



Memorandum

To: NJLA Executive Board
From: Eileen M. Palmer, Chapter Councilor
Date: 7/18/2022
Re: ALA Annual Conference Council Actions

As promised in my June report – here is a summary of Council actions at its June meetings.

A July vacation has wiped most of Council from my short term memory bank so I have relied heavily on American Libraries for this report.

Council receives a variety of reports and updates throughout all three Council sessions. I highlight here those items on the upcoming Council Agenda that I think will be of most interest to the Executive Board. All Council documents may be found at: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/virtual-january-and-annual-conference-council-meetings>

Council I

Resolutions calling on President Biden to cancel student loan debt for all borrowers ([VMD#2](#)) and condemning the destruction of libraries, schools, and cultural institutions in Ukraine ([CD#57](#)) were adopted. A resolution in defense of the right to engage in political boycotts ([CD#55](#)) was defeated. Councilors voted to refer a resolution in support of continuing virtual access to ALA membership meetings to ALA's Budget Analysis and Review Committee ([CD#59](#)).

The Jason Reynolds/Simon & Schuster travel grant ([CD#48](#)), which sponsors five Black school or youth services librarians to attend Annual, was approved.

The Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) recommendations were presented and discussed. Amendments were made from the floor to the task force's initial recommendations ([CD#36](#)). Council passed two proposed amendments, one to change the recommendation that Council's role be advisory and retain Council's role as a policymaking body and another to mandate Rainbow Round Table representation on the Executive Board. Action Item #1 passed as amended. This means that the changes to the

composition of Council and the Executive Board will move forward but that Council will retain governance authority, at least for now.

Council II

The Committee on Organization presented a proposal recommending changes in the Committee of ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services meant to expand its capacity and foster continuity. The proposal passed.

The Committee on Education presented a draft motion regarding the Core Competencies of Librarianship ([CD#41.1](#)) to incorporate committee and stakeholder feedback. A motion to refer it back to the committee passed with the recommendation that the committee work with the American Association of School Librarians to amend language pertaining to the accreditation of school librarians.

The Working Group to Condemn White Supremacy and Fascism as Antithetical to Library Work ([CD#34](#)) provided an interim report and will provide a final report to Council at the January 2023 meetings.

The Core Values Task Force proposed action related to the revision of ALA's Core Values based on feedback and review ([CD#30](#)). Council voted unanimously to extend the term of the current task force by one year; expand its membership by five members; broaden its charge to include revising the current Core Values in conjunction with the Library Bill of Rights, Code of Ethics, and the Libraries, An American Value statement; and provide a report at Annual in 2023.

Councilor-at-large Ann Symons presented a resolution to discontinue ALA Council Forum ([CD#56](#)), effective immediately, which passed by a margin of two votes after extended debate. I had seconded this motion but was swayed by the debate to vote against it in the end. It was a conference with a number of close votes.

Council III

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented the committee's recommendations, which involve revising, reconciling, and updating the Association's core governing documents ([CD#25.3](#)). Council voted to rescind the ALA Constitution (the first of three required Council votes over the next several months, followed by a full membership vote to ratify) and replace the Constitution and Bylaws with a single set of revised Bylaws, to be presented to ALA Council in January 2023.

The current wave of book challenges was top of mind as Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Chair Martin Garnar reported on the activities of IFC, its Privacy Subcommittee, the CRT and Diversity Training Toolkit Subgroup, and the Working Group on Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice ([CD#19.2-19.4](#)). Garnar and Steven Yates, chair of the Committee on Library Advocacy, asked Council to support ALA's public-facing [Unite Against Book Bans](#) advocacy campaign. Later in the meeting, Freedom to Read Foundation President Barbara Stripling briefed Council on troubling trends, such as obscenity litigation, criminal prosecution of librarians, and organized attempts to subvert the accessibility and visibility of materials ([CD#22.1](#)).

The Committee on Legislation reported on legislative accomplishments in the last year ([CD#20.1](#)), including a \$1 million federal budget increase to the Innovative Approaches to

July 18, 2022

Literacy program, and advocacy priorities looking ahead to midterm elections and the next budget cycle, including ebook access, the E-Rate program, and digital inclusion efforts. Anna Kozlowska, chair of the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services Advisory Committee's Services to Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons subcommittee, asked Council to update its 2007 Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights ([CD#58](#)), which passed as amended to recognize the distinct needs of immigrant youth.

A resolution barring ALA from holding conferences in states with restrictive abortion policies ([CD#61](#)), in light of the US Supreme Court's recent decision and its impact on states, was rejected by a nearly 3-to-1 margin after extended debate.

Executive Director Tracie D. Hall provided an update on conference attendance, which totaled 13,990 as of June 27th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen M. Palmer
NJLA Chapter Councilor