

June 15, 2018

To: ALSC Board of Directors

From: Aimee Strittmatter, Executive Director

Re: Management Report, April 2018 – June 2018

Hello Board! This report offers a summary of activities happening in the office since the Executive Committee's spring meeting in April. I will be glad to answer any questions about the items below.

OFFICE

- On April 18, I, along with the other division directors, met with three of the new ALA Executive Board members for their orientation. We met with Tamika Barnes, Edward A. Garcia, and Maria Taesil Hudson McCauley.
- On April 19, I met with Jody Gray, ODLIS, YALSA, ALA, and PAO to discuss next steps in coordinating with the ethnic affiliates to plan for the inclusion of their awards in the YMA press conference at Midwinter.
- ALA's staff achievement ceremony was held on April 20. I'm pleased to share that Kristen Figliulo is celebrating five years with ALSC and that Courtney Jones is celebrating ten years at ALA- six years with Booklist and four years with ALSC. Please join us in congratulating Courtney and Kristen for their service.
- ALSC Program Officer for Continuing Education Kristen Figliulo returned from maternity leave on Friday, June 15.
- Naomi Shihab Nye delivered a thoughtful and inspiring 2018 May Hill Arbutnot lecture, titled "REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED - Our Lives of Reading & Writing" on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Western Washington University Performing Arts Center. ALSC members Thom Barthelmess, Nancy Johnson, and Sylvia Tag organized a spectacular event. Many thanks to HarperCollins Children's Book for their additional support.
- I continue to participate on the search committee for YALSA Executive Director position. The committee is on track to interview final candidates in early July.
- Met with Alena and Elly to discuss plan of action for designing a new ALSC logo to unveil in a soft launch at the 2018 National Institute.
- In March and April, I participated in several conference calls with the National Summer Learning Association, ALSC member Liz McChesney, and Alena and Angela to discuss ALSC's participation in and strategy for 2018 National Summer Learning Day in July. I stepped back in early April to allow ALSC staff to manage implementation.
- Attended National Library Legislative Day with Nina and Jamie from May 5-7. We met with representatives from the Department of Education's Office of Education Technology, Office of Planning, Evaluation, Office of Academic Improvement Group, and Policy Development, and Office of Safe and Healthy Students. We also attended Zero to Three's Think Babies Advocacy Rally- Strolling Thunder which was located on the lawn in front of the Capitol Building. We met with Amanda Szekely, Sr. Advocacy

Partnerships Manager and have continued discussions. We will meet again in July to discuss the possibility of ALSC joining on as a Think Babies Campaign partner.

- Worked with Jamie to create an outline for new incoming chair and Priority Group Consultant orientation.
- Met with ALA stakeholders to discuss option for improving the monitoring and policing of for unauthorized use of ALA Award seals.
- Continue to work with Claudia Haines, Marian Martens, Katie Campana and Liz Mills on releasing forthcoming follow-up survey around young children, new media, and libraries and activities related to disseminating the results and soliciting input from the field over the next year with the objective to develop an IMLS grant proposal to study the area more in-depth.
- In May, consulted with Liz Mills and Katie Campana on possible new white paper to be adopted by ALSC.
- Met with YALSA Executive Director Beth Yoke to discuss the possibility of collaborating on and sharing the expenses of the development of cultural competence continuing education for members by contracting with the [National Center for Cultural Competence](#) for tailored training. While promising we need to explore how this fits within ALSC's overall EDI strategy and activities.
- Working with various ALA units to ensure that all of ALA is in compliance with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulations that went into effect on May 25th. ALA has updated its privacy policy and continues to review and assess association data collection points and processes association-wide.
- Discussing with appropriate staff the following upcoming activities to take place over the next fiscal year:
 - Membership recruitment/retention plan, including overall mentoring strategy
 - Review of Continuing Education strategy based on discussions taking place this Annual
 - Updated communication plan
 - EDI discussions and cultural competence training with staff, continue discussions with ODLOS for ALA-wide strategy around EDI implementation and action
 - Deep dive with ALSC leaders to examine our current documentation (Handbook of organization, division leadership manual, Bylaws as well as processes, procedures, guidelines, and messaging to ensure it is up-to-date, efficient, and with an eye toward diversity, equity and inclusion. Many of these procedures were developed in a pre-Internet time, based upon face-to-face committee work at conference. Updates have been made on an ad-hoc, siloed, or committee-by-committee basis rather than a broader and comprehensive view.
 - Member needs assessment survey

