



Memorandum

To: NJLA Executive Board
From: Eileen M. Palmer, Chapter Councilor
Date: 3/15/2022
Re: ALA Chapter Councilor Report

Council met on March 10, 2022. A full record of Council actions will be made available by ALA on its website. All documents referred to may be found at https://www.ala.org/aboutala/Virtual_Council_Meetings

The meeting agenda included:

[Resolution to Support School and Youth Services Librarians Facing Increased Intellectual Freedom Challenges, ALA CD#51](#) Primary sponsor was Joyce Valenza. Motion passed unanimously.

[Resolution to Promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) Efforts in AASL While Addressing Historical Effects of Racism, ALA CD#52](#) Motion passed. There was overwhelming support for this motion although there was discussion about some of the language and whether it could be more inclusive. I voted yea.

[Resolution Calling on the US Executive Branch to Drop All Charges Against Julian Assange, ALA CD#53](#) This motion, brought forward by SRRT, did not pass. There was a lot of concern about speaking publicly on case that is not in an area of our direct concern or expertise. I voted nay.

[Transforming ALA Governance \(TAG\) \(Part 3\), ALA CD#35a-35c](#) This motion passed. By the time we got to it (3 hour meeting) there were a number of councilors who had left but about 130 councilors were present for the vote. About 60% voted in favor and 40% were opposed. It was stressed during the debate that while this motion moves the governing responsibility for ALA to the Executive Board, it is not the final word and can be reversed. While I did not support this motion, and joined Betty Turock and others in speaking against it, I don't believe Council should revisit it. I hope that Council will turn its attention to

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creating the very best checks and balances it can and provide the Membership with a governance change proposal as soon as possible. I hope Chapters like NJLA will work to assure what ever level of true engagement that we can get out of this model and move forward.

[Resolution related to Structure, Composition, Purpose, and Meetings of ALA Council, ALA CD#54](#) This motion was not debated or acted on. Its future is unclear in light of the TAG motion.

Between now and Annual there are expected to be several meetings of Council to discuss the next steps. I will keep you informed as the process moves forward.

As you know, my term ends after Annual in June. Last summer I applied for an appointment to the Chapter Relations Committee starting July 1, 2022 and I learned last week that I was so appointed. I look forward to continuing to advocate for the role of chapters in ALA through that opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen M. Palmer
NJLA Chapter Councilor