

ALA Liaison Report July 2026
Submitted by Melody Scagnelli-Townley

- ALA Council Session #1 (Saturday, June 27, 2026)
 - Policy Monitoring Committee
 - Clarifications to the section of the ALA Policy Manual about “Petition Candidates”, adding that “at least one hundred (100) personal members of the Association” are required “for the position of Executive Board member”.
 - Results: 108 Yes, 4 No, 2 Abstain
 - Committee on Organization (COO) (#27.1)
 - **Motion #1:** Set a three-year moratorium on establishing additional Divisions, Round Tables, and Standing Committees, effective as of this vote until Annual Conference 2029.
 - This would not apply to short duration committees like working groups, task forces, or special committees, or committees and sub-committees of divisions and round tables.
 - Results: 100 Yes, 11 N, 4 Abstain
 - **Motion #2:** Approves changes to the charge and composition of the Nominating Committee as outlined in Appendix 1.
 - Results: 107 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain
 - **Motion #3:** Approves changes to the charge and composition of the Information Technology Advisory Committee as outlined in Appendix 2.
 - Results: 107 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain
 - **Motion #4:** Approves changes to the charge and composition of the Intellectual Freedom Committee as outlined in Appendix 3.
 - Results: 107 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain
 - **Motion #5:** Approves changes to the charge and composition of the Committee on Appointments as outlined in Appendix 4.
 - This change will require a change to the Bylaws. It will need to be approved by the membership and will appear on the Spring 2027 ALA ballot.
 - Results: 107 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain
 - Resolution to Accept [The Librarians' and Library Workers' Bill of Rights](#) (ALA CD#50)
 - Proclaims that the Bill of Rights be adopted, recognized, and advanced as a guiding framework for equity, protection, and justice across all library types.
 - Urges all library systems - local, state, national, and affiliated bodies - to recognize, endorse, and adopt the Bill of Rights as an official statement of principle and practice.
 - Results: 108 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain
 - Registration numbers:
 - There are 14,468 registrants.

- There are 2,100 first-time attendees.
- ALA Council Session #2 (Sunday, June 28, 2026)
 - Committee on Legislation (COL) (CD #20.1)
 - [Resolution on Library Infrastructure as Essential Economic and Civic Infrastructure](#)
 - This resolution:
 - Recognizes public libraries as essential economic and civic infrastructure.
 - Affirms the importance of investment in library facilities including maintenance, modernization, and accessibility.
 - Urges federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to prioritize sustained and equitable investment in public library facilities.
 - Encourages alignment of library infrastructure funding with economic development programs.
 - Supports expanded and coordinated public funding opportunities that enable libraries to serve as hubs for economic mobility.
 - Encourages collaboration among public libraries, policymakers, economic development agencies, workforce boards, architects, planners, researchers and community stakeholders.
 - Requests the COL and Committee on Library Advocacy to continue their work with the appropriate ALA Offices and federal elected officials and staff to advance awareness of library infrastructure as economic infrastructure.
 - This resolution is intended to be used as ALA lobbies for permanent federal funding for library infrastructure and affirms this as a major legislative priority.
 - Results: 111 Yes, 3 No, 0 Abstain
 - AI Working Group Report (CD #44.1 and #44.2)
 - This resolution:
 - Adopts the [Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries](#) document as a guide on how to ethically approach decisions regarding Artificial Intelligence in American libraries now and into the future.
 - Charges the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) to revisit the document with regards to the concerns raised at Council II and report back with an update by the 2027 Winter Council meeting.
 - Results: 114 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain
 - [Resolution on Library Card Access Policies as a Form of Social Equity](#) (CD #51)
 - This resolution:

- Acknowledges that access to libraries is an essential right for all which overall benefits the public good and is a crucial component to Intellectual Freedom;
- Acknowledges that significant barriers to library card registration can and do exist and can vary based on local policy, age, ability, and housing status;
- Acknowledges that a poor initial experience with a library can often have lasting impacts on a patron's perception of the library;
- Acknowledges that patron data concerns may prevent some community members from registering;
- Emphasizes the importance of clear, documented registration policies and internal procedures to ensure that library staff apply decision-making equitably and without bias;
- Recommends the following guidelines for equitable library card access:
 - Free, full-service library cards should be available to anyone living in the library's service area regardless of housing status, documentation status, economic status, age, ability, or membership in any other protected class;
 - The widest possible range of eligibility verification should be accepted;
 - Registration and renewal should be welcoming in design; including for children, families, those in non-traditional housing, people with disabilities, and individuals with limited literacy or English proficiency.
- Directs the Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC) to develop and propose revisions to the ALA Policy Manual to reflect these low-barrier access principals for Council's consideration no later than the Winter 2027 Council meeting.
- Directs the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) to establish a broad and representative working group of public library staff to incorporate the recommendations into a new interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, to be presented to Council for consideration no later than June 2027;
- Urges library governing bodies to audit their current registration and renewal practices to eliminate systemic barriers;
- Urges state library agencies to incorporate standards for low-barrier library card registration into their annual reporting requirements and state-level benchmarking;
- Requests that the Public Library Association (PLA) research into the financial benefits of having a library card, recognizing that there are social and economic "costs" borne by those who are disenfranchised from restrictive library card policies;

