

Chapter Relations Committee Annual Conference 2016 Report

Committee Charge:

To develop and recognize chapters as integral components of ALA. To encourage discussion, activities and programs that support the mutual interests of ALA and the chapters. To advise when requested on proposals and actions of other ALA units that may affect chapters. To provide a forum wherein chapters can share ideas and concerns of common interest and identify common needs and goals. To communicate these chapter needs and goals to ALA and ALA goals, programs and priorities to the chapters. To encourage and maintain a cooperative and supportive relationship among ALA, its units, and the chapters. To formulate and review periodically requirements for chapter status. To serve as an advisory committee to the Chapter Relations Office.

Committee Members:

Ben Allen Hunter (Chair), Kristine L. Ferry, Carol Hanan, Carey D. Hartmann, Patti McCall, Louis Munoz, Jr, Kelly M. Robinson, Suzanne L. Sager, Susan J. Schmidt, Lisa R. Varga, Cathy Wolford, Melissa M. Brooks (Intern), Jillian K. Hayes (Intern), James Neal (Executive Board Liaison), Michael Dowling (Staff Liaison), Don Wood (Staff Liaison)

Division Representatives to CRC: Eleta Exline (ACRL Representative), Dana Lucile Jemison (ALCTS Representative), Carolyn Larson (RUSA Representative), Yoo Young Lee (LITA Representative).

CRC Member Liaisons to Other Groups: ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion—Majed Khader; Freedom to Read Foundation— Susan Schmidt; Literacy Assembly—Patti McCall; Education Assembly— Suzanne Sager; Legislation Assembly— Carey Hartmann; Recruitment Assembly— Lisa Varga; Planning and Budget Assembly— Carol Hanan; Advocacy Group— Ben Hunter, CRC Chair

Chapter Relations Committee at Annual Conference

Documents and reports related to this report are located in the Chapter Relations Committee ALA Connect community at <http://connect.ala.org/node/254288>.

Discussions and Action Item (Action Item is distinguished by **Action Item**!)

- The CRC held two meetings (Saturday, June 25, and Monday, June 27) in Orlando. Attendees (apprx. 50 each mtg.) included Chapter Presidents, Executive Directors, and Chapter Councilors.
- The CRC organized, with the Chapter Relations Office (CRO), another successful full-day Chapter Leaders Forum. The Forums, which have been held at each Midwinter and Annual for over twenty years help prepare incoming Chapter Leaders (President-elects, treasurers, Chapter Councilors, Ex. Directors, etc.) for their roles guiding their associations. Thirty-eight participants from 24 state Chapters, 1 regional Chapter, and 1 division (United for Libraries) attended. Topics covered included "Bathrooms, Bibles, and Bias, Oh MY!: State Associations and Cultural Legislation," Susan Jennings, President, Tennessee Library Association; "Best Practices: Advocating with Your Friends and Trustees in Maryland," Mary Hastler, CEO, Harford County Public Library and Immediate Past President, Maryland Library Association, Mary Baykan, Director, Washington County Free Library and Legislative/Executive Board, Maryland Library Association, Martha Grahame, President, Board of Trustees, Calvert County Library System and Past President, Citizens for Maryland Libraries, and Susan Schmidt, Citizens for Maryland Libraries and United for Libraries; "New Jersey Makers Day: How to Create in Your State," Jayne Beline, NJLA Chapter Councilor, Eileen Palmer, NJLA Treasurer. The afternoon session was an open discussion on topics and issues solicited from the attendees prior to conference.
- **Action Item**: On March 18, 2016, the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) requested the ALA Committee on Organization (COO) to review and accept the CRC's proposal to revise the composition of the CRC. The Chapter Relations Committee proposed its composition should be comprised of at least eight (8) out of eleven (11) members with state library association (Chapter) experience.

The Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) proposes the composition of the committee be revised as follows:

Eleven (11) Members, which includes the Chair. To be eligible to be a member of the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC), an individual must be an ALA member who is also a member of an ALA Chapter or Divisional Affiliate. In addition, eight (8) of the eleven (11) members should have state library association (Chapter) leadership or committee experience.

