

# ALA American Library Association

## 2020 Executive Board Candidate Bio



**Larry Neal**  
**Library Director**  
**Clinton-Macomb Public Library**  
**Clinton Township, MI**

**Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor**  
**University of Michigan School of Information**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**

**Type of Library:** Public

### **Statement of Professional Concerns:**

ALA is facing one of its most challenging, yet exciting times in its 144-year history. We will be onboarding a new executive director, relocating the association's headquarters, potentially restructuring the organization, re-envisioning the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference, and expecting noticeable operational and service improvements from the "investment budget" promises made to the membership and staff. Yet at the end of the day, all of this change must result in delivering sustainable, high quality, and responsive programs, services and opportunities our current and future members will expect, need and deserve: effective advocacy, information policy, and professional and leadership development while ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion. If selected, it would be a pleasure to share my extensive administrative experience and expertise while serving under Julius, Patty or Steven, and the 2022-23 president, as an engaged and respectful member of the ALA Executive Board.

### **Previous Positions:**

Assistant Director  
Clinton-Macomb Public Library

Head of Technical Systems (IT); Systems/Facilities Manager; Microsystems Coordinator;  
Circulation and Technical Services Clerk; Page  
Rochester Hills Public Library

### **Education:**

University of Michigan, Master of Science in Information—specialization in Library and Information Services (2001)  
Oakland University, Master of Business Administration (1991)  
Oakland University, Bachelor of Arts—Spanish/German/Honors College (1988)

### **Affiliation(s):**

Library Leadership and Management Association  
Public Library Association  
United for Libraries (under statewide membership)  
International Relations Round Table  
Rainbow Round Table

Michigan Library Association  
Freedom to Read Foundation

**ALA and/or ALA-APA activities:**

ALA Council (2017– )  
ALA Planning and Budget Assembly (2018–20)  
ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office – Policy Corps Fellow (2018– )  
ALA Policy Corps Workgroup (2017– )  
ALA Election Process Task Force (2016)  
ALA 2016 Nominating Committee (chair 2015–16)  
ALA Emerging Leaders Task Force (2008–11)  
ALA General Scholarships and Study Grants Committee (2006–08)  
ALA Recruitment Assembly (2003–2012)  
LITA Engaging Public Libraries in LITA Task Force (2004–05)  
PLA President (2014–15; elect 2013–14; past 2015–16)  
PLA Positioning Advisory Team (2015–16)  
PLA 2016 Conference Committee (2014–16)  
PLA 2014 National Conference Committee (chair 2012–14)  
PLA Technology Committee (2011–13)  
PLA Continuing Education Advisory Committee (2010–14, chair 2010–12)  
PLA Nominating Committee (2010, 2018, chair 2016)  
PLA 2010 National Conference Program Subcommittee (2008–10)  
PLA Board of Directors (2006–09)  
PLA Recruitment of Public Librarians Committee (chair 2003–05)  
PLA 2006 National Conference Program Subcommittee (2004–06)  
PLA Institutional Scholarship Task Force (2005)  
PLA Leadership Development Committee (2004–05)  
PLA 2004 National Conference Program Subcommittee (2002–04)  
PLA Publications, Monographs Subcommittee (chair 2001–03)

**Offices held in state/regional library associations and other associations:**

Michigan Library Association (MLA): President (2009–10; elect 2008–09; past 2010–11)  
MLA 2020 Legislative Day (co-chair 2019–20)  
MLA Legislative Committee (2011–14, chair 2012–13)  
MLA Nominating Committee (chair 2010, 2014)  
MLA Restructuring Work Group (2007)  
MLA Web Advisory Committee (2003–06, chair 2003–05)  
MLA Newsletter Task Force (2004)  
MLA Library Technology Division (2001–04, chair 2002–03)  
MLA Executive Board (2002–03)  
Aspen Institute - Dialogue on Public Libraries Advisory Committee (2015–17)  
Detroit Suburban Librarians Round Table (2007–08, co-chair; salary survey coordinator, 2010– )  
Library of Michigan - State Librarian's Advisory Committee on Cooperatives and State Aid Funding (2007)  
Michigan Library Exchange (Steering 2000–03, Design Team chair 2000–03)  
Oakland University Honors College Alumni Council (2002–05)  
Macomb Literacy Partners (2002–05; board, secretary 2010–12, president 2012–13)  
Rotary Club of Mount Clemens – President (2018–19; elect 2017–18; past 2019–20); member (2005– ); Board of Directors (2007–09)  
Rotary Club of Mount Clemens Foundation – President (2019–20); Board of Directors (2010–15)

### **Honors and/or Awards:**

Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families – Coalition Community Partner Award (2017)  
Librarian of the Year, Michigan Library Association (2013)  
*Birmingham Eccentric* First Citizen of the Year Award (2011)  
University of Michigan School of Information Alumni Early Achievement Award (2010)  
*Library Journal* Mover & Shaker (2007)  
Walter H. Kaiser Award, Michigan Library Association (2004)

### **Major Accomplishments:**

Starting 14th year as Library Director of an independent, public library district with taxing authority (three-facility library system serving 180K residents covering 62 square miles; \$9M annual budget; staff of 150 (60 FTE); 2M annual circulation; 150K active cardholders; 500K item collection). Completed strategic plan; revised all policies; issued/refunded bonds six times; purchased leased building; preserved sub-regional library for the blind on a contractual basis; held operations steady with \$1.1M (20%) loss of property tax revenue; developed long-term financial forecasts; started annual fundraiser; obtained \$1M in cumulative grants from Friends; oversaw the purchase, programming, design and construction of a 20K s.f. branch library (2014); helped secure a voted 40% supplemental tax levy increase (2014); represented one of 60 libraries selected nationally to pilot the White House ConnectED Library Challenge Initiative (2015–16); overseeing programming, design and construction of new 28K s.f. branch to open in 2021. Developed two MOOCs, “Budgeting and Finance for Public Libraries” and “Strategic Planning for Public Libraries” on edX for the UMSI (2017). Led three grassroots tax levy efforts in three years to restore library services for home community (2011). Led MLA protest rally on state capitol against cuts to statewide library funding (2009). Obtained funding for five PLA SPECTRUM scholarships (2005).

### **Publications:**

Director’s columns, *CMPL Library Matters*, (2006– )  
President’s columns, *Public Libraries* (2014–15)  
“Allowing access to all libraries a form of tax evasion,” *Macomb Daily*, June 7, 2007, p. 16A.  
“What are you thinking? Results of a survey on the profession”. Mary Wilkins Jordan, Monique LeConge, Carol Johnson, Charles Jones, Allen Martin Kleiman, Tamiye Trejo Meehan, Larry Neal, Pamela Sandlian Smith, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin and Barbara Macikas. *Public Libraries* (Jan–Feb 2006): p53(3).  
*Peer/2/Peer*, Library Technology Division newsletter, Michigan Library Association (2002–05)  
“Customer service, one technology at a time: Christine Lind Hage and Larry Neal explain how a burgeoning library with big plans adapts to rapid technological changes,” *Library Journal*, July 2003

**Number of Years as an ALA Member: 21**