



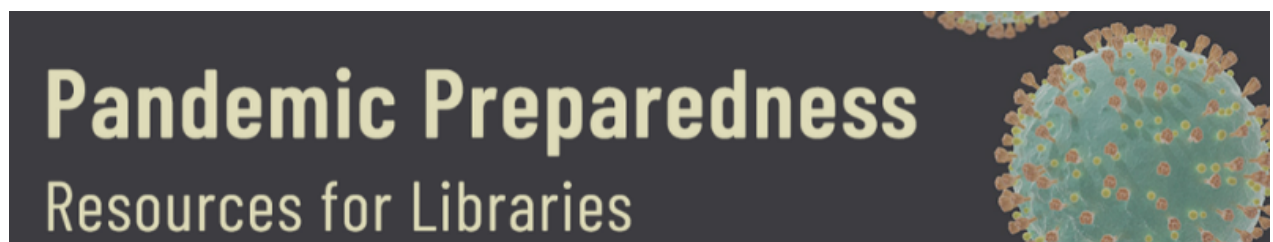
March 17, 2020



Please note [ALA's Personal Data Notification \(PDN\)](#) and [Opt-Out options](#).

This month, ODLOS highlights news from ALA, a Libraries Respond update, and updates on the Spectrum Scholarship Program!

If you'd like to stay in touch with the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS), please consider [subscribing to our monthly newsletter](#).



ALA Executive Board Recommends Closing Libraries to Public

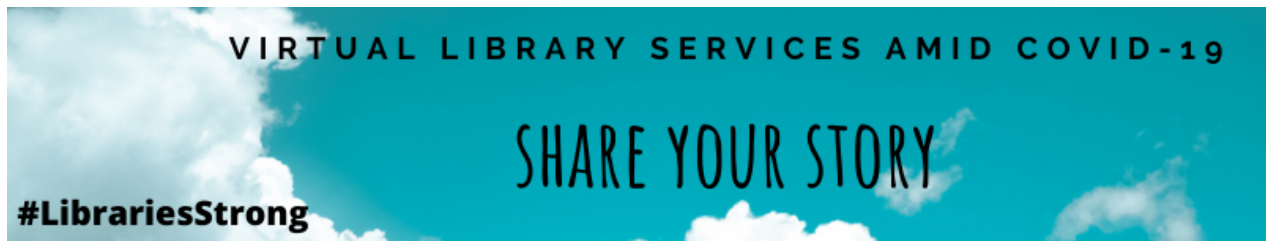
The ALA Executive Board released a statement March 17 in support of libraries and library workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It reads in part: "The ALA Executive Board unequivocally stands in support of the safety and well-being of library workers and the communities



we serve. To protect library workers and their communities from exposure to COVID-19, we strongly recommend that academic, public, and school library leaders and their trustees and governing bodies evaluate closing libraries to the public and only reopening when guidance from public health officials indicates the risk has significantly subsided. We encourage libraries to ensure that all library workers receive fully paid leave, including health coverage, while libraries are closed."

Read the full American Libraries article [here](#).



Libraries Respond: Combating Xenophobia and Fake News in light of COVID-19



As more cases and stories of COVID-19 spread across the world, there is also an increase of misinformation that is sent out for the world to see. As ALA continues to track the development of the coronavirus, racial fears and anxieties have become a dominant frame in which people evaluate concerns over the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus infection.

ODLOS has created a new Libraries Respond page called "Combating Xenophobia ad Fake

News in light of COVID-19". This page includes selected resources for learning the facts about Coronavirus and examples of how libraries are interrupting not only the spread of misinformation but also related racism and xenophobia.

Read the latest Libraries Respond page [here](#).

Serving Patrons Experiencing Homelessness in a COVID-19 Shutdown



COVID-19 has sparked a number of closures across the country. Yet one group is perhaps affected more than others: people experiencing homelessness.

It may not be possible to offer in-person services for patrons experiencing homelessness during a shutdown, but libraries can help by making information more accessible. Programming Librarian, a website of the Public Programs Office of ALA, provides resources to libraries on how to

help the homeless population in their area during the pandemic.

Read the full article on the Programming Librarian [website](#).



BCALA & NCAAL Anniversary Items Now Available at the ALA Store



ALA Elections Now Open



ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services urges you to vote in the ALA Election and help shape the future of our Association.

"The American Library Association of tomorrow relies on the stewardship of its members today," said ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall. "A huge part of that work involves selecting peer leaders who have the vision and commitment to move the association forward. We are at a pivotal time in our history – there is much change needed and much

opportunity that lies ahead. Every vote is necessary because it will provide a requisite mandate for

the future ALA President, Executive Board and Council leadership. Every vote moves us toward our future and the impact we can create.”

ALA Presidential Candidates

ALA's 2021 – 22 presidential election includes Patricia "Patty" M. Wong, city librarian at Santa Monica (Calif.) Public Library, and Steven Yates, assistant director, University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies. Both candidates participated in the [ALA Presidential and Candidates' Forum](#) that took place at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Voters also will select 33 ALA Councilors-at-Large from a pool of 73 candidates. Biographical information about the Councilor-at-Large candidates is available on the [ALA website](#).