The following guidelines are used when the ALA President-Elect, with advice from the ALA Committee on Appointments, nominates members and interns to serve on the CRC:

- Volunteers with Chapter leadership experience (i.e., presidents, presidents-elect, Chapter councilors, executive directors, and committee chairs) will be considered over those with no leadership experience.
- Volunteers with current Chapter leadership experience (i.e., current executive directors, newly elected leaders or leaders having served within five years prior to appointment, and committee chairs) will be considered over those with former Chapter leadership experience.
- Volunteers with Chapter experience (i.e., former Chapter leaders having served greater than five years prior to appointment, current or former Chapter committee members, or current Chapter members) will be considered over those with no Chapter experience.
- Interns with Chapter or Student Chapter experience should be considered over those with no Chapter or Student Chapter experience.

To help ensure the CRC is comprised of members with state library association (Chapter) experience, members filling out the ALA committee volunteer form will be instructed to describe their Chapter and ALA Student Chapter experience in a section of the volunteer form called "State/Regional Appointments/Offices."

COO and Council both approved the revision.

- In the Spring, 2016, Jayne Beline, New Jersey Chapter Councilor, and Cindy Czesak, Director, Paterson Free Public Library, presented a draft ALA Council resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association (now CD40, rev., rev.) to the CRC for discussion. She explained it was in response to Chapter Councilor discussions at Midwinter about how ALA initiatives are rolled out without Chapter input. The Chapters should have a role in developing national initiatives. The resolution also calls for more timely and thoughtful communication between ALA and the Chapters. One of the goals of this resolution is to support efforts to expand the roll of Chapter Relations Committee, and those who wrote the Resolution said they appreciated the COO proposal (discussed above). The writers also feel it is important to consult with Chapter leadership prior to any and all dealings with an elected official from that state. They explained the resolution was an important conversation starter.

Beline and Czesak met with President-elect Julie B. Todaro and ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels to discuss the resolution prior to the resolution being discussed by ALA Council.

After it was brought to Council, this resolution was referred to President-elect Julie Todaro's task force on June 27, 2016. The task force will be co-chaired by Cindy Czesak and Gina Persichini. The task force will work on the resolve clauses to come up with specific recommendations for both communication and engagement.

- In light of the conversation on CRC composition, Chapters' role in ALA, and ALA and Chapters communication, Ben Hunter, CRC chair, reviewed the CRC charge with the committee during their official meetings. Including the charge itself, Hunter brought up several points, some or all of which will be topics of discussion with the forthcoming presidential task force:
 - The CRC is very open to allowing the Chapter Councilors present and allows the audience to participate. This is a critical aspect of the CRC and should be maintained in some way. Sometimes, new Chapter Councilors are not always aware until they are told by someone else to go to CRC to present ideas and get involved.
 - The Chapter Councilors Forum occurs now between CRC I and CRC II. Many Chapter Councilors will be at the Forum (Chapter Councilors Forum, 12:30–2:00 p.m.) Forum highlights will be discussed at CRC II.
 - How we can increase the flow of information between the CRC and Councilors, between the Chapters and ALA? For example, how much of the Committee's responsibility includes communicating to Chapters to assist them with communicating with ALA members in their state? There is often turnover with membership and leaders in states and

there can be confusion about how to share information. One result of the Information Sharing Within Chapters survey (December 2015) on who in each Chapter is responsible for sharing information—and how—was some Chapters were unsure who was in charge of sharing information and the method on which it was being shared. All news is now shared on the main Chapter e-list (alacro-l), including links of press releases sent directly by the ALA Public Awareness Office.

