Mona Batchelor, Affiliate Assembly chairperson, called the meeting to order. Batchelor announced the call for nominees for Recording Secretary. Candidates need ten delegate signatures. The election will be on Sunday.

Batchelor introduced Cathy Evans, Director of Libraries, St. Mary’s Episcopal School in Memphis, TN. Cathy Evans discussed her advocacy efforts. She started with reading an excerpt from Audrey Church’s blog entry School Librarians as Advocacy Leaders. Cathy Evans followed Church’s advice and invited her congressmen and representatives to her library in April 2017. Her two congressmen accepted the invitation! When Congressman Steve Cohen & Congressman David Kustoff visited she had her students talk feeling that is often more powerful than talking yourself.

Evans talked about how supportive her administration is. She reached out and asked other librarians to write a letter to the congressmen so she could share it with them. Evans read one of the letters aloud. Both Congressmen stayed and listened. Evans administrators were impressed by the visits, and she followed up with a thank you note to each of the Congressmen.

Other tips for advocacy:
- Library Ambassador - student group
- Alum Book Club - meet four times a year to keep alumni
- Be on decision making committees for the school
- Meet with assistant head of school every other week

In closing, Cathy Evans suggested you invite Congressmen to your library! She also challenged us to think of one advocacy goal for next year that you can implement.

Mona Batchelor introduced Pam Akin, Community Engagement Specialist, ALA. She talked about the new ALA Connect. ALA is moving to a new platform called Higher Logic, and the migration is scheduled for August. Now, when users come to the site, they can see something other than the login screen. Current user IDs will remain the same. In the new system, each division and round table has their own space to organize their information the way they want to. She demonstrated how to create posts, find people, find groups, and upload files. You can also import your LinkedIn profile.
Mona Batchelor called attention to the MidWinter minutes and asked everyone to read over them. Mona Batchelor asked for questions, comments or changes to the minutes from MW Atlanta. Two spelling corrections were discovered. Elizabeth Zdrodowski moved to approve the minutes. Becky Johnson seconded. The minutes were approved.

Batchelor asked everyone to check their email about the two concerns that were not recommended by the Affiliate Assembly Coordinating Team (AACT). These will be printed for our Sunday Affiliate meeting so that everyone is aware of them. Mona asked everyone to look over the concerns and discuss in region groups.

Batchelor stated concern 3 from Maryland has been pulled because there is already a task force for this.

Batchelor clarified that on Sunday we would discuss each concern for 10 minutes. We can vote for a 5 minute extension- no more than 15 minutes given to a single concern) - All concerns will be voted on in the order in which they appear after all concerns have been discussed.

Batchelor clarified that on Sunday commendations we will review the criteria to receive a commendation - there will be a call to the delegates if any need to be pulled for discussion. If a discussion if necessary, there will be a 5 minute time limit (no extensions). All commendations will be voted on in the order in which they appear after the discussion has been completed.

Batchelor reminded us that we would have an election for chair elect and recording secretary on Sunday.

Batchelor announced Sedley Abercrombie (North Carolina, Region 4) as nominee for Secretary. Sunday’s meeting will be at at McCormick Place, S102 with breakfast at 7:30 sponsored by ABC-CLIO.

Batchelor asked for questions & announcements.

Batchelor adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Hale
Recording Secretary