

**Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures  
a Division of the American Library Association 2024  
Board of Directors April Meeting  
April 18; 2:00-4:00 pm Central**

**Members Present:**

Wendy Tressler, President  
Rachel Fleming  
Margaret Heller  
Kellie Barbato  
Miranda Bennett  
Lauren Corbett  
Kevin A. R. King  
Julie Reese, Executive Director

**Ex-Officio:**

Donald Allgeier  
Morag Boyd (left at 3:05 p.m.)  
Cara Calabrese

**Staff:**

Tom Ferren  
Amber Robbin  
Mia Blixt-Shehan

**Absent:**

Angie Ohler  
Thomas Lamanna, II  
Karen L. Schneider

**Guests (left at 3:05 p.m.):**

Jeremy J. Myntti  
Elizabeth Nelson  
Rachel E. Scott  
Ken Varnum  
Michael Fernandez  
Cinthya Ippoliti

**1. Board Welcome and Guest**

President Tressler called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., welcoming and thanking all who took the time to attend.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

DOC 23.35 Board Agenda

Tressler proposed to adopt the meeting agenda. Heller moved and Barbato seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to adopt the agenda.

**3. Adoption of Consent Agenda**

DOC 24.36 Approve [2024 January Meeting Minutes](#) (PDF)

DOC 24.37 Accept [Core Councilor's Report](#) (PDF)

Tressler proposed to adopt the consent agenda. King moved and Barbato seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to adopt the consent agenda.

**4. Executive Session - Closed Session**

DOC 24.38 [Core Publications Generative AI Policy](#) (PDF; private document)

DOC 24.39 [Core Publications Labor of Peer Review](#) (PDF; private document)

DOC 24.40 [Core Publications Post-Publication Concern Policy](#) (PDF; private document) DOC

24.41 [Core Publications Journal Peer Review Processes](#) (PDF; private document) Vendor  
Guidelines

Tressler proposed to go into Executive Session. Barbato moved and Fleming seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to go into Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:08 p.m.

Guests: Jeremy J. Myntti, Elizabeth Nelson, Rachel E. Scott, Ken Varnum, Michael Fernandez, Cinthya Ippoliti

Later, Tressler proposed to end Executive Session. King moved and Heller seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to end Executive Session.

Executive Session ended at 3:05 p.m.

At this point, Tressler proposed to recess until called to order by the chair. Corbett moved and Barbato seconded.

MOTION unanimously passed to recess until called to order by the chair.

## 5. President's Update

- a. Core @ PLA 2024
- b. New 2024 Sponsorship Guide ([Link](#))
- c. Core @ ALA Annual ([Link](#))
- d. President's Retreat
- e. Conflict of Interest Policy/Form - On Hold
- f. Added May 23 meeting

Tressler offered an overview of Core's participation at the PLA 2024 conference. PLA gifted Core a table in the EXPO, which was staffed by Reese as well as several Core members throughout the event. Ferren was in attendance helping PLA with registration. Connections were established with a few potential sponsors, and Tressler's involvement in the Safety by Design panel, including informing attendees about the new Security in Libraries committee, resulted in three new volunteers, one of whom is new to Core. Unfortunately, the Core meet-up at PLA was cancelled due to a potential threat of tornados and flooding in Columbus, but more than 20 people were registered for the event. Tressler was overall impressed with the results of this involvement and recommended having a table at PLA 2026 as well, particularly as Core tries to grow membership with public librarians.

Tressler recognized and thanked Reese, Robbin and the Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee for their collaborative work on a new sponsor prospectus for Core; she directed those in attendance to look at the document. She asked that each Board member suggest at least three potential vendors for Core to invite aboard as a sponsor for the remainder of FY24, ideally ones that have not supported Core before. There is a particular need for Core 2024 Event Sponsors. The sponsor names and contact information are due to Tressler by May 1—she will compile the information and send it to the Fundraising Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

Tressler alerted meeting attendees that all the Core events happening at ALA Annual are now on the Core website. She thanked Ferren, the rest of the Core team, and the Conference Program Coordination Committee for their work making this programming happen. More information about Annual will arrive in the coming weeks, most likely via Connect.

