



ALA Executive Director Report
Prepared by: ALA Staff
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Summary of this Report

In the Fall of 2023, we [welcomed Leslie Burger](#) as ALA Interim Executive Director. Burger brings years of experience as a leader in our field, from her service as president of the American Library Association from July 2006 to July 2007, where she had a depth of involvement in ALA operations, to her position as executive director of the Princeton Public Library, where she helped plan, design and secure funding for a new 55,000 square foot library that opened in 2004. This transition provided an opportunity for a revised Executive Director Report and the following is a summary of key areas of focus for the association this Fall.

The [ALA Pivot Strategy](#) has entered its fourth year maintaining a strong focus on revenue generation and membership growth. This report begins with key updates on those two areas. While post-pandemic recovery has remained slower than initially hoped, a focus on revenue and membership generation proves the cyclical relationship to uphold ALA's mission and positively impact libraries and communities.



In addition to the Pivot Strategy update, the report provides an overview of recent ALA and division conferences, including the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National Conference, Core Forum and the Young Adult Library Services Association Symposium. Professional development remains one of the primary drivers of membership value and revenue generation for ALA.

Lastly, the attacks on the profession and ALA itself have risen to unprecedented levels. ALA remains committed to supporting libraries and library workers through both national and local efforts. The final segment of this report provides a deep dive into activities, resources and accomplishments in this area.

ALA Financial Summary

	Two Month Actual <u>October 31, 2023</u>	Two Month Budget <u>October 31, 2023</u>	Two Month Variance <u>October 31, 2023</u>
Total ALA			
Total Revenue	\$ 5,899,392	\$ 7,894,382	\$ (1,994,990)
Total Expenses	6,890,537	8,757,665	1,867,128
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (991,145)	\$ (863,283)	\$ (127,862)

	Two Month Actual <u>October 31, 2023</u>	Two Month Budget <u>October 31, 2023</u>	Two Month Variance <u>October 31, 2023</u>	Prior Two Month Actual <u>October 31, 2022</u>	Difference <u>FY24 - FY23</u>
REVENUE BY FUND					
General Fund	\$ 3,012,565	\$ 3,859,384	\$ (846,820)	\$ 2,514,936	\$ 497,629
Divisions	2,444,804	3,147,698	(702,894)	1,537,757	907,047
Round Tables	60,436	93,247	(32,811)	41,296	19,140
Grants and Awards	221,895	690,190	(468,295)	1,043,935	(822,039)
Long-term Investment	159,692	103,863	55,829	253,394	(93,702)
Total Revenue	5,899,392	7,894,382	(1,994,990)	5,391,317	508,075
EXPENSES BY FUND					
General Fund	3,840,136	3,862,719	22,583	3,664,689	(175,447)
Divisions	2,107,807	3,009,167	901,360	1,721,561	(386,246)
Round Tables	21,997	67,447	45,451	20,317	(1,680)
Grants and Awards	666,928	1,309,560	642,632	1,680,160	1,013,232
Long-term Investment	253,669	508,772	255,103	218,757	(34,912)
Total Expenses	6,890,537	8,757,665	1,867,128	7,305,483	414,946
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)					
General Fund	(827,572)	(3,335)	(824,237)	(1,149,753)	322,182
Divisions	336,997	138,531	198,466	(183,804)	520,801
Round Tables	38,439	25,800	12,640	20,979	17,460
Grants and Awards	(445,032)	(619,369)	174,337	(636,225)	191,193
Long-term Investment	(93,978)	(404,909)	310,932	34,637	(128,614)
Total Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (991,145)	\$ (863,283)	\$ (127,862)	\$ (1,914,167)	\$ 923,021

