

Wanda Kay Brown
President-Elect
Spring Board Meeting – Report

ALA Fly-In

I was delighted to participate in the ALA Capitol Hill Fly-In, February 25-26, in Washington, D.C. Together we shared best practices, heard from various experts in the field and lastly met with our respective members in Congress. I think the coolest aspect was the “Advocacy Day” app for our phones. With the app, we were able to access our congressional meeting schedule, other state members in attendance, and had at our fingertips all the literature needed for delivering a consistent message. I have attended most of the Legislative days since 2011. I find them most enjoyable. However, this year the most notable difference was that the size of my group was significantly smaller. Anthony Chow, University of North Carolina @ Greensboro LIS professor and advocacy lead for North Carolina was the other representative from my state. He is definitely a professional in this arena. We had good meetings.

ALA Washington Office visit

On March 15, I was finally able to visit with Kathi Kromer and her Washington Office staff. I say finally as weather related issues had forced us to postpone the trip on two or three different occasions. I was very impressed with the energy in the room as staff spoke passionately around their respective areas. Their contributions to ALA strategic priorities is profound. I believe ALA is most fortunate to have such committed and knowledgeable staff at both locations. The excursion over to the Truesdell Educational Campus for lunch with Eboni Henri (School Librarian) was such a treat and I clearly saw why she’s proud of her team.

Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE)

March 22 was spent working with Committee chair, Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Mary Ghikas and Tecker International representatives to strategize next steps and meet with ALA divisional staff. The committees work to include and consider all key stakeholders and member input has been phenomenal. I have been pleased with the firm’s ability to capture and embed the member’s voice within each strategy session. Webinars are planned for much of April; increasing efforts to inform and engage members. I am looking forward to the next phase.

Presidential initiatives

I am extremely grateful to my Advisory Committee for their efforts embracing and folding my key interest into objectives to move ALA forward specifically within its reorganization and within the social justice framework. These initiatives will raise awareness to the pipeline of African American and Hispanic young men to prisons, craft a “finding your ALA” marketing strategy targeting new professionals and host a mid-streams of change strategical visioning retreat for ALA staff.