

**TO:** Core Board of Directors

**TOPIC:** Division Councilors Report

**ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT:** REPORT

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** Rachel Fleming, Core Division Councilor

**SUBMITTED:** February 7, 2025

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## SUMMARY

This report includes ALA Council and Governance Meetings held in conjunction with Lib Learn X from January 22nd through January 27th, 2025. This was the final LLX meeting, and 2024-2025 is the final year in my current term as Councilor. At LLX, I was able to attend the ALA Governance Institute, Council sessions, and Executive Board Monday Meetings.

ALA Presidential and Treasurer Candidates Forum is on Tuesday, February 25 at 9:30 a.m. Central Time. Register here.

More about the upcoming ALA election, including Bylaws measures, is available at <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection>. ALA Governance Meeting schedules are available at <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/ala-governance-meetings>.

## BACKGROUND

### *Executive Directors Report*

- [ALA CD#23 Executive Director's Report](#); with additional information in [ALA CD#9 Implementation Report of Council Actions from the 2024 Annual Conf. and July Special Council Meeting](#); and [ALA CD#15 Executive Board Actions since the 2024 Annual Conference Meeting](#)
- ALA Forward is underway, including three key initiatives; (1) an Organizational Assessment that will examine our internal processes and structures to ensure operational excellence, (2) a Program Assessment, reviewing the impact and value of our individual programs and, (3) Strategic Planning, a deep dive into refining our mission and goals.
- Updates on the progress of centralization plans, re-launch of the new membership model, significant updates from development, and the creation of an ALA Unit for Research and Data are key highlights of the Executive Director's report.
- Executive Board actions including moving forward with the standardization of division dues in [EBD 10.11 Final Report: Workgroup for Standardization of Division Membership Dues](#), approval

of overhead model and savings plan, winter meeting activities for 2026, and forming groups as directed by Council resolutions at annual.

- An update on the Supporter Program is available in [EBD 10.6 ALA Supporter Program Update](#).
- The Executive Board is developing plans for the future of winter ALA events. In 2026 a convening in Chicago will include key elements of the Youth Media Awards (YMAS), Emerging Leaders program, and ALA Governance (Executive Board and Council).

### ***Treasurer's Report (ALA CD#13)***

- A brief summary of Budget Assumptions and Tactical Goals and recommended FY2026 Budget Objectives is available in the BARC Report ([ALA CD#33](#)). More detailed information is in Executive Board financial documents ([3 series](#)).
- The future of the Planning and Budget Assembly remains under discussion, including the meetings which traditionally also included Divisional Leaders, PBA, and BARC. Treasurer Hepburn noted in his verbal report that BARC and F&A are developing models for the future of PBA, which will be shared with PBA for discussion and next steps.

### ***Council Actions***

- **ALA-APA Certification Programs ([ALA-APA CD#7](#))**: Council approved the creation of the Library Management Staff Certification Program and Library and the Information Science Certification for Library Support Staff. These programs replicate current certification programs adapted into self-paced courses offered through ALA eLearning. The proposal is a response to existing demand with strong revenue potential.
- **Maker Space Round Table Proposal**: The Committee on Organization ([ALA CD#27](#)) brought back a proposal for a Maker Space Round Table which was tabled at the Annual Meeting ([ALA CD#27.1](#)). The proposal was not approved by Council. Debate on the proposal included similar concerns to those raised at Annual, but additional information both from Core and from one of the proposers, Rebecca Teasdale, who was present at the meeting. Maker Technology Interest Group chairs, Technology Section leadership, executive committee members and I are gathering to discuss how best to proceed in collaboration with the Round Table proposers.
- **ALA Corporate Sponsorship Guidelines ([ALA CD#34](#))** were approved and now supersede Division sponsorship guidelines

### ***Division Review of Association Work:***

- **Intellectual Freedom Manual**: In preparation for fall publication of an updated Intellectual Freedom Manual, the Intellectual Freedom Committee ([ALA CD#19](#)) is preparing updates to interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, and the Committee on Professional Ethics ([ALA CD#24](#)) is preparing updates to statements on speech in the workplace, copyright, and enforcement of the Code of Ethics. These materials should be circulated for review by Divisions prior to Council votes.

- **ALA Policy Manual:** The ALA Policy Manual is undergoing both routine maintenance and a general revision.
- The Policy Monitoring Committee ([ALA CD#17](#)) is charged with keeping the Manual current, and is reviewing all items in Section B ([Section B: Positions and Public Policy Statements](#)) which are more than ten years old. Committee Chair Aaron Dobbs will be reaching out to the originating units of these policies for feedback and updates mid-February.
- The Policy Manual Revision Working Group ([ALA CD#40](#)) is charged with making revisions to the Manual that follow in the wake of the adoption of the revised *ALA Bylaws*. Included in these revisions are revised Operating Agreement policies. The Working Group is working with Divisions on the final language for the Operating Agreement sections. The Policy Manual revisions are expected to be completed in March, with listening sessions in April and May, so that a complete draft can be presented to Council for approval at the annual meeting in June.
- Other ongoing work which should have Divisional input that remains outstanding includes:
  - The Membership Committee's implementation of Phase Two of the new membership model, including standardization of divisional dues
  - Core Values Interpretations from Working Groups, slated to be completed by ALA Annual 2025.

### ***Resolutions***

Council continues its work to make the new *ALA Bylaws* work to the best benefit of the organization. To that end, Council debated, amended, and passed two resolutions; ALA CD#48 [RESOLUTION on the ALA Executive Board Composition](#), and ALA CD#49 [RESOLUTION on the Elections to the ALA Executive Board](#). The first approves a proposed revision to Article V, Section 1 of the ALA Bylaws, Executive Board Composition, which restores the pre-revision language. Read the draft language and position statements on the ALA Elections website at [Proposed Bylaw Amendment - ALA Executive Board Composition](#). The second directs the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to explore the possibilities for diversifying representation on the Executive Board to increase Association-wide representation. The Ad-Hoc Committee will report to the Executive Board with recommendations by October 2025, and the Executive Board may bring recommendations to Council at the January meetings.

### ***Advocacy and Calls to Action***

- Reports:
  - Intellectual Freedom Committee ([ALA CD#19](#)),
  - Committee on Legislation ([ALA CD#20](#)), and
  - Freedom to Read Foundation ([ALA CD#22](#)).
- Resources:
  - <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>
  - <https://www.ftrf.org/>
  - <https://www.ala.org/advocacy>

- ALA Campaigns:
  - Show Up for Our Libraries: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>
  - Advocacy Alerts at <https://www.ala.org/takeaction>
- Membership and Giving:
  - [Join UABB](#), [Donate to UABB](#)
  - [Join FTRE](#), [Donate to FTRE](#), [Judith F. Krug memorial fund](#)
  - [Merritt Humanitarian Fund](#).
  - Public Partner Program
  - 150th anniversary, the Core 5th anniversary.
  - New membership model, with lower prices for most members, and membership in Core.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Form a working group to draft a Resolution in Tribute to the Fifth Anniversary of Core.