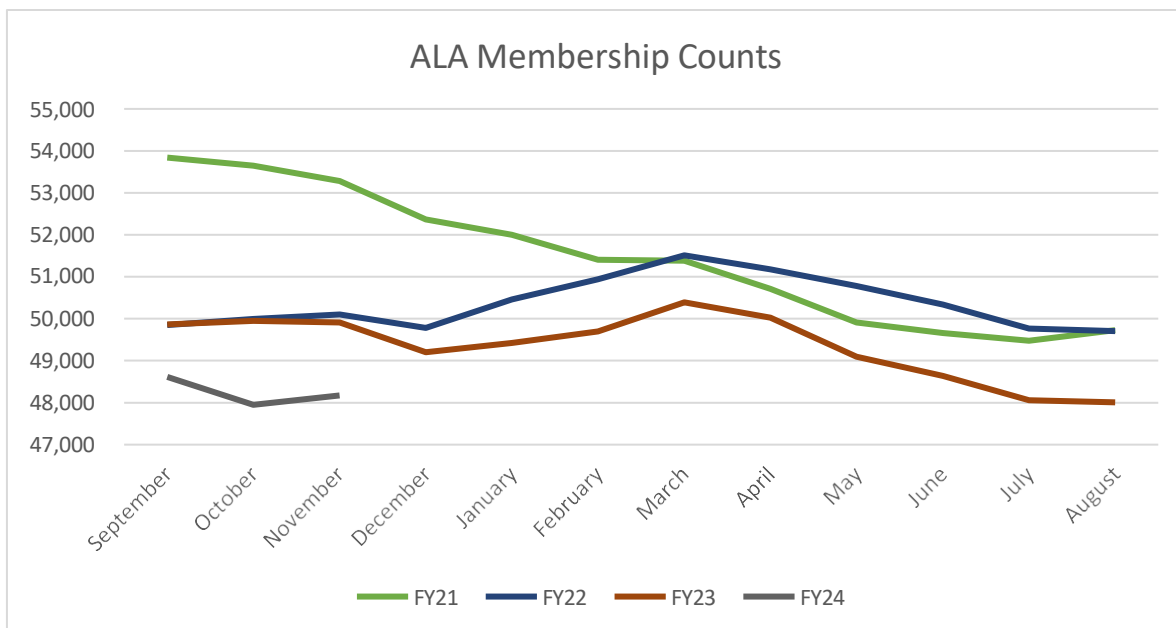
ALA Membership Summary

FY24 Q1 Membership Summary

Published December 22, 2023 using November, 2023 membership statistics

Total ALA membership count at the end of November 2023 were 48,172 as comparable to the count of 48,008 at the end of FY 2023. This continues the trend of membership increasing during the second quarter and is a 0.3% increase from the start of the year. Our membership strategy remains focused on rebounding our membership and recruiting new members to ALA through initiatives such as executing ongoing quarterly campaigns to recapture lapsed members by promoting ALA mission impact and professional development opportunities.

With 2/3 of ALA members paying dues from their own pocket, ALA dues revenue is sensitive to economic conditions, and we are closely monitoring the impact of the high scrutiny around financial investments with ALA in this current environment. There are some early signs of softening in organizational memberships due to the disassociations.

