

# Committee Information Update (CIU)

## Appendix I: Revised Form

### ALA COMMITTEE REPORT

**Committee Name:** ALA Conference Committee

**Conference Year:** 2025

**Committee Chair:** Christina Rodriques

**Staff Liaison:** Rebecca Headrick

**Committee Members:**

Ms. Christina Rodriques (Chair, July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025)

Kelly Chaney (Committee Associate, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025)

Edenia M. Hernandez (Chapter Councilor, September 12, 2024, to June 30, 2026)

Ms. Elizabeth N. Johnson (Member, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025)

Ms. Lauren Sarah Kehoe (RUSA Accessibility Assembly Representative, September 16, 2024, to June 30, 2026)

Kevin A. R. King (Core Representative, October 2, 2023, to June 30, 2025)

Mr. Bradley J. Kuykendall (Councilor-at-Large, July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026)

Angela Moffett (ALSC Representative, September 5, 2024, to June 30, 2026)

Mark D. Robison (Round Table Representative, September 13, 2024, to June 30, 2026)

Karen G. Schneider (Board Liaison, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025)

Rebecca Headrick, CITO and Sr. Executive Sponsor, Conference Services (Primary Staff Liaison)

Alicia Hamann, Deputy Director, Registration & Attendee Services (Staff Liaison)

Kristin Lahurd, Deputy Director, Content Strategy (Staff Liaison)

Kara Stachowiak, Deputy Director, Conference Operations (Staff Liaison)

Yvonne A. McLean, Manager, Conference Logistics (Staff Liaison)

Paul Graller, Hall Erickson (ALA Exhibits Contractor)

**Committee Charge:**

To recommend additions and changes to [ALA Policy A.7 \(Conferences and Meetings\)](#) as appropriate; 2) To recommend policies to Council for the coordination and scheduling of conference programming and for simplification of meeting scheduling, including use of technologies; 3) To recommend to Council policies guiding the selection of Conference and Meeting sites and dates; 4) To review recommendations of specific sites and dates prior to their presentation by Conference Services to the ALA Executive Board; and 5) To recommend to Council and to ALA staff a means for communications with the membership to hear their concerns about Conference and Meeting procedures and policies; (6) To assist in identifying and reviewing potential major speakers and programs for all conference events.

**Report out on LLX 2025 Conference performance:**

LibLearnX registrant totals exceed budgeted estimates at a total of 1,636. LibLearnX reported a net deficit of \$547k for the period ended January 2025, compared to a budgeted net deficit of \$944k. Registration revenue was 78% of budget (\$425k vs \$546k) and exhibit space sales and sponsorships were at 61% of budget (\$161k vs \$262k) with a total of 46 exhibitors.

### **Updates on Annual 2025 Conference planning:**

Registration for ALA Annual Conference 2025 in Philadelphia, PA opened in mid-February, along with the announcement of opening, closing and other key featured speakers: <https://2025.alaannual.org/featured-speakers>

PACE report data as of 3/10/25 show a strong start to registration, including comparative data from the last two conference years (2024 in San Diego, CA and 2023 in Chicago, IL)

At 16 weeks out:

**2025: 2257 paid and 2833 total**

2024: 2597 paid and 3257 total

2023: 1685 paid and 2159 total

Currently we are at 58% of the total revenue budget with 30% of the registration goal met to date, and 89% for exhibits and sponsorship. Exhibit booths are at 396 compared to 367 last year at this time.

Upcoming marketing efforts will include social media messaging, ad retargeting and segmented messaging focusing on emphasizing the value of the 200+ programming opportunities, including the announcement of 4 additional featured speakers coming up soon.

### **Additional work by the Committee:**

In addition to the continuous work to support ALA conference planning, the Conference Committee also has several items that have been assigned to them by the passage of ALA Council resolutions. These items include ALA CD#43.1, ALA CD#59, and ALA CD#53, which are discussed in more detail below.

As current Chair of the Conference Committee, I recognize progress has been slow and communication around these items has not been good. I take my share of ownership in this, but I am happy to report the committee is actively working to catch up and make progress on these items.

