

**2016-2017 ALA CD#26-26.1_111316_INF
2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

TO: ALA Executive Board and Council

RE: Report of the Nominating Committee for the 2017 ALA Election

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

Information only.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Nominating Committee for the 2017 ALA Election:

Steven Bell, Chair

Jose Aguinaga

Theresa Byrd

Gail Dickinson

Vicki Morris Emery

Carl Harvey II

Rachel Rubin

Felton Thomas

Sandy Wee

CONTACT PERSON:

Steven Bell, 215-204-5023, bells@temple.edu

DRAFT OF MOTION:

N/A

DATE: October 13, 2016

Executive Summary

On August 22, 2016 the Nominating Committee for the 2017 ALA Election completed its charge of securing a slate of two highly qualified candidates for ALA President-Elect, and 75 candidates (51 minimum required) for ALA Councilor-at-Large for the ALA 2017 election (see Appendix A). All ALA members had the opportunity to be considered. While candidates for ALA President-Elect were identified through the Committee's recruitment efforts, we had an abundant number of ALA members self-nominate for the Councilor-at-Large slots. The Committee found the documents outlining the key traits and attributes that the previous Committee created for each position to be particularly helpful in our work. In conducting its work the committee was very mindful of the need for inclusivity and confidentiality, and in doing so reached out to ALA's diverse member groups.

Background

The committee commenced work at the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston on Saturday, January 9, 2016, and reviewed the process with Larry Neal, Chair of the previous year's Nominating Committee. JoAnne Kempf, Director, ALA Governance Office, provided an extremely helpful overview of the nomination and election process and distributed a well-organized, comprehensive manual. JoAnne also set up a private group in ALA Connect as well as several conference calls.

At the Midwinter Meeting, the committee conducted an inventory of the affiliations of each member, and agreed to leverage these networks to seek a broad and diverse pool of candidates. Between us we would be able to reach out to a diverse group of national and state library organizations and interest groups. We followed the recommendation of the previous year's committee to be sure to contact all of the people on the potential candidate lists.

Work of the Committee

To maintain the confidentiality of all Committee communications there was a commitment to use only the ALA Connect space for the sharing of information between members. After identifying the 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 pm as an agreed upon time for virtual Committee meetings, the Committee organized itself to begin the work of reaching out to potential nominees for president-elect. It was decided to focus Committee energy on the president-elect and to wait to address Council nominees. To begin its work of identifying president-elect nominees, the Committee divided up the names on the potential candidate spreadsheet (individuals previously contacted about nominations), and then systematically contacted each individual.

With assistance from JoAnne Kempf we decided to update the spreadsheet by asking all those we called to update their status. Did they want to stay on the list? Did they want to be contacted again at some future date? This was a valuable exercise that this Committee should complete every other year so as to keep the potential candidate spreadsheet and pool relatively up-to-date. It is not a good use of time to contact individuals who no longer have any interest in the nomination. Committee members also identified those national and state librarian associations to which they would re-distribute the call for nominations announcement.

The Committee had its first virtual meeting on Monday, March 21. The Committee reviewed the Nominations announcement and the status of the submission database. We also spent time reviewing the attributes for president-elect and counselors. Having this information available in the Committee notes was extremely helpful to Committee members, as well as a suggested script for communicating with potential nominees. This provided a reminder to inform all those contacted about the highly confidential nature of the election process. In addition to reviewing the process for contacting individuals about the nominations, the Committee set up a strategy, using our Connect space, for sharing the names of new individuals who may have been interested.

At its April meeting on April 16, 2016 Committee members began to share information about individuals who had been contacted, what the results of those contacts were and this was used to update the nominations spreadsheet. Since this was also a month after the first announcement of the nomination process being opened we began to have reviews of the database to see if there were new nominations. While there were no nominations for president-elect, we did begin to have nominations for councilor.

During May and June, prior to the Committee meeting at ALA Annual on June 25, 2016 the Committee members continued to identify potential candidates for president-elect and then identify members who would follow up by contacting those individuals. In most cases the potential candidates were honored to be asked but for any number of reasons declined to be nominated. In addition we had a smaller number of interested individuals who were undecided and asked for more time. Also during this time we continued to monitor the slow but steadily growing number of individuals who were self-nominating for the ALA Council election. With assistance from our ALA liaison, JoAnne Kempf, we had regularly updated spreadsheets to track our progress.

When the Committee met at ALA on June 25, 2016 we did a review of our president-elect candidates. Given that we still had a few undecided candidates and several new individuals to consider we decided to extend the closing date of the candidate nominations database to July 29, 2016. We also saw ALA as an opportunity to do some face-to-face solicitation of candidates. Committee members were asked to perform networking activity to either identify potential candidates or to ask colleagues to share names of potential candidates.

