

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

Committee on Committees: Thanks to this team for strong recommendations to the Planning and Budget Assembly and the Committee on Committees. The election will take place this Annual Conference during ALA Council.

Committee Appointments: Committees provide critical support with ALA staff to further the work in key areas ranging from literacy to intellectual freedom, membership to awards to conference support. Although generally committee appointments are handled at a certain time of year by the President-Elect, volunteer forms can be accepted year-round and we encourage your participation. New committees can be created with governance approval and others can sunset. If you are interested in volunteering for an ALA Committee please connect with Holly Robison at [hrobison@ala.org](mailto:hrobison@ala.org)

**Conference Committee and Conference Services:**

There are many changes associated with ALA Conference and Events. The Exhibitors Round Table is changing form and evolving in its work to represent member vendors but in a different way. A LibLearnX Advisory Group, under Conference Committee, has been developed with Council and Executive Board approval and members appointed. The LibLearnX Advisory Group has begun meeting to plan organizational details for this event in January 2022 in San Antonio. As a community committed to equity, I am working with Board members Alex Rivera and Karen Schneider, to prepare an educational opportunity for LibLearnX. It will focus ALA Core Values in spotlighting our location in Texas and the commitment to equity for all. This is a team effort: we will work with the Rainbow Roundtable, Conference Services, the Conference Committee, LibLearnX Advisory Group and others for an integrated and notable effort.

**Forward Together Resolutions Working Group**

President Julius Jefferson, Jr. and I worked with the Forward Together Resolutions Working Group to guide the creation of Council resolutions to further the work of SCOE and Forward Together. Many thanks to Jack Martin and Christina Rodriques for their commendable leadership working with this diverse and representative team to facilitate listening sessions, feedback engagement to develop a set of resolutions to enable Council consideration on governance structure. This was a complex and intricate task with such a large set of dedicated and volunteer leaders and a diversity of passionate voices. The FTRWG work will provide the content and context for formal Council deliberations at ALA Annual Conference, at Council I and Council II.

**Presidential Plans: Libraries Connect**

My Presidential focus will be **Libraries Connect** and the vital role that libraries and library workers play in connecting with information, people and resources as part of our commitment to equity and services for all. Libraries Connect will focus on digital equity and broadband,

small, rural, and tribal libraries, the importance of School Libraries, literacy as a core value and our pursuit of resiliency and sustainability in library work and within the American Library Association. Under the leadership of co-chairs Dr. Nicole C. Cooke and Miriam Tuliao, the Presidential Advisory Team has plans for a special issue of American Libraries focused on Digital Equity and Universal Broadband, virtual and physical tours to recognize rural, small, tribal and school libraries, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ALA-APA, a focus on literacy and sustainability as part of our core values.

Libraries Connect work will be featured in American Libraries, Connect Live and other forums, supporting growth within Membership, promoting fiscal leadership and sustainability, and advancing ALA's Pivot Plan. I hope to meet with as many of you as I can in the next year. I invite you to my Inauguration on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Central: Register today by clicking [here!](#)

With my inauguration, I will serve as the first Asian American President of the American Library Association in our 145-year history. That's a long time. I was the first Asian American Executive Board member as well. This is both an auspicious moment but one where I feel a deep need to call upon our library community to act and to make decisions based on systems change through an equity lens. I applaud our leadership at all levels who are asking questions, changing language, reviewing practices and policies, challenging the way we do things, with an eye towards equity, inclusion and belonging. Thank you for your work. For member leaders, think about diversity in succession planning. For our great staff, consider programs and services that advance our mission and core values of literacy and equity and how we can make that sustainable while growing our members and membership. Bring a colleague with you in the work. Develop allies outside our normal networks. And a special thanks to all of you who have been part of my journey, and a special appreciation and recognition for my Presidential Advisory Committee and our co-chairs Dr. Nicole Cooke and Miriam Tuliao.

#### Speaking Engagements and Invitations (since May 2021):

May 13, interview with Andrew Albanese, US Book Show with President Julius Jefferson, Jr. and Tracie Hall

May 14, facilitator, "Looking Back at the Fight for Civil Rights in Libraries," California Library Association Hall of Fame with ALA Library History Round Table featuring Elizabeth Martinez and Binnie Tate Wilkin.

May 19 webinar, 7 a.m. Pacific "A Celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Culture & Stories," with Too Small to Fail/Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Presidential Center. Featuring Linda Sue Park, Jane Park (Too Small to Fail), Philip Lee (Readers to Eaters), Dr. Tiffany Yip (Fordham University, School of Psychology)

May 20 ALA Connect Live with President Julius Jefferson, Jr. "Bright Moments."

June 1 conversation with UCLA Young Adult Symposium LIS students

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

June 8 CREI: California Libraries Cultivating Race Equity and Inclusion training for 25 public  
libraries in CA

June 11 Closing, Tribal College Libraries Institute

June 24 NMRT orientation panel

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

July 29 Connect Live

August 5 keynote Library Leadership Ohio

August 10-12 CREI: California Libraries Cultivating Race Equity and Inclusion training for 25  
public libraries in CA

August 23-25 -1<sup>st</sup> Virtual ASEAN Conference

October 15 keynote Arkansas Library Association Conference

October 20-21 New Mexico Library Association Conference

October 21 AASL Conference