- ALA CD#53 (AC 2021) [Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences](#)

This resolution was passed by Council at Annual Conference in 2021 with the following resolved clauses:

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

- 1. pursues a goal of carbon neutrality for all ALA conferences by the year 2025 and will remain carbon neutral for these events thereafter;*
- 2. delegates to the ALA Council Committee on Sustainability to assist and track progress toward this goal; and*
- 3. encourages all divisions, roundtables, chapters, affiliates, and others who work with the Association to consider adopting similar goals to reduce carbon footprints*

Through the work of the Council Committee on Sustainability they requested the Conference Committee look at solutions for carbon offsets, since any decisions would ultimately need Conference Services staff involvement.

Under the leadership of the previous Conference Committee Chair, the Conference Committee recommended to the Executive Board at ALA Annual 2024 that \$50,000.00 should be taken from the Conference Services budget to cover carbon offsets. The Executive Board declined the proposal and called on Conference Services staff to begin evaluating alternative options.

This is the work that is currently ongoing by Conference Services staff and the Conference Committee and will most likely result in a request to extend the original 2025 deadline in order to provide time to find alternative solutions and to work more closely with the Committee on Sustainability.

- ALA CD#59 (AC 2023) [Resolution to Investigate Changing Dates for Future Annual Conferences of the American Library Association](#)

This resolution was passed by Council at Annual Conference in 2023 with the following resolved clauses:

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

- 1. Direct the Conference Committee to investigate dates for future Annual Conferences that have not already been planned, so as to prevent scheduling conflicts with the second and fourth week of June, which coincide with the majority of pride festivals;*
- 2. Consult with the ALA membership, particularly the LGBTQIA+ members, in order to gather input and perspectives regarding potential alternative dates and considerations for future Annual Conferences;*
- 3. Communicate the progress and outcomes of this investigation to its membership by ALA Annual 2024, ensuring transparency and accountability in its decision-making process.*

The Conference Committee has much to assess to address this resolution. ALA Conferences are planned in advance with future conference contracts already having been signed through 2033. When considering alternative dates for future conferences, the committee will need to factor in division and unit conferences and their dates, consider who else may be affected by a change in dates, and any financial impacts to the association.

Conference Services staff are currently working to provide additional data needed to inform next steps and the Conference Committee will be working to address clause 2 to ensure ALA member input is considered regarding this resolution. The goal is to have an informed recommendation to Council by Annual Conference 2025.

- ALA CD#43.1 (AC 2024) [Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship](#)

In a report submitted at ALA Annual in 2024, the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship submitted the following request:

*“The ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship calls on the ALA Executive Board to take expeditious action in support of women and people who are pregnant related to the matter of ALA continuing to host conferences in states where a large portion of our attendees, if in a medical crisis, may not be able to receive appropriate emergency medical care.*

*While the committee understands contractual obligations to have conference sites booked far in advance, we request that the conference committee explore considering the location of a conference site with local limitations on women's rights, when selecting future locations to ensure that all ALA members have equal access to emergency medical care if needed.”*

This prompted the Executive Board in closed session on June 28, 2024, to approve the following motion...

*“Asks the Conference Committee to explore consideration of conference sites with local limitations on reproductive rights to ensure that all ALA members have equal access to emergency medical care if needed and access to attend conference with an update by LLX2025”.*

While the Conference Committee was not able to provide an update by LLX2025, we are well underway in investigating how to best address ALA CD#43.1. The Conference Services staff is currently gathering data to help inform the Committees recommendation, and we are confident that we will be able to provide actionable ways to accomplish the intent outlined in ALA CD#43.1.

On behalf of the ALA Conference Committee, and ALA Conference Services staff, I ask for your patience and understanding. These items are significant and require a tremendous amount of time from staff who are already handling many competing priorities. The Conference Committee will be prepared to share more progress and recommendations on these items at the 2025 Annual Conference.

References:

ALA CD#43.1 (AC 2024) [Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship](#)

ALA CD#59 (AC 2023) [Resolution to Investigate Changing Dates for Future Annual Conferences of the American Library Association](#)

ALA CD#53 (AC 2021) [Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences](#)

Submitted by: Christina Rodriques, Conference Committee Chair

Date Submitted: 3/17/25