

American Library Association (ALA) Liaison Report
September 2026

Submitted by Melody Scagnelli-Townley

- **ALSC and YALSA Merger**
 - The Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) are reunited.
 - YALSA dissolved on **August 31st**.
 - Reunification was effective September 1st.
 - What happens now?
 - All YALSA memberships will transition to ALSC memberships, bringing the members together within one division.
 - The division will operate under the ALSC name during this initial transition period while work continues on a new identity and name that reflects the combined community and expanded focus.
 - Members will also begin to see other aspects of the reunification take shape, including the transition to the new committee structure and the continued integration of online resources and content.
 - Not everything will change overnight. Rebranding, website integration, bylaws and policy development, and other aspects of the reunification will continue over the coming months.
 - Most importantly, there will be additional opportunities for members to provide input and help shape what comes next.
 - Have questions? Please consult the [Reunification FAQ](#) or reach out to YALSA staff at yalisa@ala.org.
- **Get ready for Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th to October 15th) with the Public Library Association's free workbook**
 - Just in time for use in planning [Library Card Sign-Up Month](#) activities and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in September, PLA's new workbook *Family Engagement for Spanish-Speaking Community Members: A Practical Guide for Authentic Engagement* provides case studies and planning tools to help library workers better engage Spanish-speaking families.
 - The guide is available for free download in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- **ALA JobList Virtual Career Fair**
 - **Wednesday, September 23rd from 11 am to 2 pm CST**
 - During this free to attend event, participants can engage in private, one-on-one text, audio, or video-based conversations with hiring employers.
 - Participants can browse open positions, employer profiles, and review company benefits.
 - Participants will have access to this information and their chat history for up to 6 months after the event.
 - Register today at ala.org/career-fair!
- **ALA Annual Conference 2027**
 - **Thursday, June 24th to Monday, June 28th, 2027** in New Orleans, LA.
 - Registration is not open yet, but typically opens in mid-to-late January.

- Registration rates are based on your membership status (i.e. individual member, supporter, student, non-member, etc.) and full conference rates vary from \$290 for early student registration to \$450 for early individual registration.
 - Full conference, single day, and exhibits only registrations will be available.
 - To register for a discounted-rate hotel room, you will need to first be registered for the conference.
 - [More information about the annual conference can be found here.](#)
- ALA Annual 2027 call for program & poster proposals
 - You are invited to share your ideas, research, and expertise with thousands of attendees at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference.
 - Proposals for education programs and poster sessions are open **through Monday, September 21st.**
 - Educational program proposals and poster proposals have the same submission dates but separate submission sites, submission guides, and rubrics.
 - Accepted presenters receive an exclusive registration discount.
 - [More information about the proposals process can be found here.](#)
- New Membership Round Table (NMRT) Mentoring Program
 - Are you looking to mentor someone who is newer to the field? Are you looking to be mentored by someone with experience in the field? Join the NMRT Mentoring Program!
 - There will be an informational session via Zoom on **Wednesday, September 23rd at 3 pm EST**, to learn more about this program.
 - This session will provide an overview of the program expectations, definitions of roles, and important dates.
 - After the presentation, they will open the floor to questions.
 - Sign up for the information session here: bit.ly/NMRTMentoringInfo
 - The call for mentors will go out in October and the call for mentees will go out in November. Final pairings will be announced in January 2027.
- ALSC National Institute
 - **Thursday, October 1st through Saturday, October 3rd** in Buffalo, NY
 - [Full conference information 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.
- Core Forum
 - Core is ALA's newest division. It represents “leadership, infrastructures, futures”.
 - The division brings together “decision makers and practitioners that focus on the following areas: Access & Equity, Buildings & Operations, Leadership & Management, Metadata & Collections, Preservation, and Technology.”

