

To: ALA Executive Board

RE: Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

Update on activities of the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Jody Gray, Director, Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services

CONTACT PERSON:

Jody Gray, 800-545-24333, ext. 5295 or 312-280-5292

DRAFT OF MOTION:

No motion proposed – informational only

DATE: April 1, 2016

BACKGROUND:

The attached update includes information on the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services committees, round tables, and current events

MISSION:

The ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services supports library and information science workers in creating safe, responsible, and all-inclusive spaces that serve and represent the entire community. To accomplish this, we decenter power and privilege by facilitating conversations around access and identity as they impact the profession and those we serve. We use a social justice framework to inform library and information science workers' development of resources. We strive to create an association culture where these concerns are incorporated into everybody's everyday work.

Office Updates

Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services Has a New Director

ALA welcomed Jody Gray as the Director of the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services on November 2. Jody came to ALA from the University of Minnesota, where she was the Diversity Outreach Librarian for the past 10 years and the library liaison to the Department of American Indian Studies and the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature. Jody is originally from South Dakota and is a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Tribe. She's worked as an academic librarian for the past 13 years and been an active member of ALA and the American Indian Library Association throughout that time. Read more about Jody in American Libraries at <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/11-questions-with-jody-gray/>.

ODLOS Office Name Change

Staff from the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services proposed a new name change for their office along with a new mission statement. The proposal was sent to all the committees, round tables, and affiliate groups that currently have an official liaison relationship with the office. The Director of ODLOS met with many groups and individuals and attended the Diversity Councilors meeting to discuss the proposal and get input from all affected parties. Feedback was open until January 31, 2016. The staff developed a final proposal based on the feedback and are proposing the name change to the Equity, Diversity, and Access Office.

Education

Two Free Four-Hour Anti-Racism Workshops

The Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, with support from ALA President-Elect Julie Todaro, offered two free four-hour anti-racism workshops facilitated by Community Change, Inc. as part of the 2016 Midwinter Meeting. Over 100 people participated in "If I Hadn't Believed It, I Wouldn't Have Seen It: Exploring Systemic Racism and Its Implications for Our Lives and Work". The interactive workshops explored how race, systemic racism, and racial privilege have implications for our personal and professional lives and provided tools to help us better recognize and address racism and other forms of oppression in our relationships, organizations, and institutions.

Dollar General American Dream Grant

American Dream Sustainability Webinars

To support our libraries in moving beyond projects to programming that is an integral part of their libraries, the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services' American Dream grant program hosted a series of sustainability webinars. Vivian Wynn, an ALA member for more than 38 years, former chair to the Committee on Literacy and one of the initial drafters of the literacy proposal to Dollar General, facilitated a dialogue about practical ways to build a sustainable program beyond the grant year. Exploring ideas and engaging webinar attendees in discussions about involvement with local to political partners was the highlight. Vivian attempted to answer the question, "How do you carry on after funds have been spent?" She also discussed how sources other than grant funding, such as donations and volunteering, can create buy-in and build a sustainable future for libraries. American

Dream grantee libraries took away tips and solutions for everyday challenges and gained tools for finding new ways to resolve their literacy program challenges.

To view the presentation, visit: <http://ala.adobeconnect.com/p81b6rk74g9/>

ProLiteracy Partnership IMLS Grant

With a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services and ProLiteracy are working with three public libraries to pilot online training and supporting resources that will better equip libraries to serve adult learners. The three pilot sites are the City of Santa Monica Public Library in Santa Monica, California, Rawlings Pueblo City-County Library in Pueblo, Colorado and Halifax County Library System in Halifax, North Carolina. With support that includes an advisory group of adult literacy leaders, the libraries will launch new initiatives by putting into practice priorities outlined in [Adult Literacy through Libraries: an Action Agenda](#), a previous project of ProLiteracy, ALA and Onondaga County Public Library.

Outreach Events

National Bookmobile Day

On Wednesday, April 13, libraries across the country and around the world will join in the seventh annual celebration of National Bookmobile Day. To help libraries celebrate, ODLOS has once again developed materials for them to plan their local festivities, including social media graphics, customizable posters, bookmarks, and publicity templates. We will also be holding an video celebration of #nbd2016 on Youtube, where we invite everyone to show us "Why We Love Our Bookmobile," part of our wider social media efforts to highlight bookmobiles and the valuable services they provide in their communities. To learn more, please visit www.ala.org/bookmobiles.

Advisory Group

At the Midwinter 2016 conference in Boston, MA, the OLOS Advisory Committee proposed a name and charge change to better reflect the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services structure and to include representation directly from affiliate organizations that formerly worked through the Diversity Council, a subcommittee of the Committee on Diversity. The proposal was approved by COO and the ALA Council and this group is now the ODLOS Advisory Committee. The new structure will be in place starting after Annual 2016.

