

**2012-2013 ALA CD#26  
2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** Nominating Committee Report for the 2013 ALA Election

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

For information purposes. No actions requested.

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**

Nominating Committee for the 2013 ALA Election:

Nancy Davenport, Chair  
Mario Ascencio  
Trevor Dawes  
Ling Hwey Jeng  
Terri Kirk  
Cynthia Richey  
David Schuster  
James F. Williams

[No action requested.]

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Nancy Davenport, Chair, Nominating Committee for the 2013 ALA Election, 703-819-5623,  
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**DRAFT OF MOTION:**

None.

**DATE:** October 18, 2012

**ATTACHMENT:** Nominating Committee Report

## **Nominating Committee Report for the 2013 ALA Election**

**Background:** The Committee began its work at the 2012 Midwinter meeting by reviewing the work of the Committee for the 2012 election with its chair, Vivian Wynn. JoAnne Kempf of the ALA Governance Office provided the Committee with the timeline for the process, and lists of current Council members, former members of Council and a list those who ran unsuccessfully in the previous election. Our work was conducted in two face-to-face meetings, numerous conference calls, and through private space on ALA Connect. As we progressed, JoAnne created excel files of the potential candidates for each position based on the registration system's data.

**How we worked:** At our first committee meeting, we mapped our web of influence based on the ALA divisions, committees, caucuses, and groups (formal and informal) to which we belonged. We mapped our state and regional coverage, ties to chapter and state listservs, and alumni affiliations. Based on that analysis we began contacting people on the various lists and others we agreed would be good, potential candidates.

**Treasurer and President-elect** Two members, each well qualified and well matched to be ALA Treasurer, were strongly recommended to the Committee. And when asked, each expressed interest in running for election. With two BARC chairs interested in running for Treasurer, we looked no further as service on BARC is excellent preparation for understanding and explaining ALA's complicated finances. For President-elect, we had individuals who approached us and expressed interest in being considered for the ballot and we had recommendations from the Committee members and other member-leaders we turned to for advice. Our principal concern was recruiting two individuals who would be excellent ALA Presidents and create a ballot that was a level playing field for both candidates.

**Council** ALA Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 (c) stipulates that "the number of nominees shall not be fewer than one-and-one-half times the anticipated number of member-at-large vacancies to be filled at the next election." That meant we needed 50 candidates this year, and finding 50 people willing to run for Council was very hard. But we were ultimately successful in identifying 51 individuals interested in running for Council. When committee members contacted individuals, they heard the following reasons: "I've been on the ballot several times and lost. Why would I want to run again?" "I can't stay at conference long enough to attend all the Council meetings." "I get no financial support from my library so if I come to ALA, it has to be for the shortest time possible." "My library no longer gives released time to attend conferences and I have to reserve some of my vacation time for my family." "My administrator will NOT give released time for Council as she thinks it is a joke." Over and over we heard that there is a lack of respect for Council and when this is added to the financial and time obligations an individual must assume, there seems little point in running -- particularly if doing so would look like an exercise in bad judgment to one's supervisor.

**Observations:** Serving in a leadership role in a division or on a division or ALA committee is seen as valuable experience to the individual and to the employer, as is service on a committee

or division. But the perceived value of service on Council is not equal in a professional sense. Second observation is that the current economy has so affected all types of libraries that financial support for travel and released time has disappeared from many institutions. Other libraries are operating with such reduced staffs that there is no one to fill in if a staff member is away for nearly a week, twice a year, in addition to vacations. The next nominating committee may face more people saying that running for ALA president, with its three-year obligation, is just impossible given the circumstances.

**Opinion:** Not necessarily shared by all the committee -- The practice of permitting two pathways to election to Council was intended to create a direct way to give those who have never served on Council a chance to be elected. But the dual path and the disparities of nominating committee practices may be creating the opposite impression. Any member can run for election via a petition with 25 signatures. Sitting Councilors who want to run for re-election pass the petition around during a Council session, secure the signatures, and are then eligible for the ballot. Other Council members are posting the petition to Facebook and getting the requisite signatures in minutes. The Committee for the 2012 election had 90 people on their ballot for Council rather than the required 50. The reality of a Council election is that a group of relatively unknown members are competing against a group (of unknown size) of better known members. The result of this is that a significant number of members are persuaded to run for office by the Nominating Committee will not be elected -- last year's election alone meant that an additional 40 people were disappointed in ALA. Why do we do this and expect that it will be easy for the next committee to find 50 people? If the Executive Board could lead the Association to adopt a policy that the Nominating Committee is the path to election and the number required for the ballot were enlarged to 75 - 80 people, the Committee would seek those candidates from a pool that includes sitting Councilors and would seek some balance along the continuum of service, from long serving Councilors to the new Councilors..