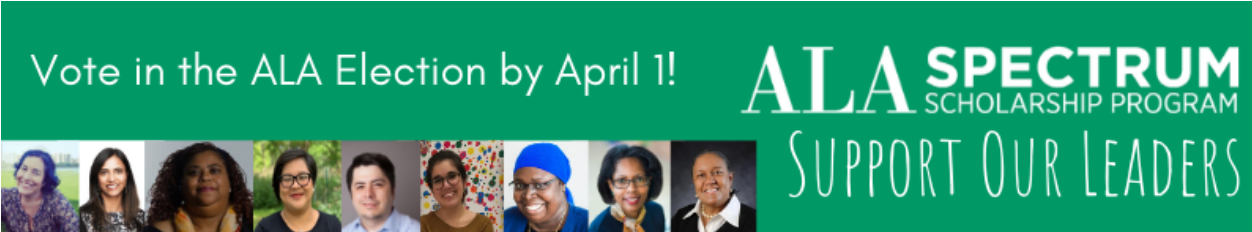
Guide to the ALA Elections

Learn more about this year's candidates by reviewing "[Your Guide to the 2020 ALA Elections](#)." The guide contains general information about the ALA presidency and candidates, recent ALA presidential initiatives and council information.

How Members Vote

All ALA members in good standing as of January 31, 2020 should have received their ballot by now. The e-mail contains information about how to vote online including their log-in information. Members should watch for emails from: "ALA Governance Office" at noreply@directvote.net. Polls opened 9 a.m. Central Time on Monday, March 9, 2020. The ALA annual election will close on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

For more information, please visit the ALA Election website [here](#).



A green banner with white text. On the left, it says "Vote in the ALA Election by April 1!". On the right, it features the "ALA SPECTRUM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" logo and the slogan "SUPPORT OUR LEADERS". Below the text is a row of nine small portrait photos of diverse individuals.

Spectrum Scholarship Fundraiser Extended to April 16!



The Spectrum Scholarship Program has launched a [Custom Ink fundraiser](#) that includes several apparel options and highlights their tagline, "Success Through Community." Your purchase of a hoodie, raglan, or t-shirt directly supports the continued work of Spectrum in recruiting and retaining an ethnically and racially diverse library workforce - from providing direct funds to support degree completion, to bringing Scholars together at conference, to fostering continued community

building and professional development at the local

level year-round.

Consider supporting their fundraiser by purchasing an item from this collection between now and April 16, 2020! And if you wish, you can add an additional donation upon checkout. If you're interested in donating only, you can always visit <https://ec.ala.org/donate>.



ODLOS & AFFILIATE COLLABORATIONS



What our Affiliates are Doing

Our affiliates have been busy; check out what's new below.



ABOS Opens Programs Proposals for 2020 Conference

The ABOS Board of Directors is excited to announce the call for programs for the 2020 ABOS Conference! The 2020 ABOS Conference "Out-Doing Outreach" will take place October 14-16 at Wyndham Suites - Park Central, Dallas, Texas. The deadline for proposals is Friday, April 24 at 5 p.m. CST. Selected programs will be announced in May 2020. Submit your proposal [here](#).



AILA 2020 American Indian Youth Literature Awards

AILA has celebrated their first American Indian Youth Literature Awards which were announced at ALA Midwinter as part of the Youth Media Awards on Monday, January 27. Read the full press release of the award winners on their [website](#).



APALA Urges All To Support Their Pledge on Denouncing Xenophobia and Racism

APALA urges all to support our [statement](#), [resource list](#) and [pledge](#) denouncing the attacks, xenophobia, racism, harassment and discrimination being faced by members of our Asian and Asian American community both within the library and wider community during this time of the novel coronavirus 2019 pandemic.



ARSL Announces New Learning Opportunity For Members

In partnership with ALA, ARSL has [announced](#) an opportunity for ARCL members only who are interested in learning to lead conversations. Specially designed for the needs of small and rural libraries, "Libraries Transforming Communities: Facilitation Skills for Small and Rural Libraries" is

a new learning series that helps library workers develop skills to engage with their communities.

Due to the COVID-19 strain on library workers at this time, the ARSL Conference Committee has extended the call for proposals for ARSL 2020: SOAR With Libraries: Sharing Our Amazing Resources. The new deadline is 5pm CT on March 27th.



BCALA Celebrates Their 50th Anniversary

BCALA is celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2020. For more information about their 50th anniversary and their upcoming conference, visit BCALA's [website](#).



CALA Offers Free Webinar That Focuses on Solidarity

CALA's Northern California Chapter (NCA) is pleased to organize an upcoming free webinar with a focus on solidarity. "Disrupting White Supremacy Through BIPOC Solidarity" will be a discussion of why solidarity is vital and what it might look for us to engage in it. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 11-12 pm PST/1-2 pm CST/2-3 pm EST. Register [here](#) if you would like to attend.



Donate to JCLC

[Donating to JCLC](#) helps support their work to advocate for and address the common needs of library workers of color.



REFORMA Cancels Their 8th Annual Colorado Conference

The 8th Annual REFORMA Colorado Conference scheduled for May 8 has been cancelled, stay tuned for information about virtual opportunities on their conference [website](#).

That's it from us this month; we'll see you in April!

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Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services

American Library Association
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611
1-800-545-2433 ext. 4294
diversity@ala.org

