017, Chair)
- Member, Legislative Information Committee
- Member, Annual Conference Committee (2011, 2015, 2019)
- Member, Ex Libris Society

She is active in the community as a member of the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Blair County Advisory Board, Women's Club of Altoona, the Hollidaysburg Arts & Music Parents Association, and the Blair County Chamber of Commerce Committee of Non-Profit Businesses.

#### **Platform Statement**

I am very honored to be nominated for the position of First Vice President/President Elect of the Pennsylvania Library Association. Having served previously as Director-at-Large and as a member of various committees, I understand the impact that one voice can have in discussions, decision-making, and transmitting messages to stakeholders. I believe the responsibility of leadership is to listen to all of our voices and speak with one voice, loud and clear, about the impact, importance, and influence that all Pennsylvania Libraries have in our communities.

Personally, the Association has served as a community for me on my professional journey in many ways. The Pennsylvania Library Association has served as a community of *knowledge* by offering a superb conference, PALS, and many other continuing education experiences. PaLA is a community of *friendship*, promoting networking and social opportunities for members. Being a community of *support* and *encouragement*, PaLA offers a connection to mentors and recognition of innovation in the field with awards and citations.

This leadership role would be an opportunity to support the sense of community within our association by encouraging members (existing and not-yet members), promoting the fabulous and innovative ideas and programs that are happening in each of our libraries, and gathering the voices of our profession to communicate to stakeholders the vital role of our Pennsylvania libraries.

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### **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT ELECT**

#### **Kimberley Hrivnak**

Kimberley Hrivnak has worked at the Allegheny County Library Association since 2004 and is currently the Assistant Director/Assistant System Administrator. Prior to 2004 she was the director of the Sto-Rox Library in McKees Rocks, PA. She also spent seven years at Brooklyn Public Library as a public services librarian, children's librarian, and the young adult materials selector for the system.

Hrivnak earned her M.S.L.S. in Library Science from Clarion University. She also holds an M.A. in Comparative Politics and B.A. in Political Science and History from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

#### **Hrivnak's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- PaLA Certificate of Merit Recipient (2019)
- Mentor, PALS Directors' Institute (2019)
- Co-Chair, Legislative Committee (2018-present)
- Member at Large, Legislative Committee (2016-present)
- Member, PA Forward Partnership & New Resources Committee (2015-2016)
- Chair, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Secretary, Southwest Chapter Board (2005, 2004, 2003)
- Member, PaLA Annual Conference Committee (Sponsorship Co-Chair) (2002)
- Member at Large, Public Library Division (2001-present)
- Member at Large, Southwest Chapter (2001-present)

During her tenure as Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, the committee:

- Hosted the first Legislative Breakfast for New Members
- Held the first State Legislative Day in more than 10 years
- Celebrated Libraries Move PA Forward Day
- Conducted Virtual Legislative Town Halls
- Successfully campaigned for the 9.18% increase in the State Subsidy

Hrivnak was a member of the New York Library Association prior to moving to Pennsylvania. She also has been active in the American Library Association, the Young Adult Library Association and the Library Leadership and Management Association - serving as member and chair of Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) committees. She has presented at ALA, PaLA, at chapter workshops, and regionally.

#### **Platform Statement**

I am truly honored to be nominated for this position within the Pennsylvania Library Association. For me, PaLA is a community of knowledge and support. I have been fortunate to tap into this knowledge and support many times throughout my years in Pennsylvania, with mentors offering counsel and insight. In recent years, I have also been able to contribute to this community in various ways, including both formal and informal mentorship. It is through those connections that we build relationships and strengthen our community.

The diversity found in the people, purpose, and mission of our membership is critical to this community of knowledge and support. Through my position with the Allegheny County Library Association, I make every attempt to ensure that diversity is respected and represented, and that all voices have an opportunity to be heard. As Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, I continue to ensure active representation from all chapters and

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divisions with both new and seasoned professionals. It's critically important to engage all members and perspectives and gather more voices to unify our efforts. This is how informed decisions are made and how we best move our community forward.

