

**American Library Association
2021 Spring Executive Board Meeting
Report of President-Elect, Patty Wong**

Since the last report, two new governance opportunities were created – The Conference Services Subcommittee on LibLearnX and the Council Committee on Sustainability. Calls were made for volunteers for both groups.

The goals of the Conference Services Subcommittee on LibLearnX and subsequent appointments were made with President Julius Jefferson Jr. in consultation with Conference Services Chair Robin Kear and Conference Services lead Earla Jones and Executive Director Tracie Hall and Executive Board Liaison, Larry Neal. There were several recommendations made by key leadership groups throughout the Association along with more than 100 volunteers. The Executive Board will review suggested appointments during the 2021 Spring Board meeting.

The goals of the Council Committee on Sustainability were reviewed and subsequent appointments were made with President Julius Jefferson Jr. The call included significant input from the Sustainability Round Table with an eye toward subject matter expertise, experience and representation throughout the Association. The Executive Board will review suggested appointments as they become more complete.

I want to thank all of our members for their volunteerism and engagement in so many of the committees. We are completing committee appointments now. ALA is a great organization, focused on our values of intellectual freedom, equity and diversity, literacy, ethics and access because of all of you.

Committee on Literacy:

A new focus of my presidency is to highlight the Literacy as a core value of ALA and the intersection of literacy and equity as a cornerstone of our work throughout the Association. The Committee on Literacy will craft a strategic focus on literacy. Many thanks to Kristin Lahurd from ODLIS and Committee on Literacy Chair Tiffeni Fontno and her Committee members and Executive Board Liaison, Tamika Barnes.

Forward Together Resolutions Working Group (FTRWG):

President Julius Jefferson Jr. and I met with the FTRWG and co-chairs Jack Martin and Christina Rodriguez. The team is meeting and delivered their first update to Council on March 31. They will host a series of discussions to move the work through formal Council deliberations.

Many thanks to all of the ALA staff for their ongoing support and the work of the Finance team and especially Denise Moritz, Governance team members Sheryl Reyes, Cheryl Malden and Holly Robison, and of course, Executive Director Tracie Hall. A special thanks to President Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. for his leadership and guidance as we transition to our new roles.

Presidential Plans:

These past few months have been focused on engagement and communication with division and roundtable leadership, curriculum for a sustainability course, possible Connect Live themes and American Libraries features.

Digital Equity: The Libraries Connect team is planning a webinar with key federal, national and international conversations about how to connect all libraries and communities to universal broadband and the conception of broadband as a human right.

Libraries Unite Tour: Library workers throughout this country are some of our unsung heroes. The virtual tour would visit with small, rural, tribal, school and prison libraries. Everyone is encouraged to share suggestions to patty.wong@smgov.net

ALA-APA 20th Anniversary: In celebration of ALA-APA's 20th Anniversary we will work to showcase individuals that have benefitted from the work of ALA-APA as library workers

Media:

March 5: With Joslyn Bowling Dixon, Brian Kenney, Annie Normal and hosted by Andrew Richard Albanese from Publishers Weekly: "Covid-19 One year Later: What Does That Mean for Libraries" Webinar

April 7, 2021 "Time to Invest in Our Libraries" with California State Librarian, Greg Lucas in CalMatters. <https://calmatters.org/commentary/my-turn/2021/04/time-to-invest-in-our-libraries/>

Planning with **American Libraries** – a focus on universal broadband and digital equity

Speaking Engagements and Invitations:

March 18, 2021: Alaska Library Association Annual Conference: "The Library Has Left the Building" with moderator Ann Symons

April 8, 2021: California State Library – Public Library Directors Forum: "California Libraries: Cultivating Race, Equity and Inclusion" with Chantel Walker

April 14, 2021 – REFORMA - Together From Home: Brave Librarians – "Universal Broadband as a Human Right" – an international panel representing Japan, Australia, Romania, Peru, Puerto Rico and the US.

April 22, 2021: PLDF "Equity and Disaster Preparedness" with Chantel Walker, Susan Clark and William Cooley

June 3, 2021 Rhode Island Library Association Annual Conference: Well+Connected – Libraries and Healthy Communities

July 23, 2021 Cross Timbers Library Collaborative Conference: Flexibility, Adaptability and Change: “Change Management: Don’t Let Change Manage You”