

January 29, 2018

To: ALSC Board of Directors

From: Aimee Strittmatter, Executive Director

Re: Management Report, November 2017 – January 2018

Hello Board! This report offers a summary of activities happening in the office since the Executive Committee's meeting in October. I will be glad to answer any questions about the items below. You will see from this report and the various staff reports, as part of the Board's consent agenda, that my team continues to work collaboratively, productively, and with excellent insight. ALSC is tremendously fortunate to have such a skilled group working on their behalf. All of our positions remain fully filled, however, we have been down one staff member since Mid-December with Angela's maternity leave. Our projects, initiatives, and activities are advancing, but some as not as quickly as I hoped. My expectation is that some newer projects designated as Board priorities will gain momentum this spring as new staff orient to their roles and responsibilities and as our staff support plan (bringing in temporary help and utilizing consultants) for anticipated staff leaves of absences is implemented.

OFFICE

- In December, Rebecca Redinger joined the ALSC team as our awards intern. She completed her MLIS with a focus on children's and young adult services at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee last May. She will assist Courtney in work around the book and media awards, Notable lists, professional awards, and scholarships.
- My work since October has been focused on onboarding two new staff members and adjusting processes and procedures for the new deputy position; closing the fiscal year 2017 budget, monitoring the 2018 budget, and preparing for the 2019 budget; communicating closely with Nina Lindsay and Jamie Naidoo on ALSC activities and actions; preparing the Nominating committee's document package; monitoring seals inventory and production; attending ALA meetings such as Unit Managers to discuss meeting; and working with staff on their projects.
- I attended the American Society of Association Executive's Chief Elected Officer Symposium in Naples, FL from January 10-12, 2018 with Vice-President Jamie Naidoo. This symposium allowed us the time need to get to know one another, think about association priorities, and explore challenges facing all associations.
- Conducted Banquet site visits in New Orleans with Courtney Jones on January 16 & 17, 2018. The location will be announced in the next few weeks once the contract has been signed.

ALA – most entries adapted from various ALA reports

- Mary Ghikas has officially been named ALA Executive Director with a contract through January 2020. There are plans to fill her former Senior Associate Executive Director position. There will likely be some restructuring of responsibilities prior to the position posting.
- There will be a discussion on ALA's organizational effectiveness on Monday, February 12, 2018 from 10:00am – 12pm during Council II. An [ALA Connect page](#) has been formed to share a two-page document sharing guiding principles and the reasoning for having the discussion. The page

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is also an opportunity to collect feedback from as many members as possible. ALSC President Nina Lindsay has shared this information via email to the ALSC Board.

- ALAALSC Division Councilor Jenna Nemece-Loise has begun collaborating with YALSA Division Councilor on potential memorial resolution for Julius Lester.
- ALA has [announced](#) that it will collaborate with several ALA affiliates, who have expressed interest, for inclusion into the 2019 YMA Press Conference.
- All members are encouraged to use the [ALA Action Center](#) to contact senators and ask them to cosponsor S. 2271 the [Museum and Library Services Act of 2017](#).
- ALA has issued RFPs to conduct two studies this spring – [one on membership and one on communications](#). I've been in communication with Cathleen Bourdon and Jeff Julian regarding coordinating around the communication RFP so as not to confuse any potential consulting firms with ALSC's brand identity RFP.
- ALA announces recent and/or upcoming retirements:
 - Karen Muller, ALA Librarian, retired effective December 21, 2017. There has been an organizational restructure and Kathy Rosa is now the Director of the ALA Library and Research Center.
 - Laurie Borman, Publisher of *American Libraries* retired in January 2017. Sanhita SinhaRoy has been named interim Editor/Publisher for *American Libraries*
 - Cathleen Bourdon, Associate Executive Director of Advocacy and Member Relations has announced her retirement effective July 13, 2018.
- ALA announced its inaugural class of [ALA Policy Corps](#) members which included two ALSC members. The two members are ALSC Division Councilor Jenna Nemece-Loise and YALSA Past-President Candice Mack. The Policy Corps which aims to develop a cadre of experts with deep and sustained knowledge of national public policies in areas key to ALA's strategic goals.
- In early December, ITTS and ALA Publishing successfully soft launched Phase 1 of the completely redesigned [ALA Store](#). Featuring numerous improvements, including a much better search function and a responsive design for mobile users, it currently offers all the products that were sold in the old store, and in Phase 2, will incorporate eLearning offerings from across the Association.
- The 2018 "Leading to the Future" ALA Leadership Institute (August 6-9, Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois) [application process](#) is open. Applications accepted through March 9. The four-day immersive leadership development program for 40 mid-career librarians will be led by ALA Past-President Maureen Sullivan and library and leadership consultant Kathryn Deiss. Now in its sixth year, the institute helps future library leaders develop and practice their leadership skills in areas critical to the future of the libraries they lead.
- The Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) will showcase an expanded and updated toolkit at the ALA Midwinter Meeting to ensure libraries have an essential policy to protect against censorship. The toolkit is titled "[Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries](#)," this resource is designed for libraries of all types and sizes and offers practical guidance and resources on responsibility for selection, selecting controversial materials and reconsideration requests
- ALA Editions has published "[The Stories We Share: A Guide to PreK–12 Books on the Experience of Immigrant Children and Teens in the United States](#)" written by Ladislava N.

