

# NMRT Board Member Final Report

## 1. Office Name: NMRT Councilor

## 2. Office Term (Date: Ex. 2005-2006): 2011-2014

## 3. Discuss/summarize your involvement with your committees this year:

My tenure as ALA NMRT Councilor began at the Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, TX in January. In order to keep members informed of the work of council, I began a new blog at <http://alanmrtcouncilor.wordpress.com/>. The report from Midwinter is contained there and updates will be posted as issues develop at Annual Conference.

Much of the work of Council only takes place at ALA meetings with slow down between Midwinter and Annual. Still, I have been participating in the NMRT Executive Board meetings in the interim.

Here is a brief outline of the main issues discussed at ALA Midwinter:

**The Future of the ALA-APA:** I was always confused by this but here's my understanding as of now. American Library Association is a nonprofit organization.... We carry the 501c3 designation. As such, we cannot dabble in lobbying or anything political that might jeopardize this nonprofit designation. The [APA](#) was created to be the lobbying end of ALA... their concern — library staff salaries and lobbying for library related issues. APA shares the same officers and councilors as ALA (as it operates in parallel). Council was presented with a recommendation from the Presidential Task Force for Improving the Effectiveness of ALA's Council to abolish the APA Council (I think in place... with decisions being made by the ALA-APA Executive Board rather than council). The resolution met with mixed reactions and will be discussed in more depth at Annual Anaheim.

**Restriction of the selling of Digital Content to Libraries by publishers:** Some of the larger eBook publishers have said they will not sell to libraries over concerns of pirating and revenue (read... profits). This is a concern for ALA. There has been [a Digital Content and Libraries Working Group](#) convened and they gave [their report](#) at MW. Council also adopted a resolution (which some anecdotal reports say did not go far enough) . [Recently, the ALA Leadership met with 4 large publishers re: this issue.](#) More information as it breaks. Molly Raphael, ALA President, plans to send a more formalized report of the meeting next week. Ongoing issue. Stay tuned!

**Tucson Unified School District ban on “ethnic studies” program:** (geared specifically at the Mexican American Studies Program but could be far reaching): It seems that the government of AZ is interpreting laws in AZ which would affect ethnic studies program books (particularly Mexican-American Studies) and would pull them from the shelves and the study of such from the curriculum. This interpretation of the law has far reaching implications (i.e. where does this ban stop?) [ALA council adopted a](#)

[resolution at MW](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ethnic-studies-book-ban-arizona-include-shakespeare-tempest-article-1.1007105) supporting the Tucson School system who if they defied the order would have been penalized in reduced financial support. ALA Council cites this action as a restriction of open inquiry/access to information and goes further by urging the AZ legislature to pass HB 2654 that would repeal this. Ongoing issue. Stay tuned... for more information: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ethnic-studies-book-ban-arizona-include-shakespeare-tempest-article-1.1007105>

**Purchase of Neal-Schuman Publishing by ALA:** Jim Neal (no relation) as treasurer reported on the acquisition of Neal-Schumann Publishing by ALA. Neal-Schumann will join ALA Publishing cadre. The repayment of the loan that was used to buy this publishing will not be repaid from dues but will be paid back from publishing proceeds. For more information: <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/inside-scoop/Neal-Schuman-join-ala-publishing>

I urge NMRT members to attend the next membership meeting to be held at the Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA scheduled for 3:30 PST, Saturday, 6/23/12 in the MAR Platinum 1-6 (Council Chambers)

**4. Based on your year's experience in this office, what future directions do you see your office or NMRT needing to take this year or the following year?**

Continued monitoring of trends in librarianship that would affect NMRT members  
Gather more input and thoughts from NMRT members on how we might serve them better.

**5. What tips or hints do you have that might help your successor carry out the duties of this office?**

**Regular communication with the members to keep them up-to-date with the larger body of ALA.**

**6. Please address the role of the board member as coordinator. For example, projects between membership promotion, diversity & recruitment and student outreach would need to be coordinated. How might activities such as this be handled by board members efficiently and smoothly? Your thoughts here will be most helpful for future boards.**

N/A

**7. Date of report: 6/4/12**

**8. Submitted by: Susan L. Jennings**