

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.A**

MEETING DATE: **Mar. 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

ALA Council activities at LLX

From January 24-27 I attended the final LibLearnX in Phoenix, and while the conference as a whole was fairly low key due to this being the final effort to hold this type of event in January, Council activity was engaged and energetic both in session and networking between sessions. It was particularly interesting to be at this event with my colleagues while many of the new administration's actions that will affect libraries were being handed down. I was in a meeting working on the revision of the Intellectual Freedom manual when the administration published a press release stating that book bans were a hoax, and we had many conversations over the next few days about how best to manage these sorts of attention-grabbing attacks, as they will undoubtedly continue. [You can see ALA's official response here.](#)

In Council's regular work we covered a fairly wide variety of topics. Council voted to not approve the creation of a new Round Table for Makerspaces, largely because the work that was outlined for this group was already happening with the Core division. We approved an update to the Prisoners' Right to Read interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. We also approved minor updates to the Policy Manual and Bylaws.

Council also voted to amend the Bylaws to undo the designated seats on the executive board to represent specific segments of membership that was passed with the new bylaws two years ago. Since this is a change to the Bylaws it will now go to the membership for a vote in our regular elections starting March 10th. The Council vote to approve this change was close, so this will not be an easy decision. I encourage all members to read the pro and con statements closely when deciding whether or not to approve this change.

Finally, 4 new members were elected to serve on the Executive Board. K. C. Boyd, Tatanisha Love, Janice Moore Newsum, and Ziba Pérez were elected to a three-year term beginning in July 2025 and concluding in June 2028. Boyd is a school librarian at Jefferson Middle School Academy in Washington, D.C.; Love is a school library media specialist at Southwest Academy in Baltimore; Newsum is a retired associate professor at University of Houston; and Pérez is a young adult librarian at Los Angeles Public Library. The full press release can be seen [here](#).

ALA Elections

The 2025 ALA Election electronic ballot will open on March 10, 2025, and run through April 2, 2025. As I mentioned above, members will be voting on proposed changes to the [ALA bylaws](#). Members will be asked to vote "Yes" or "No" on the following amendments:

- ACTION ITEM 1: The ALA Council approved the [Resolution on the ALA Executive Board Composition CD 48](#) at their Council Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2025 (The Library Learning Experience 2025).

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- ACTION ITEM 2: The ALA Council approved the [Removal of Annual Estimates of Income reference in the ALA Bylaws ALA CD 25.1](#) at their Council Meeting on June 30, 2024 (Annual Conference 2024).

In addition to the Bylaws vote, all ALA members will have the option to vote for ALA President-elect, ALA Treasurer and ALA Councilor at Large. If you are a member of a Division and/or Round Table, you will receive access to vote in those specific ballots.

It was just announced that Andrea Jamison, assistant professor of school librarianship at Illinois State University, has withdrawn her candidacy for the American Library Association (ALA) president-elect and Intellectual Freedom Round Table director at large. Her name will be removed from the election ballot, which will be sent to ALA members Monday, March 10. Two candidates remain in the race: Lindsay Cronk, Dean of Libraries, Tulane University, New Orleans; and Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries, Cambridge Public Library, Massachusetts.

ALA is partnering with an election vendor, YES Elections, to conduct our spring elections. Members will receive an e-mail from "ALA Governance Office" (Help+ALA@yeselections.com) on Monday, March 10, 2025, with instructions on how to cast your vote. For more information, please visit the [ALA Election Website](#).

For Our Libraries Campaign

In ALA's ongoing efforts to respond to challenging dynamics we are all currently experiencing, a new campaign to engage the general public with ALA has been launched. From president Cindy Hohl:

[The new For Our Libraries campaign] gives the public the opportunity to become a supporter at a crucial time for libraries in our country's history.

The money will help ALA support libraries across the nation and the vital services you offer, such as:

- *Library funding: The ALA advocates for funding in the halls of Congress and state and local governments.*
- *Right to read: The ALA champions everyone's right to read, without censorship.*
- *Internet for all: The ALA advocates for broadband funding.*
- *Grants and scholarships: The ALA provides grant opportunities to small and rural libraries and scholarships for aspiring library professionals.*

To support this initiative:

- *Contribute: We are especially looking for recurring donations.*
- *Give a gift: Do you know a library lover? Give them the gift of supporting something dear to their hearts. From Valentine's Day to a birthday, this is a gift that will help them feel all their feelings.*
- *Spread the word: Tell your library-loving friends and family to contribute. Find social media graphics and messages in this toolkit to share on social media. Our hashtag is #ForOurLibraries because that's what the ALA is all about: serving you.*

How do you get started? Head to ilovelibraries.org and check out the redesigned website where you'll find a link to the donation site.

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