

Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA)
Report to Council
January 2023

Below is a brief summary of COLA's work since July 1, 2022.

- Following a well-attended program at ALA Annual, our committee continued to amplify the National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) campaign through the summer months leading up to NVRD on September 20.
- The committee's ongoing project of updating the ALA Advocacy Action Plan Workbook is in the final edit and design phase and will be available by LibLearnX as part of ALA's advocacy resources on the web.
- The committee continues to support the Unite Against Book Bans (UABB) campaign. Add your support and join the campaign at <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/take-action>.
- Committee chair Steven Yates and staff liaison Megan Cusick were invited to present at the Committee on Legislation retreat on November 16 on the work of our committee and how we believe state and local advocacy themes closely align with federal advocacy topics for the newly elected Congress.
 - The presentation included review of ALA's [state and local protocol](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/state-and-local-protocol) for assisting ALA chapters, affiliates, and local advocates with advocacy requests. An Executive Board-approved protocol since 2008, it guides the work of ALA Public Policy and Advocacy's state and local advocacy supports for librarians and library organizations. Also linked above, the protocol can be accessed at <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/state-and-local-protocol>.
- Committee Chair Steven Yates continues to meet regularly with the chairs of the Chapter Relations Committee and the Committee on Legislation.

COLA's extremely active Ecosystem subcommittee continues to support the library ecosystem in a variety of ways. A sustainability plan was operationalized to honor the original intent of the initiative and to comply with ALA appointment procedures. Sara Kelly Johns and Jen Alvino Wood accepted appointments as co-chairs of the subcommittee. We thank outgoing members Rachel Minkin, Beth Munk, and Kathy Lester for their time and commitment to the Ecosystem Initiative. The group welcomes new members Leslin Charles, Nanette Donohue, Rhonda Gould, and Bryan Duran and looks forward to continuing their work. We thank Dorcas Hand, Michelle Robertson, and Eryn Duffee for continuing their appointments.

- The Ecosystem subcommittee has an updated charge and set up a recurring meeting scheduled to better align and communicate with ALA staff and COLA.
- Members of the subcommittee pursued opportunities to share insights and resources about the Ecosystem Initiative with interested groups. Jen Alvino Wood spoke at the ALA Annual Chapter Leaders Forum, Michelle Robertson spoke at the Kentucky Library Association, an Ecosystem webinar was held focusing on Intellectual Freedom, and discussions continued with other groups to host programs. Members are working on an upcoming program for ALA's Emerging Leaders, Texas Library Association, a third annual webinar, and another expanded presentation at Annual.
- Four members and former members of the Ecosystem Subcommittee are under contract with ALA Publishing for a book on ecosystems, tentatively titled *One Voice*.

Be sure to join COLA and the Chapter Relations Committee during LibLearnX 2023:

- Saturday, January 28
 - Hammer, Vise, Lever: Better Tools, Stronger Advocacy, 3:00-4:15, Morial Convention Center Rooms 291-292

Contact COLA chair Steven Yates (steven.d.yates@ua.edu) or COLA staff liaison Megan Cusick (mcusick@ala.org) for more information on the work mentioned here.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the 2022-2023 Committee on Library Advocacy: Susan P. Baier, Glen J. Benedict, Nicanor Diaz, Eboni M. Henry, Katherine M. Lester, Megan Palmer, Kimberly A. Patton, Kevin Reynolds, Rocco Staino, Julie W. Walker, Lisa L. Wells, and Steven D. Yates.