

American Library Association
EXECUTIVE BOARD SPRING MEETING 2022
Report of President, Patty Wong

The American Library Association and the Office for Intellectual Freedom are receiving reports of record number of challenges and book ban attempts throughout the country. I was very proud to pen a return opinion to a NYT article that lifted up the work of librarians to select quality materials to develop comprehensive collections.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/06/opinion/letters/libraries-book-banning.html>

National Library Week is April 3-9. A special thank you to all of the library workers who continue to uphold our professional commitment to intellectual freedom

<https://vimeo.com/694567238/9164aae6db>

This week the Office of Intellectual Freedom announces the significant increase in materials challenges in 2021 and the top ten Banned Books. The upcoming campaign, Unite Against Book Bans will focus attention and action on the marshalled efforts to censor materials. I applaud the many librarians and library advocates from all walks of life who have reached out to us to share our concern and look forward to working with community to support education and engagement on this critical topic. We have never seen these numbers nor the ferocity around book banning since the McCarthy era.

During this quarter I spent much of my time preparing for the many speaking engagements that have been lifted up with the ease in COVID restrictions. My first in person conference was the Oklahoma Library Association's 115th annual conference in Tulsa. What a wonderful group of advocates, representing school, public, academic and special libraries. Their commitment to advancing the core values of the profession was really inspirational. I felt so welcome and honored to be a part of their circle.

The Virtual Membership Meeting focused on stories of how librarians have been impacted by book bans was so powerful. Amy Dodson and Kristin Pekoll's words of hope, support and the difficulties they experienced during challenges brought inspiration, appreciation and tears to our member listeners. Thank you to Deborah Caldwell Stone and Megan Cusick for providing the context and meaning to the increase in book banning. I hope we can host more virtual membership meetings in the future to provide connection and stronger communication with members.

The Public Library Association Conference was a highlight of this quarter. With more than 4,000 attendees from all corners of North America, and close to 1,000 virtual participants, this was one of the strongest conferences in this first in person event for so many. I joined a couple of panels at a preconference on leadership, brought greetings at one of the Big Ideas talks and supported the Intellectual Freedom table talks as well as joined my sister colleagues in an Asian American Pacific Islander Leadership panel featuring ALA President-Elect Lessa Kanani'opua

Pelayo-Lozada, incoming PLA President Maria McCauley, and PLA Board members Amita Lomial and Candice Mack.

It was also my pleasure to work with the Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) Task Force and Parliamentarian Eli Mina to bring a substantive conversation to Council about governance and structure, after years of work and debate and discussion. The March 10 Virtual Council Meeting provided insights on how Council can be more effective with stronger time management, better use of parliamentary tools, common sense, and perhaps more opportunities to meet. The next few planned Council engagement will provide insight and deliberation in our next steps as a body. The subsequent planned conversations with Council before Annual Conference will spur deeper interest and facilitate new commitments to stronger and informed communication and to foster that Body of Knowledge in making better decisions.

With Governance, we are also working to ensure a smooth process in selecting our new parliamentarian as Eli Mina will retire from work with ALA at the close of the Annual Conference in June 2022.

As always, thanks to the ALA staff at all levels of the organization for their exceptional work, commitment to our mission, and their courage to make a difference everyday.

Together we are:

- Working with ALISE leadership, led by President Lisa O'Connor to begin work on a survey that will assist the Committee on Accreditation to identify EDI needs within the LIS environment. Dr. Nicole Cooke will lead this work representing ALA. A preliminary set of questions focused on revision of the 2015 Standards will highlight EDI work and intentionality in LIS. Thank you to Karen O'Brien and COA Chair Linda Smith for the flexibility to integrate EDI questions in their Standards feedback.
- Forging ahead with additional funds to support small and rural libraries and their work with accessibility. I have heard that Libraries Transform Communities has been "one of the best things ALA has done" to change lives and support the needs of underserved communities in my interactions with our more rural library systems.

