

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans  
June 22 – 26, 2018**

**Topic:** Pre-Meeting Division Councilor Report

**Background:** According to the YALSA bylaws the YALSA Division Councilor, “...shall attend all meetings of the ALA Council; shall report to YALSA about Council agenda before Council meets to request YALSA voting position on any agenda items; shall vote as directed by the YALSA Board on designated Council agenda items; shall represent YALSA positions before Council through necessary presentations and resolutions....” At Council meetings resolutions are typically put forward and other issues are discussed that may be of importance to YALSA. YALSA’s Councilor, Todd Krueger, has provided an update below. The Board will want to give feedback on how to cast YALSA’s vote on upcoming resolutions and/or determining the desirability of YALSA’s Board submitting a resolution. The Board will also want to vote whether to endorse the Resolution to Honor African Americans who Fought Library Segregation.

**Action Required:** Consent

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**ALA Council update since the MW18 Meeting in Denver**

**1) Educational requirements for the next ALA Executive Director**

Based on the petition vote during the Spring Election, the requirement for the ALA Executive Director to hold an MLS/CAEP degree was defeated. However, there has not been any forward motion on informing Council or the membership at large about hiring the next ALA ED, as of May 27, 2018.

**2) Resolutions & Youth Council Caucus**

- A Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation is being brought forth, a draft of which was shared with the YALSA Board, and the full text of which is at the end of this document.
- A Resolution to encourage ALA to make a statement on the importance of Continuing Education is being considered, stemming from the current lack of timely or relevant statements on the matter at the organizational level. I am working with other division councilors to get language together in the hopes that something can be ratified. Beth brought to light two CE statements from organizations, the [National Agenda for Continuing Education in Professional Development across Libraries, Archives, and Museums](#) and the [IFLA CE guidelines](#) as possible starting points.
- There are memorial resolutions being considered for two former YALSA Board members who have passed away.

- The Youth Council Caucus will meet in New Orleans and incoming ALSC and YALSA Councilors are expected to attend to facilitate a smooth transition.

**3) Marrakesh Treaty**

On May 22, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously passed the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act. This will hopefully be ratified by the full US Senate before their summer recess.

<https://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/05/step-toward-marrakesh-treaty-ratification/>

**4) Organizational Effectiveness**

ALA President Jim Neal, along with ALA Executive Director Mary Ghikas and ALA Executive Board members Andrew Pace, Lessa Pelaya-Lozado and Patty Wong unveiled the Organizational Effectiveness Plan that will be discussed at Council in New Orleans. This was shared in an email forwarded by Beth Yoke from Mary Ghikas on May 3, 2018.

**5) Sustainability Task Force**

The Sustainability Task Force invited membership to four virtual meetings in April that discussed:

1. What does it look like if libraries are successful in helping create sustainable, resilient, regenerative communities?
2. What needs to happen, that is not already happening, to support the Association, profession and libraries realize this vision?

Feedback gathered in these forums will inform the Task Force for their report to ALA Executive Board at the ALA Annual meeting in New Orleans.

**6) Net Neutrality**

The [US Senate voted on May 16](#) to block the rollback of the Net Neutrality rules that were put in place in December 2017. The House of Representatives would have to vote to also block the rollback, or the new rules will go into effect on June 11, 2018.

**7) Madison Award Fracas**

There was considerable outrage from membership and members of Council when one of the [James Madison Award winners for 2018](#) was California congressman Darrell Issa. Upon investigation from various members and leadership, it was learned that the ALA Washington Office singularly bestows this award without going through the ALA Awards Committee or any other vetting unit of the organization. Jim Neal, ALA President, has asked that measures are put in place to ensure that this does not happen again and Mary Ghikas issued [this statement](#) in response to the uproar.

**8) Re-envisioning/rescheduling Council & Council Forum**

Councilor Karen Schneider, along with ALSC Councilor Jenna Nemeč-Loise, brought up a number of considerations to re-envision the use of time spent during Council and Council Forum. Karen Schneider polled Councilors to ask if they would be more likely to attend a morning or afternoon Council Forum rather than the late evening schedule that is currently in place. Of the approximately 150 Councilors that voted, nearly 2/3 would prefer daytime Council Forum meetings. As of May 27, 2018, it is not clear whether this change will take place in New Orleans or if it will be instituted at the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle.

### Questions for Consideration

- Are there any other Council-related issues that need addressing or discussing?

### Additional Resources

- Council meeting agendas: [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council\\_agendas](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas)
- Guidelines for Preparation of ALA Resolutions: [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/resolution\\_guidelines](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/resolution_guidelines)
- Youth Council Caucus space in ALA Connect: <http://connect.ala.org/youthcouncilcaucus>

### Resolution to Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation

Whereas the system of “Jim Crow” laws and customs officially existed into the 1960s—a century after the official end of slavery in the United States; <sup>1 2</sup>

Whereas virulent racism, disenfranchisement, Black Codes, and racial segregation laws imposed a rigid system of officially sanctioned racial segregation in virtually all areas of life, including access to public libraries; <sup>1 2</sup>

Whereas, despite the work of African American librarians, including but not limited to Clara Stanton Jones, E.J. Josey, Albert P. Marshall and Virginia Lacy Jones, and the allies who stood with them to fight segregation, a large majority of the nation’s library community failed to address the injustices of segregated library services until the 1960s; <sup>3</sup>

Whereas, in many cases the American Library Association participated, both passively and actively, in the disenfranchisement of African American librarians, depriving them of the resources of professional association;

Whereas the American Library Association continued to accept segregated public libraries as members into the 1960s; <sup>3</sup>

Whereas the American Library Association filed no amicus curiae briefs in any of the local, state, and national lawsuits filed in the 1950s and 1960s to desegregate public libraries;<sup>3</sup>

Whereas the nation’s library press reported nothing about the 1939 Alexandria (VA) Public Library sit-in by five young African Americans that took place two months after the American Library Association passed a Library Bill of Rights; <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United States. Cong. House. Apologizing for the Enslavement and Racial Segregation of African-Americans. 110th Cong. 2nd sess. H. Res. 194. (2007-2008). 154 Cong. Rec. H7224. Washington: GPO, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> United States. Cong. Senate. Apologizing for the Enslavement and Racial Segregation of African-Americans. 111th Cong. 1st sess. S. Res. 26. (2009-2010). 155 Cong. Rec. S6761. Washington: GPO, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Shirley A. Wiegand and Wayne A. Wiegand, *The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism*, (Baton Rouge, 2018), LSU Press.

Whereas a sincere and heartfelt apology is an important and necessary first step in the process of reconciliation;

Whereas an apology for decades of injustices cannot erase the past, but a recognition of the wrongs committed and injustices ignored can help the nation's library community confront the ghosts of its past: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association

(1) Acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, and inhumanity of racially segregated libraries;

(2) Apologizes to African Americans for wrongs committed against them in segregated public libraries;

(3) Commends African Americans who risked their lives to integrate public libraries for their bravery and courage in challenging segregation in public libraries and in forcing public libraries to live up to the rhetoric of their ideals;

(4) Welcomes all African Americans to libraries, recognizing in particular those who were forced to use segregated libraries;

(5) Encourages libraries to defend, in their policies and in their actions, the *ALA Code of Ethics* principle 1 – “We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests;”<sup>4</sup>

(6) Will review policy documents and internal procedures to ensure Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles are reflected throughout, and;

(7) And be it further resolved that this resolution be printed in full in American Libraries and publicize widely via all media channels.

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<sup>4</sup> Code of Ethics of the American Library Association.