

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

- Joy Bridwell (AILA)
- Indy Fesemyer (PLA)
- Alyson Hayes
- Bailee Hutchinson (ARSL)
- Amanda Kordeliski (AASL)
- Liana Morales (ABOS)
- Alexandra Rivera (Ex. Board)
- Annice Sevett
- Leslie Warren

ASSOCIATES

- Rachel Kercher

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:

- Finished revision of *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.
- Started to explore more partnership opportunities within ALA and the Affiliates
- Took part in planning and facilitating the ODLOS DEI Assembly

EVENTS OR PROGRAMS

None

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Planned activities include:

- Collecting ideas for new toolkits to develop
- Review Programming Librarian website
- Environmental scan for additional groups that should be included in RNTLOAK
- Discussion group for supporting rural libraries at Midwinter 2021

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

Thorough 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 in large parts of the United States though 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

We appreciate having Amber Hayes back as out staff liaison. We have developed an ambitious set of projects that we will probably need a year or more to complete. As Chair, I hope to have them all started by the time I step down in June 2021.