

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Atlanta
January 20 - 24, 2017**

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.

Action Required: Action

ALA Council Update since the Annual Meeting in Orlando:

1. YALSA is leading the charge that supports a policy change for the ALA Executive Director search. The ALA Executive Board has drafted a resolution recommending a policy change that it is recommended but not required that the ALA ED has an ALA-accredited MLIS degree. Nine divisions, including ALSC, LITA, PLA, RUSA and YALSA, support this measure. So far ACRL and AASL have indicated opposition to it. This will likely be one of the main topics of discussion at Council and during Council Forum meetings.
2. The election of Donald Trump as US President-elect resulted in the ALA Washington Office releasing a draft statement that many members found distasteful and pandering to the incoming administration. Statements were then released, retracted, and redrafted from ALA President Julie Todaro. A lengthy discussion by Councilors, ALA members, blog posts by librarians and library workers defending or condemning these actions followed. This has resulted in Council I being shortened and time being given for an ALA Town Hall on Sunday, January 22 from 9:30-11am titled “Library Advocacy and Core Values in Uncertain Times”. This event will be open to all conference attendees.
3. There has been some discussion about the Resolution on Gun Violence that was tabled in Orlando. The Working Group that was put together to modify the resolution released a draft that was appreciated by some but considered too weak and toothless by others. The main sticking point is whether or not ALA should act to pressure

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Congress to repeal the current restrictions on gun violence research. Some feel this type of research support is a bedrock of our profession, while others fear the wrath of the NRA, which has lobbied strongly to prevent the CDC from doing research on gun violence. The Division Councilor will keep the Board posted as this discussion continues.

4. The Treaty of Marrakesh went into force on September 30, which “places two key limitations on copyright. First of all, it allows people with print disabilities to make accessible copies of books, or for ‘authorised entities’ to do so on their behalf, without having to seek the agreement of rightholders (usually publishers), or having to pay royalties. This step seeks to make it easier to increase the overall supply of accessible format books by facilitating the work of those who produce them. Secondly, it allows authorised entities to supply accessible copies of books across borders. This offers an answer to the ‘book famine’, which sees people with print disabilities, particularly in developing countries, only have access to a tiny percentage of all the books on the market.” More information can be found at:
<http://worldlibraries.dom.edu/index.php/worldlib/article/view/564/496>

ALA Council passed a resolution in Orlando encouraging passage of the Treaty of Marrakesh by the US Congress, which has not yet done so. However, it may come before Congress in the January 2017 session.

5. ALA President Julie Todaro issued a statement regarding the Kansas City librarian who was arrested defending the free speech of a library patron who was asking questions during a library program:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2016/10/ala-president-responds-kansas-city-mo-public-library-free-speech-arrests>

ALA Presidential Candidates are:

Loida Garcia-Febo
Terri Grief (YALSA member)
Scott Walter (petition candidate)

ALA Executive Board candidates were announced: (none of the candidates are members of YALSA)

Matthew P. Cizek, Head Librarian Penn State Shenango
Sharon, PA

Trevor A. Dawes, Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums
University of Delaware
Newark, DE

Susan L. Jennings, Dean of Library Services
Chattanooga State Community College
Chattanooga, TN

Maria Taesil Hudson McCauley (formerly: Maria Taesil Hudson Carpenter), Director of Libraries
Cambridge (MA) Public Library

Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Young Readers Librarian
Palos Verdes Library District
Rolling Hills Estates, CA

Patricia (Patty) M. Wong, County Librarian/Chief Archivist
Yolo County Library
Woodland, CA

Questions for Consideration:

- Does YALSA wish to put forward any resolutions to Council at ALA Midwinter? At the Fall Executive Committee meeting, Sandra, Crystle and Candice were considering writing potential resolutions. I contacted the chair of the Committee on Education re: an organization-wide definition of literacy but have not received a response. We may or may not wish to delay putting forward any resolutions at Midwinter due to the number of potentially contentious topics before Council. Thoughts?
- Who do we wish to support for the ALA Executive Board election? For the Spring ALA election, how do we wish to push support for ALA Council and Presidential candidates who are YALSA members, and/or youth advocates who ascribe to YALSA's Organizational Plan?
- How can we help inform, engage and recruit Councilors to join the Youth Council Caucus? (Currently working with ALSC and AASL Councilors on this.) Because of the timing of the Town Hall after Council I, there may be an opportunity to get more members interested in joining the YCC meeting which will immediately follow the Town Hall. YALSA will be chairing this session of the Youth Council Caucus.
- 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
- Guidelines for Preparation of ALA Resolutions:
http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/resolution_guidelines
- Youth Council Caucus space in ALA Connect: <http://connect.ala.org/youth-councilcaucus>
- YALSA Election page: www.ala.org/yalsa/workingwithyalsa/election (includes information about which Council candidates are YALSA members)