- When campaigns like Libraries Transform are rolled out, there must be better means developed to share that information among the Chapters and libraries, in general. Perhaps working with Chapter constants, such as the Executive Directors, would be a good place to start.
 - How can the CRC involve those who want to participate between the two CRC conference meetings? There are many important things that are going on at the same time as CRC and not everyone who wants to participate in CRC meetings can.
- Keith Michael Fiels address the committee. Regarding his meeting about the resolution discussed above, Fiels noted that the understanding reached is that although Chapters are engaged currently in ALA, Chapters will be even more engaged going forward. Fiels also noted the upcoming task force will be able to address topics such as engagement, communication, and involvement (e.g., how the Chapters can be involved in future advocacy plans and strategic directions).
 - Ben Hunter, CRC Chair, discussed the 2015 Advocacy Implementation Plan and the Resolution Supporting the 2015 Advocacy Implementation Plan. Although the Libraries Transform campaign has been accepted by many of the state Chapters, it would be good for CRC to work with Chapters to help them have some type of buy-in with future campaigns and to help them with best practices in supporting the campaigns. He and others offered topics related to this and others to consider:
 - When ALA is calling on Chapters to support an initiative, CRC can help by facilitating support through conference calls or webinars.
 - Wyoming has to cancel their state library conference because they are having financial difficulties. Many other chapters are also hurting. Are there ways that ALA can help the Chapter financially?
 - Chapters don't all have big structures, so it would be helpful if there were plug-and-play template and other tools and resources for states to use so that they can offset some of the cost and time associated with carrying out conferences and supporting initiatives.
 - It's difficult to be a member of both a Chapter and ALA. Can ALA offer free or low-cost instructive webinars to help Chapter members feel a part of ALA?
 - Would it be feasible for a CRC member to host a kitchen conversation with a short agenda between meetings? People can brainstorm and have an organic conversation. These could occur at conference and between conferences.
 - If there surveys that would gather more information than found in archived messages on the alacro-l e-list or at <http://www.ala.org/groups/affiliates/chapters/chapterdocuments/chapterissuesresources>, CRO would be able to construct a survey to send to the Chapters. In fact, it would be more beneficial over time to gather information via a survey. Send survey suggestions to CRO (either Michael Dowling or Don Wood)
 - Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director, ALA Washington Office, discussed highlights of her office's six-month report and other endeavors, including the Washington Office's working with the White House and publishers to offer over 6,000 free e-books to low-income children; library funding (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation/libraryfunding>), library advocacy, and the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*, which allows libraries to be reimbursed for training, hiring new staff for training patrons, etc.
 - Doug Evans, Executive Director, Ohio Library Council, presided over the International Council of Library Association Executives (ICLAE) meeting and presented the highlights of the Chapter Executive Directors' discussions:
 - Spent majority of time talking about the Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association (CD40, rev., rev.). Communication always needs to be worked on and the ICLAE is in support of the overall New Jersey resolution.
 - Also discussed the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) request to the ALA Committee on Organization (COO) to review and accept the CRC's proposal to revise the composition of the CRC. The committee volunteer form now

gathers information on Chapter experience in order to be able to consider that experience in the committee appointment process.

- Can the agenda of the Chapter Leaders Forum be promoted in a timelier manner? Can ICLAE and CRC co-host a speaker at the next Chapter Leaders Forum and a general conference program at the ALA Annual Conference?
- Jeff Julian, Director, ALA Public Awareness Office, presented highlights of the Libraries Transform campaign and took questions from the CRC and attendees. In the nine months since the campaign began, over 3,000 libraries and have signed on for the campaign.
- Liaison and Representative Reports. CRC liaisons made brief reports from the following groups: ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion—Majed Khader; Freedom to Read Foundation—Susan Schmidt; Literacy Assembly—Patti McCall; Education Assembly—Suzanne Sager; Legislation Assembly—Carey Hartmann; Recruitment Assembly—Lisa Varga; Planning and Budget Assembly—Carol Hanan; Advocacy Coordinating Group—Ben Hunter, CRC Chair; and Division Representatives—Yoo Young Lee (LITA), Dana Lucile Jemison (ALCTS), Eleta Exline (ACRL), Carolyn Larson (RUSA).
- Lisa Varga, Executive Director, Virginia Library Association, discussed her CRC-sponsored program presented at this conference, “Do you want to plan a conference?”

2017 Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta, GA

The CRC will monitor the progress of its accepted proposal to ensure optimum Chapter experience on the CRC. The committee looks forward to participating in the presidential task force to work on the resolve clauses of The Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association (CD40, rev., rev.) in order to come up with specific recommendations for both better communication and engagement, as well as other aspects of the task force’s charge (to be determined). In addition, the CRC will work toward composing its next Strategic Plan, develop its next Chapter Leaders Forum, plan for its next programming at the ALA 2017 Annual Conference in Chicago, and determine how the ALA and Chapters can foster better communication between themselves.