

**ALA President Elect Report
Julius C. Jefferson Jr.
October 2019**

ALA Orientation

Orientation marked the official start of my term as President-Elect. I attended two full days of meetings with ALA staff including media training with Jeff Leshay. Mr. Leshay was engaging, insightful and offered outstanding communication and media coaching. The orientation was also an opportunity to meet new ALA staff. I was able to meet and interact with Director of Membership Development and Customer Service, Melissa Walling and Director of Communications and Marketing, Stephanie Hlywak. Membership and Communications are both vital to the future success and sustainability of ALA. Membership and Marketing are two key elements of my 2020-2021 agenda, so it was important to me that I connected with Ms. Walling and Ms. Hlywak. It was also evident that Ms. Walling and Ms. Hlywak are assets and I expect their fresh approach will be invaluable during these streams of change within ALA.

Travel

- Hampton University Forum on Equity Diversity & Inclusion in the LIS Field: Leading the Charge
Tina Rollins of The William Harvey Library, Hampton University, invited me to participate in this much needed discussion. This forum that specifically focused on racial and ethnic diversity will continue the 1st week of August 2020 and will be a leadership/training institute.
- IFLA Congress
This year IFLA was in Athens, Greece. The ALA booth attracted a great number of international librarians. I had the opportunity to meet many of them and discuss some of the incredible and life-changing services and programs libraries in different parts of the world are providing patrons and citizens at large. In addition to fellow ALA members, I enjoyed quality time with ALA President Wanda Brown during business and leisurely tourist activities. Wanda, ALA Immediate Past President Loida Garcia-Febo, ALA Executive Director Mary Ghikas and I were able to meet for breakfast and discuss challenges and opportunities for ALA.
- US-Russian Dialogue on the Civic Role of Libraries in 21st Century Urbana
This yearly US-Russian Dialogue was held at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I was invited to participate along with Immediate Past President Loida Garcia-Febo and ALA Director of the Office for International Relations Michael Dowling. There were considerable discussions and insight about developing concrete actions ALA can take to assist our state and local libraries facilitate national progress in the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) There are 17 SDGs and SDG 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) are of particular importance for libraries. Specifically it was discussed that ALA can develop a task force that would work with the Office for International Relations and coordinate with libraries to collect stories about how they are fulfilling these SDGs.

**ALA President Elect Report
Julius C. Jefferson Jr.
October 2019**

Speaking/Interview

- PLA
Invited by PLA Executive Director Barb Macikas to welcome 50 interns and mentors at the 2019 PLA Inclusive Initiative Wrap-up at the Library of Congress.
- Slate Magazine
Interviewed by Slate reporter for an article on ALA's decision to remove Melville Dewey's name from the ALA Dewey Award.
- Library Journal (LJ)
Responded to LJ's News Editor Lisa Peet's interview questions about my current term as President-Elect, issues that have arisen and my 2020-2021 agenda as ALA President.

Meetings

- Held virtual meetings with Committee on Committees and Committee on Appointments to discuss making committee appointments for Council Committees and Committees of the Association. With the help of ALA governance associate Holly Robison, we developed a timeline with benchmarks, and plan to have the committees staffed by January 2020. The Committee on Appointments provided recommendations for appointments to the Nominating Committee, which I have now finalized and await Board approval.
- Participated in a conference call with the National Network Advisory Committee as the Executive Board Liaison. The committee finalized the key contact roles and responsibilities as well as the key contact applicant survey. The advisory committee will meet during the ALA 2020 Mid-Winter meeting.

2020-2021 Presidential Focus

My 2020-2021 Presidential year will focus on three primary areas: Advocacy, EDI and Membership.

Advocacy - In preparing for these three areas, I began a series of discussions with the Public Policy and Advocacy Office about increasing ALA's advocacy platform with the goal of alignment with building a national network of advocates and policy experts. Plans are also underway for a country-wide library tour, with a focus on underrepresented libraries.

EDI – EDI is a major area of focus. To ensure that all members have access to developing and discussing an EDI consciousness at conference, I am considering an EDI workshop at midwinter and annual conference similar to the workshop provided to Council at the 2019 annual meeting.

ALA President Elect Report
Julius C. Jefferson Jr.
October 2019

Membership - This is the heart of ALA. As such I intend to work on developing the ALA brand by highlighting initiatives such as professional development & leadership and the value of being connected to mentorship opportunities.

A more in-depth conversation about how we can have a sustainable impact in these three primary areas will be discussed with the Presidential advisory committee and ALA staff, immediately after the Fall ALA Executive Board meeting on October 27-28.