

**American Library Association
2020 Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Report of Julius C. Jefferson Jr. President-elect**

The first six months of my service as ALA President-Elect has been focused on orientation, staffing ALA committees, participation in meetings and speaking engagements and focusing on the 2020-2021 Presidential goals and messaging for the upcoming year.

Orientation

- I attended two full days of meetings with ALA staff including participating in media training with outstanding communication and media coaching.
- The orientation was also an opportunity to meet new ALA staff. I was able to meet and interact with the Director of Membership Development, and the Director of Communications and Marketing. Membership and Communications are both vital to the future success and sustainability of ALA.

Staffing

- A primary responsibility of the President-elect is to make appointments for ALA committees and Council committees. The President-elect is ably assisted by the Committee on Committees, who are members of Council elected by Council and the Committee on Appointments who consists of the Presidents-elect of the divisions. The first responsibility of the Committee on Appointments is to assemble a Nominating Committee that will prepare a slate of candidates for President-elect and at-large Council seats. The division Presidents-elects participated actively in this process by recommending names of potential committee members and by commenting on the proposed committee roster and list of alternates. We strived to make the committee as diverse and as representative—in every sense of both of these criteria—as possible. At the fall 2019 meeting in Chicago the Executive Board approved the Nominating Committee roster. This committee will prepare the slates for the spring 2021 election.
- **ALA and Council Committee Appointments** With the advice and input from ALA staff, the Committee on Committees (COC) and Committee on Appointments (COA) we reviewed 500 applications from 250 members. We successfully appointed 177 members to participate in the work on 21 Association Committees and 16 Council Committees for a total of 37 committees. Many members applied to volunteer for more than one committee. We were committed to providing an opportunity for as many members as possible to be engaged with the work of ALA.
- With the advice from the COC six members from Council were nominated to stand for election to the Executive Board.
- Appointed tellers for the Executive Board elections to be held at the 2020 Mid-Winter meeting in Philadelphia

A special thanks to ALA Governance staff Holly Robison and Sheryl Reyes for their invaluable support during the appointment process.

Participation

Meetings

- Hampton University Forum on Equity Diversity & Inclusion in the LIS Field: Leading the Charge, Hampton University, Hampton, VA, August 5, 2019
- IFLA Congress, Athens, Greece, August 24th–30th
- US-Russian Dialogue on the Civic Role of Libraries in 21st Century Urbana, Ill, September 24th–28th
- ALA Executive Board Fall Meeting Chicago, Illinois, October 20th–27th 2019
- President-Elect Advisory Committee. Chicago, Illinois, October 26/27th 2019
- Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), Washington, DC, December 9th–10th

Speaking/Interview

- Welcomed 50 interns and mentors at the 2019 PLA Inclusive Initiative Wrap-up at the Library of Congress.
- Interviewed by Slate reporter for an article on ALA's decision to remove Melville Dewey's name from the ALA Dewey Award.
- Responded to LJ's News Editor Lisa Peet's interview questions about my current term as President-Elect, issues that have arisen and my 2020-2021 agenda as President.
- Keynote at Athens Regional Library Systems Staff Development Day, Athens, Georgia, November 12–13th 2019.
- Keynote at the 2019 Annual Public Library Directors Meeting, Tallahassee, Florida, November 19th–20th 2019.

2020-2021 Presidential Focus Update

The Presidential-Elect Advisory Committee met for the first time on the 26th-27th of October 2019 to discuss the focus for the 2020-2021 Presidential Year. We had a very productive meeting and are making progress in terms of clarifying specific programs within the three areas of focus: Advocacy, EDI and Membership.

Advocacy

- Country-Wide Tour: Public awareness and advocacy campaign that will take ALA to libraries across the country to highlight the range of services libraries provide to a wide range of communities. The tour stops will be planned to highlight libraries that often fall through the gaps in terms of funding and recognition, including small, tribal, rural, or prison libraries, as well as libraries located in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, border areas, or libraries serving immigrant communities.

EDI

- An interactive workshop to be held during Midwinter that will focus on strategies used to address discrimination in the workplace.
- Development of ALA EDI certification program that would train ALA members to train their staff on best EDI practices.
- Plans to develop programs/webinar with OIF and ODLOS regarding the intersection of EDI and intellectual Freedom

Membership

- Develop specific ideas on how we can develop the ALA brand and highlight the existing initiatives such as professional development, leadership and mentorship opportunities.

Next Steps

- The Presidential Advisory Group will meet during the ALA Midwinter Conference from the 24th to the 28th of January 2020. During our meeting, the above-mentioned topics will be further fleshed out and discussed.
- I will be meeting with ALA staff at Midwinter for their guidance and support of the three focus areas.

Thank you to ALA staff from the Development Office, Communications and Public Policy and Advocacy. Special thanks to Kathi Kromer and Megan Cusick for believing in our vision of taking ALA to the people and actually believing that it is possible for us to reach out and highlight underrepresented libraries across the country. ALA will be coming to an underrepresented library this summer, so please stay tuned.