You will find all levels of experience and a variety of backgrounds in our community. Each of us has something to contribute to the process of moving *PA Forward*, be it through conventional or unconventional ways. We have much to do, but with our combined knowledge and our mutual support, there is no doubt that we will accomplish our goals.



### **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT/ CONFERENCE CHAIR 2022 HARRISBURG**

#### **Brianna Crum**

Brianna Crum has been the district consultant for the Capital Area District since July of 2015. In this role, she coordinates and implements various services for the district member library staff in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties. She began her career in 2009 at the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill, PA, gaining experience working in both the reference and children's departments, prior to becoming the library's Public Services Manager in 2013.

Brianna earned her Master's in Library & Information Science from Drexel University in 2010, and her B.S. in Business Administration, with a concentration in Accounting, from Shippensburg University in 2005. Brianna joined the Pennsylvania Library Association in 2016 as a member of the South Central Chapter.

#### **Crum's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Second Chair/Administrative Support, Annual Conference Committee (2018)
- Member, Nominations & Elections Committee (2018, 2019)
- Vice-Chair, South Central Chapter (2019)
- Chair, South Central Chapter (2020)
- Member, Legislative Committee (2020)
- Member, Archives Committee (2020)

In addition to her membership in PaLA, Brianna is a Public Innovator of The Harwood Institute, an organization which provides in-depth training for individuals desiring to impact their communities in a more active and focused way. She also serves as a board member for Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting (HSLC, formerly Health Sciences Libraries Consortium), and is the board's Secretary for 2020.

#### **Platform Statement**

It is an honor to be a candidate for Second Vice President and Chair of the conference committee for 2021. Since becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Library Association, I have recognized the many benefits and immense value of being part of this organization, both professionally and personally. The collective group of knowledge within this association is extremely valuable. We all have something beneficial to contribute to the knowledge base of providing library services. On a more personal note, my life has been enriched by the

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connections I have made with other members of PaLA. The annual conference provides many opportunities for attendees. Through its presenters, panelists, and exhibitors about current trends in library services, we gain insight from the shared experiences of other attendees and develop and foster new and existing relationships. The conference is an opportunity to reach members and non-members alike. As conference chair, I would approach this opportunity with an intentional focus on meeting the needs of current members and spotlighting the association's value to those considering membership. I would be thrilled to serve in this capacity and work with PaLA to promote the value of Pennsylvania's libraries.



### **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT/ CONFERENCE CHAIR 2022 HARRISBURG**

#### **Mina Edmondson**

Mina Edmondson is the Director of Martin Library, awarded PaLA's Library of the Year for 2018. Edmondson has worked for York County Libraries for 23 years. During that time, she earned a M.S.L.S. from Clarion University in 2009 and a B.A. from Penn State University, York, in 2006. She has served in many leadership capacities including District Consultant from 2011 to 2017.

#### **Edmondson's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Member PaLA South Central Chapter
- Graduate, PALS Leadership Academy (2016)
- Conference Planning Committee, PaLA Store (2018)

Mina has also presented at Pennsylvania Library Conferences:

- 2014 - Panel discussion – PaILS
- 2016 - Re-Imaging Public Libraries: What Library Stories Can Tell Us
- 2016 - PaILS / SPARK Update (and More)
- 2019 - Video Storytelling - Teens Documenting Their Communities

Mina has co-published articles in the PaLRaP (2016, 2017), and Public Library Quarterly (2016).

Edmondson believes that connecting the library to the community is very important. She has served on the Board of the Community Progress Council, York, and is a member of the Advisory Council for the York YMCA New American Welcoming Center. She was also the chair of the Salem Square Library strategic initiative, opening a library in an underserved neighborhood in York.