Khailova. This book highlights award-winning titles that primarily feature a first- or second-generation immigrant child or teen as a narrator or main character. It is described as a tool for teaching, collection development, and readers' advisory.

- AASL is accepting nominations for its [Social Media Superstars](#) from members of the school library community through March 2, 2018. There are eight recognition categories: Sensational Student Voice, Advocacy Ambassador, Tech Troubadour, Program Pioneer, Curriculum Champion, Leadership Luminary, Social Justice Defender, and Reader Leader.
- ALA Development Office released its [audit report](#) to the ALA Executive Board in late October. FY 2019 budget discussion will take into account recommendations from this report along with ALA ITTS' Technology Investment Plan. Additionally, the Annual Fund was reported as successfully surpassing last year's fundraising efforts.
- ITTS has posted information on its proposed [Technology Investment plan](#) which is a multi-year, phased approach to create a stable, flexible platform to support ALA's membership and programs into the future.
- The total ALA membership roster at the end of December 2017 stood at 57,221 compared to 56,445 in December 2016 – a 2.49% increase. Four divisions, AASL, ALSC, LLAMA, and PLA had membership growth. Seventeen round tables had increased membership and one had flat membership: EMIERT, FAFLRT, GAMERT, GLBTRT, IFRT, IRRT, LearnRT, LHRT, LIRT, LRRT, LSSIRT, MAGIRT (flat), NMRT, RMRT, SRRT, STORT, SustainRT, and VRT. Personal membership is up to 29,547 compared to 29,168 last year – a 1.3% increase. Student membership grew by 3.3% with 7,603 members compared to 7,360 last year. There were also small increases in Trustee, Associate, International, Life, and Friend member categories.
- The Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services has provided an update on its implementation progress on the ALA EDI recommendations. It will be uploaded soon to the ALA website at this location: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/ebd-inventory-2017-2018>
- Conference Services is working with a consultant on the future of Midwinter. This is primarily looking at rebranding the Midwinter Meeting for broader appeal beyond for those not engaged in committee work. It has traditionally been looked on as a “business meeting” as educational program, per [policy A.7.4.11](#), are reserved for annual conference. Many of the concerns and issues ALA is facing are addressed in the 2010 [White Paper on Midwinter](#). I was invited to participate in a half-day conversation with the consultants, Mary Ghikas, ALA member and Conference Committee Chair Clara Bohrer, Center for the Future of Libraries Director Miguel Figueroa, Public Programs Deputy Director Mary Davis Fournier, Conference Services Director Paul Graller, Chief Financial Officer Mark Leon, and Conference Services staff member Amy McGuigan. I have not been part of on-going discussion or focus groups that have taken place. I just received some interesting data this week regarding ALSC members attendance at conferences. We consistently have more members (usually 10-15% of membership) attend Midwinter than Annual Conference (5-8%).

PARTNERSHIPS/SPONSORSHIPS/OPPORTUNITIES

- Past-President Ellen Fader has supported 2018-2019 ALSC Spectrum Scholar. This is her fifth year of support.

