

**American Library Association
Report from President Julius C. Jefferson Jr.
Spring 2021**

In the three months since our January Midwinter meeting, my time and efforts continue to be focused on advocacy and EDI. Below are highlights of my activities.

ADVOCACY

The January midwinter meeting provided an opportunity to have a conversation about [advocacy](#) with Senator Jack Reed. Much of my time has been promoting two major bills, the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 and the Build America's Libraries Act. I also had the privilege to share a few moments with [Dr. Jill Biden](#) who shared her passion and love for libraries.

EDI

During the virtual midwinter meeting I presented *Disrupting MicroAgressions: Engaging in Effect Actions*, an interactive workshop that was a LibLearnX preview that focused on the effects of microaggressions and the skills needed to intervene when microaggressions take place, particularly in ways that maintain relationships with patrons and colleagues.

ALA Connect Live

The first ALA Connect Live program of 2021 in February, recognized the important and unique role libraries play in wider community conversations about resiliency, climate change, a sustainable future, and what libraries themselves can do. In the March ALA Connect we were joined by ALA Chapter leaders to discuss the positive impact that state and national partnerships have on libraries and library workers. We featured success stories from the last year where we worked together to protect fundamental rights of libraries as well as to advocate for libraries during these challenging times.

Forward Together Resolution Working Group

In preparation for the March 31 Council meeting, I met with the Forward Together Resolutions Working Group who provided an update. I will be available to provide any support or guidance for the FTRWG as needed.

SCHEDULE

Below you will find interviews, virtual speaking engagements and meetings conducted since the ALA Midwinter meeting.

Press

- Library Journal [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Includes Billions for IMLS, Higher Ed, E-Rate](#)
- Library Journal [State of libraries and National Library week](#)
- Interview with CEO Update a Washington, DC based publication covering associations on an article about the ReMember Fund.

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Virtual Engagements

- **February 24th** San Antonio Public Library Black History Month Speaker
- **March 23rd** Computers in Libraries Connect, “State of the Libraries & Information World: Insights” Panel Discussion
- **April 1st** Training Day, National Library Week constituent meetings
- **April 8th** Welcome remarks for A National Library Week Conversation with Dan Rather

Meetings

- 2/2/21 Meeting with the Forward Together Resolutions Group Chairs
- 2/16/21 Executive Board Monthly Call
- 2/18/21 ALA Connect Live
- 2/22/21 Meeting with FTRWG
- 2/22/21 ALA-PLA Briefing on Build America’s Library Act
- 3/2/21 Executive Committee Conference Call
- 3/5/21 Incoming Board member Orientation
- 3/16/21 Executive Board Monthly Call
- 3/25/21 ALA Connect Live
- 3/25/21 Prompt Book for 3/31 Council Meeting
- 3/31/21 ALA Council Meeting

I continue to be appreciative and thankful to ALA staff for their work and support of my efforts as President.