

American Library Association

Midwinter Meeting

Seattle, WA.

January 2019

“Change is in the air”

I have decided that I am most fortunate to have been elected at this time in ALA history. I get the awesome privilege to work with passionate and knowledgeable board members and association staff with efforts that will position our association for advancement and growth. Increased financial stability, a new association headquarters and a newly reimagined organizational structure all are within reach. Each has the potential to enhance our ability to be more inclusive, expand our networking capabilities and unify our efforts around advocacy and outreach. Yes indeed, what a great time it is!

Remodeling Summit – Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE)

I participated at the Summit in Chicago that followed our October Board meeting. It was a revealing exercise that invited participants to share the best and worst visuals depicting the ALA of today versus the ALA we need to for continual improvement and connectivity. I was most impressed by the knowledge concerning association trending that the Tecker representatives shared with attendees. It was also a pleasure to hear committee members speak passionately about their divisions and the work of the association. Kudos to Mary Ghikas and Lessa Pelayo-Lozada for their work selecting the team and this firm. I look forward to the continued discussions and to digesting all of the member input from mid-winter.

Committee on Committees

In October I worked with Lois Ann Gregory-Wood and COC members Latrice Booker, Dora T. Ho, Jack Martin, Jr. and Louis Muñoz, Jr. in securing nominations for four (4) Councilors to run for election to the ALA Executive Board. It was important to all of us that we add to the inclusivity of the board. I was pleased with our efforts as Eboni Henry (School), Alexandra P. Rivera (Univ.), Leslie B. Preddy (School) and Gladys Smiley Bell (HBCU Univ.) The first **two** candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to 3-year terms (2019-2022), and seated on the ALA Executive Board at its fall meeting on October 25-27, 2019, in Chicago, IL.

Presidential Advisory

In December I assembled a team of primarily southerners to advise around possible presidential initiatives. It was a great gathering and a joy to hear folks share stories of warmth, passion and excitement as it related to the what ifs. It was a bit of a challenge for me as I kept

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thinking about the number of times folks had mentioned the burdens on staff with the changing yearly focus and mild grumble from members. I do think however the primary focus of conversation lent themselves nicely to a follow-up to that of President Garcia-Febo. More details are forthcoming.

Committee Appointments

The work of appointing committee members is quite a challenging and daunting task. Holly Robinson, JoAnne Kempf and my assistant Cal Shepard, have each been instrumental in coaching, guiding and prodding me along. I sincerely appreciate Holly's patience while I get more familiar with the process as a whole.