

**American Library Association
Julius C. Jefferson Jr.'s President-Elect Report
June 2020**

Like much of our lives, many of my activities as President-Elect have been cancelled or postponed, due to the needed restrictions caused by the global pandemic COVID-19. Below you will find travel, speaking engagements and meetings conducted since the ALA midwinter meeting.

Travel/Speaking and Virtual Engagements

- Indiana State Library Online Conference Hot Topics or a Cold Winter's Day online conference (February 17th)
- Tennessee Library Association Legislative Day (March 10th)

Virtual Engagements

- ALA Connect Live (April 23rd)
- ALA Connect Live (May 21st)
- BCALA Virtual Conference Closing Remarks (May 16TH)
- San Jose State University Commencement Address (May 19th)
- TLA Summer of Learning (May 27th)
- Rhode Island Library Association Keynote (May 28th)

Canceled Engagements

- Texas Library Association Annual Conference (March 24th -27th)
- Palm Beach County Staff Day, Florida (April 16th)
- ALA Annual Conference in Chicago (June 23rd to June 30th)
- Sixth North America – China Library Conference July 19th – July 24th, Guanhzhou, China
- ALA Tour (July 27th – August 10th)
- IFLA Congress (August 15th-21st)

I anticipate further cancelations of domestic and international trips.

Meetings

2020-2021 PRESIDENTIAL FOCUS

Advocacy (ALA Tour)

March 3rd – A teleconference meeting was held with members from the 2020-2021 Presidential Advisory Committee and ALA Staff to discuss the progress being made to confirm plans for the

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2020 ALA Tour, which was set to begin July 27th from the steps of the Library of Congress. I received updates pertaining to:

- 1) Planning & Itinerary - Outreach to libraries and state partners who would be hosting the tour (dates and locations were being confirmed).
- 2) Fundraising – In line with my aim of raising \$50,000 in unrestricted funds, the team had continued to reach out to potential donors. Vendors had expressed interest during PLA in partnering for the tour and Past ALA President Jim Neal began working on raising additional funds.
- 3) Communications – CMO & PPA planned to meet to discuss specific communications tactics to ensure that all departments would be speaking with one voice in terms of messaging. The creation of the tour website was on the way with plans to go live by end of April.

March 6th - This meeting with Stephanie Hlywak was a follow-up on our meeting during Midwinter about how ALA can begin the process of developing stronger branding. We discussed a plan to move forward with developing the ALA brand. We invited Hayley Berlent to join in the conversation

March 10th – This was a meeting with Anne Manly from ALA Development office, Michael Dowling from Chapter Relations and Past ALA President Jim Neal to discuss fundraising for the 2020 ALA Tour. With Shelia O’Donnell departure from ALA Development Office, Anne Manly agreed to lead reaching out to potential in kind donors. Jim Neal had been able to gather funding commitments totaling \$10, 000 and planned to continue his outreach at various donor levels.

April 3-4 – ALA Executive Board Virtual Spring Meeting

April 10th – Meeting with Division President Elects to discuss virtual inaugural event.

April 17th- Meeting with National Tour Planning Group

April 24th - Meeting with Division President Elects Briefing on ALA Finances with ALA Treasurer Maggie Farrell

May 5th – Meeting with COC to slate PBA and COC appointments

May 28th – Meeting with Presidential Advisory Group

June 4th – Meeting with ALA-APA staff liaison Kim Redd to discuss and staff ALA-APA committee appointments.

[COVID-19 Developments](#)

With the rapid spread of the coronavirus and the unrelenting impact it has had and continued to have on our membership through their libraries, I am proud of the stance the Board has taken to advocate for the dynamic sustainability of Libraries as well as the safety and wellbeing of Librarians and Library Workers. ALA’s Public Policy & Advocacy office led by Kathi Kromer, continues to do a remarkable job in strongly advocating and pushing for Congress to include Libraries in COVID-19 stimulus packages. As the Board is aware, these advocacy efforts led to our first major COVID-19 funding advocacy success through the inclusion of \$50m for IMLS and

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\$30billion in relief for schools and colleges, plus billions more for local and state government nonprofits. This is a great first step and one of many successes to come. I am grateful to her for keeping us all abreast of developments and facilitating our dissemination of progress updates through social media.