Ohler, Heller, Reese and Tressler met at the ALA offices in Chicago on April 10 for the Core President's Planning Retreat. During the planning, potential structure changes within some Core committees started to be identified based on feedback, changing needs, volunteer interest, and other factors. Notes from the event will be formatted to share to gather more feedback over the next few months. Some items may need to be voted on in the June Board meetings, some may wait until next term, and some may need to be referred to the Bylaws and Organization committee for review. Tressler hopes to have something to share by the May meeting and will do so in advance on Connect if able.

Due to the events surrounding the Sponsorship Guidelines, Tressler has put the Conflict of Interest Policy on hold while the Board investigates whether ALA has a policy or form as well as other Divisions. The Board will report out any next steps determined at either the May or June meeting. Finally, Tressler reminded the Board that there will be a board meeting on May 23 via Zoom, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time.

#### 6. President Elect's Update

- a. Leadership and Management Section Survey and Recommendations ([Link](#))

Ohler was unexpectedly unable to make this meeting. She will provide the above update in the May meeting.

#### 7. Executive Director's Update

DOC 24.42    [Connect Issue Progress Report](#) (PDF)

Reese reminded the Board that staffing is currently very strained on the Core team, especially after Jenny Levine's retirement. The original vision for Core included seven staff members, and Core only has four. ALA is currently on a hiring freeze that makes adding full-time permanent positions impossible for Core, but Reese has the option to have temporary staff aboard—ALA is still aware of how strained staffing is in Core. She thanked Ferren, Robbin, and Blixt-Shehan for the large amounts of work they have been doing and for enduring this transitional period. She directed the Board to the [Core Handbook](#) to keep up to date on who has what responsibilities among Core staff.

Reese provided a brief overview of the April 8-9 ASAE CEO Symposium that she and Ohler attended, commending the event for being an excellent lead-in to the President's Planning Retreat on April 10. Reese reminded the Board that the ALA website is moving from Drupal 7 to Drupal 10, with an unveiling date of May 1. She acknowledged the work of Frank Skornia and the Web Committee to get the new Core site up and running. From here, they are working to check for bugs and broken links. Finally, Reese summarized the Connect Issue Progress Report, adding that there are 80-90 more responses that need to be pulled and added for a fuller picture.

#### 9. Financial Report & Operating Agreement Update

DOC 24.43    [FY24 February Financial Commentary Report](#) (PDF)

DOC 24.44    [FY25 Draft Budget Overview](#) (PDF)

Calabrese summarized the FY24 February Financial Commentary Report, noting that while membership and Continuing Education events are currently bringing in less funds than initially anticipated, Core generally remains on track to meet the projected numbers. She also directed attendees to the FY25 draft budget overview, emphasizing that ALA has mandated a 10% cut in non-salary lines.

#### 10. Strategic Plan & Board Action Items

DOC 24.45 [Amended Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) (PDF) ([Link](#))

##### a. Amended Strategic Plan Vote

Tressler proposed to amend the Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 as presented. Fleming moved and Calabrese seconded.

MOTION unanimously passed to amend the Strategic Plan for 2022-2025.

#### 11. Old Business

DOC 24.46 [Core Sponsorship Guidelines Update ALA EB March 2024](#) (PDF)

DOC 24.47 [Core Sponsorship Guidelines Update March 2024 Clean Version](#) (PDF)

##### a. Amended Sponsorship Guidelines Vote

Tressler proposed to adopt the Sponsorship Guidelines as presented in DOC 24.47. Barbato moved and Heller seconded.

MOTION unanimously passed to adopt the Sponsorship Guidelines as presented in DOC 24.47.

#### 12. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

#### 13. Recap of Action Items

There were two action items in this meeting: send Tressler potential contacts for sponsors by May 1 and fill out the RSVP form for ALA Annual if not done already.

#### 14. Adjournment

Tressler proposed to adjourn the meeting. King moved and Fleming seconded.

MOTION unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.