ALA ACTIVITY

- I am currently working with ALA colleagues to draft an ALA statement in response to the increase in children of detained parents being placed in detention centers. REFORMA is also currently drafting a resolution for Council.

- The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee plans to propose three *Library Bill of Rights* interpretation revisions for adoption by ALA Council: “Meeting Rooms,” “Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource” and “Services to People with Disabilities.” The ALA IFC solicited feedback prior to conference and these drafts were referred to the ALSC IF committee for review and feedback.
- In May, the Public Awareness Office (PAO) formerly changed its name to the Communications and Marketing Office (CMO). The goal of this office has been to communicate the value of libraries and the association to external audiences, and ALA believes the new name will make that clearer. On May 7, I alerted the ALSC staff and Awards Manual Revision TF Chair KT Horning that all ALSC documentation that refers to PAO such as the award manuals, professional award manuals, notable manuals, awards coordinator manual, division leadership manual, website, blogger instructions, Pathfinder/FAQ, etc. will need to be updated.
- Washington Office reports that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee voted on Friday, June 15 to provide level funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) at \$240 million. Funding levels for individual programs such as the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) will be confirmed next week when the Subcommittee releases its accompanying report. Washington Office states this is a good position to be in, but ALA and its advocates must maintain strong advocacy efforts as the FY 19 appropriations process continues.
- YASLA releases [new report](#) on Transforming Library Services for and with Teens Through Continuing Education
- ALA Jim Neal hosted a [Fight for School Libraries Summit](#) on May 23 to work with library leaders to craft a strategy to advocate for our nation’s school libraries.
- AASL publishes [new research](#) on diversity in graphic novels for teens in their peer-reviewed journal, *School Library Research*.

PARTNERSHIPS/OPPORTUNITIES

- ALSC staff have been working with the National Summer Learning Association to collaborate on promoting National Summer Learning Day on July 12, 2018. I’ve consulted with ALSC Board member Christine Caputo and Summer/Out of School Time Learning Task Force member Elizabeth McChesney on this project. The Association of Children’s Museums have also agreed to collaborate on and promote NSLD. This year NSLA celebrates its 25th anniversary and will use this opportunity to expand the annual National Summer Learning Day (NSLD), an advocacy day in support of children’s continued learning, health, and safety throughout the summer, by collaborating with ALSC to engage library participation across the country. This year will include a national read-aloud of the award-winning book, *Trombone Shorty*, illustrated by 2016 Caldecott Honor recipient, Bryan Collier. ALSC joined NSLA and the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM) to present a [webinar](#) about how to incorporate this year’s national read-aloud selection of *Trombone Shorty* into library programming. The webinar also featured Bryan Collier who will serve as this year’s National Summer Learning Ambassador.
- We are continuing conversations with Zero to Three to partner on their Think Babies campaign and have been e-introduced to their senior director of programs who works on

their parenting resources and has expressed interest in collaborating. We have agreed to reconnect in mid-July.