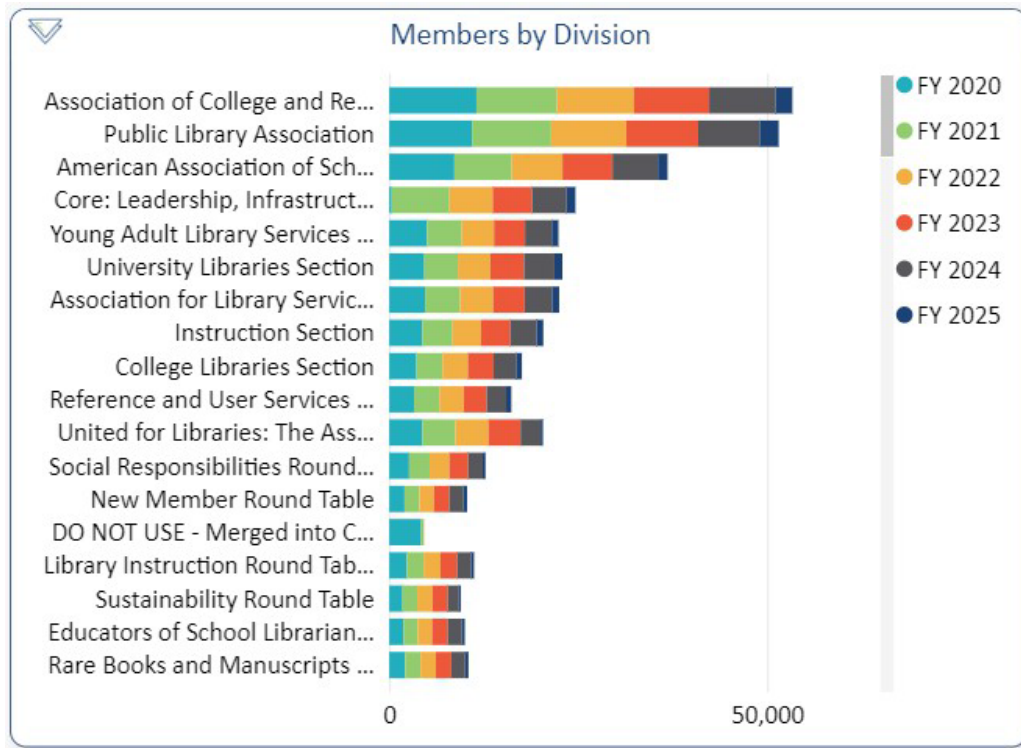


Division and Round Table Membership

Total Division membership is down since the start of the fiscal year by (0.6%) but the majority of divisions grew this quarter. Notably, Public Library Association (PLA) grew 6.7% and American Association of School Librarians (AASL) grew 2.3% which is illustrative of how important conference attendance is to drive membership.

At the Round Table level, we had a 1.4% increase in the total number of memberships since the start of the fiscal year. Nearly every Round Tables experienced growth most

notably the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table (CSKBART), Ethnic & Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) and New Member Round Table (NMRT) which all experienced over 5% growth.

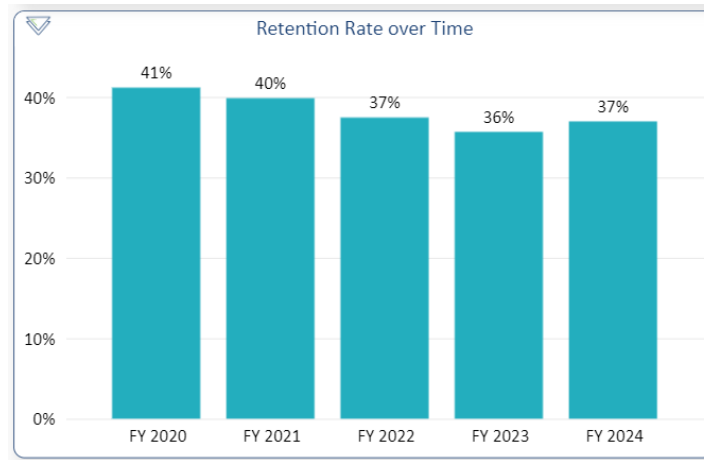


Students

A multi-year effort is underway with Membership and Chapter Relations to deepen engagement with LIS students. This effort includes online engagement through Connect as well as virtual events for networking and education. We have a dedicated web page for Students: <https://www.ala.org/membership/student-member-center> and were pleased to host a Student Networking Reception in the president suite during Annual Conference 2023 thanks to Past President Pelayo-Lozada.

As we focus on growing Student Membership post-pandemic, we will host focus groups to help uncover key benefits, value message and communication channels for students. The ALA Membership Committee is focused on supporting this effort.

While we have a long way to go to grow Student Membership to pre-pandemic numbers, we are thrilled to see an increase in Student Membership renewals so far this year.



State Level Information

As we closely monitor potential impacts of disassociation campaigns, we are eager to focus on serving the LIS community in impacted states and ensuring that ALA membership remains accessible to all library workers. We are currently partnering with United for Libraries division to re-capture key memberships in the state of Texas for organizations which was once our largest state for organizational memberships.

