

ALA Executive Board
2014 Fall Meeting

TOPIC: Revised Skeleton Schedule: 2015 ALA Annual Conference

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

DRAFT MOTION: *The ALA Executive Board approves adjustments to the approved 2015 ALA Annual Conference skeleton schedule for Sunday, June 28, 2014, as presented.*

REQUESTED BY: Mary W. Ghikas, Senior Associate Executive Director, ALA

DATE: 17 October 2014

BACKGROUND:

“Skeleton Schedules” including opening and closing times for registration and Exhibits, as well as the meeting times for the ALA Council and ALA Executive Board, are approved by the ALA Executive Board, on recommendation from the ALA Conference Committee and ALA Exhibits Round Table Board, at each Midwinter Meeting. Subsequent changes to the skeleton schedule must also be approved by the ALA Executive Board.

The 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco presents us with both some unique opportunities and unique challenges. The following changes to the skeleton schedule are intended to address the challenges. ALA Annual Conference is being held – as has been true previously (2001) – on the same weekend as the Gay Pride Parade. The Parade and related events offer some opportunities for interested members to participate along with local colleagues; ALA is working closely with both the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco Public Library to facilitate both participation in events and a smooth Conference experience.

The Gay Pride Parade has grown significantly since the 2001 conference. ALA Conference Services has been working with the City to deal with the consequences (for the Conference) of that growth. The Parade will take place on Sunday, June 28, on Market Street, which bisects the Conference campus. Market Street will be closed from early morning through late afternoon. Conference Services is working with both ALA’s busing contractor and the City to redesign bus routes; the “Gale buses” will continue on Sunday. Conference Services and ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children) have also worked collaboratively – and early – to identify a site for the day’s largest ticketed event, the Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Award Banquet.

Nevertheless, in the interest of giving conference participants the best possible experience, it was prudent to examine the Sunday schedule. Based on that examination, ALA Conference Services is recommending the following changes to the 2015 Annual Conference Skeleton Schedule, effective for Sunday (June 28) only:

- Reduce the length of the 1.5 hour sessions to 1 hour (from 8:30-10:00 and 1:00-2:30 to 8:39-9:30 and 1:00-2:00), which will provide one hour (vs. 30 minute) transit periods between sessions during the busiest times of the day: 8:30-9:30, 10:30-11:30, 1:00-2:00, 3:00-4:00, 4:30-5:30. The lunch break remains at 1.5 hours. The last program time period is not changed. Bus travel times will be longer than usual (because they will have to go around the parade route) and there will be more pedestrian traffic on all streets. Allowing for longer transit times will help to reduce stress for members concerned about reaching programs or meetings on time.
- End the Exhibit open hours at 4:00pm on Sunday (only), rather than 5:00pm. This will (a) allow the significant number of publisher representatives who participate in the Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Banquet and related events additional time to get to that event cluster (Hilton Hotel, across Market St.) and (b) allow buses time to pick up people who are leaving the Convention Center when they leave the Exhibit Hall and be ready for the crowd leaving at the end of the ALA President's Program (5:30pm).

No other schedule changes are proposed. These changes affect the Sunday schedule only. All other steps to accommodate the unusual traffic patterns and crowds will be handled individually with affected units.

These changes have been reviewed with both the Exhibits Round Table Board (which met in Chicago on Monday, October 20) and with the ALA Conference Committee (on ALA Connect). Both understand the reasons behind these changes and are supportive.

Attachment: 2015 Annual Conference Skeleton Schedule – proposed revision October 2014

Day/Date	8:00am	8:30am	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm																	
Thursday	7:30am - 5:00pm Exhibitor Registration Open																				Executive Board Exec. Ctte.																			
Friday	7:30am - 7:00pm Registration Open																				ALA Executive Board I		APA		BARC / F&A				Opening General Session (to ribbon cutting 5:15pm)				EXHIBITS OPENING RECEPTION							
	Session 1				Session 2				Session 3																															
Saturday	7:30am - 5:00pm Registration Open																				Exhibits Open										Council/Board/Membership				Membership Mtg					
	Session 4				Session 5				Session 6				Session 7				Session 8																							
Sunday	7:30am - 5:00pm Registration Open																				Exhibits Open										ALA COUNCIL I				APA		ALA President's Program & ALA Awards			
	Session 9				Session 10				Session 11				PBA		BARC + DIVS		Session 12				Session 13																			
Monday	7:30am - 5:00pm Registration Open																				EXHIBITS OPEN										ALA COUNCIL II (8:30-11:30)				ALA Executive Board II					
	Session 14				Session 15				Session 16				Session 17				Session 18																							
Tuesday	7:30am-1:30pm Registration Open										ALA COUNCIL III (7:45-9:15)				Closing Session/Officer Intro				Inaugural Brunch/Celebration (11:15-1:00)																					
	Session 19												ALA Executive Board III																											

"Session" = meetings on Friday; programs or meetings Saturday-Tuesday
 Preconferences assumed Thursday & Friday (ending by OGS on Friday)