

TO: ALA Council

RE:

- ACTION REQUESTED
- INFORMATION
- REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED BY: *(if no action, please leave blank)*

CONTACT PERSON:

Justin de la Cruz, jcruz@auctr.edu

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:

Megan Cusick, mcusick@ala.org

DATE:

5/27/2021

BACKGROUND:

Committee on Library Advocacy

Report to Council

ALA Annual 2021

Below is a summary of the Committee on Library Advocacy's work since ALA's Midwinter Meeting

- Committee representatives participated in Vaccine Working Group as directed by Council; final [report](#) submitted to Council in mid-March.
- Hosted an op-ed writing workshop for COLA members in March, with a presentation and guidance from Shawnda Hines, Assistant Director of Communications, ALA Public Policy and Advocacy (PPA). During School Library Month, member Kathy Lester published an [op-ed](#) about school library legislation in Michigan.
- In mid-March, submitted a joint COL/COLA [letter](#) to Council with feedback regarding Forward Together and the importance of a role for member advocacy in the new association structure.

2020-2021 ALA CD#42.1
2021 ALA Virtual Annual Conference

- Chair Justin de la Cruz and Megan Cusick served as judges for North Carolina Library Association's Student Ambassador contest in April.
- Finalized and published a school library advocacy infographic.
- State ecosystem subcommittee members published articles in state library publications including [Texas Library Journal](#) and [Washington Library Association Journal](#), and in *College and Research Library News*.
- State ecosystem subcommittee chairs participated in President Jefferson's ALA Connect Live in March.
- Chair Justin de la Cruz established monthly meetings with COL Chair Joe Thompson and CRO Chair Amy Lappin to discuss shared interests among their committees.

Plans for the second half of 2021 will be set by the incoming chair in coordination with new and returning committee members. COLA committee members work side-by-side with a network of liaisons representing groups across ALA to keep apprised of other advocacy efforts and to identify and implement opportunities for coordination.