

**American Library Association
Midwinter Executive Board Meeting
Report of President Elect, Loida Garcia-Febo**

Committee on Committees

The Committee slated six (6) nominees to run for four (4) positions on the ALA Executive Board. The first three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to 3-year terms (2018-2021), and seated on the Executive Board at its fall meeting on October 27-29, 2018, in Chicago, IL. The fourth (4th) candidate receiving the greatest number of votes will be seated immediately on the ALA Executive Board at the 2018 Midwinter Meeting to complete the remaining 5 months (February 2018 through June 2018) of my Executive Board Member-at-Large term.

The committee also worked and provided me with their ranked recommendations for committee appointments.

Committee on Appointments

The Committee, comprised of the eleven Division presidents-elects, worked and provided me with their ranked recommendations for committee appointments.

Parliamentary Training

Met with ALA Parliamentarian, Eli Mina, on December 4, 2017 in New York City for a review and training related to parliamentary process followed by ALA.

Presidential Focus

I met with my Advisory Board and ALA Staff Liaison, JoAnne Kempf on October 29-30 at the ALA Headquarters in Chicago. We made significant progress towards planning for my Presidential Year. My general ideas were strengthened and improved by our brainstorming session focused on Presidential Initiatives related to the areas of Advocacy, Diversity, Professional Development, International Relations, and Wellness. During the first part of our meeting, we brainstormed ideas and deliverables as a group. After this, the Advisory Board worked in teams to explore each initiative in depth.

A number of ideas resulted from these discussions:

Advocacy: Help library advocates to tell our library stories and demonstrate the value of libraries through captured shared stories via digital storytelling, and storytelling learning with a specific focus on advocacy via an app.

Diversity: To raise the visibility of a diverse representation of library workers, champions and patrons and to help deepen the understanding of the principles of ALA's EDI, showcase via video the voices of a diverse range of library staff, advocates, and users who talk about why they love their library.

International Relations: To increase international membership and promote participation of international members in ALA's activities, audit every Division and Round Table about their international activities. Based on this, develop in-person and online opportunities related to membership, publication, and education.

Wellness: To support overall wellness for all library workers, review and revamp programming at conferences and online programming, and content of the ALA-APA Wellness website, develop an app including these elements.

Professional Development: To support the continuing development of ALA members, develop a "23 Things" -style Program from ALA including components of the Presidential Initiatives outlined above and other areas currently under consideration.

National Tour

With the goals of raising the profile of libraries, engaging our communities, and encouraging support for libraries in our country, we will coordinate a national tour titled "Together: Libraries Building Communities" covering all cardinal areas of the USA. I will visit Cambridge PL in Massachusetts, North Miami PL in Florida, Pikes Peak PL in Colorado, Los Angeles PL in California, and Seattle PL in Washington. The director of those libraries, ALA staff, and I are meeting during the ALA Midwinter Meeting to further discuss.

Global Tour

I will bring my message "Together: Libraries Building Communities" to regions of the world where ALA already has long standing commitments by formally including these in a Global Tour. Current annual commitments include The Guadalajara Book Fair (FIL), and the German Library Association Annual Conference. Others will be added as I continue to coordinate with ALA staff.

Special Outreach Initiative

In solidarity with libraries damaged by the Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, [visited academic, public, and school libraries in that island from January 16-19](#) along with REFORMA President, Tess Tobin. A meeting attended by library leaders, directors, and library friends from all types of libraries and from all regions was held on Tuesday, January 16. The overall goal of this initiative was to support our colleagues, including many ALA members from Puerto Rico, as they struggle with the aftermath of this natural phenomenon and explore ways in which ALA could help them. ALA leadership and staff will be discussing findings to identify best strategy to help Puerto Rican libraries. This library tour was documented in real-time on the Facebook page [Loida Garcia-Febo ALA](#)

[President Elect](#) where there are videos and photos of all the libraries and meetings. Currently, I am writing a report to be published on American Libraries Online soon.

Interviews

Provided interview update to Library Journal for the piece "[Mainland Libraries Aid Maria Victims with Money, Mapathons](#)." Published on October 18, 2017.

Interviewed by American Libraries for "[Hurricane Maria: The Aftermath/ Caribbean libraries sustain catastrophic damage](#)." Published on January 2, 2018.

Interviewed by the host of the radio show "Vision Latina," a national program in Spanish produced in Miami and broadcast to the USA, about how libraries are building community serving Latinos and Spanish speakers. January 11, 2018.

Interviewed by contributing columnists of *El Vocero* (Puerto Rican newspaper) about my election as ALA President 2018-2019 and my tour of libraries impacted by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico: "[Una puertorriqueña electa presidenta de la American Library Association](#)." Published on January 27, 2018.

Travel and speaking engagements

November 14-18, 2017 -- Keynote Speaker at the VIII Jornada Temas Actuales en Bibliotecologia (hosted by Medical Library in Mar del Plata, Argentina). Title: "Importance and impact of libraries in sustainable development: each one of us can contribute from where we are."

December 5, 2017 -- Supported net neutrality and equity of access at a rally in NYC.

December 5, 2017 – Moderator, ALA's International Relations Round Table Chair's Webinar: Resources to serve immigrants and refugees. Recording and more information here: <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>

December 12-15, 2017 -- Keynote Speech at the Serbian Library Association Annual Conference. Title: "Together we can: empowering ourselves to advocate in challenging times," and Guest speaker at the US Embassy/ American Corner in Belgrade, Title: "Access to Information for All: Libraries Building Communities."

January 25, 2018 – Moderator, ALA's International Relations Round Table Chair's Webinar: Libraries in the USA serving immigrants and refugees. Recording and more information here: <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>

January 26, 2018 -- Interviewed by Christopher Platt, VP of Library Services of NYPL about a myriad of topics including my national and international activities, and the future of public libraries and librarianship during the Public Services Managers Meeting at NYPL on January 26, 2018.

