

**2016 Midwinter Meeting Report to Council  
Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA)**

**Committee Charge:**

To support the efforts of advocates for all types of libraries; to develop resources, networks and training materials for advocates at the local, state and national levels with particular emphasis on the grassroots level; to work closely with the Office for Library Advocacy in collaboration with the Public Awareness Committee, the Chapter Relations Committee, the Committee on Legislation, and other ALA offices, divisions, and roundtables as well as external groups to integrate advocacy efforts into the overall planning, priorities and policies of the association; and to cultivate future leadership in order to sustain and enhance the advocacy efforts of the association.

**Committee Members:**

Chair – Gina Millsap

Members -- Lauren Comito, Susan DiMattia, Judith Dzikowski, Rhonda K. Gould, Dr. Majed J. Khader, Nancy Jo Lambert, Daniel C. Mack Natarsha Miller, Libby Post Hallie Rich, Tracy Rose Sakon, Gary L. Shaffer, Morgan Sohl, Beth Wheeler-Dean

Staff Liaisons -- Marci Merola, Director, Office for Library Advocacy; Megan Cusick, Grassroots Specialist, Joaquin Falcon, Communications Specialist, Office for Library Advocacy

**Strategic Plan for Advocacy: Next Steps**

The Committee on Library Advocacy and its Advocacy Coordinating Group are pleased that ALA Council unanimously passed the resolution asking for formal/official support and encouragement to adopt the Advocacy Implementation Plan at the Council 3 Meeting.

Since then, both the Ohio Library Council and Pennsylvania Library Association have adopted the Advocacy Implementation Plan.

The task ahead is to continue to operationalize efforts of the Advocacy Coordinating Group. Gina Millsap has tasked the Group with three things: taking ownership of the plan, looking for alignment with advocacy efforts in respective groups, and determining what actions need to occur in order to reach the goals of the plan. However, members have stressed the need for a stronger reporting mechanism or a report tool was emphasized, where members can push information back to their divisions or committees.

Both COLA and the Advocacy Coordinating Group will continue to discuss this topic and find ways to move the plan forward. The groups welcome suggestions from ALA Council.