

ALA Annual 2017 Michigan Chapter Councilor's Report

Below is a brief report of Council activities and other information from ALA conference. All Council documents, committee reports, and resolutions from conference can be found online at:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council-documents>

Overview of Chapter Councilor Events at ALA

There are lots of meetings for chapter councilors at the Midwinter and Annual meetings. Below is a breakdown of the main meetings that chapter councilors should have on their schedules:

- **Chapter Leaders Forum** – This day-long Friday pre-conference always provides an opportunity for the chapter councilors, state association executives, and other chapter leaders to meet, present, discuss, and learn about what chapters are doing, what issues are being faced, and how the chapters can work together and with ALA.
- **Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) I-II** – This ALA committee is charged “To develop and recognize chapters as integral components of ALA.” Chapter councilors are encouraged to attend their two meetings at each conference. Online at:
<http://www.ala.org/groups/committees/ala/ala-crc>
- **Chapter Councilor's Forum** – Always held between the two CRC meetings, the forum is an opportunity for chapter attendees to discuss chapter related topics, updates, and concerns.
- **Council Forums I-III** – Held the evening before each Council meeting, the Council Forum events are held for all interested council members to discuss and work on resolutions and other agenda items or possible Council interest topics that will or may be covered on forthcoming Council meeting agendas at the conference. These meetings are recommended but not required. As they are held at night, after conference shuttles have ended for the day, many councilors try to stay at the hotel venue where the Council Forums will be held.
- **Council Meetings I-III** – Mandatory attendance for all Council Members at conference, the meetings are the official venue for Council business. Council meetings are held in the mornings at the main conference center venue. All materials for meetings are posted on the Council Documents page and should be read prior to each Council meeting at the conference. Councilors may find it easiest to download the documents to a mobile device before each meeting for accessing materials during Council:
<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council-documents>
- **ALA Members Meeting** – Typically held immediately following Council I, this official member meeting is part of every conference.
- **In addition to meetings, there are numerous programs and events that may be of interest.**

Libraries Transform!

Libraries Transform is an initiative of the American Library Association. As a national marketing effort, the Libraries Transform campaign is “Designed to increase public awareness of the value, impact and services provided by libraries and library professionals, the Libraries Transform campaign will ensure there is one clear, energetic voice for our profession. Showcasing the transformative nature of today’s libraries and elevating the critical role libraries play in the digital age.” 2016/2017 ALA President Julie Todaro expanded on the Libraries Transform campaign and created the “Expert in the Library” focus this past year, to shine a light on library workers and what they accomplish in libraries.

**BECAUSE
TRANSFORMATION IS
ESSENTIAL TO THE
COMMUNITIES WE
SERVE.**

More information and free toolkit are online at: <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/>

Fight for Libraries!



ALA 2017/2018 President, Julie Todaro, noted that advocacy efforts for libraries will now be a long-term, permanent focus. “This is not a one-year thing.”

Check out the Fight For Libraries website at: <http://www.ala.org/fight-for-libraries>



The District Dispatch blog from the ALA Washington Office can help you keep up to date on advocacy efforts and legislative awareness: <http://www.districtdispatch.org/>

The Legislative Action Page is at: <http://cqrcengage.com/ala/>

Sign up to stay informed at: <http://cqrcengage.com/ala/app/register?0&m=101045>

Access Campaign Tools, including archived webinars and other resources, at: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy-university/tools-help-make-case-federal-library-funding>

Advocacy Resources for state chapters are at: <http://www.ala.org/offices/advocacy-resources-chapters>

Businesses Chip In on Advocacy with Corporate Committee for Library Investment

“The Corporate Committee for Library Investment (CCLI) is an organization of businesses of all kinds united by the common belief that America’s libraries are business-building, job-creating, workforce-preparing engines of the U.S. economy in every corner of the country. CCLI will work to maximize federal funding for the nation’s libraries by educating Congress and other federal policymakers about the extraordinary value to businesses and taxpayers of federal investment in America’s libraries of all kinds.”

