

**American Library Association  
2021 Midwinter Executive Board Meeting  
Report of President-Elect, Patty Wong**

Committee on Appointments: Thanks to this team for their commendable work on recommending key members to ALA Committees including six outstanding nominees for four positions on the Executive Board and a strong Nominating Committee.

Committee on Committees: Thanks to the President-Elects of the Divisions for their extraordinary work on recommending key members to ALA Council Committees. I worked with respective ALA staff liaisons to build committees that will carry on the work with consistency. In future committee appointments, both staff and current chairs suggested formal or informal identification of a chair and vice chairs to create sustainability. Many thanks to Holly Robison and Sheryl Reyes for their facilitation and leadership.

Training: I have met with Eli Mina to review the first of two planned trainings on effective ALA parliamentary procedure and the role of the Chair.

Conference Committee and Conference Services: This Midwinter marks the final Midwinter meeting as we know it. COVID has also created an opportunity for ALA to pivot from a face to face set of meetings and programs to a completely digital format for programs and meetings. Along with Earla Jones and Conference Services staff, Chair Robin Kear and the Conference Committee, Executive Board Liaison, Larry Neal and Executive Director, Tracie Hall, we have been working on the upcoming virtual Midwinter Meeting, the upcoming plans for Annual Conference in Summer 2021 and Lib Learn X, the new continuing education engagement event to take place in 2022. There are more changes for exhibitors, at their direction, that will come through Committee on Organization this Midwinter.

Forward Together Working Group: I worked briefly with the Forward Together Working Group planning sessions and six fora focusing on governance and SCOE. Many thanks to Joslyn Bowling Dixon and Steven Yates for their commendable job working with this great team to facilitate listening sessions, a survey of Council feedback and a complete set of recommendations. The presentation of FTWG and the subsequent second phase of Forward Together recommendations will develop tangible resolutions to move the work through formal Council deliberations.

Presidential Plans: The past six months have been some of the most challenging for the Association and for libraries throughout the country. Library staff and partners have been actively discussing our collective and individual roles and responsibilities in providing critical service to our respective communities in light of COVID, to support participation in civic engagement through voter education and converting our physical locations to voting centers

and vote by mail locations, and shifts in our staff assignments from code enforcement to child care to contact tracing. And then there is the continual role of libraries and library workers to engage in the work of dialogue and healing centered around our country's tragic experiences around racism, privilege and our continuing struggle between social justice and the intersection with intellectual freedom.

As President-Elect some of my candid conversations with members and colleagues have revolved around these issues and form the equity basis of my Presidential plans. Communication with one another, with our communities, remains a vital piece of our connectedness as an organization and a profession. Many thanks to our extraordinary Presidential Advisory Team who have worked with ALA staff and local and international library leaders and frontline staff at all levels to connect the good work of libraries to equity.

My Presidential focus will be **Libraries Connect** and the vital role that libraries and library workers play in connecting with information, people and resources as part of our commitment to equity, access, and services for all. Libraries Connect will focus on digital equity and broadband, small, rural, and tribal libraries, the importance of School Libraries, and our pursuit of resiliency and sustainability in library work and within the American Library Association.

Activities will include:

- 145 ways to look at ALA campaign in ALA's 145th year: This campaign will utilize social media and virtual advocacy to highlight the many areas of work that ALA staff and members accomplish on behalf of libraries.
- Libraries Unite Tour: This virtual and potentially in person tour will focus on school, rural, small, tribal, and prison libraries throughout the country. The intention will be to highlight and honor the work of librarians and library workers in these communities while creating bridges within the association and with our partners. There will be an online/social media component as well.
- Digital Equity: A webinar style convening will be held with leaders in the area of Digital Equity and Universal Broadband to advance the dialogue towards action.
- ALA-APA: Supporting ALA-APA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities and an awareness campaign of how ALA-APA supports library workers every day.
- Sustainability: Creation of an introductory guide and ALA-APA curriculum on sustainability. Acknowledgement of the green work of ALA staff.

Libraries Connect work will be featured in American Libraries, Connect Live and other forums, supporting growth within Membership, promotion fiscal leadership and sustainability, and

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advancing Executive Director Tracie Hall's Pivot Plan. I hope to meet with as many members as I can in the next year.

Speaking Engagement Invitations:

PubWest Annual Conference: February 3, 2021 – in dialogue with a book publisher; “Couples Therapy 2, Libraries and Publishers, What is the New Normal with Libraries: How can we make it work?” How has 2020 shaped the relationship between libraries, librarians, and publishers? What do we predict for 2021? Ultimately publishers and librarians want the same thing for their customers – to read and develop a love of books. How can publishers and librarians work together both within their communities and at a larger sale to benefit our audiences and each other during the current transformation of the book industry.

Utah Library Association Conference 2022 May 18-20, 2022– keynote “United in Diversity/Unida en la Diversidad” – this is the first ever ULA Conference that has chosen diversity as the central theme. Congratulations ULA and President-Elect Rita Christensen.