

2021-2022 ALA Tribute #1
2022 ALA Virtual January Council Meeting

Tribute Resolution Honoring Aimee Strittmatter

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter has worked tirelessly to promote the value of libraries in her role as executive director of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA);

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter first came to work for ALSC as deputy executive director in April 2005, and was named executive director in 2009;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter is a proud graduate of Michigan State University and of the Master of Science, in Information program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and previously worked as a children's services supervisor for the Public Library of Westland, Michigan, and as a children's librarian for the Chicago Public Library;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter earned the credential of Certified Association Executive (CAE) from the American Society of Association Executives and an Executive Women in Leadership Certificate from Cornell University;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter has steered ALSC through many brave and controversial decisions, national challenges, and a world-wide pandemic;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter has often worked irrational hours to deliver for the organization, yet has strongly advocated for a positive work-life balance for her staff and leadership;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter has developed a talented, passionate, and diverse staff for the division over the years, remapping the organizational structure to deliver on the organization's goals and to ensure continuity of programs and services;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter designed and executed the first Bill Morris Book Evaluation Seminar in 2008, which today is one of the division's most highly rated programs;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter secured critical funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the Disney Citizenship Team;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter during her time at ALSC has built and maintained valuable relationships with numerous national organizations, including the Association of Children's Museums (ACM), New America, the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE), the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), and the United States Board on Books for Youth (USBBY);

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter has shown undying support for ALSC and its member leaders through guidance, mentorship, and leadership while effectively leading us through the navigation of a changing profession;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter has managed the division and its operations by guiding all of ALSC's many programs and initiatives, strategic direction, and management oversight and has ensured that ALSC's resources and capacity increased the ALSC operational fund balance fourfold;

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Whereas under the direction of Aimee Strittmatter, ALSC has implemented programs and partnerships to advance the work of library service to children by working closely with member leaders and staff to model and incorporate best practices and align activities with the association's mission and core values;

Whereas Aimee Strittmatter, as a strong advocate for increased equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts within the profession as well as in children's literature, and library programs and services, has helped encourage ALSC leadership to increase its funding for an ALSC Spectrum Scholar from one to three annual scholarships;

Whereas ALSC Board and Membership appreciates the leadership, service, support, and tireless efforts of Aimee Strittmatter prior to and during her tenure as ALSC Executive Director; and

Whereas, Aimee Strittmatter, after devoting her time and efforts to the betterment of ALSC, is departing ALA to embark upon a new professional path effective August 31, 2021; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. honors and expresses gratitude to Aimee Strittmatter for her tireless commitment to managing the Association for Library Service to Children and for her unfailingly welcoming nature in doing so, and
2. expresses sincere appreciation to Aimee Strittmatter for her outstanding service and many contributions to the success of ALSC and ALA and for the positive impact her work has had on the lives of countless librarians and children.

Mover: Kimberly Patton

Seconder: Diane Chen

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