State	Total Individuals
California	3,993
Illinois	3,355
New York	3,032
Texas	2,343
Florida	1,678
Ohio	1,621
Pennsylvania	1,619
Virginia	1,569
Massachusetts	1,518
Michigan	1,408
Total	22,136

State	Total Organizations
Nebraska	560
Michigan	467
South Carolina	344
Maryland	242
Illinois	190
New York	175
California	126
Pennsylvania	84
Massachusetts	83
Texas	76
Total	2,347

ALA and Division Conference Summary
2023 LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience (LLX)

	FY 2023 Budget		FY 2023 Actual		Variance	
		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants
	\$		\$		\$	
Registration fees	\$ 775,000	2,000	\$ 590,925	1,712	\$ (184,075)	(288)
	FY 2023 Budget		FY 2023 Actual		Variance	
		# of exhibitors		# of exhibitors		# of exhibitors
	\$		\$		\$	
Exhibitor rentals	\$ 875,000	200	\$ 357,600	89	\$ (517,400)	(111)

Overages in budgeted expenses

Overages in the area of audio/visual equipment rental were primarily due to the addition of the ALA Governance Institute post budget. Special transportation directly corresponds to Gale's reduction of sponsorship revenue from \$75k to \$10k. Computer rental/internet is an event necessity and there were significantly higher rates for the convention center and the Headquarters hotel. Additional areas include lodging/meals/transportation expenses to cover staff and Board travel costs.

Additional commentary to aid in understanding the financial performance of the event

LLX 2023 took place in New Orleans, LA, a destination originally contracted for the Midwinter Meeting.

2024 LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience (LLX)

	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
		# of attendees/ <u>registrants</u>		# of attendees/ <u>registrants</u>		# of attendees/ <u>registrants</u>
	\$		\$		\$	
Registration fees	\$ 801,875	2,200	\$ 372,700	1,093	\$(429,175)	(1,107)
	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
		# of <u>exhibitors</u>		# of <u>exhibitors</u>		# of <u>exhibitors</u>
	\$		\$		\$	
Exhibitor rentals	\$ 455,000	100	\$ 220,700	70	\$(234,300)	(30)

Anticipated overages in budgeted expenses

Currently there are no notable anticipated overages in budgeted expenses.

Additional commentary to aid in understanding the financial performance of the event

LLX 2023 will take place in Baltimore, MD. LibLearnX attendees are budgeted at 2,200 paid registrants. As of December 19, 2023, there are 1,418 total registrants – 1,093 paid and 325 comped. At five weeks out, registration is pacing approximately 200 registrants behind LLX23 in both paid and total categories. Exhibit sales are pacing approximately 15 booths behind LLX23. A strong push from prominent local-based librarians and other marketing/promotion strategies after the new year include collaboration with the Communication Marketing and Media Office partner, Mekky Communications.

2023 Annual Conference & Exhibition

	FY 2023 Budget		FY 2023 Actual		Variance	
	\$	# of attendees/ registrants	\$	# of attendees/ registrants	\$	# of attendees/ registrants
Registration fees	\$ 2,557,200	9,230	\$ 2,786,980	9,476	\$ 229,780	246
	FY 2023 Budget		FY 2023 Actual		Variance	
	\$	# of exhibitors	\$	# of exhibitors	\$	# of exhibitors
Exhibitor rentals	\$ 2,372,500	450	\$ 2,648,620	609	\$ 276,120	159

Overages in budgeted expenses

Overages actualized in the areas of travel and professional services. Unit staffing vacancies required additional services by vendors, third-party providers, and consultants/contractors. Staff travel continues to be an area identified for tighter controls. Total expenses were over budget by \$770k.

Additional commentary to aid in understanding the financial performance of the event

The 2023 Annual Conference & Exhibition took place in Chicago, IL. Registration revenue exceeded budget. The total number of Annual Conference attendees was 15,851 with 9,476 paid registrants and 6,375 comped registrants. Exhibit space sales also exceeded budget. Additional revenue from advertising sales was generated in the amount of \$172,000. There were 93 first-time exhibitors in Chicago.

