

ALA Committee on Legislation
Report to Council
2017 Midwinter Meeting – Atlanta, GA

Ann Ewbank
Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation
January 24, 2017

Committee on Legislation highlights:

1. **FOIA Victory:** Just in time for its 50th anniversary on July 4th, and after nearly a decade of advocacy work by ALA, other activists and government officials, in late June the President signed the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. This new law codifies the “presumption of openness” for government documents for future administrations; harnesses technology to improve the FOIA process; limits to 25 years the period of time that agencies may keep records of their internal deliberations confidential; and strengthens the Office of Government Information Services (created in the last FOIA reform bill, the OPEN Government Act of 2007).
2. **Fire side chats / Friday open discussion:** Given the discord within ALA caused by communications during the Fall, Ann Ewbank provided three opportunities during Midwinter 2017 for discussion:
 - Open discussion during COL Business Meeting I
 - Two Fireside Chats – Friday, January 20th and Sunday, January 22ndThe Committee on Legislation is committed to ensuring dialogue with ALA members and member leaders. Plans for ALA Annual in Chicago include more outreach to members.
3. **Staff departures:** COL is sad to say goodbye to two members of the Washington Office. Emily Sheketoff has spent the last 17 years serving libraries by representing their and the public’s interests in Washington, DC. COL endorsed the tribute resolution in honor of Emily and would like to express our gratitude to her for her many years of tireless work. Additionally, after nine years of service, Jessica McGilvray, Deputy Director of the Office of Government Relations is moving on. Jessica has served as the staff liaison to COL in addition to her many other duties in OGR. We wish Jessica the best and thank her for her tireless work on behalf of COL, ALA, and our nation’s libraries.
4. **ALA honored for “Top Lobbying Victory”:** For the second year in a row, in December ALA was named a “winner” by prominent Beltway newspaper The Hill in its Top 10 Lobbying Victories of 2016. (The Hill awarded the same recognition for our role in Congress’ passage of the USA FREEDOM Act to curtail mass surveillance in Top Lobbying Victories of 2015.) The honor was accorded to ALA and a small number of our coalition partners for success in a decade-long effort to secure comprehensive reform of the Freedom of Information Act. As reported last quarter, the FOIA Improvement Act was signed into law on June 30 just days before its 50th anniversary.
5. **Privacy and Surveillance:** The Committee received a detailed report of anticipated legislative vehicles for Congressional debate of ALA’s Council-defined priorities pertaining to privacy and surveillance law and policy. The most significant likely need and opportunity to advance ALA’s privacy agenda, together with our many coalition partners, is projected to come in connection with the expiration at year’s end of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

While the law is nominally focused on the collection of intelligence regarding non-US persons here or abroad, in fact, information concerning millions of Americans are swept up in such surveillance activity. If Section 702 is not repealed or permitted to permanently expire, which is highly unlikely, ALA will work with others to seek increased transparency and oversight of its use and to narrow the scope of what information can be collected and shared among agencies, when, by whom and for what purpose. Federal advocacy resources also will be devoted to supporting: passage of the Email Privacy Act to prevent the warrantless search of email and other electronic communications; limiting the conditions under which law enforcement authorities may attempt to counter cyber-attacks by installing malware of their own on citizens' computers; and seeking a larger window into the government's reliance on the currently shadowy Executive Order 12333.

COL brings this action item to Council jointly with ASCLA:

Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) Resolution

The Committee on Legislation voted unanimously to accept the Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) Resolution Working Group's recommendation that "ASCLA and COL not support the resolution. Additionally, we recommend that ASCLA and COL jointly move during Council that the motion be tabled. It is our assessment that the concept of a program such as the DCDL, and how it would operate nationally, is in the embryonic stage and a formal ALA position is premature at this time. The working group advises that any interested ALA members and their allied stakeholders work through ASCLA to generate interest. Both ASCLA and COL look forward to future research and input from their members and other stakeholders on this issue."

Substitute Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons

The Committee on Legislation voted unanimously to approve the Gun Violence Working Group's substitute Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons.