- Google has continued its support by hosting a joint social for AASL/ALSC/YALSA members at Annual Conference for the recognition of the ALA/Google Libraries Ready to Code initiative and also for the day-to-day work that frontline youth librarians conduct.
- In May, the ALSC Board approved a letter in support of Reach Out and Read's Innovative Approaches to Literacy proposal and was amenable to ALSC engaging in other partnership activities to implement the grant, if received.
- The ALA Development Office Director, YALSA Executive Director, and I will have a second meeting during Annual with a potential YMA Press Conference sponsor. Sponsorship defrays the expense of hosting the event (e.g. live webcasting) and also usually includes sponsorship of the joint ALSC/YALSA membership reception at Midwinter.
- The ALSC Education Committee is always considering new courses and webinars to add to ALSC's growing online education offerings. Members interested in teaching need to fill out an [online application](#) and provide a copy of their resume, teaching references, and a course syllabus (not needed for webinars). The Education Committee currently has an RFP distributed for topics involving cultural competency in youth librarianship. This is to help develop the cultural competency training series for the Diversity and Inclusion objective of the [ALSC 2017-2020 Strategic Plan](#). The Education Committee will be selecting proposals on a rolling basis to allow for webinars to be added multiple times throughout the year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Public Awareness Committee developed an one page information sheet that ALSC was able to use in leave behind folders during National Library Legislative Day meetings. The committee also shared it in a [blog post](#) and it has been [uploaded](#) to the "Speak Out" section of the Everyday Advocacy website. The Illinois delegation also included the information sheet in their leave behind folders.
- The Intellectual Freedom Committee and ALSC Collection Management Discussion Group collaborated on an ALSC Blog post to address concerns and encourage dialogue, via the comments section, around [#MeToo and Children's Services](#).
- ALSC's Notable Children's Digital Media Committee, formerly the Great Websites committee, is excited to announce its [inaugural list of great digital media for children](#). To highlight the shift in media focus the committee has concentrated on apps for this year's selections. Future lists will include a diverse array of digital media for children up to age 14.
- The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) has awarded the 2018 Bookapalooza Program to three libraries: [Chilton/Clanton Public Library, Clanton, Alabama](#); [Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, Florida](#); and [Daviss County Library, Gallatin, Missouri](#). The award includes a variety of materials from books to DVDs and audiobooks. These materials have been received at the ALSC office from publishers for selection committees to evaluate for awards and notables consideration. To make room for the next year's publications, Bookapalooza was created to infuse three library collections with new materials for children from birth through age 14.

- ALSC hosted a Community Forum on April 12 titled, [Doing ALA Differently: An ALSC Conversation](#). Led by ALSC's Division Councilor, Jenna Nemec-Loise, the forum provided an opportunity for members to learn more about ALA's current organizational structure, hear the latest on current efforts to move ALA forward, and share feedback on next steps. The community forum topic was developed in response to ALA President Jim Neal's [call on members of the association](#) to consider the 21st century effectiveness and agility of an organization whose constitution, bylaws, and policies date back over 140 years. This forum asked ALSC members to consider what it would take to align ALA's organizational structure, policies, and rules with the Association's 21st century values, key action areas, and strategic directions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **2019 Bechtel Fellowship Applications Are Currently Open**
The Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship provides a \$4,000 grant to a qualified children's librarian to spend a total of four weeks reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville. The committee is currently [accepting online applications](#) for the 2018 Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship Collections and Bechtel Fellowship. Applications and supporting materials are due by November 1, 2018.
- **2019 ALSC Distinguished Service Award Applications Open**
The ALSC Distinguished Service Award committee is now [accepting online nominations](#) for the 2018 Distinguished Service Award! Nominations and supporting materials will be due by December 1, 2018. This award honors an individual member of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) who has made significant contributions to, and an impact on, library service to children and/or ALSC. The recipient receives \$2,000 and an engraved pin at the ALSC Membership Meeting during ALA Annual Conference.
- Summer courses begin July 9. ALSC will be offering a total of five courses: The Newbery Medal: Past, Present and Future, Making Your Makerspace Work, Postmodern Picturebooks: Changing Minds for Life, STEM Programs Made Easy, and Storytelling with Puppets. Additional Course descriptions and registration are available on the [ALSC website](#).
- This Summer, ALSC will be offering two webinars, [New Media and Preschool Services](#) and [Out-of-School Time: How to Plan STEAM Programming in Your Library](#).

