Executive Board Conference Call Notes  
August 8, 2017

Present for the call: President, Jim Neal; President-Elect, Loida Garcia-Febo; Treasurer, Susan Hildreth; Past President Julie Todaro; Trevor Dawes, Karen Downing, Julius Jefferson, Mike Marlin, Andrew Pace and Patty Wong; Interim Executive Director Mary Ghikas; and Executive Board Secretariat, LaTasha Bryant. Board members Gina Persichini and Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada were excused.

I. 2022 San Antonio Conference Decision
   Because of a series of legislative bills pending in Texas which are considered discriminatory, the Board is considering moving the Midwinter 2022 conference from San Antonio, TX to Anaheim, CA. Jim Neal led the discussion and summarized several concerns or questions to consider while making the decision to move. They are as follows:
   - No other major Associations have withdrawn their conferences from TX. Several small conferences have withdrawn from TX.
   - There is strong support in San Antonio, TX, but weaker support in Anaheim, particularly for school librarians.
   - We do not know what the TX legislature will look like in 2022.
   - The Washington office is concerned that our relationship with Texas Republicans who support IMLS will be at risk if we withdraw the conference.
   - Can we force the venue to honor our contract regarding gender neutral bathrooms despite the state legislation?
   - Will this decision set precedent for all future decisions regarding meeting locations or is this situational?
   - How do we position or explain our decision to move or stay?
   - Should we give effective control of our business to a legislature?

   Each Board member was then given an opportunity to state their position and explain. Some of the issues and questions brought up by other Board members during the discussion were as follows:
   - A significant number of members would not be able to attend the Texas meeting due to inability to receive funding from their libraries, e.g. in CA for travel to Texas.
   - There is a short window of time to reduce the financial impact of the decision to move and there are multiple bills in the Texas legislature that are unfavorable.
   - ASAE has issued a statement regarding their opposition to the bills in Texas.
   - How can we use this opportunity to promote advocacy?
   - How can we use this opportunity to demonstrate ALA’s mission and core values?
   - Has the ALA ever moved a conference to a different location because of discriminatory legislature? Several examples were given of when conferences were moved, but none were due to legislation.

   It was decided that to come to a consensus and allow more time to consider the information provided during the conference call; the final vote will be taken via poll.

II. EDI Statements: Addressing administration actions related to GLBT individuals
   The Board decided that ALA should issue a statement in conjunction with the GLBRT roundtable and ODLOS. The statement will specifically address banning transgender individuals from
service in the military, removing sexual orientation from the civil rights act coverage, and the announced appointment of a new ambassador for religious liberty.