Subcommittee reports:

Copyright

The Copyright Subcommittee of the Committee on Legislation met once at ALA Midwinter 2017. Staff's report to the Committee of pending legislative and administrative matters highlighted several on which ALA and allied organizations -- including the Re:Create Coalition and Library Copyright Alliance -- were likely to be the most active. These included: modernization of the Copyright Office and debate over whether it should continue to be an arm of the Library of Congress subject to the oversight and control of the Librarian of Congress; Congressional consideration of the Marrakesh Treaty for the print-disabled; potential reform of multiple key portions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act; and possible Congressional action to transfer authority to appoint the Register of Copyrights from the Librarian of Congress to the President of the United States. The Subcommittee also discussed current judicial and international developments of note and began an ongoing process of brainstorming about how best to amplify the effectiveness of ALA's copyright advocacy, including particularly in connection with 2017 National Library Legislative Day on May 1-2 in Washington. The Subcommittee will next meet by conference call in March of 2017.

Government Information

During Midwinter 2017 the Government Information Subcommittee met jointly with the Government Documents Round Table's Legislation Committee. During this meeting the members heard an update on preservation from the Government Publishing Office's (GPO) Acting Superintendent of Documents,

Laurie Hall. Following that update, the preservation theme continued as both committees looked over a resolution on funding the preservation of federal government publications. After much discussion and conversation with GPO staff, the GIS subcommittee and GODORT decided that this resolution will return to GODORT to allow time for further discussion.

Grassroots (and FLAG working group)

The Grassroots subcommittee opted to cancel their Saturday meeting in order to allow members to attend the Atlanta March for Social Justice and Women. The committee plans to have a phone call after conference concludes in order to address priority agenda items. In the past months, the committee has been working on updating the Speak Out advocacy resource, and has been discussing plans for future membership outreach and engagement projects. The Federal Legislative Advocacy Group (FLAG), now a working group under the Grassroots subcommittee met on Sunday morning to discuss their strategy for reaching out to potential grassroots advocates. FLAG is tasked with identifying grassroots advocates and asking them to commit to reaching out to elected officials with strategic asks to support advocacy efforts, when the needs arise.

Telecommunications

The COL Telecommunications Subcommittee met on Saturday, January 21 during Midwinter. The meeting focused much of its discussion on federal policy activity in Washington. The committee discussed the status and outlook for policy issues, including Network Neutrality, Lifeline, E-rate, 1986 Telecommunications Act re-write, and re-authorization of FCC. The committee also reviewed changes in the commissioners at the FCC and Congressional committees with jurisdiction over telecommunication policy. Finally, the committee also began a discussion on how to make participation on the committee more valuable to both the members and provide support and intelligence on the efforts of the Washington office.

Final Notes:

We would like to urge all Councilors who have not yet done so to sign up to receive District Dispatch blog posts in order to be fully informed on current legislative issues, and to receive legislative action alerts. We would also like to remind you that National Library Legislative Day is on May 1-2, 2017. On May 2nd, ALA's Executive Board will be hosting a retirement party to celebrate the career of Emily Sheketoff, and they would love to have you attend both events.

As always, COL would like to thank the staff of OGR for all of their hard work! The work of COL cannot happen without their help.

2016 ALA Annual Conference

Resolution Concerning the Creation of the Deaf Culture Digital Library

Whereas the 1979 White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services delegation voted to support the concept of a deaf-oriented Library under the auspices of the Library of Congress;

Whereas American Library Association (ALA) passed a resolution in support of the "National Deaf History Month" (NDHM) in 2005, recognizing the platform offered by the many libraries and our governmental system and their roles in removing the obscurity of deafness;

Whereas National Association of the Deaf (NAD) passed a resolution in support of the "National Deaf History Month" (NDHM) in 2006, recognizing the need for the celebration of the contributions of the many deaf citizens of our country;

Whereas the State of Maryland created, by legislation in 2012 [HB 390 and SB 571] , and 2014 [HB 653], a state-level Public Library known as the Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) that is about the deaf and for everyone;

Whereas ALA Policy Manual states in B.2.1.11 Diversity in Collection Development (Old Number 53.1.11), that the ALA believes that "...This includes materials and resources that reflect a diversity of political, economic, religious, social, minority, and sexual issues.", and further where the deaf, as a minority, are underrepresented in collections;

Whereas ALA Policy manual states in B.2.1.20 Services to Persons with Disabilities (Old Number 53.1.20) that "A person's right to use the library should not be denied or abridged because of disabilities. The library has the responsibility to provide materials "for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves.";

Whereas ALA's Bill of Rights says, in part, that [I.] "...materials should not be excluded because of their origin or background..." and [II.] "...Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view..."

Whereas the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) provides specialized services and provides professionals who collect and disseminate materials and resources specific and relative to blindness; and

Whereas no such equivalent exists for the larger deaf community, now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. supports and promotes the creation of the Deaf Culture Digital Library under the auspices of the Library of Congress.

