

American Library Association  
President Report  
Midwinter Board Meeting  
January 24-28, 2020

I am extremely grateful for the work of the Executive board over the past few months. Since the October board meeting they have worked tirelessly addressing issues within the streams of change. One item of particular interest was interviewing for our Association's next Executive Director. After review and much deliberation, we unanimously and enthusiastically selected Tracie D. Hall. We believe that she will bring vision, passion, leadership, and direction to ALA especially at this crucial time. Hats are also off to the board for the many hours spent collaborating with ALA partners working through issues related to the sale of the building and other budget pressing issues. I am most fortunate to have such a highly engaged board. They're an awesome group!

#### SCOE

I want to personally thank Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada and her committee for the SPECTACULAR work done in crafting the "Forward Together" document, which outlines pathways for modernizing the association's operations. There is so much great work here and yet we have miles to go before we sleep. It's a marathon, but together we can and will get there!

#### International and Chapter Association visits

The ALA office of International Relations is to be commended for their collaborative work across the waters. Our trip to Sharjah in November was an incredible experience demonstrating the benefits of partnering. For me it was an opportunity to see other librarians and library workers demonstrate equal passion for the work we do. ALA brought along subject experts addressing a wealth of topics such as empathy and tolerance, transforming the school library experience, the value of measuring outcomes, the scholarship of teaching and learning, artificial intelligence and machine learning, digital preservation and also blockchain in libraries.

The Guadalajara Book Fair is another example of the International office's outreach efforts that offset expenses enabling librarians from across the United States the opportunity to purchase books and other media in the diverse Spanish language. Many of the librarians I spoke with were extremely appreciative for what ALA provides them. Several mentioned how they couldn't afford to build up their collections without ALA's sponsorship. I am eager to spread the word about the event, particularly with my own state where our Hispanic population has grown by almost 30 percent.

I was most fortunate to be a part of the Association of School Librarians Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky. The programming was excellent, specifically the opening keynoter who challenged us to unpack the back bags worn by students. Each of them has the one visible and the one that isn't. But understanding how they impact the student is crucial in our delivery of

services. I had the opportunity to meet with several new librarians and even had the opportunity to get more acquainted with school librarian and board member Eboni Henry.

I ended my fall state road tour with a visit to the New Mexico Library Association. I was delighted yet again by the warm and welcoming reception. It is so encouraging to see library workers across our country carry the torch of compassion and dedication for the work we do. I am so very proud.

### The ALA Daily

Our ALA Offices 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 I salute them and us for the following:

Delivering to Macmillan Publishers the #eBooksForAll Petition with 150,000+ Signatures, leading the ongoing campaign and managing communications with John Sargent, Macmillan CEO.

Issuing a press release regarding the Libraries Transforming Communities community engagement initiative for small and rural libraries.

Working with ALA partners to facilitate the sale of the 50 East Huron building and also securing a lease for a new property.

Endorsing and announcing introduction of the *Closing the Homework Gap through Mobile Hotspots Act*.

Supporting the School Librarians of Virginia with a letter to the Virginia Dept. of Education requesting that they be included in conversations around literacy in Virginia.

Announcing the winners of the I Love My Librarian Award for life-changing public service.

Promoting and supporting the confirmation of Crosby Kemper as the next IMLS Director.

Announcing the names of the (59) \$2,000 census grant awardees and releasing the new Libraries' Guide to the 2020 Census.

Strategizing, campaigning and communicating the federal FY2020 budget, which had a \$10 million+ increase for IMLS, including \$6.2 million for the Library Services and Technology Act – the largest increase for the LSTA program in 12 years.

Standing in solidarity with the Library workers in Puerto Rico during their recent tragedy.

Embracing and welcoming the incoming Executive Director with both informal and formal activities.