

**American Library Association
2021 Executive Board Fall Meeting
Report of President, Patty Wong**

The American Library Association is continuing to develop as an association during this rapidly changing time. My focus has been to communicate with members and member leaders and staff, to support the vision of our Executive Director and the Pivot Plan as well, and to further Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in our respective communities.

ALA support: Meeting with Committee Chairs: Thanks to Lorelle Swader and Dora Ho, Chair of Training, Orientation and Leadership Development, I was privileged to join an orientation with new Committee Chairs. Together we met to develop and renew relationships and set expectations and support for committee members. We discussed setting goals and a vision for committee work, and identified critical resources, including Executive Board liaisons engagement. I hope to maintain ongoing communication with Committee leadership.

During the past two months, I completed ALA-APA committee appointments and we issued calls for a number of other expanded and newly formed committees. The Executive Board is reflecting on our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as a community and look forward to a productive discussion and planning at our Fall meeting. Many thanks to our Board EDI Working Group – Libre Booker, Sam Helmick, and Alex Rivera – for their work.

Thank you to Amy Lappin who is leading the Transforming ALA Governance group. We look forward to their plan that will advance our thinking around governance in January during our upcoming Council meetings to coincide with LibLearnX.

Thanks to Dr. Nicole Cooke for working with me to meet informally with ALISE leaders Dr. Sandy Hirsh and President-Elect Lisa O'Connor to begin discussions about establishing formal meetings between ALISE and ALA leadership. We are planning similar meetings with ALA Affiliate organizations with the hopes for similar outcomes.

A highlight of this time has been meeting with thousands of library workers and LIS throughout the country and internationally. Everyone is looking forward to a new normal with a hybrid and evolving development of services and engagement. There is a sense of hope and renewed commitment.

However, there are so many divides that continue to come into focus. Digital equity comes to mind. Some libraries have successfully leveraged local and federal funds to distribute equipment and provide needed instruction. But there are many geographically isolated, small and rural and tribal communities who do not even have cell service and so hotspots really won't work. In New Mexico there is only one tribal community college library to serve the Navajo nation, and the closest larger home library is in Arizona, two and a half hours away. There is a need for more library infrastructure, more than ever. We need to do better. I am hoping that I can bring attention and activism to these needs.

I am proud to share ALA's strong work within the Public Policy and Advocacy Office to advance libraries as a bipartisan national need. The Build America's Libraries Act efforts have inspired local commitment even in my home state so our efforts as an Association have short and long term positive impacts. And our collective work continues to make that critical difference, hopefully to inspire the creation of legislation to benefit and protect our libraries and core values.

Libraries Connect Presidential Initiative

Amplifying Asian American and EDI support of ALA efforts: I am working with my team to bring additional attention and recognition of ALA and our core values to the greater Asian American community and to establish relationships with organizations serving underserved Asian American.

Connect Live: Join us for the next Connect Live on November 18 at 11 a.m. PT/ 1 p.m. Central will feature DEI Perspectives in the Profession and will feature Ray Pun, President of the Asian/Pacific American Library Association (APALA). Ray is also an ALA Councilor, and serves on the ALA Committees on Library Advocacy and International Relations. He is the Education and Outreach Manager at Hoover Institution Library & Archives at Stanford University. Our other speaker is Pambanisha Whaley, Head of User Services at Vassar College Libraries. She has been an academic librarian for more than 18 years and her research interests include: workplace civility, library residency programs and resource sharing.

Connectivity Corner: This is a new Instagram Live bimonthly series (@americanlibraryassociation) focusing on local library practitioners who are keeping their communities connected. The next program on November 3 at 3 p.m. Pacific/6 p.m. Eastern will feature certified Media Specialist Alma Ramos McDermott from Lake Trafford Elementary (FL) and how she helps her students connect every day.

American Libraries: These columns will focus on the intersection of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Social Justice in our work in focused and everyday ALA efforts: National Library Card Sign up Month, Banned Books Week, sustainability within ALA and America's libraries, the 20th Anniversary of ALA-APA, and small, rural, tribal libraries, and our core value of literacy. A focused issue of American Libraries will feature digital equity and universal broadband.

With Thanks:

Many thanks to the ALA staff for their work on supporting all of these efforts. Many thanks to our Executive Committee, especially President-elect Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada and to Executive Director Tracie Hall for her partnership and to the Executive Board and Council for our time together in building a stronger ALA. Thank you to Kathi Kromer who provides a weekly update to review legislative activities and insight and suggestions to support advancing ALA and libraries on the Hill, within our chapters and locally. I would also like to thank my Presidential

Advisory Team, especially co-chairs Dr. Nicole Cooke and Miriam Tuliao. A final thanks to my new team at the Santa Clara City Library (CA) and my outgoing team at Santa Monica Public Library (CA) for their support and generosity of spirit in the work.

Speaking Engagements, Interviews and Invitations (since July 27 2021):

July 27: Interview with Santa Monica Daily Press reporter Clara Harter re: ALA and new role in Santa Clara City Library

July 29: National Conference of African American Librarians, Welcome Message

August 5: Library Leadership Ohio: "Equity for All: Rebuilding Libraries in Inclusion and Social Justice

August 12: Interview with Indianapolis Star reporter, Natalia Contreras regarding race equity in libraries in Indiana 'Must reflect the communities we serve': the critical role that Black librarians play

August 24: 1st Virtual ASEAN Regional Conference, National Library of the Philippines, "Fostering Innovation and Inspiration for Library Staff with Novel Ideas"

September 17: Connectivity Corner: Featuring Harris County Public Library Director of Technology Chris Martinez

September 23: Connect Live: "A call to Action for LIS Students – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in LIS featuring Dr. Maurice Wheeler, Associate Professor, Dept of Information Science, College of Information, University of North Texas and Spectrum Scholars Mimosa Shah and Randy Dantrell Heath

October 6: ALA's Fall Stewardship Gathering, Opening remarks and Welcome

October 13: 58th Korean Library Association National Conference and Exhibition: Connect with the New World: Welcome Message

October 13: Public Library Leadership Council, sponsored by Innovative Interfaces Inc.: "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Efforts: An Executive Approach"

October 15: Arkansas Library Association Conference, Keynote, "Towards New Horizons"

October 16: ALA Legislative Summit, Welcome

October 18: Committee on Legislation Retreat, Opening remarks and Welcome

October 21: New Mexico Library Association: "Libraries for ALL and ALL for Libraries" – Keynote "Inclusion, Equity & Access"

October 21: Library 2.021: Libraries as Community Anchors: keynote panel facilitated by Don Means (Gigabit Libraries Network) and Kristen Radsloff Rebmann (SJSU iSchool) with John Windhausen Jr. (SHLB Schools, Health, Libraries Broadband Coalition), James Neal (IMLS) and Richelle Montoya-Chee (Torreon Community Library, Navajo Nation, New Mexico)

October 22: Mid-Hudson Library System Annual Meeting: "Race Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Social Justice, a Library Community Approach"