

# RNTLOAK: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL/MIDWINTER CONFERENCE  
COVERS THE PERIOD BETWEEN MIDWINTER MEETING AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Or

PERIOD BETWEEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MIDWINTER MEETING

## ROSTER

### CHAIR

- John Sandstrom

### MEMBERS

- Sara Dallas (PLA)
- Cynthia Hohl (AILA)
- David Hurley
- Bailee Hutchinson (Affiliates)
- Julius Jefferson (Ex. Board Liaison)
- Catherine Kratochvil
- Max Lampson
- Kari Mitchell
- Liana Morales (ABOS)
- Joan Upell (AASL)

### ASSOCIATES

- Rachel Kercher
- Jennifer E. Steele

## CHARGE

To review issues and challenges facing rural, native and tribal libraries of all kinds; to collaborate with other ALA units addressing the needs of rural communities; and to serve as an advocate for and partner with libraries serving rural, tribal and native populations.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the past year we accomplished the following:

- We are finishing up revisions to *The Small But Powerful Guide to Winning Big Support for Your Rural Library*.
- Had monthly meetings to share information and network across the represented organizations.
- Discussed Aaron LaFromboise's ideas about "Cousin Libraries".

## EVENTS OR PROGRAMS

None

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Planned activities include:

- Exploring possibilities for “Cousin Library” program
- Collecting ideas for new toolkits to develop
- Review Programming Librarian website
- Environmental scan for additional groups that should be included in RNTLOAK
- Monthly meetings beginning in July

## INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER UNITS WITHIN ALA

### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – N/A

- ODLOS Advisory
  - Chair attends regular meetings
  - Part of Jean Coleman Lecture selection committee
  - Part of Diversity Assembly Task Force

## RELATIONSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE’S WORK TO THE ALA STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Advocacy  
As a committee representing Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries, our work is directly related to advocacy for these groups. The resources we develop and maintain provide direct support for this strategic direction.
- Information Policy  
By reaching out through our stakeholders, our committee seeks to improve information policies in some of the most vulnerable rural and tribal libraries in the United States. We work to provide information to our stakeholder groups that they can share with their members to empower people to use their libraries to “improve their lives and communities.”
- Professional Leadership & Development  
Through the Programming Librarian, on-going support of the development of new initiatives, and by sponsoring or co-sponsoring programming at both Midwinter and Annual meetings, our committee seeks to directly provide or provide access to a variety of high-quality professional and leadership development opportunities.
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion  
Through our work with the American Indian Library Association, various tribal libraries, as well as those who work with and for them, and our outreach through our other stakeholder groups, we seek to:
  - Expand the diversity and inclusivity of both ALA and the libraries and organizations we work with
  - Increase the understanding of the effects of historical exclusion

- Provide a safe, respectful place for diverse voices and perspective.

We also seek the provide resources to our other stakeholders that allow them to address their own EDI needs.

## COMMITTEES SELF-CHECK ON ITS VALUE AND VISIBILITY

Recognizing the importance of our Committee to rural and tribal libraries to large parts of the United States through our outreach, advocacy, and representation, we cannot doubt the value and relevance of RNTLOAK to both ALA and our stakeholders. We are concerned about the visibility of the committee, but we are attempting to address this through updating current resources while developing additional ones.

## ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It was a pleasure working with Gwendolyn Prellwitz for a few months this year. But it is really nice to have Amber Hayes. I appreciate being able to lead this group for another year.