

Tribute to the Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies and Jeannette Smithee

Whereas the Association for Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) became a division of the American Library Association in 1977 by the merger of the American Association of State Library Agencies (founded in 1957) and the Health and Rehabilitative Library Services Division (founded in 1956 as the Association of Hospital and Institution Libraries);

Whereas ASGCLA served as a destination for more than 800 members to find information and build capacity to serve populations that are represented by state library agencies, federal libraries, armed forces libraries, specialized libraries, library cooperatives, library networks, and library consultants;

Whereas ASGCLA provided a voice for librarians to represent underserved populations including but not limited to those with visual and hearing loss, incarcerated youth and adults, and those with Alzheimers and other forms of dementia;

Whereas ASGCLA produced resources such as their *Library Accessibility Toolkits*, and the recently revised *Standards of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Print Disabled*;

Whereas ASGCLA cultivated leaders and librarians who made a difference through interest groups, committee service, and development of critical documents such as the *Prisoners' Right to Read* statement;

Whereas ASGCLA has been gracefully guided the past few years by the inimitable Interim Executive Director Jeannette Smithee;

Whereas Jeannette Smithee took that position while serving as the Past President of the Division, having been elected after many years of faithful service to the Division;

Whereas the ASGCLA Board of Directors faced the difficult decision to dissolve upon learning that the interim executive director's contract would not be renewed and that the division would not receive the small division stipend from ALA;

Whereas we formally recognize the many and varied accomplishments of ASGCLA and its membership over the years; and

Whereas ASGCLA members will find new opportunities with the American Library Association's other divisions and units to help them meet their professional objectives; now, therefore, be it

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

**2019-2020 ALA Tribute #11
2020 ALA Virtual Council Meeting**

1. assures its members that although ASCGLA will cease to exist, the mission to serve special populations will continue and flourish; and
2. Commends Jeannette Smithee, Executive Director of ASGCLA, for all of her hard work and dedication.

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