Future committees, if ALA Annual does not do their work, should target it as an opportunity to increase the number of potential candidates. The Committee also reviewed the Council candidates and determined that a fair number had started but not yet completed the biographical information form and statement. Committee members divided up those individuals and agreed to follow up with them after the conference. Finally the Committee determined that a new announcement would go out to the ALA membership with information about the extension of the deadline.

Slate for President-Elect and Councilors-at-Large

Despite the extension of the closing date for the candidate nominations database we had roughly the same pool of candidates for President-Elect as prior to ALA Annual. While the pool was smaller than the Committee had sought to bring together, the members were pleased with the high quality and strong qualifications of those final candidates. By early August the Committee identified which candidates to seek for the Slate for President-Elect, and they would be contacted after the IFLA conference. On August 22 the Chair personally contacted the Committee's top two choices to ask if they would be willing to commit to stand for election. Both individuals accepted this invitation to stand, thus providing the slate. Each was asked to keep this highly confidential until ALA issued its press release announcing the slate. The Chair then passed this information on to JoAnne Kempf so that she could prepare the press release, which was issued in the first week of September, 2016.

After completing the search for President-Elect candidates, the Committee turned its attention to the candidates for Council. We had received 76 nominations which exceeded expectations. Because this was a somewhat larger group than the previous year's 60 candidates, the Committee engaged

in conversation to determine if it would go with that size pool or attempt to reduce it in size to 60 to 65 candidates. The Committee decided to go with the larger pool rather than attempt to eliminate candidates. While it is a large number of candidates we wanted to give everyone their chance and leave it to the membership to decide who would be elected to Council.

Observations and Recommendations

Despite early indicators that the Committee would have a good number of candidates for President-Elect, we found that many individuals were in new situations (e.g., new job, moved) and were no longer able to be nominated. Several people who we contacted indicated that they wished to be considered again in a few years which should result in good options for future nominating committees. Despite the good work of Committee members in performing both electronic and face-to-face outreach, and identifying quite a good number of new potential candidates, we did have a small but excellent pool from which to choose. We hope our work will indeed benefit future committees.

This Committee was somewhat perplexed with what to do with its sizeable pool of Council nominees. On one hand it is great to know that so many ALA members want to be engaged with ALA through Council, but on the other we know that having so many candidates to choose from may be challenging for our members when it comes time to vote for just 33 of these individuals. The Committee felt that after encouraging member to nominate themselves, and seeing good results from that effort, that it would have been counter-productive to the Association to have identified nominees and eliminated them from the slate. Not only could that be personally difficult, but just identifying the appropriate selection qualities and then applying them would be hard to achieve. Perhaps there should be an upper limit on the number of candidates that can be put on the slate and then cap the nominations at that number when it is reached.

Unlike the 2016 Nominating Committee, we have not yet experienced any petition candidates coming forward.

The 2017 ALA Nominating Committee wishes to thank President Julie Todaro for this “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity to serve ALA in this capacity. It was a highly functional committee and a great way to network across a diverse cross-section of the association. We would also like to thank JoAnne Kempf for her tireless support, fast response to the Committee, and wonderful optimism throughout the process.

2017 Slate of Candidates

PRESIDENT-ELECT

- Loida Garcia-Febo, International Library Consultant and President of Information New Wave in Brooklyn, New York
- Terri Grief, School Librarian at McCracken County High School in Paducah, Kentucky

COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

- Hilary Albert, Librarian II, Mahopac (New York) Public Library
- Celia Avila, Senior Librarian, Los Angeles (California) Public Library
- Robert E. Banks, Chief Operations Officer, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka, Kansas
- Latrice Booker, Coordinator of Library Instruction, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana
- Vivian Bordeaux, Customer Service Librarian, Bridgeport (Connecticut) Public Library
- Steve Brantley, Head of Reference Services/Associate Professor, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois
- Elissia Buell, Librarian II, San Diego (California) Public Library
- Nick Buron, Chief Librarian, Queens Library, New York, New York
- Nan B. Carmack, Director, Campbell County Public Library System, Rustburg, Virginia
- Matthew P. Ciszek, Head Librarian, Penn State Shenango, Sharon, Pennsylvania
- John C. DeSantis, Cataloging & Metadata Services Librarian, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
- Emily Drabinski, Coordinator of Instruction, Long Island University, Brooklyn, New York
- Megan Elizabeth Drake, Implementation Consultant, Ex Libris, Portland, Oregon
- Tanya D. Finchum, Professor/Librarian, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma
- Edward Garcia, Library Director, Cranston (Rhode Island) Public Library
- Karen Weyher Gavigan, Associate Professor, School of Library & Information Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
- Martin J. Gomez, Vice Dean, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- Rhonda K. Gould, Consultant, By the Book Library Consulting, Tacoma, Washington
- Dolly Goyal, Library Director, Los Gatos (California) Public Library
- Susan F. Gregory, Director, Bozeman (Montana) Public Library
- Catherine Hakala-Ausperk, Teacher/Consultant, Libraries Thrive Consulting, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
- Dorcas Hand, retired from Annunciation Orthodox School, Houston, Texas
- Sam Helmick, Public Services Librarian, Burlington (Iowa) Public Library

