

ALA LIBLEARNX 2024  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024: 3:45 PM ET  
ALA COUNCIL I

ALA President Emily Drabinski called the meeting to order.

**ADOPTED by CONSENT:**

- Adoption of Hybrid Council Rules, CD #5
- Agenda Review, CD #8.1
- Approval of the 2023 Annual Council Meeting Minutes & 2023 November Special Council Session, CD #2 -2.1
- Budget Analysis & Review Committee, CD #33
- Committee on Diversity, CD #14
- Committee on Education, CD #41
- Committee on Library Advocacy, CD #42
- Committee on Professional Ethics, CD #24
- Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, CD #43
- Council Training and Engagement Committee, CD #31
- Public Awareness Committee, CD #38
- Publishing Committee, CD #32
- Resolutions Committee Report, CD #10.1
- Sustainability Committee, CD #37

Councilor Richardson requested that Treasurer's Report, CD #13 be pulled from the consent agenda

**Review of Executive Board Actions since the 2023 Annual Conference, ACD #15 & Implementation of the 2023 Annual Conference and Special Council meeting Actions, CD #9**

ALA Interim Executive Director Leslie Berger provided the following highlights on Executive Board Actions:

- Operating Agreement Implementation Workgroup was dissolved and reconstituted as a smaller workgroup
- On the recommendation of the ALA Membership Committee, the Executive Board approved the following prices for ALA dues, effective 2025: Individual, \$125; Individual Type II, \$55; supporters \$70; and student, \$40
- Formed a working group composed of the Membership Committee and BARC to discuss the feasibility of standardization of dues and to report back to the Board by the Annual Conference
- Formed a subcommittee to create an LLX evaluation framework to be presented by LLX 2024
- Decision to employ Isaacson, Miller and established a search committee to lead search for Executive Director
- Rescinded the decision to approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the Fund for Social Justice to the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office to support the trainthetrainer efforts for chapter leadership

Actions of this body are outlined in CD #9.

**Nominations for the 2024 ALA Executive Board Election, CD #11**

ALA President-elect Cindy Hohl, chair of the 20232024 Committee on Committees, provided the following updates:

- The first candidate receiving the highest number of votes in each position, Division member, Rainbow Round Table member, and Atlarge member, will be elected to threeyear terms from 20242027:
  - Atlarge candidates:
    - Elizabeth A. Burns
    - Nick Buron
  - Rainbow Round Table candidates:
    - Sherry Anderson (Machones)
    - Peter Coyl
  - Division candidates:
    - Fannie M. Cox
    - Corinthia Price

President Drabinski called for floor nominations. There were no nominations from the floor.

Per CD #11.1, the following counselors have volunteered to serve as tellers for the Executive Board election: Dorcas Hand, Head Teller; joy Bridwell; Kenny Garcia; & Anchatee Joy PanigabutraRoberts.

The ballot will open immediately following the virtual Executive Board Candidates' Forum on Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT. Voting instructions will be provided. The ballot will close on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CT.

### **Membership Committee Report, CD# 39**

Sandy Hirsh, Chair, presented the following report:

- Four main goals for this year:
  - Assessing the needs of library and information science students
  - Grow student membership
  - Continuing the development of a peertopeer recruitment program
  - Supporting the work of the ALA Branding Working Group
- Additionally, the committee will conclude the multiyear effort on the simplified membership model, which will be implemented for FY2025.

Chair Hirsh moved, on the recommendation of the ALA Membership Committee, the ALA Council to approve the following prices for ALA personal dues effective fiscal year 2025: Individual Type I at \$125. Individual Type II at \$55, supporter at \$70, and student at \$40, CD #39.

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #39.

Results:

- 142 yes
- 19 no
- 1 abstain

**APPROVED** the following prices for ALA personal dues effective fiscal year 2025: Individual Type I at \$125. Individual Type II at \$55, supporter at \$70, and student at \$40, CD #39.

### **Committee on Organization (COO), CD #27**

Andrew Pace, Chair, provided the following updates:

- Called attention to informational items in Appendix 2, specifically items A and C.
  - Regarding the work of the Operating Agreement Working Group (OAWG): COO was shepherding the policy updates, which will be brought before Council, once they are integrated the budget and operational practices recommendations. The Executive Board had dissolved the OAWG and charged Treasurer Peter Hepburn and ALA CFO Tsourdinis with final recommendations to the Board in October 2024. As such, COO has agreed it will pass the stewardship of the OA Policy Manual edits back to the Executive Board until such time as those changes and associated financial changes can be discussed and voted on by Council.
  - COO will be undertaking a proactive review of ALA and Council committees. This work is a continuation of what was started under the recommendations of SCOE, Forward Together, and TAG.
- Chair Pace noted that COO has one action item request from the ALA Committee on Appointments to change its composition, adding the elected members of the Committee on Committees as ex officio voting members of the Committee. This change also aligns the Committee's composition with the recent changes to the ALA Bylaws. The recommended change has been approved by the Committee on Appointments and the Committee on Committees, has the support of ALA staff, and COO endorses the proposed change to the composition.

