

American Library Association (ALA) Liaison Report
June 2026

Submitted by Melody Scagnelli-Townley

- Virtual membership meeting
 - **Wednesday, June 17th, from 4:30-5:30 pm EST.**
 - [More information including the meeting agenda can be found here.](#)
 - You can submit questions for ALA leadership prior to the session by [filling out this form](#) by Monday, June 15th.
 - Please register using the following link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
 - **Voting credentials will be distributed on Tuesday, June 16th.**
 - One of the main discussion items will be “How is the present economic climate affecting membership growth and involvement for ALA?”
- ALA Annual Conference
 - The conference will run from **June 25-29** in Chicago.
 - Registration rates vary and are based on your individual ALA membership status (i.e. what category of membership).
 - There are options for full conference, single day, and exhibits only.
 - To register for a hotel, you must be registered for the conference.
 - [Full conference information here.](#)
 - SenSource is offering an Exhibits Only registration code (V433), which will make exhibits only registration \$40 instead of \$160-\$200.
- ALA Annual Conference featured speakers
 - Opening General Session Speaker: Rachel Maddow, **Friday, June 26th** from 4-5 pm CST
 - ALA President’s Program Featured Guest: Jill Biden, **Sunday, June 28th** from 4-5:30 pm CST.
 - Closing General Session Speaker: Wayne Brady, **Monday, June 29th** from 4-5 pm CST.
- ALA Annual Conference-adjacent update
 - The [Obama Presidential Center](#) is a cultural and civic space on Chicago’s South Side that brings together museum exhibits, public art installations, a welcoming green space, beautiful skyline views, and, of course, a library!
 - The Center will open to the public on Juneteenth (June 19).
- Public Library Association (PLA) joins public library groups to call for eBook action
 - PLA has partnered with Urban Libraries Council (ULC), Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC/CBUC), Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), and The Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) [issue a statement](#) calling for change in e-book pricing models to improve access to digital content.
 - The explosion in usage of ebooks and audiobooks is straining public library budgets and dragging down wait lists for readers in ways that are not sustainable.
 - “America’s public libraries are critical to digital discovery of authors and titles, as well as literacy builders and champions,” says PLA President Dr. Brandy McNeil.

"Libraries must be able to lend and preserve content in all its forms to advance literacy and learning with partners across the publishing ecosystem."

- [Read more about it](#) and explore PLA's [eBook Advocacy page](#) for additional resources.
- ALA Staff unionization process updates
 - A supermajority of ALA employees formally requested that ALA management voluntarily recognize their union, [ALA Workers United](#), in a letter delivered to ALA Executive Director Dan Montgomery on March 30th.
 - ALA employees voted overwhelmingly to approve the formation of "ALA Workers United", a new union representing staff at the 150-year-old association.
 - The final vote count, tallied on May 27, was 77–4, with 81 out of 87 votes counted. (Six votes were challenged.)
 - The National Labor Relations Board will now certify the union, a process that may take approximately 10 days, allowing workers to begin collective bargaining.
- ALA "Forward Together" updates
 - ALA Forward continues to serve as ALA's roadmap for the future, aligning resources where they create the greatest impact, strengthening its foundation, and ensuring ALA remains a trusted leader for libraries nationwide.
 - Members can continue following progress, updates, and our new ALA Forward visual roadmap on [ALA's dedicated webpage](#).
- Fiscal Year 2027 Funding Updates
 - Last week, we passed the first waypoint on the annual path to secure federal funding for libraries in fiscal year 2027 (FY27) when the House Appropriations Committee passed the spending bill that includes funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program. Given the political environment, there's pretty good news for libraries.
 - The House committee is recommending:
 - Level spending (\$291.8 million) for IMLS, including \$210 million for its Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program, and
 - A \$10 million increase (total of \$40 million) for the Education Department's Innovative Approaches to Literacy program — the first increase to IAL since 2022!
 - The next step for the House spending bill is consideration on the full House Floor, but the timing is not yet scheduled.
 - The next stop on the path to library funding for FY27 is in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-H).
 - The timetable for Senate committees has not yet been announced. That gives us a window of opportunity to send our two-fold message to Senators:
 - Provide at least \$212 million for LSTA, and
 - Meet the House committee's \$40 million proposal for IAL
 - Each chamber of Congress must complete all 12 spending bills and negotiate final funding levels by the October 1, 2026, start of FY27.

- By recommending funding for LSTA and IAL, the House has rejected the president's FY27 budget request, which called for eliminating both IMLS and IAL.
- [You can contact your Senators and tell them to #FundLibraries here.](#)
- Washington DC passes library eBook law
 - On May 28th, Mayor Muriel Bowser officially signed [B26-0490, the Library E-book Pricing Fairness Amendment Act of 2025.](#)
 - The bill features a prudent, collaborative trigger mechanism: its operational restrictions will take effect once a coordinated threshold of 10 or more states (representing an aggregate population of at least 50 million people) pass substantially similar laws.
 - The bill is now being prepared for remittance to Congress for the standard review period.
 - [More information about D.C.'s eBook law can be found here.](#)
- House passes bill on appointment of Librarian of Congress
 - House lawmakers passed a bill on June 8th aimed at preventing future executive branch interference in some legislative branch agencies, a year after President Donald Trump fired the librarian of Congress.
 - It would allow House and Senate leaders to appoint the heads of both the Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office, removing that power from the president.
 - But the president would get new appointment authority over another role, the register of copyrights. Historically part of the Library of Congress, the Copyright Office has long drawn debate over its proper place.
 - The bill was passed by a voice vote. Now it heads to the Senate, where it would need enough bipartisan support to overcome a filibuster.
 - "At its core, this bill is about ensuring that agencies of the legislative branch are governed in a manner consistent with our constitutional system, improving continuity in leadership and strengthening congressional oversight," said Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Va., the lead sponsor.
 - [More information about the bill can be found here.](#)
- Library Card Sign-Up Month (**September 2026**)
 - The theme is "A library card hits all the right notes!" (A music theme.)
 - This year, the Honorary Chair will be Laufey. (Pronounced most correctly in English as LAY-vay.)
 - Laufey is an Icelandic-Chinese composer, singer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist who is the youngest ever and two-time recipient of a GRAMMY Award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album.
 - She is also the author of the picture book *Mei Mei The Bunny*.
 - Library Card Sign-Up Month themed swag from [the ALA store can be found here.](#)
 - Library Card Sign-Up Month themed [clothing can be found here.](#)
- Banned Books Week
 - This year, Banned Books Week will run **Sunday, October 4th through Saturday, October 10th.**
 - The theme is "Let Books Be: Protect the Freedom to Read".

- [More information about Banned Books Week can be found here.](#)
- There is a page for [free downloadable content which can be found here.](#)
- Banned Books Week themed swag from [the ALA Store can be found here.](#) More content will be added as we get closer to the date.
- ALSC and YALSA Merger
 - The Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) will be reuniting.
 - YALSA will dissolve on **August 31st.**
 - Reunification will be effective September 1st.
 - Have questions? Please consult our [Reunification FAQ](#) or reach out to YALSA staff at yalsa@ala.org.
- ALSC National Institute
 - October 1-3, 2026 in Buffalo, NY
 - [Full conference information can be found here.](#)
- PLA Conference
 - March 13–15, 2028 in San Francisco, CA.
 - Mark it on your calendars!
 - The call for program proposals will open in “early 2027”.
 - [Sign up to be alerted when the call for proposals opens.](#)