- Requests that PLA assemble a toolkit of resources, including low-barrier registration templates and “Welcome Guides” translated into multiple languages to assist libraries in implementing these principles;
 - Urges libraries to provide regular training for all public-facing staff and board trustees on the ALA Code of Ethics, Core Values of Librarianship, the Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read Statement focusing on the equitable application of registration policies.
 - Results: 117 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain
- Registration numbers:
 - There are 14,652 registrants.
- ALA Council Session #3 (Monday, June 29, 2026)
 - ALA Treasurer’s Report
 - Financial sustainability goal statement:
 - Optimize ALA’s capacity for impact through disciplined financial stewardship, streamlines operations, and resource allocation into mission-aligned growth
 - Strategic Objectives:
 - End operating deficit spending, adhere to clear, realistic, reality sized budgeting practices (urgent priority)
 - Review programs/services to identify opportunities for consolidation, streamlining, or elimination
 - Centralize functions and operations to eliminate duplication and maximize efficiency
 - Redesign or sunset low-performing, financially un-sustainable, or outdated offerings (urgent priority)
 - Create and invest operating surpluses to build a reserve fund to support the association’s financial health
 - Some Data Points
 - FY26 YTD actual revenue is \$1.5M higher than FY25.
 - FY26 YTD actual expenses are \$3.7M lower than FY25.
 - The FY26 deficit of \$3.2M is \$5.2M less than previous.
 - The projected total net deficit for FY26 is \$8,300.
 - Total Revenue is projected to fall short of budget by \$3,800.
 - Total Expenses are projected to be lower than budget by \$4,700.
 - The FY26 projected net deficit is expected to be favorable to the budget by \$900,000.
 - FY27 Budget Assumptions
 - Fully align revenues with expenses using zero-based budgeting
 - 3% staff salary increase
 - Virtual meetings are strongly preferred
 - All new program proposals require Executive Director approval, in consultation with the CFO, prior to inclusion in budget submissions

- New grant applications must demonstrate clear alignment with ALA's strategic priorities. The Executive Director and CFO reviews are required.
 - Budget Managers may apply endowment payout at their discretion, up to 5% of the approved 20-quarter rolling average.
 - The hiring freeze remains in effect. Any strategic hiring decisions will be evaluated in the context of the organizational assessment.
 - Estimating a total revenue of \$39,573 and total expenses of \$45,107 for a net deficit of \$5,535.
- Finance Committee
 - The new Finance Committee (FC) is charged "to provide expert financial oversight and transparent communication regarding ALA's fiscal management in service of the Association's strategic priorities."
 - Primary roles include:
 - Budget review and oversight
 - Audit and financial oversight
 - Endowment, major giving, and investment oversight
- FY28 Budget Cycle
 - Fall 2026 to Spring 2027 - Staff develops budget
 - January 2027 - FC gives budget to Executive Board for review of budget and financial assumptions
 - April 2027 - FC gives preliminary budget to Executive Board for review
 - June 2027 - FC reviews and Executive Board approves final budget
 - September 1, 2027 - start of the fiscal year
 - Quarterly - budget-to-actual reports
 - August 31, 2028 - end of the fiscal year
 - Fall 2028 - audit preparation
 - January 2029 - FC prepares audit presentation for Executive Board acceptance
- [Publishing Committee ALA Monograph Ethics Guidelines Resolution](#) (CD 32.1 and 32.2):
 - This resolution:
 - Approves the creation of an ALA monograph publication ethics guidelines as association policy, permitting this new policy to be added to the ALA Policy Manual and the new ALA Publications Committee web page when it is developed.
 - Specifically it addresses ethical violations and the use of AI in creating publications.
 - Results: 115 Y, 0 No, 0 Abstain
- [Endowment Trustees Report](#) (CD #16.1)

- As of May 31, 2026, ALA's portfolio was valued at \$66,219,007 (following a \$4 million distribution from the "Future Fund")
- In the next few months, the portfolio will decrease by approximately \$3 million as part of its standard, annual distribution.
- The "Future Fund," which is invested alongside donor-restricted "endowed" funds, is valued at approximately \$15 million. The Executive Board uses the "Future Fund" as a reserve fund, not an endowment.
- The endowment trustees are:
 - Brett Bonfield (Chair, 2027)
 - Larry Neal (Treasurer, 2028)
 - Maggie Farrell (2026)
 - Julia Gelfand (2028)
 - Rhea Lawson (2026; term limited)
 - Jack Martin (2028)
 - Shali Zhang (2027)
- [Resolution Celebrating Staff in Honor of the ALA 150th Anniversary](#) (CD #52)
 - This resolution honors and recognizes ALA staff over the last 150 years and celebrates their accomplishments.
- Registration results:
 - On-site: 223
 - Total registrants: 14,800
 - Exhibitors: 641
 - Total attendance: 13,547
 - First time attendees: 2,567
- There will be a special closed Council meeting on July 30th at 5 pm EST to discuss a confidential resolution that was not able to be finalized at ALA Annual.
- Next month...back to your regularly scheduled programming! 😊