Over the past year she has discovered a unique way to connect with her community through personal storytelling. She participated in the York Storytellers Project; York: Crafted; and the York Story Slam, where she earned the title of Best Storyteller of York, 2019.

#### **Platform Statement**

I thank you for the nomination to serve as the Second Vice President/Conference Chair. The Pennsylvania Library Association offers many opportunities for individual members to impact the future of libraries in Pennsylvania. Programs such as PA Forward and PALS highlight the power and develop the leadership of

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Pennsylvania libraries. I believe that the opportunities for personal and professional growth presented at the Pennsylvania Library Association Conference are essential to the library community. The conference offers multiple opportunities for library professionals, employees, and volunteers to increase their knowledge of best practices, new and successful library program models, and facilities management, plus develop leadership skills. The fellowship opportunities strengthen all Pennsylvania libraries and librarians.



### **THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT / MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

#### **Dana Barber**

Dana Barber has been the director of the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library in Bristol, Bucks County, for the past six years. She began her career there in the 1990s as a reference librarian, also serving as the head of public services and assistant director.

Barber earned her M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University, a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Holy Family University, and an A.A. in elementary education from Bucks County Community College. She is certified in Genealogy Librarianship through the National Institute for Genealogical Studies at the University of Toronto.

Barber graduated from both the 2015 Pennsylvania Library Director's Institute and the 2012 Pennsylvania Library Association Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS). She has served in various PaLA leadership roles since 2013 and has been a member of both PaLA and ALA for more than 20 years.

#### **Barber's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Chair, SEPLA Membership Committee (2020)
- Chair, SEPLA Chapter Leadership Team (2019)
- Director-at-large (2015-2017)
- Chair, SEPLA Awards Committee (2015-2016)
- Member, PaLA Annual Conference Committee (2014)
- Member, SEPLA Awards Committee (2013-2014)
- Member, SEPLA Support Staff Workshop Committee (2013)
- Member-at-large, SEPLA Board of Directors (multiple years)

#### **Platform Statement**

I am pleased to be nominated for the position of Third Vice President/Membership Chair and proud to be a member of the Pennsylvania Library Association as I truly value the work we do and the experiences I have gained as a member. Like you, I am a strong advocate for libraries. Not only do I believe in the transformational power of our libraries, I am firmly convinced of the transformational power of our professional association. From leadership training to career development and from advocacy to networking, the Pennsylvania Library Association supports all of us throughout our careers. Membership, however, comes with the implicit understanding that we are not alone and that together we are stronger. As such, all members share the responsibility for growing and sustaining our beloved association. This includes fostering an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion. If given the opportunity to serve in this role, I would work diligently to promote the benefits of membership in the Pennsylvania Library Association, to identify issues important to members, and to enhance the value of membership in an effort to recruit and retain members. Thank you for your consideration.

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**THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT / MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

**Robyn Vittek**

Robyn Vittek has served as Director of Mt. Lebanon Public Library in the South Hills of Pittsburgh since November 2015. Her previous career in Ohio spanned 16 years and included work at three different systems, including lead teen services librarian for Akron-Summit County Public Library and Director of St. Clairsville Public Library. She holds an M.L.I.S. from Kent State University, an M.S.Ed. from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and a B.A. in English from The Ohio State University. She was very active in the Ohio Library Council (OLC) and professional community; including chairing the 2013 OLC Convention and Expo, as well as helping to found and create the “Take Five!”

Youth Services Conference, now in its sixth year. She was a 2010 ALA Emerging Leader and part of the 2012 class of Library Leadership Ohio.