Mover: Alec C. McFarlane ALA, ASCLA, & United Member

Secunder: Alice L. Hagemeyer ALA Honorary Member

We refer you to following report that gives you additional information about ALA's federal legislative activities since Annual 2016.

**SIX MONTH REPORT TO COUNCIL
January 2017**

ALA Office of Government Relations Activities

Hayden Swearing-In Makes National and ALA History

With the September 14th swearing-in of former ALA president Dr. Carla Hayden as the nation's 14th Librarian of Congress, national and ALA history were made. According to key Hill staff involved, the thousands of grassroots contacts with Senators' offices by ALA members and other supporters mobilized by OGR over many months contributed substantially to Dr. Hayden's confirmation. Having also been quietly but intensively involved for months behind the scenes to overcome heavy and coordinated opposition to Dr. Hayden's confirmation by many members of the Senate Republican "Steering Committee" and powerful outside interests like the Heritage Foundation, the Office of Government Relations shares the profession's deep pride in her success.

Dr. Hayden's swearing-in by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts was conducted in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress's historic Jefferson Building. The ceremony, alternately solemn and ebullient, was attended by hundreds of well-wishers and dignitaries, including: ALA President-elect Jim Neal (also representing ALA president Julie Todaro), and ALA past Presidents Sari Feldman, Courtney Young, and Maureen Sullivan (among many other ALA notables).

COPYRIGHT

Register of Copyrights' departure creates challenges, opportunities for ALA and LOC

In late-October, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden removed the Register of Copyright, Maria Pallante, from that position and reassigned her to another senior post within the Library. Ms. Pallante declined the new posting and resigned, setting off shock waves and, in some commercial and Congressional quarters, protests and criticisms of the Librarian's actions.

In the immediate wake of this news, OGR helped craft a statement by the Re:Create Coalition on these developments. Due to multiple Beltway press deadlines, OGR assisted Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff in crafting and quickly releasing the following brief statement: "Today's announcement makes clear that the future of the U.S. Copyright Office is a high priority of the Librarian of Congress. ALA stands ready to assist Dr. Hayden and the staff of the Library to recruit a new Register who is committed to shaping a copyright system that balances the fair protection of copyrighted information and the broadest possible use of that information to foster innovation, education and creativity of all kinds." In November, OGR briefed ALA President Todaro for an interview with the Washington Post on issues raised by Pallante's resignation.

Subsequently, on December 8, the bipartisan leadership of the House Judiciary Committee issued a press release announcing initial proposals for changes in copyright law they intend to pursue in the next Congress. These included making the Copyright Office an independent Legislative Branch office entity outside the Library of Congress and making the Register's position subject to Presidential appointment for a term of 10 years, thus removing that power and oversight of the Office from the Librarian of Congress' legal responsibilities. OGR also briefed President-elect Jim Neal on these developments and provided him, pursuant to Julie Todaro's delegation, with detailed background information and materials. OGR also led an effort to craft, immediately release and post to District Dispatch a statement by the Library Copyright Alliance (comprised of ALA, ARL and ACRL) on the proposals.

Finally, OGR set up separate meetings with Dr. Hayden for both the Library Copyright Alliance and the non-profit members of the Re:Create Coalition (on November 22 and December 1, respectively) to discuss Copyright Office reform broadly and both groups' consonant views concerning the most appropriate qualifications for and role of the next Register of Copyrights. Both groups were warmly received by the Librarian.

Marrakesh Treaty Stakeholder Negotiations Ongoing, at Apparent Impasse

At the beginning of the summer, bipartisan staff to both the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees summoned representatives of print disabled groups, the library community and the publishers to a private meeting on the Hill. They did so for the express purpose of explaining that: 1) the Association of American Publishers was demanding changes to the Administration's proposed texts of Treaty implementing legislation and associated legislative history; 2) the Judiciary Committee would not consider such language unless and until a compromise supportable by all stakeholders had been reached; and 3) the Treaty would not be considered by the Foreign Relations Committee or full Senate absent such a compromise on implementing and legislative history text. Staff thus tasked the stakeholders present with meeting and otherwise coordinating over the summer to attempt to reach an accord.

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) was demanding fairly extensive record keeping requirements of the kind considered in Marrakesh but not ultimately required by the Treaty. Unified library groups opposed the AAP's language because it would be burdensome and was not mandated by the Treaty. However, during the ensuing meetings, libraries have made several proposals moving in AAP's direction in an effort to bring the Treaty and its implementing legislation to votes in the Senate as rapidly as possible.

