

TO: ALA-APA Board of Directors

RE: 2021 Virtual Midwinter Report

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

No action requested.

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BACKGROUND:

The ALA Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) is a nonprofit professional organization established “to promote the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers.” To that end, the ALA-APA is focused on two broad areas:

- Certification of individuals in specializations beyond the initial professional degree.
- Direct support of comparable worth and pay equity initiatives, and other activities designed to improve the salaries and status of librarians and other library workers.



CPLA Program

The Certified Public Library Administrator (CPLA) Program is a voluntary post-MLS certification program for public librarians with three years or more of supervisory experience. Its aim is to further professional education and development and help librarians move to a higher level of practical professional experience. To date, there are a total of **325** enrollees in the program and **107** graduates.

LSSC Program

The Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program offers library support staff the opportunity to commit to professional development and continuing education through the completion of competency sets developed and implemented by the ALA-APA. To date, there are a total of **675** enrollees in the program and **229** graduates.

APA Anniversary

ALA-APA President-Elect Patty Wong has appointed a working group to help plan activities in celebration of the association's 20th Anniversary. Establishment of the ALA-APA was authorized by the ALA Council in June 2001, to enable the certification of individuals in specializations beyond the initial professional degree. In January 2002, with the approval of preliminary bylaws, the scope of the organization was broadened to include advocacy for the "mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers."

National Library Workers Day (NLWD)

This year's celebration of National Library Workers Day (NLWD) will be held on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021**. The original resolution for the celebration of NLWD was proposed to recognize the hard work, dedication, and expertise of librarians and library support staff. It was proposed that the Tuesday of National Library Week be designated the day; and, that on that day, interested library workers, library groups, and libraries should advocate for better compensation for all library workers. On this day, library organizations are encouraged to host a celebration and submit a star to honor a great worker, team or department by visiting the NLWD website (www.ala-apa.org/nlwd). As in the past, products have been developed to assist organizations in the celebration and can be purchased at Midwinter and online from the [ALA Store](http://www.ala.org). Organizations are encouraged to submit stories about their celebrations to: libraryworklife@ala.org. If you want to view or share the posts, just like us on the [NLWD Facebook page](#) or follow the APA's Twitter feed [@alaapa](#). Be sure to use the hashtag **#NLWD21**. Stay tuned for additional information on celebration ideas and promotional materials that will be available.



Workplace Wellness Resources

As library workers continue to experience concerns caused by societal, environmental and physical challenges, we encourage them to remember that the ALA-APA offers resources on its [Workplace Wellness website](#). The site was recently relaunched and now includes additional health resources that benefit library workers in all types of working environments. Additionally, the [Library Worklife Newsletter](#) offers several articles that address issues of concern to staff wellness.

Committee Volunteers Sought

[Volunteers](#) are being sought for appointments to the **2021-2022** APA committees. The online committee volunteer form is open now and closes on **January 31, 2021**. Appointments will be appointed by President-Elect Patty Wong and be made to the following committees: Certification Program, Certified Public Library Administrator Certification Review, Library Support Staff Certification Review and Salaries and Status of Library Workers (see charges, visit [APA Committee's page](#)). Appointments take effect at the conclusion of the 2021 Annual Conference. In order to ensure broad representation and diversity on all committees, geographical location, type of library, gender, ethnicity, previous committee work (ALA, ALA-APA and other), relevant experience, and other factors are considered when the committee appointments are made. To volunteer, visit: <http://ala-apa.org/get-involved/>

Donate to APA*

The APA does not have members. It is a companion organization to the ALA and serves its members and the library community at large. Please consider supporting our efforts by giving financially. Your contributions and support make it possible for the organization to continue to strive every day for the advancement of all library employees. No gift is too small. On the ALA homepage, go to “*giveALA*” and select “*Offices → Other*” and then *ALA-APA*.

Social Media

For ongoing monitoring of APA activities and events, visit the website at: www.ala-apa.org or follow the APA on Twitter [@alaapa](#) or like us on [Facebook](#).

Acknowledgements

In closing, I would like to thank the hard-working volunteers and committee members of all of the various APA groups without which we would not be able to continue the work of advocating for library workers.

I would personally like to acknowledge the support of the Finance, Membership, IT and Governance Office staffs for their overall support of the APA. And finally, I would like to acknowledge the APA's staff and consultants (Adriane Alicea, Kimberly Redd, Beatrice Calvin, Pamela Akins, Dr. Caitlin Williams and Jamie Bragg) for their dedication, commitment and hard work in getting the work done.



**** Please note: Your contribution to the ALA-APA is not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Your contribution may be tax deductible as a business expense.***