

Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee (RNTLOAK): REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2020
COVERS THE PERIOD BETWEEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MIDWINTER MEETING

ROSTER

CHAIR

- John Sandstrom

MEMBERS

- Sara Dallas (PLA Liaison)
- Cynthia Hohl (ALA Representative)
- David Hurley
- Bailee Hutchinson (ARSL Representative)
- Mr. Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. (Executive Board Liaison)
- Mrs. Catherine Charlotte Kratochvil
- Ms. Kari Mitchell Mitchell
- Liana Isabel Morales (ABOS Representative)
- Vacant (AASL)

ASSOCIATES

- Rachel Kercher
- Dr. 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

- Regular monthly online meetings
- Committee meeting at ALA Annual

EVENTS OR PROGRAMS

- Resources for Rural and Tribal Libraries - Advocacy and Literacy News you can Use program at Annual

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Committee at ALA Midwinter
- Continued monthly online meetings
- Revision of “The Small but Powerful Guide to Winning Big Support for Your Rural Library”
- Review of other resources
- Poster for the Diversity Fair

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER UNITS WITHIN ALA

- Sharing information with:
 - ODLOS Advisory
 - PLA
 - AASL
 - ARSL
 - ABOS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – HERE

None

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

Advocacy

As a committee representing Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries, much of our work is directly related to advocacy for these groups. The resources we have developed and maintained, *The Small But Powerful Guide to Winning Big Support for Your Rural Library* and *Building Support for Your Tribal Library*, 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 and Development

Through the *Programming Librarian* and 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, and 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.

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

We really want to sign the praises of our staff liaison, Amber Hayes. Her dedication and support has been critical to our accomplishments. We are also looking forward to working with Gwendolyn Prellwitz as our staff liaison while Amber is taking some time off.