

# ALA American Library Association

## 2020 Executive Board Candidate Bio



**Sara Dallas**  
**Executive Director**  
**Southern Adirondack Library System**  
**Saratoga Springs, NY**

**Type of Library:** Public library system (consortia of 34 autonomous urban, suburban, and rural public libraries in Hamilton, Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties NY)

### **Statement of Professional Concerns:**

ALA is a sophisticated member-driven organization exploring ways to become more effective and efficient. As ALA scrutinizes its structure, values, and location with a new executive director, it is essential that the association's member leaders work together to ensure that all members' voices are heard.

As a successful executive director of a public library consortium with 34 autonomous libraries, I honed my leadership skills – developed over decades of work reflecting my commitment to social equity, diversity, and inclusion. I work with library staff, trustees and community leaders to reach consensus on many issues, including advocacy, community service, intellectual freedom, and sustainability.

My experience was recognized by voters in Albany, who elected me as a public library trustee for our urban library, and I serve on a library consortium board that provides services to academic, public, school (K-12), medical, non-profit, and corporate libraries.

### **Previous Positions:**

Assistant Director and Outreach Consultant: Upper Hudson Library System, Albany NY; Outreach Coordinator: Mohawk Valley Library System, Schenectady NY; Outreach Librarian: Albany Public Library, Albany NY; Reference Librarian: Albany Public Library, Shenendehowa Public Library, Adirondack Public Library

### **Education:**

School of Library and Information Science, (SUNY) Albany, NY: Masters of Library Science, 1977; (SUNY) Albany, Albany, NY: B.A. Rhetoric and Communication, 1976; School of Information and Library Studies: 30 post-graduate credits towards Advanced Certificate in Library Automation, Buffalo, 1984

### **Affiliation(s):**

#### **Institute of Museum and Library Services**

- Evaluator for Library Services and Construction Act Title VI (Literacy) 1992 and 1995

### ALA and/or ALA-APA activities:

#### **ALA:** 2002-present

- ALA Councilor at Large 2015-present
- Committee on Professional Ethics, Chair 2015-2019 – Chair
- Committee on Legislation, 2019-2021
- Awards Committee 2017-2019
- Rural, Native, Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee 2018-2020
- Task Force on Sustainability 2017-2020
- Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children 2019-2020 – Jury Chair
- H.W. Wilson Staff Development Award Jury 2018-2019
- Committee on Research and Statistics 2002-2004

#### **PLA:** 1998-present

- Board of Directors 2008-2011
- Charlie Robinson Award Jury 2017-2018 – Chair
- PLA Leadership Development Committee 2016-2018
- PLA Social Media Working Group 2015-2016
- PLA Continuing Education Advisory Group 2015-2017
- National Conference Program Subcommittee 2014 – Chair and member 2012, 2016
- EBSCO Excellence in Small and or Rural Public Libraries Service Award 2013-2014 – Chair
- Freedom to Read Foundation PLA Liaison 2008-2010
- Communities of Practice Task Force 2009-2011
- Intellectual Freedom Roundtable PLA Liaison 2009-2010
- PLA Intellectual Freedom Advisory Group 2008-2010 – Chair
- Gordon M. Conable Award Jury 2008-2009 – Chair
- DEMCO New Leaders Travel Grant Jury 2006-2008
- PLA Highsmith Library Innovation Award Jury 2007-2008
- PLA President's Events 2007-2008 – Chair
- Continuing and Independent Learning Services 1999-2001 – Chair and member
- Services to Multicultural Populations 1998-2002
- Continuing and Independent Learning Services 1998-1999

#### **ASCLA/ICAN Executive Committee 2006-2007**

#### **Intellectual Freedom Roundtable:** 2019-

- ALA Annual Program Review Jury 2019-2020
- Executive Committee 2019-2020
- Program Committee 2019-2020 – Chair

#### **Freedom to Read Foundation 2019-2021 Board of Trustees**

#### **LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund - Trustee**

### Offices held in state/regional library associations and other associations:

- Albany Public Library – Board of Trustees 2019 – 2023 (public elected office)
- Capital District Library Council Board of Trustees 2003-2014; 2019 -2023

#### **New York Library Association:**

- Council Public Library Section Liaison 2013-2014; Councilor at Large 2002-2003
- Awards Committee 2006-2008 – Chair
- Conference Program Committee 2019-20, 2007-08
- Continuing Education Committee 2015-18, 2007-09

- Public Library Section – President
- Intellectual Freedom Roundtable 2015-2019 – Board member
- Intellectual Freedom Committee 2018- 2020 – Chair
- Public Library System Director Organization Executive Board 2005-2006 – Chair

### **Honors and/or Awards:**

- ALA Bessie Boehm Moore Award for Outstanding Library Program for Older Adults 1992
- Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award: Fresh Food Collective Farm-2-Library Distribution program 2019
- Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award: Statewide Performer Database 2005
- Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award: Mohawk Valley Library Association – Older Wiser Learners 1996

### **Major Accomplishments:**

- Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship (mover and served on the Sustainability Task Force) – 2019
- Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation (mover and lead the effort) 2018 – passed unanimously by ALA Council
- Albany Public Library Trustee – elected by the voters in Albany NY 2019.
- ALA Committee on Professional Ethics amended Copyright:An Interpretation of the Code of Ethics (amended January 29, 2019), Conflicts of Interest Q&A (amended January 28, 2019) Enforcement of the Code of Ethics Q&A (amended Jan 28, 2019), Ethics and Social Media Q&A (January 28, 2019), Speech in the Workplace Q&A (amended April 30, 2019) served as chair of the committee
- Established two libraries (secure girls and boys) with materials and programs in the NYS Division for Youth Tryon Residential Center – 1992-1994.
- Established county-wide adult literacy programs and library services to older adults.
- Adult literacy trained volunteer tutor
- Presented and planned programs for ALA National Conferences, Joint Council of Librarians of Color – 2018, PLA National Conferences, New York Library Association Annual Conferences; regional and local programs.
- Planned a New York State-wide conference on library services for older adults.
- Outreach librarian who improved access to libraries and library services to all people in the community - people with physical disabilities, services for people who are blind, older adults, people with developmental or learning disabilities, living in institutionalized settings, educationally disadvantaged, unemployed or underemployed and live in rural areas.
- I have worked with outreach populations since 1985. Now I am in the position to mentor others who chose to do this work.

### **Publications:**

- Public Libraries: “Red-State Strategies – SALS Libraries and Community Support” (S/O):28-30
- Public Libraries: “Information at Their Fingertips” (Dallas), 2013 (S/O):30–34
- New York Library Association “Library Standards for Services to Children: Outreach Standards” 1994
- New York State Library Bookmark – Outreach Advisory Councils 1988

**Number of Years as an ALA Member:** 25 years