

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.A**

MEETING DATE: **July 17, 2026**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

ALA Council Actions at ALA Annual Conference

Council held three very productive sessions at Annual Conference, with relatively few deviations from what was expected.

The only resolution referred to Council from the Annual Membership meeting was a [“Resolution on Libraries Supporting Caregiver Awareness, Community Dialogue, and Dignity in Aging,”](#) which also easily passed Council. Most libraries are already doing many of the things covered in the resolution, so adopting the resolution is an opportunity to highlight that work. Council also passed the resolutions brought by the [Policy Monitoring Committee](#) and the [Committee on Organization](#) that continue the necessary reorganizing work that has come from ongoing efforts to streamline the Association. Council discussed COO’s proposed three-year moratorium on forming new units of the Association in detail, with some voices speaking up against the motion because of the need to respond quickly to the many threats and changes facing libraries. In response to those concerns, many Councilors pointed out the many ways that already exist within the organization to work on those responses, rather than creating new units. The motion passed, largely due to a recognition that we should not even consider adding new units to the organization while we continue work to resolve our structural deficit and while the ALA staff navigate the complexities of unionization.

Council also approved the new [Librarians’ and Library Workers’ Bill of Rights](#) as an official statement of principle and practice. This resolution was originally introduced at the winter Council meeting, but was tabled until Annual so it could be reviewed by other units and so there would be more attention on it at the Annual conference. This resolution is intended to stand alongside other statements like the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement, drawing attention to the fact that library workers are increasingly under threat in many places around the country, demonstrating that the Association is standing up against this, and giving libraries where this is an issue a tool to guide how to respond.

The Committee on Legislation brought a resolution on [Library Infrastructure as Essential Economic and Civic Infrastructure](#) in response to the US Government Accountability Office’s report on public library facilities issued in December 2025, which was passed with an amendment to broaden the statement to all libraries and not just public libraries. Council also passed a resolution on [Library Card Access Policies as a Form of Social Equity](#), which was modeled on [principles for library card access developed by the Brooklyn Public Library](#). This resolution is similar to previous resolutions about library fines and the restrictions those create on accessing library resources.

As I mentioned in my last report, the working group on Artificial Intelligence brought their report and [AI Guidance for Libraries](#) document for Council to consider. There was much productive discussion about the document, and Councilors recognized the strong work of

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the working group tackling a very challenging subject. However, many points were identified where additional work was needed, particularly around including the needs of School Libraries, and a recognition that because this technology is changing so quickly this document would also have to continue to change. Council approved the document as presented, recognizing that many libraries were waiting for this document before creating their own policies to respond to AI. However, Council also asked the Information Technology Advisory Committee to review the document considering the questions that were raised and report back at the winter Council meeting.

Council reviewed Treasurer Larry Neal's report, which included a five-year plan to close the Association's multi-million-dollar structural deficit. There was a great deal of discussion and questions for the Treasurer about the deficit and the plan to close it, but also a recognition that a massive structural deficit like this cannot be resolved quickly and requires many difficult decisions. Larry has made himself available to anyone who has questions about the Association's finances and the plan to close the deficit. Endowment trustee Brett Bonfield also delivered the Endowment's report, with additional discussion about how the Association is handling transfers from the endowment and how those transfers might be repaid in the future.

Finally, Council passed a resolution [recognizing the ALA staff](#) for their work and dedication in honor of the Association's 150th anniversary, with a standing ovation for the staff.

E-Rate Advocacy

Following the FCC's proposal that questions whether or not to continue to the E-Rate program, ALA has announced a [national advocacy campaign](#) along with Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition partners. ALA's campaign is in coordination with SHLB. [SaveOurERate.com](#) is a central hub for everyone who depends on the program. The site houses the resources the community needs to get involved, including tools to file comments with the FCC, guidance on how to write to members of Congress and other ways to take action. The coalition urges schools, libraries and the communities they serve to visit the site, make their voices heard and keep returning to it as the proceeding moves forward.

[See the full press release here.](#)