2024 Annual Conference & Exhibition

	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
	\$	# of attendees/ registrants	\$	# of attendees/ registrants	\$	# of attendees/ registrants
Registration fees	\$ 2,295,944	6,828			\$ (2,295,944)	(6,828)
	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
	\$	# of exhibitors	\$	# of exhibitors	\$	# of exhibitors
Exhibitor rentals	\$ 2,155,000	400			\$ (2,155,000)	(400)

Anticipated overages in budgeted expenses

Currently, the only known anticipated overage is in special transportation. Shuttle buses were not included in the final budget. Based on Board conversations, it was determined that registration fees would be increased to cover the cost per ALA’s commitment to accessibility services.

Additional commentary to aid in understanding the financial performance of the event

The 2024 Annual Conference & Exhibition will take place in San Diego, CA. Registration is scheduled to open February 20, 2024. A registration promo will be available exclusively for LLX 2024 onsite attendees that includes a special rate, early access to housing, and a register now-pay later incentive. Exhibit sales opened in June 2023. Currently, there are 227 exhibitors (226 at comparable time for 2023 Annual), representing \$1,755,105 in revenue.

AASL National Conference October 19-21, 2023

	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants
	\$		\$		\$	
Registration fees	\$ 650,000	2,500	\$ 580,208	2,334	\$ (69,792)	(166)
	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
		# of exhibitors		# of exhibitors		# of exhibitors
	\$		\$		\$	
Exhibitor rentals	\$ 425,000		\$ 503,615	117	\$ 78,615	117

Overages in budgeted expenses

Additional costs for a meeting planner to cover a staff vacancy and a higher rate for deaf services are expected.

Additional commentary to aid in understanding the financial performance of the event

The 2023 AASL National Conference, held October 19-21 in Tampa, generated a surplus of \$319,332 as of the October 2023 financial reports. Revenues of \$116,886 and expenses of \$237,364 for invoices posted after October should leave a surplus of \$198,854, a budget shortfall of approximately \$40,000.

School administrators (superintendent, principal, curriculum coordinator) were offered free registration when attending with their school librarian. A number of cancellations indicated that their administration would not allow the registered school librarian to attend because of concerns for safety as reflected in the media about book banning and other countrywide issues but prominent in Florida.

Attendee traffic in the Exhibit area was widely promoted, resulting in an 82% sign-up rate for the 2025 conference.

Core Forum October 19-21, 2023

	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants
	\$		\$		\$	
Registration fees	\$ 83,000	325	\$ 115,131	410	\$ 32,131	85
	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
		# of exhibitors		# of exhibitors		# of exhibitors
	\$		\$		\$	
Exhibitor rentals	\$ 4,500	6	\$ 3,000	5	\$ (1,500)	(1)

Overages in budgeted expenses

Since this was the 2nd offering of the event, we are still fine tuning the budget. We experienced an unfavorable variance of \$8,000 in expense overages.

Additional commentary to aid in understanding the financial performance of the event

The Core Forum 2023 event generated a surplus of \$25,100 as of the October 2023 financial reports. Revenues of \$6,250 and expenses of \$4,294 for late invoices are outstanding, and upon recording them, the surplus will be \$27,056.

Revenue from sponsorships exceeded budget by \$11,635 [\$27,500 budget vs \$39,135 actual].

The Best of Core Forum sessions will be presented as webinars in FY 2024 with estimated revenue of \$30,000 and 1,400 attendees. This will extend the reach of the content beyond the in-person event as is free to all Core Forum 2023 attendees. Registration rates for the webinars are: \$58 Core members, \$71 ALA member, and \$79 non-members.

The attendee testimonials collected on the Core Forum 2023 participant evaluations illustrated the high value Core Forum provides to members and the potential for further financial success and growth in coming years.

YALSA Symposium November 10-12 2023

	FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Actual		Variance	
		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants		# of attendees/ registrants
	\$		\$		\$	
Registration fees	\$ 75,000	\$ 455	\$ 73,096	\$ 348	\$ (1,904)	(107)

Additional commentary to aid in understanding the financial performance of the event

The YALSA 2022 Symposium exceeded the registration goal of 455. In planning for the 2023 Symposium the expected registration goal was carried over in anticipation of similar attendance. The 2023 Symposium registrations fell behind by 107 due to several challenges.