- The Core Forum is a new annual event that is “structured around these seven topics, particularly the ways in which they interact with and complement each other.”
- The next Core Forum will be **Wednesday, November 18th through Friday, November 20th** at The Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.
- [More information about the Core Forum can be found here.](#)
- New ALA volunteer application
 - The new Volunteer Application is going live this month.
 - It gives you one simple place to browse volunteer opportunities across ALA, Divisions, Sections, and Round Tables, and apply through a single, streamlined application.
 - A few things worth knowing:
 - Applications stay open year-round, so you can apply whenever.
 - To be considered for the 2027-2028 committee term, please submit your application by each ALA unit’s designated deadline. Check unit timelines for specific dates.
 - Already started an application? If you submitted a volunteer application in the current system, you do not need to reapply. Your submission has been captured and will still be considered for the upcoming term.
 - If you have any questions, reach out to the ALA Governance Office governance@ala.org
- ALA call for Nominees for 2027 ALA Election
 - The ALA Nominating Committee for the 2027 ALA election is seeking nominees for the positions of ALA President-Elect, Executive Board Member, and Councilor-At-Large on the 2027 spring ballot.
 - Eligibility:
 - ALA members are eligible to run for the positions of President-Elect and Councilor-at-Large.
 - For the Executive Board position, eligibility is limited to Councilors, Chairs of Standing Committees, or elected leaders of Divisions or Round Tables within the past five years.
 - [Submit a name for the ALA Nominating Committee to consider.](#)
 - The purpose of this form is to recommend a name with the ALA Nominating Committee to consider for these positions. *Note: submission of this name does not guarantee nomination by the committee.*
 - Want to learn more? [Visit the ALA Elections Page!](#)
 - Melody currently functions as the ALA Council Liaison for NJLA and has previously served as an unattached Councilor-At-Large. If you are interested in applying, but have questions about the experience of being a Councilor, please email Melody at mtownley@bayonnepubliclibrary.org!
- ALA launches reporting form for incidents against immigrants in libraries
 - The [Services to Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons \(SRIDP\) Subcommittee](#) is proud to announce the launch of the [Incidents Against Immigrants in Libraries reporting form](#).

- Developed in partnership with ALAs [Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services](#) and the [Libraries, Integration, New Americans \(LINA\) Project](#), the reporting tool provides a confidential way to document anti-immigrant incidents occurring in libraries and related information institutions around the country.
- By gathering information across institutions, the project can help identify patterns that may be difficult to see when libraries are working from individual experiences. Over time, that information can help inform resources, training, advocacy, and guidance for library workers.
- What's considered an incident against immigrants?
 - Incidents may include any biased action directed at an individual or group based on their actual or perceived nationality, country of origin, citizenship, or immigration status.
 - Reports may involve individuals from any immigrant community, including refugees, international students, undocumented immigrants, people with temporary immigration status, permanent residents, asylum seekers, and others.
- [More information about this can be found here.](#)
- Public Library Association (PLA) task force launches AI resources
 - Building on insights from a January 2026 town hall, the PLA Transformative Technology Task Force has curated AI guidance, sample policies, and resources for public library workers.
 - The resource lists are organized into the categories public library staff most often ask for information on: policies, training for staff, and training for patrons.
 - [Explore and contribute here.](#)
- 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](#).
- 2027 National Library Legislative Day
 - **Wednesday, February 24th & Thursday, February 25th, 2027**
 - The event takes place in Washington D.C. and combines advocacy education, networking, and in-person meetings with legislators and congressional staff on Capitol Hill.
 - [More information will be coming soon!](#)
- 2027 PLA Leadership Academy
 - **Monday, March 15th to Friday, March 19th** in Chicago, IL.
 - This is a unique career opportunity for mid-career leaders to learn to lead in an intensive, in-person program for public library staff on the rise.
 - Guided by an experienced coach, participants from public libraries around the country will attend four days of immersive workshops, meaningful networking, personal reflection, and special events.

- Applications will open and information will be released about scholarship opportunities soon!
- [Find more information about the leadership academy here.](#)
- 2028 PLA Conference
 - **Monday, March 13th to Wednesday, March 15th, 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.](#)
- SustainRT Ambassadorship
 - Melody signed up to become a SustainRT ambassador for NJLA.
 - What is SustainRT?
 - It is the Sustainability Round Table in ALA.
 - The mission of the organization is to provide resources for the library community to support sustainability through curriculum development; collections; exhibits; events; advocacy, communication, library buildings and space design.
 - SustainRT is open to all ALA members and includes both individual members and organizational members.
 - What does Melody do as SustainRT ambassador?
 - In this role, she will receive a bimonthly sustainability update from the committee, relay any relevant information to NJLA, and convey back to the committee from NJLA any news or requests for SustainRT support.
- Online Archive of ALA Liaison Reports
 - An archive of ALA Liaison reports from 2020 through present can be found on the [“ALA Councilor” page of the NJLA website.](#)
 - This page is updated monthly with each new ALA Liaison report.