

**Fall Executive Committee Meeting
November 5, 2016, Pittsburgh, PA**

Topic: ALA Council Update

Background: According to the YALSA bylaws the YALSA Division Councilor, “...shall attend all meetings of the ALA Council; shall report to YALSA about Council agenda before Council meets to request YALSA voting position on any agenda items; shall vote as directed by the YALSA Board on designated Council agenda items; shall represent YALSA positions before Council through necessary presentations and resolutions....” At Council meetings resolutions are typically put forward and other issues are discussed that may be of importance to YALSA. YALSA’s Councilor, Todd Krueger, has provided an update below.

Action Required: Discussion

ALA Council Update since the Annual Meeting in Orlando:

1. YALSA is leading the charge that supports a policy change for the ALA Executive Director search. We will see how this transpires and the Division Councilor will keep the Board posted as more information is known.
2. There has been some discussion about the Resolution on Gun Violence that was tabled in Orlando. The Working Group that was put together to modify the resolution released a draft that was appreciated by some but considered too weak and toothless by others. The main sticking point is whether or not ALA should act to pressure Congress to repeal the current restrictions on gun violence research. Some feel this type of research support is a bedrock of our profession, while others fear the wrath of the NRA, which has lobbied strongly to prevent the CDC from doing research on gun violence. The Division Councilor will keep the Board posted as this discussion continues.
3. ALA President Julie Todaro issued a statement regarding the Kansas City librarian who was arrested defending the free speech of a library patron who was asking questions during a library program:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2016/10/ala-president-responds-kansas-city-mo-public-library-free-speech-arrests>
4. The Treaty of Marrakesh went into force on September 30, which “places two key limitations on copyright. First of all, it allows people with print disabilities to make accessible copies of books, or for ‘authorised entities’ to do so on their behalf, without having to seek the agreement of rightholders (usually publishers), or having

to pay royalties. This step seeks to make it easier to increase the overall supply of accessible format books by facilitating the work of those who produce them. Secondly, it allows authorised entities to supply accessible copies of books across borders. This offers an answer to the ‘book famine’, which sees people with print disabilities, particularly in developing countries, only have access to a tiny percentage of all the books on the market.”

ALA Council passed a resolution in Orlando encouraging passage of the Treaty of Marrakesh by the US Congress, which has not yet done so. However, it is likely to come before Congress in the January 2017 session.

The ALA Executive Board candidates were announced:

(only Patty Wong is a YALSA member)

Matthew P. Ciszek
Head Librarian Penn State Shenango
Sharon, PA

Trevor A. Dawes
Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums
University of Delaware
Newark, DE

Susan L. Jennings
Dean of Library Services
Chattanooga State Community College
Chattanooga, TN

Maria Taesil Hudson McCauley (formerly: Maria Taesil Hudson Carpenter)
Director of Libraries
Cambridge (MA) Public Library

Lessa Pelayo-Lozada
Young Readers Librarian
Palos Verdes Library District
Rolling Hills Estates, CA

Patricia (Patty) M. Wong
County Librarian/Chief Archivist
Yolo County Library
Woodland, CA

Questions for Consideration:

- Does YALSA wish to put forward any resolutions to Council at ALA Midwinter?
- Who might we want to encourage YALSA members to run for at-large Council spots as petition candidates?

- Who do we wish to support for the ALA Executive Board election? AASL Councilor Diane Chen was one of the committee members who selected the candidates. There was a concern from Sara Kelly Johns, former AASL President and former ALA Executive Board member, that none of the candidates are school librarians. Apparently the committee did select a school librarian but that person declined the invitation to serve.
- One of the six candidates is a Youth Services Librarian, and all of the candidates are particularly strong this time around. The Division Councilor is personally acquainted with Matt Ciszek, Trevor Dawes, Maria McCauley, and Lessa Pelayo-Lozada.
- How can we help inform, engage and recruit Councilors to join the Youth Council Caucus? (Currently working with ALSC and AASL Councilors on this.)
- What other Council-related issues need addressing or discussing?

Additional Resources

- Council meeting agendas:
http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas
- Guidelines for Preparation of ALA Resolutions:
http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/resolution_guidelines
- Youth Council Caucus space in ALA Connect: <http://connect.ala.org/youth-councilcaucus>