In prior years YALSA had a Program Officer staff position that was dedicated to Symposium planning. That position became vacant early in the planning process for 2023. Symposium Planning and Marketing Task Force member volunteers then played a greater role in the planning process but without enough staff support, they were unable to sufficiently plan for sessions in advance and subsequently advertise program sessions early enough to draw attention to the Symposium.

Other challenges that impacted the overall financial performance included registration opening later than planned, registration costs exceeding the amount that many attendees can afford, and unexpected conflicts with another event with cross-over audiences.

YALSA is evaluating the Symposium to better understand member needs and inform future Symposiums.

Deep Dive: Intellectual Freedom

The attacks on the profession and ALA itself have risen to unprecedented levels. ALA has responded and is taking increasing initiative, led by OIF and in concert with PPA, CRO, CMMO, and other key units, as well as with the FTRF and ALA's external partners. ALA engagement has ranged from partnerships at the local and state levels to federal lobbying and participation in federal court cases, and providing training, toolkits, and expert guidance to state and local advocates.

The Office for Intellectual Freedom

In the concluding weeks of 2023, OIF staff were deeply engaged in supporting library workers and supporters challenging censorship in their communities and working to document the challenges faced by libraries and library workers today. In addition to tracking demands to censor library books and resources, we are now compiling data about threats and harassment directed at libraries and library workers. This includes calls to close or defund libraries, threats of criminal prosecution for providing books and resources to minors, or library workers' loss of employment for defending users' access to books targeted for censorship.

OIF staff continue to work with state chapters and other organizations to identify cases of censorship and challenges to library access. While we cannot yet identify all trends in library censorship in 2023, we are seeing one important change in the incoming data. The organized groups demanding the censorship of school library books have moved on to target the very same book titles in public libraries. We anticipate that complete data for 2023 will be available in late February or early March of 2024.

There is good news among the reports of censorship. There is growing resistance to the organized censorship campaign being conducted by political advocacy groups. As documented in the November 2023 local election results, voters are beginning to reject the anti-library and discriminatory rhetoric offered by these groups and electing board members committed to preserving the freedom to read. Similarly, school boards and library boards are offering statements in support of intellectual freedom and choosing to retain books in library collections for users of all ages. We are also gratified by the growing number of state and federal legislators who want to craft legislative solutions that will stem the tide of unconstitutional and discriminatory censorship. This includes efforts by the Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education to address the hostile educational environments created by efforts to censor books in K-12 libraries that include themes addressing race, racism, or gender and sex.

The Office for Intellectual Freedom staff continues to work cooperatively with the office of Public Policy and Advocacy and Chapter Relations, members of the ALA Policy Corps, committees of Council, and the Communications, Marketing and Media Relations Office to counter the unprecedented censorship campaign being conducted

by political advocacy groups. In addition to these groups' regular work, Unite Against Book Bans grows as an anti-censorship initiative and coalition.

Unite Against Book Bans

Since September 1, Unite Against Book Bans staff have regularly communicated with individual advocates and coalition partners, engaged in advocacy campaigns, and conducted educational programs to advance its mission in defense of the freedom to read.

Included in these activities were directed calls to action that encouraged UABB supporters and local residents to communicate with decision makers to share their support of intellectual freedom in libraries. These calls to action were sent on behalf of community organizers, library alliance groups, partner organizations, and more, and targeted over 25 communities across the country.

UABB supported its partner organizations' advocacy campaigns during Banned Books Week and beyond. UABB presented two virtual Banned Books Week programs and a separate virtual program with First Book / Diverse Books for All that highlighted First Book's white paper documenting how the availability of diverse literature supports children's educational success. UABB also partnered with the Writers Guild on an Instagram-based banned books read out that featured prominent screen and stage actors and supported banned bookmobile campaigns sponsored by Penguin Random House and The Nation. PRH's Banned Wagon and The New Republic's banned bookmobile both distributed frequently banned and challenged books to interested readers and raised awareness of the harms of censorship.

