

American Library Association President-Elect Report
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In the two short months since my January 2022 report and with the easing of covid related restrictions, I have been able to begin travelling for ALA related activities more than the previous few months. I have been grateful to the planners of these trips for ensuring everyone’s safety and comfort and am glad to see (masked) members and staff in person again. We are all excited to be together in Washington, D.C. in June and have many new and postponed celebrations in store for us, celebrating our accomplishments and our brave communities.

Highlights from my time as ALA President-Elect since my January 2022 report include:

Public Policy & Advocacy

In March 2022 I had the pleasure of joining ALA staff in person (and virtually) in Washington, D.C. for an orientation to all things Public Policy and Advocacy. Our two days together covered everything from coalition work to Build America’s Libraries Act to media preparation. I also had the distinct honor of visiting ALA Executive Board member Eboni Henry’s school library at Truesdell Elementary School on International Women’s Day. I shared a bit about myself, but the highlight was unveiling their new library box.

A huge thank you to the staff led by PPA Director Kathi Kromer for the time, planning and care that went into creating a welcoming and informative environment for me to learn about all the great work of our Public Policy & Advocacy office.

Virtual Congressional Meetings

In March 2022, I participated in virtual congressional meetings chatting with congressional staffers about all the wonderful things libraries are doing in their districts, including both the district I live in (CA-44) and the district I work in (CA-33). Many thanks to those who were partners on those visits including ALA President Patty Wong, California State Librarian Greg Lucas, and PPA Director Kathi Kromer.

Transforming ALA Governance

As TAG continues its work after the approved resolutions at Midwinter, the shift in my role has been looking towards potential constitution & bylaws changes as the Executive Board liaison to that committee, and preparing for possibly shepherding changes as ALA President, continuing the work of many ALA Presidents and members. The guidance of ALA staff such as Governance Director Sheryl Reyes and our parliamentarian Eli Mina has been essential in this process.

Parliamentarian Candidates

In a related vein, the Executive Committee has begun interviewing replacements for the retirement of our beloved parliamentarian Eli Mina. We hope to have the candidate transition with Eli and have both in attendance at our June governance meetings. Thanks to ALA President Patty Wong for leading us through the interviews. We will miss Eli!

2022-2023 Presidential Planning Work: Our Brave Communities

Work continues with my Presidential Advisory Committee to focus on labor and workers' rights, partnerships, membership growth, and ALA-Allied Professional Association. We hope to launch a variety of free virtual professional development programs, open to members and non-members while also utilizing established avenues such as ALA Connect Live. The team has been in conversation with the Membership Office and CMO to discuss opportunities around membership and we hope to do a soft launch or testing around this work at the inauguration luncheon in June.

ALA-Allied Professional Association

Work has begun on appointments to ALA-APA committees and my thanks go out to ALA staff Lorelle Swader, Beatrice Calvin, and Kimberly Redd for their assistance in promoting the call for volunteers and working on the process of appointments. Appointments should be finalized by late April, early May.

Branding Working Group

Along with my co-chair ALA Past President Julius C. Jefferson Jr. and ALA CMO Director Stephanie Hlywak, The Branding Working Group's RFP sub-group selected Mission Partners as the firm to help us with the discovery and feasibility phase of our work to determine the scope of ALA's full potential reach and a new marketing campaign for all library lovers.

The firm hit the ground running by conducting a survey of stakeholders and a visioning session with ALA member leaders and staff in March 2022. The work of the group will be shared at the Spring Executive Board meeting with next steps in gathering input from our members and staff. The goal of the group is to have final recommendations by the Executive Board's Annual Conference Meetings.

Path to Leadership: National Forum on Advancing Asian / Pacific Islander American Librarianship

As part of my work as the Executive Director for the Asian/Pacific Librarians Association, I helped plan a national forum on APIA leadership which had many discussions on what leadership looks like in our institutions and at an association level. It was wonderful to have ALA President Patty Wong, the first ALA Asian American President as a keynote speaker and myself as ALA President-Elect and the first ALA Pacific Islander President to represent the association and share how we view the work of ALA in the context of APIA library leaders.

Media & Speaking Engagements

- LibLearnX Voices of Change Closing Session Speaker before Colin Kaepernick (January 24)
- Interview with State Tech magazine on libraries and digital equity (February 24)
- Burbank Public Library Staff Day Keynote (March 4)
- ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL) webinar panelist for 'Ageism and the Library Workplace: Strategies for Those Experiencing Discrimination Based on Perceptions of Age' (March 11)
- Public Library Association Conference in Portland, Oregon (March 22-25):

- Panelist for “Hear from Asian Pacific American Library Leaders” with Amita Lonial, Candice Mack, Maria McCauley, & Patty Wong
- Guest speaker at PLA’s leadership Pre-Conference
- Facilitated a peer sharing group with PLA Past President Michelle Jeske at the Intellectual Freedom Forum