Chair Pace moved to modify the composition of the ALA Committee on Appointments, CD #27

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #27.

Results:

- 140 yes
- 2 no
- 2 abstain

**APPROVED** to modify the composition of the ALA Committee on Appointments, CD #27

#### **Policy Manual Revision Working Group, CD #40**

Brian Schottlaender, Co-Chair, provided the following updates:

- The workgroup sought clarification on its charge with the Executive Board, revising its charge to read: Move that the Council approve the creation of a joint working group of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee [now simply Bylaws Committee], the Policy Monitoring Committee, and the Committee on Organization, to carry out a general revision of the ALA Policy Manual, including recommended policy insertions from the adoption of the general revision of the Bylaws.
- Established monthly meetings
- Created a crosswalk to insert recommendations from Bylaws Appendix A to the general revision of the Bylaws into a working copy of Part A of the Policy Manual.
- Divided chapters of the policy manual amongst workgroup members to review and update
- Not yet at a point for reporting results

President Drabinski asked to amend the agenda by consent to allow a report from the Treasurer regarding the report pulled from the agenda. There were no objections.

### **Treasurer's Report, CD #13**

Treasurer Peter Hepburn provided the following updates:

- The report is the same as presented at the virtual Membership Information Session
- FY 2023 results are final, but the audited results have not yet been shared with the Finance and Audit Committee nor the Executive Board
- FY 2024 yeartodate reflects two-month results

Council discussed the need for a fuller report, which will be available after the audit results are available, as well as more detailed financial reports available on the Executive Board documents page.

### **Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza, CD #48**

Councilor Mandy Nasr moved the following:

Resolved that the American Library Association, ALA, on behalf of its members,

1. call for an immediate ceasefire and exchange of all hostages.
2. Suspend military aid to the government of Israel until the hostage has ended.
3. Demand the end of Israeli policies depriving Palestinians of food, water, electricity, fuel, medical care, and shelter.
4. Condemn the violence and attack on innocent children, women, and civilians, and commit to working towards a peaceful solution that recognizes equally the rights of the peoples in that region to live in peace and harmony.

Councilor Lappin moved to refer CD #48 to the International Relations Committee and Committee on Legislation under the advisement of the parliamentarian, CD #38 Motion to Refer

Council discussed the CD #48 Motion to Refer.

President Drabinski called for approval by consent to extend the meeting for ten minutes. There were no objections.

After Council discussion, President Drabinski asked for approval by consent to add "with a report back to Council by Annual Conference 2024" to the Motion to Refer, CD #48. There were no objections.

Council continued discussion. President Drabinski asked for approval by Consent to extend meeting another 15 minutes. There were no objections.

President Drabinski called for vote on the Motion to Refer this resolution to the International Relations Committee and Committee on Legislation under the advisement of the parliamentarian, with a report back to Council by Annual Conference 2024, CD #48 Motion to Refer

Results:

- 61 yes
- 83 no
- 3 abstain

**DEFEATED** Motion to Refer, CD #48

President Drabinski called for discussion on the original Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza, CD #48

Councilor Buron moved to table CD #48 until Council II

President Drabinski called for a vote on Motion to Table until Council II, CD #48

Results:

- 134 yes
- 12 no
- 2 abstain

**APPROVED** Motion to Table until Council II, CD #48

### **Announcements**

Interim ED Berger reported that registration numbers are at 1326 paid and 646 comps, totaling 1972

President Drabinski adjourned Council I.

## Council II SUNDAY, JANUARY 21: 3:00 PM ET

President Drabinski called Council II to order.