**Vittek’s Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- PA Forward Gold Star Library (2018)
- Pennsylvania Delegation of National Library Legislative Day (2017-2019)
- PaLA Membership Committee – Member-at-Large (2017 – Present)
- PaLA Exhibits Co-Chair for the 2017 PaLA Conference Committee
- PaLA Public Library Division Executive Committee (2018-2020)
- Allegheny County Library Association South Region Convener and a member of the Executive Council of the Librarian’s Advisory Council (2017-2019)
- Harwood Institute’s Public Innovators Lab and Turning Outward Initiative team member (2017-2019)

Community activities include:

- Immediate Past- President of the Dormont-Mt. Lebanon-Castle Shannon Rotary Club
- Club Ambassador on the Rotary District 7305 Membership Committee
- Member of the Mt. Lebanon Lions Club
- Member of the WQED Community Advisory Board and WQED Education Committee

Please visit <https://www.linkedin.com/in/robynvittek/> for a complete list of accomplishments.

**Platform Statement**

As a relative newcomer to the Pennsylvania library community, involvement with the Pennsylvania Library Association served as a lifeline in helping me acquire the professional network, support, and skills I needed to successfully navigate a familiar position in a different state. Now that I have found my feet, I am proud to be an active member of our organization. I can attest to the power and potential of our organization and through work on the Membership Committee, I have promoted these benefits to our members.

Some truths are universal, no matter what state you’re working in, and the Pennsylvania Library Association understands and meets the needs of its members. PaLA recognizes the need for libraries to unite with one voice in order to advocate collectively for funding to benefit our individual communities. PaLA provides structure for libraries to ensure comprehensive services to our communities. PaLA provides continuing education and

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mentorship opportunities to keep library staff relevant and able to respond to our patrons' needs. PaLA provides a support network and opportunities for personal and professional growth for its members and member libraries. PaLA is a valuable asset to the library profession, and on the membership committee I help our colleagues to get the most benefit possible from their membership.

Vince Lombardi once said, "The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." We are lucky to have such a dynamic group of people eager to help advance the work of our libraries. Every citizen of Pennsylvania deserves the best library services we can give to them. I am excited to engage our members, new and old, on the membership committee and help us to move PA Forward.



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

#### **David Belanger**

David Belanger has been director of the Lower Merion Library System (LMLS) since 2016, a six-member system providing public library services to 58,000 customers. Lower Merion residents borrowed 17 items per capita and visited LMLS locations 11 times per person in 2019. Four of the LMLS locations are PA Forward Gold Star Libraries. Prior to working in Lower Merion, David dedicated 30 years to the Delaware County Library System, first as the Automation Coordinator, then as District Consultant, and finally System Administrator.

Belanger received his M.S.L.S. from Villanova University, along with certification as a school librarian. He holds a Master of Management from Penn State and a B.S. in Telecommunications from Kutztown University.

#### **Belanger's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Southeast Chapter Chair (2018), previously Treasurer and Chair
- Presented at the PaLA Annual Conference, 2019, 2018, 2017
- Mentor for the 2018 & 2019 PALS Directors' Institute
- Past Member of the PA Forward Steering Committee, and NextGen Task Force
- Founding Member of the Ex Libris Society
- Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award (2014)
- Recipient of the Patricia Dobbin Award from the Southeast Chapter of PA Library Association (2012)
- Served on four Conference Committees
- PaLA Board Treasurer
- Task Force Member: The Platform for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries

#### **Other Library activities:**

- Vice-President of the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development
- Board President, the Montgomery County Library Information Network Consortium (MCLINC) 2019 – 2020
- Former board member and president of Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting (HSLC)
- Former member of Online Computer Library Center Members Council

Belanger has also served on the boards of the Delaware County Literacy Council, the Press Club of Delaware County, and the Rotary Clubs of Media and Ardmore.

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### **Platform Statement**

It is an honor to be nominated for the PaLA Board of Directors. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the library community as part of the Association's governing board. The Pennsylvania Library Association is a dynamic and effective voice for library service in the state. The power of the association is in communicating the impact libraries make for the residents of Pennsylvania. Libraries don't just have services; they have solutions to many of the issues facing communities. It is crucial that our Association communicate the library story to our elected officials and the public at large. PaLA needs to continue and expand its role in advocating for libraries, library staff, and the public who benefits from libraries. I would welcome the opportunity to be part of that role.