2018 ALSC Annual Conference Highlights

- **Leadership & ALSC** - ALSC will host its Leadership & ALSC meeting on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. This year's program includes a presentation on Drag Queen Story Hours. Speakers Include: Lisa Goldstein (Brooklyn Public Library), Jonathan Hamlit & Rachel Aimee (NYC Chapter Drag Queen Story Hour), Seale

ALSC Board AC 2018
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Paterson (New Orleans Public Library); Laveau Contraire, (Drag Extraordinaire). All conference attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- **2018 APALA President's Program**, will take place Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. This session is co-sponsored by ALSC
Wandering Wonderland: How an Outsider Found Her Way In - 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.
- **United States Board on Books for Young People - The Four D's of Translation in Children's Publishing: Diversity, Drag, Disguise and Delectation** on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. This session is co-sponsored by ALSC. Join the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) to explore what it takes to create a good translated book for youth. This interactive session, moderated by international children's literature scholars and presented by three award-winning publishers of high quality translated children's books, examines what occurs when international translations go terribly wrong and creatively explores four important areas of book translations. The session includes prize drawings for international and translated children's books.
- **ALSC 101** - Join us at ALSC 101 on Saturday, June 23th, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. as we explore the lifecycle of a member! Panelists with membership tenure ranging from a few months to over ten years will be asked to share their experiences as an ALSC member.
- **Joint AASL/ALSC/YALSA Social sponsored by Google.** This event will take place on Saturday, June 23 from 6-8 pm. at Fulton Alley, located at 600 Fulton Street. Light refreshments will be provided. This sponsorship commemorates the contributions of AASL, ALSC, and YALSA to the Libraries Ready to Code initiative and Google's appreciation for the work and effort librarians put forth towards preparing children and youth for bright futures.
- **The Pura Belpré Award Celebración**, will take place on Sunday, June 24, 2018 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Hilton Riverside in Grand Salon C. Please join our family of winning authors and illustrators in an unforgettable event, una fiesta maravillosa, where we will honor the 2018 Medal winners and honorees.
- **The Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Banquet** will take place on Sunday, June 24 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. in the Hilton Riverside Grand Ballroom. Board members should have received communication from ALSC Awards Coordinator with details about the event.
- **The ALSC Awards Presentation** will take place on Monday, June 25 from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the Morial Convention Center in room 260-262. Come hear speeches from the Batchelder, Geisel, and Sibert awardees. Breakfast will be served when the doors to the ceremony open at 8:00 a.m.

- **ALSC Charlemae Rollins President's Program: Considering All Children: A New Ideal in Evaluating and Engaging around Books for Youth-** On Monday, June 25, 2018, from 1-2:30 p.m. the [ALSC Charlemae Rollins President's Program](#) will focus on "Considering *All Children: A New Ideal in Evaluating and Engaging around Books for Youth.*" 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? Join **ALSC President, Nina Lindsay** for a program that 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. Panelists include **Margarita Engle**, the current National Young People's Poet Laureate and award-winning author, **Debbie Reese**, PhD, educator and advocate for Native representation, **Jason Reynolds**, 2018 National School Library Month spokesperson and award-winning author, and **Ebony Thomas**, assistant professor, University of Pennsylvania. The session will be moderated by **Edith Campbell**, Associate Librarian, Reference/Instruction, Indiana State University. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with speakers in a question-and-answer session.
- **The Odyssey Award Ceremony** will take place on Monday, June 25, 3:30-5:30pm in the Morial Convention Center in room 265-268. Celebrate the best in audiobooks produced for children and young adults at the annual presentation of the Odyssey Award. Listen to your favorite narrators perform a piece from their Odyssey Award-winning audiobooks at this engaging event. Please stay afterward for a reception sponsored by the Audio Publisher Association.

ALSC National Institute

The [ALSC National Institute](#), with its theme of "All Aboard! Embracing Advocacy and Inclusion", will be held September 27 – 29, 2018 in Cincinnati, Ohio and will feature quality educational programming and inspirational speakers. Event registration is now open and includes a number of award-winning authors and illustrators who will be present at the Institute, such as Grace Lin, Margarita Engle, Raúl Colón, Mike Curato, Brian Selznick, and David Serlin. Special receptions, held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, are highlight events.

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