UABB also presented programs on advocacy at ARSL, AASL, and South Carolina Library Association annual conference.

During 2023, the Unite team continued to grow its partners' engagement. Currently, Unite Against Book Bans has 213 partner organizations: 94 partners are national organizations, and 119 are state and local organizations, including state chapters of the American Library Association. Unite partners all received requests to amplify social media and other communications efforts and distribute action alerts to their constituents. Partners also received special messaging regarding National Library Week, the ALA Conference/Freedom to Read Statement anniversary, and Banned Books Week. Beginning in July, Unite partners were invited to submit blog posts that connect to their work fighting book bans. Recent posts include ["Fighting Library Censorship While Staying Above The Political Fray."](#) and a New York Public Library post about a contest that asks teens: ["Why Is The Freedom To Read Important To You?"](#). The winner's work will appear in *Teen Vogue* in its spring issue.

In October, ALA and Unite Against Book Bans joined forces with the New York Public Library, a UABB partner, on their Books for All campaign. Taking place from October

2023 through June 2024, Books for All provides free materials for participation in a Teen Book Club, including access to four e-books and a toolkit; the Teen Writing Contest; and virtual events with authors. As of December, 48 states and the District of Columbia have requested materials to participate in Books for All. The program provides opportunities for teens across the country to access frequently banned books, inspires conversation about the importance of the freedom to read, and connects participants to Unite Against Book Bans.

[New Challenge Support Resources](#)

[Book Resumes](#)

Coordinated through the Office for Intellectual Freedom, a coalition of more than 60 publishers has agreed to produce book resumes for titles currently targeted for censorship. These title-level defense resources will include information such as awards, accolades, book reviews, and author quotes, so that when a librarian or educator receives a challenge to a title (or a litany of titles), they will not have to compile this information on their own. The Unite Against Book Bans website will serve as the host and hub for accessing the book resources. The initiative is projected to go live in January 2024, with over 250 book resumes anticipated at launch.

We are grateful for the Unite Against Book Bans partners in the publishing world who helped create the coalition, as well as the working group of ALA member leaders who are assisting OIF and UABB staff with the project. We want to thank ALA's IT staff for their assistance too.

[Intellectual Freedom Help Networks](#)

To broaden the availability of individual support for librarians and communities addressing censorship of library resources, OIF is working with a group of member leaders to support the creation or expansion of statewide intellectual freedom challenge support networks administered by state chapters or state library agencies. As envisioned, these state "Intellectual Freedom Help Networks" will provide peer-to-peer confidential assistance with navigating local threats to intellectual freedom, with referral to OIF as appropriate. Supported by private grant funding, the Intellectual Freedom Help Network project envisions offering a series of training sessions for those working on state or regional helplines as well as the creation of a toolkit to support Intellectual Freedom Help Network volunteers.

[Intellectual Freedom Programming and Education](#)

Since September 1, ALA members and staff have presented 75 training sessions and speaking engagements related to intellectual freedom.

Half of the programs were in-person and half were virtual. These programs, talks, and professional development sessions reached library workers, community members, and

advocates in 21 states and addressed a wide variety of topics and strategies intended to assist both librarians and community members in defending intellectual freedom and access to libraries amid ever-increasing challenges and statewide initiatives. Many of the programs were offered during ALA state chapter conferences or provided through state-led training programs.

Among the highlights were OIF staff participation in the U.S. Military Libraries Virtual Training Summit, which reached an international group of U.S. military personnel. Other audiences included private businesses, Black sororities such as Sigma Gamma Rho and the North San Diego County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and the Educator Collaborative. In addition, OIF staff worked with ALA's Continuing Education unit to produce an updated ALA Essentials recording on the importance of intellectual freedom and privacy to the practices of librarianship and information access.