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

#### **Jessica Miller**

Jessica Miller is currently the System Administrator for the Washington County Library System where she was previously the System Coordinator. She began her career at the Flenniken Public Library, working her way from library clerk to director; over the years having duties in circulation, reference, technical services, ILL, bookkeeping, teen services, children's and adult programming, as well as being responsible for maintaining the library technology. Miller received her B.S. in Molecular Biology and her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh.

#### **Miller's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Member PaLA Southwest Chapter
- Chair, Leadership Development Committee (PALS) (2019 - Present)
- Certificate of Merit (2018)
- Member, PA Forward Training Committee (2018 - Present)
- Vice-Chair, Leadership Development Committee (PALS) (2018)
- Co-Chair, Leadership Academy, Leadership Development Committee (PALS) (2017)
- Speaker & Hospitality Chair, Conference Committee (2017)
- Graduate, PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS) (2010)

In addition, Miller has presented at multiple Chapter workshops and District meetings as well as served as an instructor for ILEAD USA.

### **Platform Statement**

Libraries make their communities better. The Pennsylvania Library Associations makes libraries and their librarians better. I am honored to be nominated to have the opportunity to help make the Library Association better.

For many years, I worked in a small, rural library where it was difficult to get away for professional development activities. Since I have had the opportunity to be more involved, my work with PaLA has given me skills to make my work life easier and taught me to be a better librarian. I have learned from people

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throughout the state that I would never have had the chance to work with otherwise; people in different types of libraries, different types of positions and different local environments. If elected, I would love the chance to help ensure that others can experience the same growth that I have.



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

#### **Allyson Wind**

Allyson Wind is the Electronic Resources Librarian and Education Department Liaison Librarian at East Stroudsburg University's Kemp Library. Previously she was the Web Services Librarian at the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. She also worked as a librarian and clerk at the Kingston City Library and the Phoenicia Public Library – both located in New York's Hudson Valley. Allyson earned her B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Scranton and her Master's in Library & Information Science from Drexel University.

#### **Wind's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Member PaLA Northeast Chapter - 2014 to Present
- Northeast Chapter Archivist
- Northeast Chapter PaLA Electronic Communications Chair
- PaLA Annual Conference Planning Committee 2020 – Publicity
- PaLA Mentorship Program Mentor - 2018 to Present
- 2017 PaLA Information Literacy Summit, Penn State University Lightning Talk - "Sharing Technology Making from ILEAD USA 2016."
- 2019 Lehigh Valley Chapter PaLA Annual Workshop/Conference Northampton Community College One Hour Presentation – *Self Care for All Librarians*
- 2019 PaLA Information Literacy Summit, Central Penn College - One Hour Presentation: The Basics of What Everyone Should Know About Predatory Publishing

#### **Platform Statement**

I have been a library lover my entire life, but never considered becoming a librarian until after I graduated from college. As an undergrad, I was a work study student at the Weinberg Memorial Library's circulation desk on the campus of the University of Scranton. My work study supervisor urged me to go to graduate school for my MLIS because she recognized that I loved the work I did there. After substitute teaching in the K-12 public education system for several years, I realized that I desperately missed the library and I was meant to be a librarian.

Since becoming a librarian, I have enjoyed every moment; no matter how bizarre or challenging that moment might have been. My involvement in the Pennsylvania Library Association has helped me to learn that all types of libraries are essential parts of their communities. Whether they are public, academic, or special, they all have value to the patrons they serve. I am also happy that I get to share my varied experiences and mentor other librarians through the PaLA Mentorship Program. I am truly blown away by my nomination for PaLA Director-at-Large and hope that if voted into the position, I can continue to serve this great organization.

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### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

#### **Erin Joyce**

Erin Joyce is the district consultant for the Oil Creek District. Previously, she held the position of Director at Redbank Valley Public Library.

