

## Tennessee Chapter Councilor

### Report to the TLA Board of Directors

June, 2015

ALA's Annual Conference was held on June 25 – 30, 2015 in San Francisco, CA. ALA's Council meets three times at each conference. I have included below a list of links to the various documents and information that are involved in Council. There's even an audio recording of each Council meeting if anyone is interested in hearing the actual discussions.

Council Actions [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council\\_actions](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions)

Council Agendas [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council\\_agendas](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas)

Council Documents <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/councildocuments>

Council Recordings <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/councilaudio>

A number of resolutions were discussed by Council in these sessions. Some of the actions taken by Council include the establishment of the Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr. Award for Innovation, and Service to Community and Profession (ALA CD#7), the adoption of revised interpretations of the *Library Bill of Rights* (ALA CD# 19.3, Internet Filtering, ALA CD#19.4, Labeling Systems and ALA CD#19.5, Rating Systems), and the adoption of *Resolution to Improving Access to Spanish, Bilingual, and Books in Various Languages for Children in Detention Centers* (ALA CD#38).

A recommendation to change the ALA Constitution (to be placed on the Spring 2016 ballot for membership approval) to read

#### **Article X. Affiliated Organizations and Chapters**

Section 1. National or international organizations having purposes similar to those of the Association or to one or more of the Association's subdivisions may request to become an affiliate of the Association. Requests for affiliation are subject to Council's approval.

Section 2. The Association or any subdivision thereof may request to become an affiliate with national or international organizations having purposes similar to those of the Association or to one or more of the Association's subdivisions. However no subdivision of the Association may separately affiliate itself with an organization with which the Association is affiliated.

The prior language read

## **Article X. Affiliated Organizations and Chapters**

Section 1. The Council may by vote affiliate with the American Library Association or with any subdivision thereof upon its request, any national or international organization having purposes similar to those of the Association or its subdivision. The dues of affiliated organizations shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2. The Council may by vote affiliate the Association, or any subdivision thereof upon its request, with; provided, however, that no subdivision of the Association may separately affiliate itself with an organization with which the Association as a whole is affiliated.

The change should clarify section 1 and prevent it from being an issue in the future. (ALA CD#25.1)

Council also adopted the *Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries* (ALA CD#36) and the *Resolution Denouncing the Systemic Racism that Motivated the South Carolina Shootings* (ALA CD#43). The *Resolution on Libraries and Schools Affected by the Conflict in Gaza and Israel in 2014* (ALA CD#40) was defeated and the *Resolution Against Mass Surveillance of the American People* (ALA CD#42) was referred to the Committee on Legislation and the Committee on Intellectual Freedom. Council adopted the *Resolution on Gun Violence* (ALA CD#45) and endorsed the Statement from The Movement for Black Lives on the Charleston Shooting (ALA CD#46). The full text of these resolutions is attached.

Memorial resolutions were passed honoring Gail A. Schlachter, David Cohen, Charles Benton, Cynthia D. Clark, Ruth C. Carter, William Vernon Jackson, Elizabeth H. (Betsy) Park, Floyd C. Dickman, Cynthia G. Hurd and Zoia Horn. Tribute resolutions were passed honoring Jessie Carney Smith, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the American's with Disabilities Act, the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, MD, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

I have also passed along information received through the various ALA listservs to the TLA listserv.

If there are questions about the information here, any of the emails that I have sent to the listserv, or about ALA and Council in general, please let me know! I can be reached via email at [tlalacouncilor@gmail.com](mailto:tlalacouncilor@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

*Courtney Fuson*

Tennessee Chapter Councilor

**ALA CD#36 - Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries (adopted)**

“That the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the important and unique role libraries play in wider community conversations about resiliency, climate change, and a sustainable future and begins a new era of thinking sustainably in order to consider the economic, environmental and socially equitable viability of choices made on behalf of the association;
2. enthusiastically encourages activities by itself, its membership, library schools and state associations to be proactive in their application of sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, partnerships and library school curricula; and
3. directs the ALA Executive Director to pursue sustainable choices when planning conferences and meetings and to actively promote best practices of sustainability through ALA publications, research and educational opportunities to reach our shared goal of vital, visible and viable libraries for the future.”

**ALA CD#43 - Resolution Denouncing the Systemic Racism that Motivated the South Carolina Shootings, as amended (adopted)**

“That the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. denounces racially and politically motivated violence as exemplified by the shootings at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2015;
2. recognizes the hidden, endemic, and pervasive nature of systemic racism in American culture;
3. will strengthen and prioritize its own efforts to support diversity and foster cultural understanding and humility within our profession; and
4. will work with other professional associations to enable library staff and information organizations to expand our collective understanding of the hidden, systemic nature of racism in American culture and its potential for violence.”

**ALA CD#40 - Resolution on Libraries and Schools Affected by the Conflict in Gaza and Israel in 2014 (defeated)**

“That the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. deploras the destruction and damage of cultural institutions, including schools and libraries, in Gaza and Israel during the recent conflict there;
2. deploras the use of schools for storing or firing weapons;
3. calls again for the protection of libraries and cultural resources in the Middle East, and urges the US Government to support the United States Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict”; and

4. calls upon the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to provide material assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of these libraries and schools.”

**ALA CD#42 - Resolution Against Mass Surveillance of the American People** (referred to the Committee on Legislation and the Committee on Intellectual Freedom)

“That the American Library Association calls on the U.S. President and Congress to end mass surveillance of the American people by:

1. Repealing Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, and all other sections that authorize mass surveillance of the American public;
2. Repealing all mass surveillance authorized by the USA Freedom Act, by adopting into law the following measures: requiring government agencies to get a national security warrant before collecting personal information from third parties, raising the standard for government collection of call records under FISA from “reasonable grounds” to “probable cause,” limiting the government’s ability to use information gathered under intelligence authorities in unrelated criminal cases, making it easier to challenge the use of illegally obtained surveillance information in criminal proceedings, prohibiting the government from requiring hardware and software companies to deliberately weaken encryption and other security features, and requiring court approval for National Security Letters;
3. Prohibiting the government from conducting warrantless reviews of Americans’ email and other communications under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; and
4. Amending Executive Order 12333 on United States Intelligence Activities by deleting all authority for mass surveillance of the American People.”

**ALA CD#45 - Resolution on Gun Violence** (adopted)

“That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. deplors the gun violence that materially affects libraries and the communities we serve; and
2. will work with state chapters and affiliates to support legislation that allows the prohibition of the carrying of guns in or near libraries and other educational institutions.”

**ALA CD#38 - Resolution to Improving Access to Spanish, Bilingual, and Books in Various Languages for Children in Detention Centers** (adopted)

“That the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. urges ALA members and units to support the REFORMA Children in Crisis project for the continued delivery of books to refugee children and teens;

2. encourages the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop a partnership with the United States Customs and Border Protection agency to ensure that unaccompanied refugee children have access to books and programming in those children's native languages, whether they speak Spanish, indigenous languages, or other tongues, and bilingual books;
3. urges libraries in affected areas to provide services and programs for and with detained minors while under they are in the care of government-designated service providers; and
4. encourages ALA members, the Reference & User Services Association, and other relevant ALA units and affiliates to develop materials that meet the information and recreation needs of refugee children, teens, and their guardians, and to share that information with librarians in other affected communities."