### **APPROVED by Consent:**

- Agenda, CD #8.2
- Committee on Legislation Report, CD #20

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of the following by Memorial Resolutions:

- Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, M-#1
- George Needham, M-#2
- Candy Morgan, M-#3
- Betty-Carol Sellen, M-#4
- Adonna (Donna) C. Fleming, M-#5
- Dr. Donna Louise Gilton, M-#6

The following Tribute Resolutions were recognized:

- Tribute Resolution Recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the Sustainability Round Table, T-#1
- Tribute Resolution Honoring Irene Padilla, T-#2

### **Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Report, CD #19-19.2**

Lesliediana Jones, Chair, provided the following updates:

- Since July, IFC put together a task force to update the Freedom to Read Statement. This is an exploratory task
- The Privacy Subcommittee has been hard at work doing educational initiatives, developing practical toolkits, and continuing its work with vendors on privacy, including work on AI

- With the support of IFC members and other members, new support resources are being created, such as the Book Resume Project, being conducted with a coalition of 60 publishers; statewide peertopeer support networks; and the revival of Lawyers for Libraries and Law for Librarians
- Unite Against Book Bans continues to expand its advocacy, programming, and outreach, including virtual programs with First Book, Diverse Books for All, and The New York Public Library
- Division and Chapter Intellectual Freedom Committees, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, unit liaisons, and the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) staff continue to work with IFC
- IFC respectfully requests the American Library Association Council delay voting on the Core Values Task Force Report, CD #34, until after Divisions, Round Tables, and ALA Committees have been formally contacted and had an opportunity to provide review and input. Chair Jones noted that she withdraws the motion in the report but would support a similar motion later in the meeting after the Core Values Taskforce report. IFC would support a motion to delay when the report is presented later in the meeting.

#### **International Relations Committee Report, CD #18**

Julius C. Jefferson Jr., Chair, provided the following updates:

- International Relations Office, the IRC, and International Relations Round Table (IRRT) efforts have increased international membership by 5% increase, which is likely attributable to decreasing the cost to become an international member
- Regarding IFLA and the World Library and Information Congress that was to be held in Dubai in August of 2024: the event has been cancelled. Dubai decided to withdraw. There will be no World Library Information Congress in 2024. IFLA is looking forward to accepting any type of applications to host in 2025
- The International Relations Office continues to work hard around the world and participating in book fairs
- ALA hosted the tenth Sharjah International Book Fair
- Continue to engage in the Guadalajara Book Fair, which was held last Fall
- Congratulate the International Relations Round Table on their 75th anniversary
- Two scholarships available, one for a U.S. member and one for an international member to attend ALA Annual Conference each year

Chair Jefferson moved the Resolution on Damage and Destruction on of Libraries and other Cultural Institutions in Gaza, CD #18:

Resolved that the American Library Association

1. Implores all parties to uphold respect for human rights and dignity in line with international law, ensure access to humanitarian aid, and find a pathway to peace,
2. Deplores the destruction and damage of the Gaza Municipal Library, the Rashid al-Shawa Cultural Center, and other libraries and cultural institutions in Gaza;
3. Calls for the protection of libraries, schools, and other cultural institutions in Gaza and Israel and for both sides of the conflict to uphold the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict to take all feasible action to safeguard and respect all cultural property;
4. Urges the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of libraries, schools, and other cultural

institutions, including networking and other infrastructure, as soon as it is practicable in Gaza.

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #18

Results:

- 143 yes
- 2 no
- 2 abstain

**APPROVED** Resolution on Damage and Destruction on of Libraries and other Cultural Institutions in Gaza, CD #18

### **Bylaws Committee Report, CD #25**

Brian Schottlaender, Chair, provided the following updates:

- Working on the general revision of the ALAAPA Bylaws in order to harmonize those with the new revised ALA Bylaws
- Addressing 2022-2023 CD #57, which relates to a resolution on guaranteeing virtual participation in ALA governance. The committee clarified with original movers on the intended articles to be addressed. The committee crafted a new Section 5 for Article 5 and a new Section 6 for Article 6 to address the resolution and presented as action items.
- Addressing 2022-2023 CD #60, Resolution on Actions by the Executive Board, which relates to Council and/or membership oversight for certain Executive Board actions:
  - Committee consulted both ALA legal counsel Paula Goedert, and ALA Parliamentarian Adrian Stratton, as had been suggested by Council, in order to get both legal and parliamentary input. Both agreed that neither legal nor parliamentary best practices would argue for the actions of the Executive Board to be subject to review and rescission by either Council or the membership and strongly counseled against crafting either ALA Bylaws or ALA policy revisions that would propose that sort of oversight
  - Bylaws Committee recommends that no further action be taken on this matter

Chair Schottlaender moved, on behalf of the ALA Bylaws Committee, to amend Article 6 of the ALA Bylaws by adding a new section 6 and renumbering subsequent sections of the Article as follows:

“Section 6. Council Virtual Participation and Observation. Meetings of the Council shall be conducted in such a manner as to allow for virtual participation by Councilors. Councilors participating virtually will be required to follow instructions communicated in the notice of each meeting which may include, but not be limited to, prior registration. At each meeting, the Council will adopt rules to manage participation by both in-person and virtual participants as appropriate. Virtual observation methods shall be provided to the Association’s membership during open portions of meetings.”, CD #25, Motion A

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #25, Motion A

Results:

- 148 yes
- 0 no
- 0 abstain

**APPROVED** CD #25, Motion A

Chair Brian Schottlaender on behalf of the ALA Bylaws Committee, moved to amend Article V of the ALA Bylaws by adding a new Section 5 and renumbering subsequent sections of the Article as follows:

"Section 5. Executive Board Participation and Observation. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be conducted in such a manner as to allow for virtual participation by Executive Board members. Board members participating virtually will be required to follow instructions communicated in the notice of each meeting, which may include, but not be limited to, prior registration. At each meeting, the Executive Board will adopt rules to manage participation by both inperson and virtual participants as appropriate. Virtual observation methods shall be provided to the Association's membership during open portions of meetings when scheduling, staffing, and other conditions reasonably allow.", CD #25, Motion B

Councilor Jessamyn West moved to amend the motion for Article V of the ALA Bylaws by adding a new Section (and renumbering subsequent Sections of the Article) as follows:

"Section 5. Executive Board Participation and Observation. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be conducted in such a manner as to allow for virtual participation by Executive Board members. Board members participating virtually will be required to follow instructions communicated in the notice of each meeting which may include, but not be limited to, prior registration. At each meeting, the Executive Board will adopt rules to manage participation by both in-person and virtual participants as appropriate. Virtual observation methods shall be provided to the Association's membership during open portions of **all regular scheduled meetings and of any additional** meetings when scheduling, staffing, and other conditions reasonably allow ~~and provide detailed notes or recordings in a timely manner when they do not.~~", CD #25, Motion B amendment

The striking of the final phrase was approved by consent.

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #25, Motion B amendment.

Results:

- 78 yes
- 67 no
- 4 abstain

**APPROVED** CD #25, Motion B amendment.

President Drabinski called for discussion on CD #25, Motion B as amended.

Results:

- 144 yes
- 2 no
- 3 abstain

**APPROVED** CD #25, Motion B as amended.

**Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC) Report, CD #17**

Toni Negro, Committee Member, provided the following updates:

- PMC moves to amend the ALA Policy Manual A.4.2.3 Council Resolutions: Guidelines and Preparation - #4, CD #17:

4. ALA & Council Standing Committees are not required to submit their resolutions to the Resolutions Committee. Typically, resolutions from these bodies are included in their committee reports before Council as Action Items. However, they are encouraged to follow the form and content guidelines and share their resolutions with Council in advance via ALA Connect and during the Virtual or face to face Council forum so that members can thoughtfully engage in discussion on the Council floor.

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #17

Results:

- 144 yes
- 4 no
- 2 abstain

**APPROVED** motion to amend the ALA Policy Manual A.4.2.3 Council Resolutions: Guidelines and Preparation - #4, CD #17

#### **Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), CD #22**

Sukrit Goswami, President, provided the following updates:

- Achieved a series of legal victories in defense of the First Amendment:
  - Victory in the fight against HB 900, aka Texas Reader Act. In this instance, FTRF participated in an amicus brief, joining a brief in support of the plaintiff's effort to declare the law unconstitutional
  - Joined a large coalition of organizations in another amicus brief filed in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in the Netflix versus Babbitt lawsuit, which upheld the district court's preliminary injunction, barring them from pursuing criminal prosecution of Netflix
- Continues to work with allies and partners to advocate for free expression and civil liberties.
- Supports projects and programs through Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund
- Supporting the revitalization of Lawyers for Libraries and Law for Librarians professional development initiatives
- Partnering with University of Illinois's iSchool and San Jose State University's School of Information on dedicated intellectual freedom coursework, and two new collaborations are on track to begin in 2024
- Presenting a President's Program on the intersection of intellectual freedom and social justice
- Financial support is vital and necessary FTRF and asking all ALA members to become personal members of FTRF. Students can join for free

#### **Core Values task Force Report, CD #34**

Sara Dallas and Erin Berman, CoChairs, provided the following updates:

- Over the last two and a half years, a diverse and representative taskforce of ALA member leaders has been diligently working to refine values
- The American Library Association's Core Values articulate the profession's principles and highest aspirations. The document articulates the following core values:

- Access
  - Equity
  - Intellectual Freedom and Privacy
  - Public good
  - Sustainability
- In developing the values, Task Force conducted a thorough review of foundational ALA documents and sought feedback from a wide spectrum of ALA member leaders
  - Strongly recommend that the Executive Board appoint Divisions, Committees of Council, and Round Tables to develop detailed interpretations of each value, adding context, depth, and authority, similar to the Library Bill of Rights.