She earned her M.S.L.S. and her B.S. in Library Science Education from Clarion University.

#### **Joyce's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Vice-Chair, Northwest Chapter (2013)
- Chair, Northwest Chapter (2014)
- Member, Nominations Committee (2015, 2019)
- Member, Organization & Bylaws Committee (2017 - Present)
- Chapter Representative, PR & Marketing Committee (2019 - Present)
- Member, Northwest Chapter

### **Platform Statement**

Membership in the Pennsylvania Library Association has had a tremendous influence on my career, making me a better librarian with a great network for support and ideas. Serving as a Director-at-Large would allow me to use my skills and experience to give back to an organization that has gives us so much. If elected, I would actively work towards accomplishing the Association's goals and help guide the betterment of all Pennsylvania libraries.



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

#### **Katie Greenleaf Martin**

Katie Greenleaf Martin is the District Consultant for the Altoona District and is based in Blair County. Her love for public libraries began at the Mansfield Free Public Library where she served as a page in elementary school. It continues today with service to her 13 District libraries and involvement with the SPARK/PaILS consortium.

Outside of work she loves to travel and spend time on the water, usually in a sailboat or kayak with her spouse and young son. Katie holds B.A. degrees in Anthropology & Geography from Penn State, an M.A. in Leadership Studies from Marshall University, WV, and an MLIS from the University of South Carolina.

#### **Martin's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Chair, Scholarship Committee (2019 - 2020)
- Member, Scholarship Committee (2017 - 2018)
- Member, Juniata Conemaugh Chapter (2015 - Present)
- JC Chapter Representative to the Intellectual Freedom Committee (2019 - Present)
- Secretary/Treasurer, Tech Services Roundtable (2018 - 2020)
- Graduate, ALA Emerging Leaders program (2018)
- Graduate, PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS) (2019)

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#### **Platform Statement**

When I moved back to Pennsylvania in 2015, one of the first professional tasks I undertook was to figure out which groups I needed to join in order to become professionally connected and learn more about how libraries work in our Commonwealth. The answer I received from colleagues was unanimous - the Pennsylvania Library Association was the best place for me. In the last five years, I have had the privilege to attend four PaLA conferences, work with my Chapter, and even chair a committee!

As a member of the Board of Directors, I would propel the message that I've heard loud and clear - Membership Matters. Serving as a Director-at-Large would give me an opportunity to serve this organization that has meant so much to me as I have built a career with Pennsylvania libraries!



#### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

##### **Bronwen Gamble**

Bronwen Gamble is the Executive Director of Reading Public Library (RPL). Prior to her current position, she served in many capacities at RPL including: Assistant Director for Public Service, Youth Services Supervisor, Northeast Branch Manager, and Reference Librarian. She came to Pennsylvania from New Jersey where she was the Reference Librarian at the Mt. Olive Public Library. She volunteered in her children's elementary school libraries and was a student worker at the Penn State, Behrend, library.

Bronwen has a B.S. in Human Development from Penn State and an M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University. Her background in social services is a great asset in working at public libraries. After winning a National Medal for Museum and Library Services in 2018, she has presented to community and state organizations about the role of public libraries today.

#### **Gamble's Pennsylvania Library Association activities have included:**

- Member PaLA Lehigh Valley Chapter
- Public Library Division Secretary
- Current Public Library Division Chair
- Presenter, PaLA annual conference

#### **Platform Statement**

'If not us, who? If not now, when?' We are all well-aware of the time and effort needed to provide outstanding library services to our residents at every age. Libraries are asked to do more each year to fill the gap left by dwindling government and social services. The demand for digital resources is growing yet we retain a core of committed book lovers. Balancing the needs with available funds is a serious challenge. A strong Pennsylvania Library Association serves all of us. If selected, I will focus my energies on engaging members, advocating for funding, and telling our valuable story throughout the Commonwealth.