Libraries Connect Presidential Initiative

The March 30 Connectivity Corner instagram Live event featured Dr. Emily Knox from the University of Illinois and Dr. Shannon Oltmann from the University of Kentucky. Their discussion will highlight their research on the definition and use of filters, that impact on behavior and the need to be thoughtful and deliberative on filter application to internet use.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CbvtpEiDUpD/>

Connect Live: Small, Rural, and Tribal Libraries as Community Anchors, will be on April 21, 2022, at 1pm CT /11am PT., at <https://www.ala.org/membership/ala-connect-live-series>

Small, rural, and tribal libraries serve as vital community anchors through their active roles in advocating and in providing equitable resources and connectivity for all. In addition to the many other services they provide, these libraries are hubs of connectivity for these communities that often have no other access. During the pandemic, the disparity between the haves and have-nots in the digital age has been of special concern in small, rural, and tribal communities.

The May issue of *American Libraries* will feature the strong work of School Librarians.

I am looking forward to the great work and engagements with members at the ALA Annual Conference.

Speaking Engagements, Interviews and Invitations (since LibLearnX):

January 27, 2022 9:30 a.m. MarinNet Directors Forum featuring Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

January 27, 2022 11:30 a.m. IMLS Grant: APALA/CALA Path to Leadership Keynote

January 27, 2022 4:00 p.m. Eastern: August Baker Lecture: Patty Wong and Tracie Hall:

Leadership as Activism <https://youtu.be/liE13ji-aGg> link

February 3, 2022 1:15 -2:30 Eastern Too Small to Fail of the Clinton Foundation, National Black Child Development Institute, Raising a Reader present Writing a new Chapter: Advancing Diversity in Children's Books with KT Horning, Dr. Iheomma Iruk and Shabazz Larkin

February 24, 2022: ALA Connect Live: Sustainability with Rebekkah Smith and Uta Hussong-Christiann and Michelle Stricker

March 8: RUSA Virtual Forum Reference and User Services Re-Engaged: Keynote on EDI

March 9-11, 2022 115th Oklahoma Library Association, Tulsa, OK IN PERSON

March 22-25, 2022 PLA Conference, Portland, OR IN PERSON

March 24 IFLA MLAS/NPSIG Webinar: Empowering Library Leaders and Diversity Worldwide:

The North American Experience ALA EDISJ Initiatives FY 22-23

Upcoming Engagements

Date	Topic / Venue	Notes	Point of Contact
April 21, 2022 11am Pacific/ 1pm Central	ALA Connect Live	American Indian Libraries: Cindy Hohl and	Melissa Walling, MBA, CAE mwalling@ala.org Included: Lessa, Maggie, Tracie and Kathi
April 27, 2022 5:30-8 p.m. Eastern	ALA/UMD ischool lecture series	Interview with Joe Thompson	Kathi Kromer kkromer@ala.org ; virtual
May 4-6, 2022	MLA/DLA in Cambridge MD	Keynote on May 5 6-8 p.m. Board was interested in having you speak on EDI and digital equity, especially how it relates to broadband access. An overall theme of removing barriers to access library services or the library profession	Josh Stone Executive Director Maryland Library Association mleaexec@mdlib.org Hyatt Regency Here is MLA's website and a link to the current conference page
May 10, 2022 10-12 p.m. Pacific	SJSU iSchool Zoom AAPI Heritage Month	Including Michael Lambert	Anthony Chow, Linda Main
May 17-18, 2022	DDPLS: International Conference on Design and Development of Public Library Services: Patterns, Experiences and Ideas Shiraz, Iran	Maria and Lessa to present PW: Design of Public library or Outreach service as main speech on conference day and Especially services for an inclusive community and the other one as the pre- session.	Dr. Leili Seifi <leili.seifi@gmail.com> referral from Loida virtual
May 18-20, 2022 TBD	Utah Library Association: United in Diversity/Unida en la Diversidad Davis	Preconference and Friday morning keynote speaker	In person, need travel but may support room and registration Rita Christiansen