Co-Chair Berman moved, on behalf of the ALA Core Values Task Force, to amend the ALA Policy Manual by striking the current policy and inserting the Core Values of Librarianship as presented in CD #34, Action 1.

Councilor Tara Brady moved that the Core Values Committee be extended for a final six months to allow further feedback to be gathered from Divisions, Round Tables, and Committees and return at ALA Annual 2024 for a final report, CD #34 Motion to Extend

President Drabinski asked for approval by consent to extend the meeting until 5:30 pm. There were no objections.

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #34 Motion to Extend

Results:

- 7 yes
- 138 no
- 1 abstain

**DEFEATED** CD #34 Motion to Extend.

President Drabinski asked for approval by consent to limit discussion to one minute per speaker for the remaining items on the agenda. There were no objections.

President Drabinski called for discussion on the original motion of CD #34, Action 1.

President Drabinski called for a vote CD #34, Action 1

Results:

- 144 yes
- 2 no
- 1 abstain

**APPROVED** motion to amend the ALA Policy Manual by striking the current policy and inserting the Core Values of Librarianship as presented in CD #34, Action 1.

Co-Chair Berman moved, on behalf of the ALA Core Values Task Force, to strongly recommend the ALA Executive Board assign working groups, committees, or Round Tables to write interpretations for each core value, CD #34, Action 2.

President Drabinski called for a vote on CD #34, Action 2.

Results:

- 147 yes
- 0 no
- 0 abstain

**APPROVED** that the ALA Executive Board assign working groups, committees, or Round Tables to write interpretations for each core value, CD #34, Action 2.

President Drabinski called for approval by consent to extend meeting until 5:45 pm. There were no objections.

**Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza, CD #48 as amended**

Councilor Nasr read the resolved clause of the Resolution originally moved yesterday with a proposed amendment:

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members **urges the United States Government:**

1. Call for an immediate ceasefire and the exchange of all hostages and prisoners held by Hamas and Israel.
2. Suspend military aid to the government of Israel until the occupation is ended and the long-term security, well-being and dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians are achieved.
3. Demand the end of Israeli policies depriving Palestinians of food, water, electricity, fuel, medical care, **libraries, schools** and shelter.
4. Condemn the violence and the attack on innocent children, women, and civilians and commit to working toward a peaceful solution that recognizes equally the rights of the peoples in that region to live in peace and harmony.

Councilor Nasr moved to extend the speaking time to 2 minutes.

President Drabinski called for a vote on the Motion to extend speaking time to 2 minutes.

Results:

- 46 yes
- 101 no
- 2 abstain

**DEFEATED** Motion to extend speaking time to 2 minutes.

Council Aaron Dobbs moved that the resolution be referred to International Relations Committee to explore a further statement on this topic, with a response from the committees by Annual 2024 or earlier if possible, CD # 48 Motion to Refer

Councilor Ed Garcia moved for a friendly amendment to this to Committee on Legislation to be included in the referral. President Drabinski asked for approval by consent. There were no objections.

President Drabinski called for approval by consent to closing debate on the motion to refer. There were no objections.

President Drabinski called for a vote on the motion that the resolution be referred to International Relations Committee and Committee on Legislation to explore a further statement on this topic, with a response from the committees by Annual 2024 or earlier if possible, CD # 48 Motion to Refer

Results:

- 36 yes
- 109 no
- 4 abstain

**DEFEATED** CD #48 Motion to Refer

Councilor Eboni Henry called to question the original resolution, CD #48 as amended. There were no objections.

President Drabinski called for a vote on Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza, CD #48 as amended

Results:

- 28 yes
- 114 no
- 6 abstain

**DEFEATED** Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza, CD #48 as amended

President Drabinski called for approval by consent to extend the meeting for five minutes to complete Council business. There were no objections.

### **Announcements**

- ALA Interim Executive Director Leslie Burger provided updated registration numbers: total number of registrations are 1,996, including 1,332 paid, 105 digital registrations and 664 exhibitors, along with VIPs and other nonpaid registrations
- Executive Board Ballot will open immediately following the virtual Executive Board Candidates' Forum on Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT. Voting instructions will be provided. The ballot will close on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CT.

President Drabinski adjourned Council II.