



## **A Memorial Resolution Honoring Michele Leber**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the library community lost a valued colleague and nationally known advocate for pay equity on January 1, 2021, with the death of Michele Leber;

Whereas Michele Leber (known as Mike) used her keen insight into books and authors as a distinguished book reviewer whose crisp and clear review could make you want to read anything, even if not in your favorite author or regular genre;

Whereas Mike Leber was named The Library Journal Fiction reviewer of the year in 1997 and continued reviewing mysteries long after her retirement for Booklist and Library Journal.

Whereas Mike Leber was an exemplary public librarian, working first at the Virginia Beach Public Library and then at the Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia, as manager of multiple branches and retiring in 2002 as collections development manager;

Whereas Michele Leber was a long-time member and leader in the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Taskforce and served as editor of Women in Libraries, 1981-1983;

Whereas from 1985 to 2020, Michele Leber represented the American Library Association on the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE), a coalition of US women's and civil rights organizations; labor unions; religious, professional, legal, and educational associations, commissions on women, state and local pay equity coalitions and individuals working to eliminate sex- and race-based wage discrimination and to achieve pay equity;

Whereas Michele Leber served as Chair and Spokeswoman for NCPE from 2003 through 2020 and was NCPE treasurer from 1993- 2002;

Whereas Mike Leber was fiercely passionate about pay equity for all and made sure librarians were consistently integral to the national Pay Equity movement, while keeping pay equity in the forefront of feminist librarians' agenda:

Whereas Mike Leber was an active and vital resource for, and participant in, the ALA Special Presidential Task Force on Better Salaries and Pay Equity Force on Better Salaries and Pay Equity for Library Workers (2002-03) and wrote and spoke frequently on pay equity issues;



Whereas she received the ALA Equality Award (1996) and the 2010 NCPE Winn Newman Award for her work on pay equity, and she was recognized as one of 11 people critical to the pay equity movement on Equal Pay Day 2014 by Women in the World;

Whereas Mike was known as a great reader, and a person who always knew what book you would like, and is remembered with great affection for her kindness, tenacity and, commitment to a more just society;

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the contributions and achievements of Michele Leber and mourns her loss; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her family and friends around the world.

*Adopted* by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, June 29, 2021, ALA Virtual Annual Conference Council Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie Hall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director  
and Secretary of the ALA Council