- Peter Hepburn, Head Librarian, College of the Canyons, Santa Clara, California
- Dora T. Ho, Young Adult Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library
- Mary Anne Hodel, Director/CEO, Orange County (Florida) Library System
- Cinthya Maria Ippoliti, Associate Dean for Research and Learning Services, Oklahoma State University Libraries, Stillwater, Oklahoma
- Grace M. Jackson-Brown, Library Faculty/Associate Professor, Missouri State Libraries, Springfield, Missouri
- Susan L. Jennings, Dean of Library Services, Chattanooga State Community College, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Kyla M. Johnson, Librarian Teacher, Farmington High School, Farmington, New Mexico
- kYmberly Mieshia Dionne Keeton, Academic Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri
- Lynda Kellam, Data Services and Government Information Librarian, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Rebekah D. Kilzer, Director of Member Education, OCLC, Dublin, Ohio
- Anita Kinney, Program Analyst, US Access Board, Washington, DC
- Em Claire Knowles, Assistant Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs, Simmons College School of Library & Information Science, Boston, Massachusetts
- Robin Fogle Kurz, Assistant Professor, School of Library & Information Management, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas
- Paula S.W. Laurita, Executive Director, Athens-Limestone Public Library, Athens, Alabama.
- Jennifer L. Longee, Librarian, Durham Academy, Durham, North Carolina
- Lisa L. Longmire, Librarian, Kitsap Regional Library, Bremerton, Washington
- David Lopez, Librarian, Santa Ana (California) Public Library
- Jennifer Rose Leutkemeyer, Assistant Professor, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina
- Andrew Paul Mangels, Director, Westlake Porter Public Library, Westlake, Ohio
- Brian J. McCormick, Library Director, Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, Wisconsin
- Sarah Marie McHone-Chase, Head of User Services, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois
- Chulin Meng, Director of Library Technology, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- Joe Mocnik, Director of University Library/Professor, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia
- Larry Neal, Library Director, Clinton-Macomb Public Library, Clinton Township, Michigan
- Juliana Nykolaiszyn, Associate Professor/Librarian, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma
- Gina Persichini, Technology & Access Services Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries, Boise, Idaho
- Liz Philippi, Manager of Library Media Services, Houston (Texas) ISD

- **Abigail Leigh Phillips**, Doctoral Candidate, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
- **Scott Piepenburg**, Head of Cataloging, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia
- **Brenda Pruitt-Annisette**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of School Library Programs, Chicago State University
- **Raymond Pun**, First Year Student Success Librarian, Fresno State University, Fresno, California
- **Renna Tuten Redd**, Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina
- **Stevo Roksandic**, Regional Director of Library Services, Mount Carmel Health System, Columbus, Ohio
- **John C. Sandstrom**, Associate Professor/Acquisitions Librarian, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- **Lindsay C. Sarin**, Director of Academic Programs, College of Information Studies, University of Maryland, College Park
- **Joel D. Shoemaker**, Library Director, Oakwood (Illinois) Public Library District
- **Jahala Simuel**, Reference Librarian/Adjunct Professor, Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina
- **Daniella Smith**, Associate Professor, University of North Texas, Department of Library & Information Sciences, Denton, Texas
- **Steven Escar Smith**, Dean, University of Tennessee Libraries, Knoxville
- **Amy Steinbauer**, Children's Librarian, District of Columbia Public Library
- **James Kevin Teliha**, Director of the Library & Learning Commons, Utica College, Utica, New York
- **Lettycia Terrones**, Education Librarian, California State University, Los Angeles, California
- **Sarah J. Thornbery**, Teacher-Librarian, Springboro (Ohio) Community City Schools
- **Gail Tobin**, Branch Coordinator, Schaumburg Township District Library, Hanover Park (Illinois) Branch
- **Cecilia N. Tovar**, Principal Librarian Branch & Public Services, Santa Monica (California) Public Library
- **Tammy Renee Turner**, High School Library Media Specialist, Centennial High School, Frisco, Texas
- **Julia Warga**, Director for Research and Instruction, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio
- **Erica Ann Watson**, Librarian, Art Institute of California, San Francisco
- **Cynthia M. Whitacre**, Manager, WorldCat Quality, OCLC, Dublin, Ohio
- **Amanda J. Wilson**, Director, National Transportation Library, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC
- **Charles Wilt**, Retired Executive Director, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, Chicago, Illinois
- **Christian Zabriskie**, Branch Administrator, Yonkers (New York) Public Library