Regrettably, notwithstanding libraries' willingness to endorse suboptimal language, AAP has moved in the opposite direction. Most notably and significantly, it has opposed inclusion of a "fair use savings" clause in the implementing legislation as proposed by libraries even though AAP had previously proposed just such a clause as part of a possible compromise in an earlier public meeting. Such a clause, present elsewhere in U.S. copyright law, simply would state that nothing in Section 121 of the Copyright Act (the "Chaffee Amendment") limits the availability of fair use.

Given the impasse, the input of a principal Marrakesh Treaty negotiator from the U.S. delegation was sought by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). As he was making progress, however, the European Commission released proposed regulations in late September pertaining to the Treaty that contained even more onerous recordkeeping provisions than those originally proposed by AAP. This has prompted AAP to back away from the language that was emerging from the negotiations, and to insist instead that the United States enact the EU's approach, which is merely a proposal and a controversial one at that.

Grassroots or other organized public campaigns in support of action on the Treaty and associated legislation or report text will not be appropriate or productive until at least early 2017, after the new Congress is constituted. OGR will keep the Board and Committee on Legislation closely informed of the progress of the ongoing discussions in the interim, and will immediately activate all advocacy resources available once Senate action on the Treaty and related legislation becomes a meaningful possibility.

Progress has been made with and through the third-party negotiator previously described. However, critical differences in how key technical definitions should be crafted precluded consensus being reached prior to Thanksgiving. Consequently, the outgoing 114th Congress was unable to act on legislation to implement the Treaty prior to its late December dissolution. Such action was and remains a prerequisite to ratification of the Treaty in a separate vote. Negotiations will resume immediately after the holiday season. OGR's process of educating new members of Congress strategically important in the new Congress' consideration of the Treaty and related legislation will begin early in January. While final

agreement among the stakeholders is likely to be reached, it will remain unclear for some time when the new 115th Congress will consider these matters and what the odds of 2017 Treaty ratification may be.

New LSTA Reauthorization Bill to be Pushed by Powerful Bipartisan Backers in Current Congress

For the past year, OGR—in active collaboration with COL’s Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Subcommittee—has worked extremely closely with long-time library champion Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and his senior staff, and other key Senators, to fashion broadly supportable legislation required to reauthorize LSTA, which expires later this year. The “Museum and Library Services Act of 2016” (S. 3391) was jointly introduced in late-September by Senators Reed, Susan Collins (R-ME), Thad Cochran (R-MS), and Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY). As part of a larger package to reauthorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services and all of the programs it administers, S. 3391 proposes that MLISA be reauthorized at \$230 million annually. That is the same level last authorized in 2010 but, significantly and very positively, the new authority would last through 2022.

Specifically, in an effort to update the law to help libraries improve their technology, enhance collaboration and better serve the public and communities, S. 3391 would:

- Provide technical support and assistance to help libraries collect and analyze data;
- Enhance IMLS’s collaborative efforts with an expanded number of federal agencies in order to fully leverage the role of libraries and museums in supporting and meeting the needs of Americans;
- Add focuses for the awarding of National Leadership grant funds on activities that serve a range of library types and geographically diverse areas; include evaluation, analysis, and dissemination components; and actively involve, have direct impact on, or provide future application in libraries;
- Provide greater emphasis on recruiting, training and professional development of the next generation of library and information science professionals from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. And it encourages partnerships with other agencies, professional networks and community-based organizations to expand and enhance access to museum services.

While authorization of an agency or program—first by its committees of jurisdiction and then Congress as a whole—is not legally a prerequisite to its receiving funding, authorization does document for members of the powerful House and Senate Appropriations Committees that their colleagues view authorized agencies and programs as important priorities. Authorized programs are thus much more likely to be funded, though appropriators are under no obligation to award the specific sum authorized by Congress or, for that matter, any sum at all.

OGR and Senator Reed thus took special care and additional time to assure not only that S. 3391 would be a clearly bipartisan bill, but that three of its four cosponsors sit on the Senate Appropriations Committee, including its Chairman, Sen. Cochran. This important preparatory work also included an OGR-arranged meeting between President Julie Todaro with Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), the Senate’s second ranking majority Member. It is unclear at this writing whether action on LSTA reauthorization will be possible in the first quarter of 2017.

