

Wanda Kay Brown
President-Elect
Annual Board Meeting – Report

Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE)

I remain energized by this committee's daunting but necessary undertaking. The words modern association brings to the forefront what remains at the heart of the SCOE charge. How may we best engage with our members? How do we align the needs of a modern association with the ever changing needs of our members? Change is the constant in library land. Our libraries must continually adapt to the new and different. It is the life we as librarians and library workers are all too familiar with. We embrace it to move forward. We strategize frequently, realigning our services to meet the needs of our ever changing community. It is the work we do. Our association must be flexible enough to change and nimble enough to meet the needs of the ever changing members. Perhaps our association has been slower than some at changing, but the time to get on track is now. I am looking forward to the next phase.

On the road!

Rhode Island was the first stop on my tour of Library State Conferences. This state is small in size but extremely large in terms of warmth and hospitality. The other states for whom I have planned visits will have to really step up to surpass the red carpet rolled out by energized, excited and iconic Rhode Island library staffers led by Kieran Ayton and Mackenzie Dunn. One of the highlights of my trip was a visit to the Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex in Providence. I was specifically interested in visiting schools that serve challenging communities and students of color. School librarian Peter Quesnel, Karen Mellor, RI Chief of Library Services and ALA Executive Board member Ed Garcia were instrumental in arranging and accompanying me on the tour. It's a wonderful venue where the walls are full of graffiti. It's just not your normal graffiti, but words of encouragement, reinforcing personal value and promise. I loved it.

Advisory Committee work

I am happy to see the work of this group shaping up in just the right tone. I am most appreciative for their efforts. They are very committed to work that will support and align nicely with the reorganization efforts currently at work with SCOE 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 and assist with the mid-streams of change strategical visioning retreat for ALA staff.