

American Library Association
President Report
Fall Board Meeting
Oct. 25-27, 2019

I am extremely grateful for the work of the Executive Board and the Staff of ALA. Together we have worked in synch over the past few months on numerous projects each critical to our association. The commitment and passion of each group makes my role as President an easier one. You are both expressive, creative and devoted to the work you have signed on to do. For that you are to be commended and appreciated.

Membership – Finding Your ALA

Many thanks to the Membership team for their efforts with my “Finding your ALA” presidential initiative. This is a project to capture and share member stories around their journey within ALA. I hope that by sharing these stories others will find their home within ALA. This will also showcase what member’s perceive as association value. While visiting with the local state associations, I have been listening to the voices of those who are missing from the table and encouraging them to share their stories as well.

International and Chapter Association visits

I was honored to accompany Ying Zhang and the Chinese American Library association on a trip to Chuxiong Normal University in Kunming, China where I was a guest speaker for the Yunnan Academic Libraries Consortium biennial U.S.-China Forum.

Athens, Greece was home for my second IFLA conference. This was a great gathering. Being there with so many different cultures was truly an absolute joy. The spirit of excitement and collaboration was overwhelming and a pleasure to experience. So much so, that I volunteered to serve on a committee. My one personal regret is finding this experience late in my career.

Trips to South Dakota, Maine, Missouri and Arkansas were eye opening experiences. Not only to the beautiful long country rides, but also to the significant roles paraprofessionals play in small and rural communities. I think there is much ALA can do virtually within this arena. The folks I encountered were hungry for guidance and for mentorship; what a great opportunity for us.

SCOE

In September SCOE committee convened over two days working on organizational recommendations. I believe the recommended structure will give members greater opportunities to use their strengths and passions in a capacity that will drive our association forward and expand its reach within areas that matter most.

The ALA Daily

Our ALA communications office and the ALA Washington office have been active over the last few months ensuring that our voice is heard on issues that are of great importance to our members and our profession. To that end we have been involved in the following:

Addressing a Burlington School District where the Superintendent mistakenly cited some research as an ALA recommendation.

Thanking the U.S. Holocaust Museum for their partnership in bringing Americans and the Holocaust to libraries and challenging people to not only ask themselves ‘what would I have done?’ but also ‘what will I do?’”

Thanking OverDrive for an innovative project called Libraries Transform Book Pick; a program in support of communities and information literacy.

Launching a website, eBooksForAll.org, with information and tools to use to invite library patrons to join our movement in response to McMillian’s proposed ebook lending model.

Announcing receipt of a \$2 million grant from Google.org for expanding ALA’s library entrepreneurship programs.

Reaffirming publicly ALA’s support for equitable access to the internet and network neutrality protections needed for libraries to fully serve their communities in the digital age.