Congress Again Averts Federal Shutdown with Stop-Gap Funding Measure

Late on December 8, congressional leaders reached agreement on yet another Continuing Resolution (CR) funding package to keep the federal government open beyond the December 9 deadline established by the previous CR adopted at the very end of September, the start of the federal government’s fiscal year. Congress’ last minute action averted a government shutdown. OGR, in tandem with staff of multiple supportive members in both chambers of Congress, monitored the CR negotiations and text closely to assure that neither library funding nor interests fell prey to any policy riders or other hostile provisions. The CR adopted will run through April 28, 2017, later than originally anticipated, to permit the new

Congress time early in its tenure to hold hearings and votes on many anticipated nominations by the incoming Administration.

FASTR Progress Slows in Senate

With its overwhelming approval by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in late July, and its long-time sponsorship by Sen. John Cornyn (the chamber's #2 Republican), there was cause for real optimism this past summer that the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) might be quickly approved by the full Senate this fall. No longer. In the wake of influential changes in Sen. Cornyn's senior staff, of which publishing industry lobbyists took full advantage, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)—the broad coalition of library and many other groups backing FASTR—has rejected a series of publisher proposals that would seriously compromise FASTR's value if enacted. Consequently, action on the bill in the 114th Congress stalled. A reinvigorated coalition push to finally pass this important piece of legislation in the 115th Congress, however, is certain.

Final Installment of “SPARK” Advocacy Video Series Publicly Launched

Conceived by the Office of Government Relations—and co-produced, -written, -filmed and -edited in collaboration with the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA)—the eighth and final “SPARK” federal advocacy instruction video was posted to the HPA's YouTube channel in mid-August just three months after posting of the first installment, “What is Congress Anyway?,” was announced by ALA in early May. The recently released final video, “Causes to Organize For,” highlights specific current policy issues ripe for viewers to take action on, including copyright and privacy-related legislation.

Funded by Google and targeted at new and young advocates in the age 13 to 22 demographic, SPARK is designed to demystify the advocacy process and inspire young viewers to take action on the national issues about which they care most. Over the course of the series, advocates are taught how to contact their legislators, request meetings, use library resources, write press releases, and stage campaigns and plan events to gain support for their cause. The series also includes interviews with a number of special guests, including U.S. Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island and his staff, noted YA author Maureen Johnson and research librarian Jason Baumann.

To date, SPARK has been well received by young viewers, librarians and educators alike, and continues to gain views. Now that the entire series is online, OGR has promoted SPARK as a unified resource package with an eye toward increasing its visibility among librarians and educators, who may use it as the basis for curricula, individual lesson plans, skills training and engagement activities with young adults.

Year-end statistics show ALA grassroots active and effective as mobilized by OGR

2016 marked expanded efforts to engage with ALA's grassroots activists. Key results of those efforts, spearheaded by OGR's Grassroots and Social Media Specialist Lisa Lindle, include:

- 11 issue-based campaigns mounted, including Dr. Hayden's confirmation fight;
- 30 individual calls to action posted on the Legislative Action Center;
- 9,554 individuals responded with at least one action;
- 36,952 total actions (e.g., emailing) taken, including 3,053 during Virtual Library Legislative Day; and
- 10,863 current District Dispatch subscribers, an all-time high.

“Connecticut Four” Answer OGR Call to Oppose Late Effort in Senate to Expand FBI's Warrantless National Security Letter Powers

On September 26, OGR was alerted to an attempt to introduce legislation to expand the FBI's authority to warrantlessly compel the production of additional kinds of "electronic communication transaction records" through issuance of a National Security Letter and its associated "gag order." OGR contacted the legislative co-chairs of the Connecticut Library Association, both of whom were immediately responsive to the suggestion that a joint op-ed by all the members of the "Connecticut Four" (of Patriot Act resistance fame) opposing such legislation would be extremely influential if run in the Hartford Courant quickly. With the critical assistance of WO Press Officer Shawnda Hines, OGR drafted and facilitated publication early on Wednesday, September 28, of such an op-ed. The piece marks the first time in over a decade that "The Four" had reunited publicly in support of all Americans' civil liberties. OGR is enormously grateful to "The Four" and to CLA Legislative Co-Chairs Mary Etter and Carl Antonucci, who were instrumental in making the op-ed a reality. The legislation was not introduced.

ALA, coalition partners to continue fight against new judicial rule

In late November, ALA joined many coalition partners in calling on the leadership of Congress in both chambers to schedule an immediate vote to block implementation before December 1 of "Rule 41," an obscure and technical but vital new provision in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. One week later, OGR launched an appeal to ALA's grassroots to reinforce that message. Despite many other groups' similar outreach efforts among their constituencies, Congress was unresponsive. Consequently, Rule 41 went into effect and, as explained in District Dispatch and The Hill newspaper, federal law enforcement authorities now have sweeping new powers to remotely hack into computers or computer systems to neutralize a cybersecurity threat that they think those computers are helping to distribute (a process known as "hacking back"). Early in the new year work will begin to convince the next Congress to enjoin the government's use of the new rule until hearings on its dangerous side effects can be held.

