American Library Association
Emily Drabinski, President-Elect Report
October 2022

It was the honor of a lifetime to be elected President-Elect for the American Library Association. The support I have received from friends and colleagues, from ALA members and staff, has been remarkable. My campaign platform centered the needs of library workers and that will be my guiding focus for my president-elect and presidential year. I have assembled a large and diverse advisory committee that will meet regularly to frame the directions for initiatives in my presidential year. I have prioritized conversations with ALA members via an aggressive conference attendance schedule as well as a significant number of virtual meetings with members. I hope to make good on the faith ALA members have put in me and my capacities to grow association membership and expand our reach. Thank you especially to Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada and Patty Wong and to Tracie D. Hall and her staff for their mentorship, friendship, and support.

ALA speaking engagements:

“Out of Crisis, Change: How ALA and You Can Change the World.” Keynote talk, South Carolina Library Association, 10/6 [Columbia, South Carolina]

“Banned and Challenged Books.” Panelist, College of Staten Island, 10/6 [online]

“Out of Crisis, Change: How ALA and You Can Change the World.” Illinois School of Information Sciences Minitalk, 9/24 [online]


“Organizing for Change.” The IDS Project, 7/25/22 [online]

Onboarding

- ALA Media Training, 5/3-5/4
- ALA Executive Board Orientation, 5/19, 5/20, 5/24, 5/25
- Board Effectiveness Training, 8/4
- ALA Washington Office training, 9/12-13
- OneClick Politics training, 9/26
- CoC/CoA meeting, 10/3

Executive Board Support

- COA/EDI meetings, 9/1 and 9/22
• Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice subcommittee, 9/7 and 9/30
• ALISE/ALA COA meetings, 9/2, 9/22
• ALA student chapter meeting, 9/20
• Children’s Book Council meeting, 9/28

Conference attendance

• Association of Rural and Small Libraries, 9/14-17
  o Registration volunteer shift, 9/15
  o Lunch, Tennessee chapter president Dwight Hunter, 9/15
  o Meeting, ARSL leadership Kathy Zappitello, Jennifer Pearson, Jennie Garner, 9/15
• South Carolina Library Association, 10/5-8
  o Meeting, Dr. Nicole Cooke, 10/5
  o Meeting, Dr. Mónica Colón-Aguirre, ALISE Board of Directors, 10/7
• CORE Forum, 10/12-10/15
  o Meeting, Utah State Librarian Chaundra Johnson, 10/13
  o Meeting, CORE presidents Wendy Tressler, Margaret Heller, and Rachel Fleming and Utah chapter councilor Trish Hull, 10/13
  o Meeting, Gretchen Zaitzeff, President, Utah Educational Library Media Association, 10/14
  o Executive Board greetings to Forum attendees, 10/14

Interviews

• Classification & Cataloging Quarterly, Katherine Leigh, profile for October issue
• All of It, WNYC radio, Alison Stewart, 9/23
• Listener’s Advisory, library worker podcast, Trevor Jones, 6/8

Advisory Committee

2023-24 ALA Presidential Focus

My Presidential Focus will highlight membership growth through engagement with issues important to front line library workers including climate change, worker rights, and the particular challenges facing school and youth librarians. The team will meet monthly in advance of the January deadline to submit a presidential initiative budget to the Executive Board.

Running meeting agenda: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c7bgg9KM3au4w64QuJ66R7DYm1G0xjV3g-MQ5CqYQSM/edit?usp=sharing

Meetings (online): 9/14, 10/14

Subcommittees:
• Labor and Workers Rights
• School and Youth Librarian Support
• Climate Action
• Building Member Capacity and Engagement

Advisory Committee members:

Mahasin Aleem
K.C. Boyd
Elissa Cadillic
Jessican Dai
Nicanor Diaz
Karen Downing
Elisa Gall
Ed Garcia
Aliqae Geraci
George Gottschalk
Angela Jones
Harvey Long
Chulin Meng
Morgan Ray
Leah Richardson
Mimosa Shah
Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Charity Tyler
Phoebe Waldron
Max Wiggins
Jamia Williams
Courtney Young

Cheryl Malden & Sheryl Reyes, Staff Liaison