

**American Library Association
Fall 2015 Executive Board Meeting
President-Elect Report – Julie Todaro**

ALA Leadership

A heartfelt thank you to Board leadership and their assistance as I move into the role of President-elect. Sari and I have had phone discussions, emails and I served as a member of a feedback group on a webinar for her initiative. We are also trying to find a time to meet before midwinter. Courtney has reached out through email offering support as well – and again – their attention and assistance is much appreciated. Keith Fiels, ALA Executive Director, came to Austin to meet with me and visit my work environment and have great Austin, Texas food. Keith is gifted at making those around him enjoy their activities and I very much value his extensive expertise and in-depth knowledge of the profession and the general association world, but especially his knowledge of and experience in the practice of our profession. It makes a big difference when someone knows the field from the frontlines “up” and then can apply that to executive leadership. And, although I speak to ALA headquarters staff below in the “Orientation” section, I can’t thank JoAnne Kempf enough for her guidance, attention to detail, her availability, her skills and her supportive personality (and wit!)

Orientation

This past September, I went to ALA Headquarters in Chicago for my general orientation and media training. The ALA orientation (two days) includes presentations on the work of all of ALA’s groups including divisions, roundtables, and other departments/offices. I found the presentations diverse in nature, unique in coverage and – actually - fascinating. One of the most helpful elements of these activities is the fact that there IS no template for each presentation rather each individual or group of employees shares their information about their area in completely different ways – but ways suited to what they do. These differences assist in remembering what each group does and how their resources and services fit with their constituents.

I attended the media training as well. At the end of my orientation and training I composed an email about my experiences and am recommending that the media training NOT be at the end of the trip, but rather always at the beginning. Although they have BEEN first in the past and this year it was a scheduling issue for them - given the nature of the activities, the officer needs to be “fresh” in order to learn what is needed. In addition, since the media training includes a critique of the initiative, the media trainers need to be sent (by the President-elect) either content on or links to content on their initiative. Much like the media lessons themselves, the content is best learned by the trainers having the most current and accurate information on the initiative. Practice from the media training on initiative “defense” can then be immediate as the President-

elect moves through the next days of orientation with staff. An additional solution is to have the media training a stand-alone event at another time but in the early fall.

Washington Office Orientation

I have not yet received my Orientation to the Washington Office. Although they have offered a number of dates, I have several scheduling issues. I am hopeful this is scheduled by our Board Meeting.

Task Force on EDI

The Task Force is making great progress with many regular phone calls (with TF and ALA ED) including:

- Decisions on programs for Midwinter – both awareness and training
- Choice of awareness identification for ALA members (example – armbands)
- Speaker decisions for co-sponsoring for Midwinter and Annual Conference TF speaker
- Discussions and Decisions of Day of Service activities for Annual
- Processes and activities in place for reviewing member input for discussions and decisions (for TF or for final report recommendations for changes, activities, initiatives for ALA)
 - Member surveys with excellent response numbers
 - A chart of all discussion group input (6 or more groups) for reviewing for ideas
- A request for and review of all ALA processes for vetting accuracy and appropriateness for current business practices
- Ongoing information sharing for awareness of depth and breadth of issues
- Future issues include: work with new ALA staff in EDI areas for onboarding

TF on Context for Future Accreditation

This TF has had one conference call to discuss its mission, their context vs the context of the other TF. The group has begun the discussion for what the white paper might accomplish (as they vary per project,) how the actual writing of the paper might happen and spent time sharing overall issues in this area of the profession, timelines and ideas for reading for the group. Everyone has a unique knowledge and the resources suggested were excellent. I am looking forward to this service.

Workgroup on Tech Review

During my ALA orientation, I met with ALA Tech leadership and discussed their internal assessment document. We briefly discussed how that might be used to open up a broader discussion on ALA Tech for both review of tech for internal staff use and for membership

content use. I also spoke with Keith on this document, the breadth of content (17 areas) and how my institution's recent tech audit was (and wasn't) managed. I am pleased to serve on any group assisting in this process.