Work to prevent encryption "back door" mandate ongoing

October 27, 2016 marked the one-year anniversary of 100,000 people signing a "We the People" petition to the President and the launch of a 50+ organization SaveCrypto campaign calling on him to make a strong statement in support of robust encryption. On that date, ALA was among seventeen other national organizations writing to the President to note that the petition had not yet received a promised reply by the White House, and to specifically ask him again to speak out against proposals to require that encryption designers build vulnerable "back doors" into their software to enable government surveillance. To date, the letter has not yet received a reply. ALA and its partners will continue to press the issue as strategic opportunities present themselves in the new year.

Working groups continue to grapple with two complex council-referred resolutions

1. Deaf Cultural Digital Library (DCDL) Resolution Deferred

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, Council considered Resolution 46: "Resolution Concerning the Creation of the Deaf Culture Digital Library." After robust discussion, Council opted to defer action on the Resolution and referred it jointly to ASCLA and COL to convene and manage a Working Group to consider the many substantive questions raised regarding the matter in Council and otherwise at the Annual Meeting. The Working Group, co-chaired by ASCLA Councilor Chris Corrigan and COL Chair Ann Ewbank, held its first meeting by conference call on September 1st. (Comprised of a total of ten members, the Group also initially included the two movers of the resolution, four librarians who work with the hearing impaired and two additional ALA members who had assisted in drafting the original Council Resolution, including ALA Executive Board member Mike Marlin.) During that call the members discussed the DCDL resolution and heard at length from its original movers in an effort to clarify their broad intentions and specific objectives. After hearing from the movers as to what they envisioned the DCDL to be, the movers were invited by the Group to provide the Group in a month's time with a revised version incorporating several suggestions of the Working Group.

Shortly after the conference call and many subsequent emails, there were changes in the group membership. With both movers no longer members of the Working Group and the Working Group feeling as though there was a need for in-depth research and discussion among the library and deaf and hard of hearing communities before progressing with a resolution, the members decided that the resolution was premature at this time and that they could not support it as written. The members have shared a response with both COL and ASCLA that both groups will respond to during the Midwinter conference.

2. Initial “Discussion Draft” of Gun Violence Resolution Broadly Circulated for Comment

Upon extensive discussion at the 2016 Annual Meeting, Resolution 45: “Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons” was referred by Council for revision to a working group co-chaired, respectively, by IFC and COL Chairs Pam Klipsch and Ann Ewbank. The Working Group for the Resolution on Gun Violence is comprised of representatives from the COL, IFC, SRRT and the original mover of the resolution for the EDI Implementation Task Force; Councilors representing a Chapter, Division, and Roundtable; a Councilor-at-Large; and a member of the Executive Board. The Working Group initially met by phone on August 1st, discussed several key issues at length, and tasked a smaller committee comprised of IFC, COL and SRRT members to craft an internal discussion draft of a revised resolution for further consideration by the Group. Substantial group discussion of the drafters’ product occurred by email throughout August, and the Working Group reconvened by phone on September 19.

The Working Group succeeded on that call in reaching consensus on an initial “Discussion Draft” of a proposed revised gun violence-related resolution, which was circulated within days for comment to the ALA Executive Board, members of IFC and COL, and Council. Shortly thereafter, it also was made widely available to ALA’s membership at large for comment through ALA Connect. Open comment on a Google doc version of the discussion draft (Google login required) also has been facilitated, as has commenting anonymously through Google forum.

In mid-December, having broadly circulated its second draft proposed substitute resolution to the membership in multiple online forums, the Working Group reached consensus on a discussion draft appropriate to bring to the upcoming Midwinter meeting for further open discussion and action at the discretion of Council. This discussion draft has been posted to the Council listserv and shared broadly through multiple committee and other channels, as well as circulated widely with the membership. Looking ahead to Midwinter, the discussion draft will be discussed at the first Council forum by the Working Group’s Chairs, Ann Ewbank of COL and Pam Klipsch of IFC. Comments shared with them at that meeting will be reported to and considered by both COL and IFC, which will each vote on whether to recommend the draft (possibly as amended in Committee) to Council.