In addition, OIF is relaunching two professional development programs in 2024 — Lawyers for Libraries and Law for Librarians. This initiative provides continuing education to lawyers, library professionals, and library trustees that is focused on fostering detailed understanding of the laws, court cases and provisions of the U.S. Constitution that impact the provision of library services and the defense of library users' intellectual freedom and privacy. The relaunched initiative looks to utilize a Train the Trainer model intended to create local experts able to facilitate regional trainings on legal topics for library workers and library trustees.

[Banned Books Week](#)

Banned Books Week remains an essential part of ALA's advocacy and outreach in defense of intellectual freedom. The 2023 event received more major press (over 3,000 media mentions) and social media attention than in previous years, tied to the increased public awareness about censorship issues in schools and libraries. The current organized censorship campaign has also boosted interest and participation in the event, facilitating additional collaboration with partners such as the members of the Banned Books Week Coalition and Unite Against Book Bans partners, including major publishers.

The 2023 event received no small amount of interest because of the honorary chairs selected by the Coalition: actor and advocate LeVar Burton and Da'Taeveyon Daniels. Burton had several major press appearances, recorded a video in support of the first-ever Banned Books Week day of action, and participated in a well-received live virtual program which drew on his longstanding role as host of PBS' Reading Rainbow and his celebrity as an actor. Da'Taeveyon Daniels, a high school senior who leads two [Student Advocates for Speech](#) chapters in Texas, is at the forefront of student advocacy and is a passionate champion of student rights and intellectual freedom.

In addition to ALA-OIF and partner programming featuring authors, librarians, and advocates, the 2023 Banned Books Week featured a specific day of action: Let Freedom Read Day on October 7, which focused on encouraging readers and advocates to engage in discrete and easily achievable actions against censorship. Suggested actions included calling a decision maker; borrowing a banned book and thanking local librarians; attending a board meeting; and joining Unite Against Book Bans. ALA, UABB and the Banned Books Week Coalition are planning to make Let Freedom Read Day a regular feature of Banned Books Week.

Freedom to Read Litigation

In addition to voters' rejection of anti-censorship rhetoric, a growing number of courts are rejecting the claims and arguments of elected officials and advocacy groups defending the censorship of library resources. The Freedom to Read Foundation, a separate 501(c)(3) recognized as the First Amendment legal defense arm of the American Library Association, is supporting, or participating in lawsuits filed to end unconstitutional and discriminatory book bans and preserve library users' freedom to read. These include lawsuits currently filed in Texas, Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Alaska.

To date, three federal district courts have issued preliminary injunctions ordering books to be returned to library shelves or preventing the enforcement of legislation intended to censor or restrict access to constitutionally protected books. These include *Leila Green Little, et al. v. Llano County, Texas*; *Fayetteville Public Library et al. v. Crawford County et al.* in Arkansas; and *Book People v. Wong* in Texas. While the Texas cases are on appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the decision of Judge Brooks in the Arkansas lawsuit barring enforcement of Arkansas Act 372 was not appealed, and that lawsuit is proceeding to trial. FTRF is a plaintiff in the litigation.

Membership Withdrawals

False narratives being promulgated about ALA that misrepresent the association's work, mission and structure have led to some state libraries and local libraries dropping their memberships since early fall. Staff continue to connect with members to provide factual information and accurate responses to share with decision-makers and community members.

Support for State Association Leaders

In early December, ALA brought together more than 90 state association leaders (ALA and AASL Chapters) for a workshop that covered diverse topics such as navigating the legislative landscape, crafting effective messages for decision-makers, media training, and creating a community of care during this heightened time. Attendees emphasized the immense value of building a sense of community inside and outside their respective state ecosystems during the workshop. In addition, the Chapter Relations Office has

collaborated with other units to broaden access to advocacy tools across the library association ecosystem.

Like other non-partisan nonprofit associations such as the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Boards of Education, library associations can advocate for libraries, from funding to our freedom to read. Library associations can educate decision makers and the public about the value of libraries and the impact public policy decisions may have on literacy and learning, ensuring access to information for all, alignment with the First Amendment, etc.

A new State Legislative Chairs discussion group has been created to network and share best practices on state-level legislative efforts.