Committee Work

The appointments process that PE's get to work on first are perfectly explained and well managed by staff AND I would fully understand at each juncture and explanation, then walk away and wake up confused. BUT I think – with extensive staff assistance (it takes a village) I got it right. Three nomination and committee activities take place:

- Finding people from Council interested in running for Board (completed and slate goes to EB/FYI at the fall meeting).
- Nominating people to form the Committee to propose a slate for the next ALA Presidential election. (Done & fall EB review.)
- Educating us (me and other PE's) on the larger ALA committee selection process (see Committee on Appointments below)

Our process this fall included:

- Emails (ex. to Council, etc.) asking for nominees for a possible Board slate
- Work to create profiles of nominees and other group members for balanced groups
- Emails for voting, prioritizing lists
- Conference calls to vet names
- Calls for final decisions

Although it's not more important, specific information on the largest effort of making appointments to ALA committees follows.

Committee on Appointments

The Committee, presidents-elect of the divisions, were sent emails and met by conference call. We were provided an overview of all the committees, including atypical committees and received a tutorial on the database to review received applications. PE's also get to review communication that goes out to the membership on this process and these discussions are particularly helpful since I receive at least two emails a week from individuals who have filled out forms but present a personal case for appointment. Thanks to Kerri Price for managing this process and further work on appointments will be done at the "class" dinner and midwinter meetings using some organizing tools Kerri makes available. Division PE's have been tasked with reviewing the database and collecting names for appointment recommendations.

Presidential Focus

My Advisory Committee is meeting November 13th and 14th in Chicago to continue planning for my presidential initiative. My focus is on the “expert in library environments” and will be derivative of Libraries Transform and related campaigns. I have three working groups: a Steering Committee which is comprised of co- or tri-chairs by types of library environment, with one specific to Advocacy; Committee members for each of the committees (meeting midwinter and virtually before and after) and an Expert Panel (Virtual) to vet content as it is developed (these people will also be invited to an activity at Midwinter). I will distribute a list of members at all levels. Janice Welburn (Marquette) and Beth McNeil (U of Iowa) are co-chairs of the overall initiative.

Travel and Speaking Engagements

2015 - Past

August 31 – September 3rd - ALA Headquarters Orientation/Media Training-Chicago (ALA \$)
September 18-19 - Keynote-TLA District Meeting Lubbock, Texas (ALA \$, TLA \$)
October 9 Keynote- TLA District Meeting, Austin, Texas (no \$)

2015 – Upcoming

October 23-25th – ALA Fall Executive Board Meeting-Chicago, IL (ALA \$)
November 5-8th – Welcome, AASL National Conference, in Columbus, Ohio (ALA \$)
November 13th – 14th Todaro Initiative Steering/Advisory Committee Meeting (ALA \$)
December 3-5th - Carnegie, “Love My Librarian” event –New York, NY (ALA \$)
December 20th – IMLS Laura Bush Awardees LIS Graduation/Keynote- Little Rock, AK (no ALA \$)
TBA - ALA Washington Office Orientation – Washington, D.C. (ALA \$)

2016 - Upcoming

January 7-12th - ALA Midwinter Meeting-Boston, MA. (ALA \$)
February 25-27th – Keynote TCCTA – Texas Community College Teachers Association, Houston, TX (no ALA \$)
April 7th Keynote & service in ALA meeting - Tennessee Library Association Spring Meeting– Chattanooga, TN 9:00 a.m. (ALA \$)
April 8th - Keynote-Denver, CoALA Denver, Colorado (ALA \$)
April 15-17th – ALA Executive Board Meeting-Chicago, IL (ALA \$)
April 20-23 - 3 programs-Texas Library Association Houston, TX (no ALA \$)
April 27-28th - Keynote-Ohio-Northeast Ohio Regional Library System, NEO Twinsburg, Ohio (ALA \$, NEO \$, 250 \$ to Spectrum)
May 2-3 – Attend – ALA Legislative Day (ALA \$)
June 23 – 28th – ALA Annual Conference – Orlando, FL (ALA \$)
July 19-22nd - Keynote-Library Leadership event Columbus, Ohio (ALA \$)
September 22nd - Keynote, Kentucky Library Association (ALA \$) (proposed)
November 2-4th – Keynote, NMLA Annual Conference-New Mexico, (ALA \$)