“The Corporate Committee for Library Investment (CCLI) is working to educate Congress and other federal policymakers about the value of libraries for American businesses and taxpayers for the purpose of maximizing federal funding for our nation’s libraries.” (<https://www.fundlibraries.com/>)

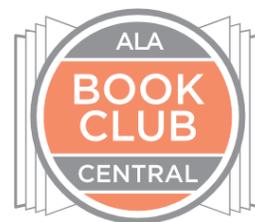


Corporate Committee for Library Investment

Libraries may want to take a moment to thank participating vendors and encourage others to join: <https://www.fundlibraries.com/members/>

United for Libraries Launches Book Club Central

“Book Club Central is a new online resource for book clubs and readers featuring book reviews, author interviews, discussion questions and more. Award-winning actor, producer, and avid reader Sarah Jessica Parker is the Honorary Chair of Book Club Central and a passionate advocate for libraries and literacy. Ms. Parker will offer her own book selections as part of SJP Picks.” Ms. Parker launched the new BCC at the conference and announced the first SJP Pick, “No One is Coming to Save Us,” by Stephanie Powell Watts. More information on the new program is online at: <http://www.bookclubcentral.org/>



Anticipating New ALA Executive Director

Long-time current ALA Executive Director, Keith Michael Fiels, was honored at the conference to mark his planned retirement on July 31, 2017. In his final Council address as ALA Executive Director, Fiels noted “libraries are synonymous with democracy” and encourage continued efforts to promote library values. The ALA Executive Director Search Committee is working with a search firm to complete their work to identify a new director for ALA (<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2017/05/ala-secures-search-firm-quest-new-executive-director>). Semifinalist interviews are to be held in late September with expected finalist interviews in late October. Appointment of a new director is anticipated for the ALA Midwinter conference.

Resolution on Climate Change Research

Council approved a resolution on "[An American Library Association Statement on Global Climate Change and a Call for Support for Libraries and Librarians](#)" in response to the current federal government administration's practice of deleting data and information files on global climate change. The resolution calls for the public dissemination of, and access to, scientific based research and data, and recognizes that, based on overwhelming evidence, ". . . human interactions and activities affect the dynamics of Earth's climate system . . ." specifically.

Resolution on Libraries as Responsible Spaces

The Committee on Diversity (COD) brought forth a resolution on "[Libraries as Responsible Spaces](#)" in response to a dramatic increase in hate crimes in the United States. After discussion and amendment the Council approved the resolution. The resolution is meant to support environments in libraries in ". . . which all people are responsible to one another in advocating for safety in that space . . ."

New ALA Lib Guide on Gun Violence and Libraries

ALA now hosts hundreds of [LibGuides](#), including a new guide on [Gun Violence and Libraries](#), launched on June 19. This site will be kept updated as a resource for libraries, in response to the ALA "[Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons](#)," which "Encourages libraries to collaborate with appropriate local agencies to provide training and education for library workers related to the presence of guns in the workplace."

Library Bill of Rights Interpretations Adopted

Two new [interpretations](#) of the "[Library Bill of Rights](#)" were adopted by Council. The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) brought forth the "[Politics in American Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)", which was approved. The interpretation is meant to strengthen resolve that the first amendment rights of all individuals must be maintained and supported by library collections, even if the viewpoint of some individuals may be controversial or offensive.

The committee's interpretation on "[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)" was also approved by Council, affirming that ". . . equity, diversity, and inclusion are central to the promotion and practice of intellectual freedom . . .," in support of the new ALA strategic direction based on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. "[Definitions of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)," as proposed by the Committee on Diversity (COD) were also adopted.

Library of the Future: Trends Cards



“The Center for the Future of Libraries works to identify trends relevant to libraries and librarianship.” The [Trends page](#) of the center includes categorized articles and links on each topic to “. . . help libraries and librarians understand how trends are developing and why they matter.” The center now offers a free downloadable deck of [Trends Cards](#) for libraries to use as a tool to discuss and think about future and current library trends.

Part-Time Librarians

A trend toward hiring part-time librarians was discussed at the Chapter Leaders Forum. Anecdotally, it was noted that due to budget constraints many libraries are now hiring multiple part-time librarians instead of full-time positions to avoid offering costly benefits. While initially lowering budget costs it was noted that larger adoption of part-time hiring may eventually cost libraries and the profession long-term. It was noted that part-time employees are often much less engaged and tend to have a greater rate of job dissatisfaction. It was also suggested that the profession may lose librarians to other industries as graduates from ALA accredited programs may find it increasingly difficult to obtain full-time employment in a library setting. Future work may be needed to address this issue if the trend continues. Chapters may wish to contemplate unique solutions to addressing the trend.

Report submitted by:

Steven K. Bowers
Executive Director
Detroit Area Library Network

ALA Councilor for the Michigan Library Association
MLA Board of Directors, President