Committees

Committee on Diversity (COD)

- Have begun developing lists of diversity events at conferences to promote across the organization.
- Voted to allow the sub committees of the COD to be listed on the annual volunteer forms.
 - Diversity Research Grant Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the Committee on Diversity)

- Currently reviewing the nominees for the Achievement in Library Diversity Research. This award recognizes ALA members for their contributions to the profession through research on diversity issues within library and information science.
- Currently reviewing the proposals for the Diversity Research Grant 2016. This grant consists of a one-time \$2,500 award for original research. Research proposals may address any diversity topic, including the recruitment and promotion of diverse individuals within the profession or the provision of library services to diverse populations, which addresses critical gaps in the knowledge of diversity issues within library and information science.
- Diversity Council (a sub-committee of the Committee on Diversity)
 - In conjunction with the OLOS Advisory Committee, the Diversity Council elected to disband and become a part of the structure of the OLOS Advisory Committee at the MW 2016 meeting in Boston, MA.
- Spectrum Advisory Group (a sub-committee of the Committee on Diversity)
 - Currently developing the curriculum for the Spectrum Institute to be held at the Annual Conference 2016 in Orlando, FL

Committee on Literacy (COL)

- Hosting a program on services to the incarcerated at Annual 2016 in Orlando, FL

Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds (RNTLOAK)

- Updating the toolkits for the serving Tribal Libraries and supporting small and rural libraries

Round Tables

Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)

- David Cohen/EMIERT Multicultural Award
 - Jaena Alabi, Reference Librarian at Auburn University, is the recipient of the 2016 American Library Association (ALA) Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) David Cohen/EMIERT Multicultural Award for her article entitled "Racial Microaggressions in the Academic Library Environment: Results of a Survey of Minority and Non-minority Librarians." The Award will be presented to Alabi during the EMIERT Membership Meeting at ALA's 2016 Annual Conference in Orlando.
- Corretta Scott King Book Awards Committee (sub-committee of EMIERT)
 - The Corretta Scott King Book Awards were announced at Midwinter 2016 in Boston, MA. "Gone Crazy in Alabama," written by Rita Williams-Garcia, is the King Author Book winner. The book is published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; "Trombone Shorty," illustrated by Bryan Collier, is the King Illustrator Book winner. The book was written by Troy Andrews and Bill Taylor and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.

- Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement
 - Jerry Pinkney is the winner of the Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award pays tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children’s author Virginia Hamilton.

Jerry Pinkney’s illustrations detail a world that resonates with readers long after the pages of a book have been turned. His five decades of work offer compelling artistic insights into the legacy of African American storytelling and experience. Beyond Pinkney’s technical brilliance, his support of differentiated learning through art and of young illustrators sets him apart as both artist and educator. His powerful illustrations have redefined the scope of the sophisticated picture book and its use with multiple levels of learners.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT)

- Stonewall Book Awards
 - Stonewall Book Awards were announced at Midwinter 2016 in Boston, MA. Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award was given to two titles this year, acknowledging both the Children’s and Young Adult category. “George,” written by Alex Gino and published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., and “The Porcupine of Truth,” written by Bill Konigsberg and published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., are the winners of the 2016 Stonewall Children’s and Young Adult Literature Awards respectively.
- McConnell and Baker receive First-Ever GLBTRT Award for Political Activism
 - Michael McConnell and Jack Baker have been named the inaugural recipients of the American Library Association’s (ALA) Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) Award for Political Activism. The award will be presented on Monday, June 27, 2016 during the Stonewall Book Awards program at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.
- The GLBTRT Award for Political Activism
 - This award seeks to recognize librarians and library related organizations who have made outstanding contributions in the area of GLBT activism. The award consists of a certificate and \$1,000.

“For their visionary efforts to achieve marriage equality and for their outstanding leadership in the struggle for gay rights the GLBTRT Executive Board is pleased to award Michael McConnell and Jack Baker the GLBTRT Award for Political Activism,” said GLBTRT Chair Peter Coyl.

Already well-known in the Midwest as gay rights activists, McConnell and Baker became pioneers in the struggle for same sex marriage. In 1970, they applied for a marriage license in Hennepin County, Minnesota - the first same sex couple to apply for a marriage license. After county officials denied their application, the couple mounted a

precedent-setting lawsuit (Baker v. Nelson) that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2015, when the Court ruled that same sex couples have a fundamental right to marry, the ruling included this note: "Baker v. Nelson must be and now is overruled."

- First-ever Newlen-Symons Award for Excellence Given to Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection
 - The Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies at the University of Minnesota Libraries is the inaugural recipient of the Newlen-Symons Award for Excellence in Serving the GLBT Community. The award was established to honor a library, librarian, library staff member, library board and/or library friends groups who serve the GLBT community. Nominees are judged based on innovation, impact, sustainability and advocacy. The GLBTRT Executive Board selected the Tretter Collection in part for its role in organizing the international GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections (ALMS) conference, collecting materials from a wide variety of GLBT community groups and organizations (including the Log Cabin Republicans and international GLBT organizations, many in countries where homosexuality remains illegal), and the visionary development of the trans* community oral history project.

Social Responsibilities Round Table

- Sponsored the MLK Jr. Sunrise Celebration held at Midwinter 2016 in Boston, MA.
- Increasing membership

Sustainability Round Table (SustRT)

- The newest round table, developed in 2013, this round table continues to grow its membership and find ways to interact in person at the Annual and Midwinter conference.