**Some statistics about the Council candidates for the 2012 ballot:**

22 are from academic libraries, 13 from public and 9 from school libraries. There are 2 LIS students running and two faculty from LIS institutions. The other candidates are from state libraries, special libraries and the vendor community.

Eight of the candidates are from Texas, 4 each from Illinois and New Jersey, and 3 each from California, Tennessee, and Virginia.

**Closing** We want to thank Maureen Sullivan for the privilege of serving on the Nominating Committee and JoAnne Kempf for her assistance and her patience. And we wish the Nominating Committee for the 2014 election all the best.

Respectfully,

Nancy Davenport, Chair

**2013 ALA NOMINATED CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**

- Craig Scott Amos**, Library Manager, Thomas Nelson Community College, Hampton, VA
- Thomas Jeremy Barthelmess**, Lecturer and Curator, Butler Children's Literature Center, Dominican University, Chicago, IL
- Judy T. Bivens**, Instructional Resources Librarian and MLIS Program Coordinator, Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, TN
- Elizabeth Jean Brumfield**, Distance Services Librarian, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX
- Frank Alan Bruno**, Library Director, Dorchester County Library, St. George, SC
- Madeline Bryant**, Senior Librarian/Department Manager, Children's Literature Department, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA
- Peggy Cadigan**, Associate State Librarian, New Jersey State Library, Trenton, NJ
- Sharon R. Castleberry**, Coordinator of Library Automation, DeSoto Public Library, DeSoto, TX
- Min Chou**, Librarian I/Web Coordinator, New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ
- Cynthia Czesak**, Library Director, Paterson Public Library, Paterson, NJ
- Erica Findley**, Digital Resources and Metadata Librarian, Pacific University Library, Forest Grove, OR
- Marianne Crandell Follis**, Librarian, Irving Public Library - Valley Ranch Branch, Irving, TX
- Martin L. Garnar**, Reference Services Librarian and Professor of Library Science, Regis University, Denver, CO
- Dorcus Hand**, Director of Libraries, Annunciation Orthodox School, Houston, TX
- Will Hires**, Engineering and Scholarly Communication Librarian, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- John M. Jackson**, Library Supervisor, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- Rochelle Adele Jerla**, Librarian, Golden Acres Elementary/Pasadena ISD, Pasadena, TX
- Alys Jordan**, Head of Research, Instruction & Outreach Services, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK
- Cristol Michelle Kapp**, School Librarian, Hamilton County Dept. of Education - Hardy Elementary School, Chattanooga, TN
- Lynda M. Kellam**, Data Services & Government Information Librarian, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC
- Vicky (Victoria C.) Kemp**, Technical Services Manager, Flower Mound Public Library, Flower Mound, TX
- Kate Kosturski**, Institutional Participation Coordinator, UK and Northern Europe, JSTOR/ITHAKA, New York, NY
- Christopher Kyauk**, Librarian, San Leandro Public Library, San Leandro, CA
- Chihfeng P. Lin**, Associate Professor, Shih Hsin University, Taipei, Taiwan
- Olivia M. A. Madison**, Dean of the Library, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- Jason Martin**, Head of Public Services, Stetson University, DeLand, FL

**Stephen L. Matthews**, Librarian, Foxcroft School, Middleburg, VA  
**Nancy Milone-Hill**, Director, Boxford Town Library, Boxford, MA  
**Kathleen Moeller-Pfeiffer**, Associate State Librarian, New Jersey State Library, Trenton, NJ  
**Cynthia Nettles-Sankey**, School Media Specialist, Floyd Elementary School, Montgomery, AL  
**Robbie Nickel**, Librarian, Sage Elementary School, Spring Creek, NV  
**Pamela Nixon-McCarter**, Library Supervisor/Coordinator, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC  
**Jennifer S. Novia**, Administrative Manager, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN  
**Susan O'Neal**, Director, Middletown Township Public Library, Middletown, NJ  
**John Pecoraro**, Assistant Director, Manhattan Public Library, Manhattan, KS  
**Liz Philippi**, Manager of Library Services, Houston ISD, Houston, TX  
**Jeannette Pierce**, Director, Klarchek Information Commons, Loyola University Libraries, Chicago, IL  
**Celise Ann Reech-Harper**, Programming and Public Relations Manager, Beauregard Parish Library, DeRidder, LA  
**Erin E. Rushton**, Web Services Librarian, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY  
**Edward Sanchez**, Head, Library Information Technology, Raynor Memorial Libraries, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI  
**Jennifer K. Sheehan**, Curator of Rare Books, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX  
**Coral Sheldon-Hess**, Web Services Librarian, University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK  
**Tracy Reid Sumler**, Branch Manager, Louden County Public Library, Potomac Falls, VA  
**Temitope Toriola**, PhD Student, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN  
**Scott Walter**, University Librarian, DePaul University, Chicago, IL  
**Alex Phillip Watson**, Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS  
**Lizz Zitron**, Outreach Librarian, Carthage College, Kenosha, WI