- In late January, I had a phone call with Allister Chang, Executive Director of Libraries Without Borders. We used our time to learn about one another's organizations and goals and strategic priorities for the upcoming year and opportunities for future collaboration. We discovered that we are both working with the same partners and stakeholders such as NAMLE and New America. There is potential for ALSC to collaborate on an upcoming grant proposal that Libraries Without Borders will be submitting.
- I will be attending the LaundryCares Foundation Literacy Summit, hosted in collaboration with Too Small to Fail and Libraries Without Borders, in Chicago on March 1-2. It is a small convening of about 30 "like-missioned" organizations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The interdivisional Public Library and School Cooperation Committee's collaboration toolkit will be launched at Midwinter as a free download. The [toolkit will soon be available](#) under "Partnerships" on ALSC's "Professional Tools" section of the website.
- The ALSC project proposal, "Cultural Competency in Youth Librarianship" has been accepted by the 2018 Emerging Leaders Program. The EL team will have their first face-to-face meeting this Midwinter. [Jacqueline Quinn](#) of the Great Neck Library, New York, has been selected as ALSC's 2018 Emerging Leader. Quinn is the Assistant Department Head of Children's Services.
- ALSC has awarded \$5,000 grants to fourteen libraries to support out-of-school time STEAM programming through the [Strengthening Communities Through Libraries](#) program. ALSC will also host a webinar in March 2018 to highlight out-of-school time STEAM programs and provide guidance to youth librarians hoping to replicate them.
- [2018 Penguin Random House Young Readers Group Award to four librarians](#): Amanda Chuong, Princeton Public Library (New Jersey); Patricia Moran, Multnomah County Library (Oregon); Julie Phoenix, St. Louis County Library (Missouri); and Sarah Walker, Ferguson Library, Stamford (Connecticut). This award, made possible by an annual gift from Penguin Random House Young Readers Group and Random House Children's Books, provides a \$600 stipend and ticket to the Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder banquet to each recipient to attend their first ALA Annual Conference.
- [South Carolina State Library](#) to receive 2018 Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Award to enhance the Talking Books Services Art Gallery event, an annual program for students who are blind or visually impaired. Author and Illustrator Kathryn Otoshi will participate in the event.
- St. Lucie County (Florida) Library System awarded [2018 Baker & Taylor Summer Reading Grant](#): The St. Lucie County Library System will receive \$3,000 to expand the scope of their summer programs to include children birth to five in their Summer Reading Challenge and to pilot a sensory storytime for children with special needs.
- The three-year IMLS research project to study the impact of the ALSC/PLA ECRR initiative on the early literacy practices of families whose libraries incorporate ECRR into their programming has concluded and findings have been published in a [report](#) available on the website.
- ALSC is now accepting applications for the [Bookapalooza program](#). Each year the ALSC office receives almost 3,000 newly published books, videos, audiobooks and recordings from children's trade publishers for award and notables consideration. At the end of the year, after the awards have been given out, ALSC selects three libraries to receive a Bookapalooza collection of these

materials (estimated to be worth \$10,000 each) to be used in a way that creatively enhances their library service to children and families. Applications are due February 1, 2018.

- Thirty-two applicants, which include two members from the CSK Book Awards Jury as part of a pilot collaboration, for the [Bill Morris Seminar: Book Evaluation Training](#) have been selected and are preparing to attend the seminar, which will take place at the 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. This seminar will result in new and emerging leaders for future ALSC evaluation committees.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- The [2018 Arbuthnot Lecture](#), hosted by the Western Washington University and the Whatcom County Library System, will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Western Washington University Performing Arts Center. A reception will follow. The lecture, will be delivered by author and poet Naomi Shihab Nye. [Tickets](#) are now available. They are free, but registration is required. If you plan to attend, please let me or Courtney know as soon as possible.
- ALSC's upcoming webinar, [Introducing the Notable Books for a Global Society Collection: Promoting Understanding of Diversity](#), will address the fact that readers need books by and about all people to teach us about who we are and who we might become. The Notable Books for a Global Society strives to bring books by and about all people to student readers. Librarians are instrumental in making that happen. This webinar will explore the newly awarded 2018 NBGS collection. All live webinars are free to both ALSC members and non-members. ALSC's [archived webinars](#) are available free to ALSC members and for \$25 for non-members.

2018 Annual Conference Activities

Charlemae Rollins President's Program: Considering All Children: a New Ideal in Evaluating and Engaging around Books for Youth | Monday, June 25, 2018 | 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Awards, best-of-the-year lists and reviews focus on "quality" and "excellence" in literature for youth, but what do "quality" and "excellence" really mean in the canon of American literature for children? Who is deciding which books stand out? How are some critics and some children privileged in our field's thinking? How are some dismissed or made invisible? What does "American literature for children" even mean? A panel of educator/activists and book creators will challenge us all to confront our biases as they explore common assumptions and current discourse, and consider what it would look like if we truly considered all children as we evaluate books and single out titles for distinction both within and beyond ALSC. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with speakers in a question-and-answer session.

Co-Sponsored session in name-only - 2018 APALA President's Program: Wandering Wonderland: How an Outsider Found Her Way In | Saturday, June 23, 2018 | 10:00 a.m.

Author and Illustrator, LeUyen Pham will focus on stories of her childhood, and how those experiences directly relate to the books she does today, the reason she picks such subject matter, and the angles she chooses to focus on being an immigrant informs much of what she sympathizes with in the publishing world, and how much her work tries to be all-inclusive in the manner that would have comforted her as a child

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