

ALA COUNCIL MEETINGS LIBLEARNX 2025
PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER & HYBRID

Council I
January 25, 2025: 23: 3:00-5:00 pm MT

ALA President Cindy Hohl called Council I to order at 3:20 pm MT.

APPROVED by Consent:

- Adoption of Hybrid Council Rules, CD #5
- Agenda Review, CD #8.1
- Approval of the 2024 Annual Council Meeting Minutes & 2024 Special Council Meeting, CD #2
- Budget Analysis & Review Committee, CD #33
- Committee on Diversity, CD #14
- Committee on Education, CD #41
- Committee on Library Advocacy, CD #42
- Committee on Professional Ethics, CD #24
- Council Training and Engagement Committee, CD #31
- International Relations Committee, CD #18
- Public Awareness Committee, CD #38
- Publishing Committee, CD #32
- Resolutions Committee Report, CD #10.1
- Sustainability Committee, CD #37, no report submitted
- Treasurer's Report, CD#13

Board Actions since the 2024 Annual Conference, CD #15 & 2024 Annual Conference and Special Council Meeting Actions, CD #9

Interim Executive Director Leslie Burger provided the following updates:

Highlights of Executive Board Actions:

- Endorsed the National Climate Action Strategy and Implementation Guide
- Accepted the Standardization of Division Membership Dues workgroup report, and the Membership Committee continues with phase 2 of the membership model efforts, including robust financial modeling
- Approved schedule for 2025 Annual Conference in Philadelphia
- Approved FY25 budget
- Approved FY26 overhead model based on the operating surplus to be applied to all revenue generating units
- Approved, beginning in FY26, a savings plan subject to the annual budget process and ALA evaluation of available cash and overall financial health of the association, whereby each unit would be able to invest 30% of their net operating savings for later use by the unit and

- free from the conditions of the annual endowment payout
- Mandated a review of the overhead model in advance of the FY29 planning
- Directed the Treasurer to develop a communication plan for informing membership at large about the new overhead model with a goal of disseminating by the end December 2024
- Approved Association Management Center (AMC) as consultants to conduct ALA strategic planning
- Reaffirmed the position description for the Executive Director search process, including that the position is in person and based in Chicago
- Approved the convergence of the Youth Media Awards (YMAS), Emerging Leaders, and ALA Governance meetings in Chicago in January 2026

Highlights of Council Actions implementation:

- Approved a resolution to endorse AASL School Library Chapters and ACRL Academic Library Chapters Taskforce, which is moving forward with Members Kathy Lester and Kimberly Franklin as co-chairs
- Approved the formation of an ALA Affiliate Committee, which was established in October 2024; Nichelle M. Hayes from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) is serving as inaugural Chair
- Approved the resolution concerning the Working Group on ALA Societal Standards Guidelines and instructed the Executive Board to establish a working group tasked with formulating criteria for ALA. That group has been established, and Executive Board Member Stephanie Chase is chairing

Nominations for the 2025 ALA Executive Board Election, CD #11

ALA President-elect Sam Helmick, Chair of 2024-2025 Committee on Committees (COC), provided the following updates:

- The first candidate receiving the highest number of votes in each position will be elected to a three-year term, 2025 to 2028, to the ALA Executive Board
 - At-Large Candidates:
 - Bradley Kuykendall
 - Tatanisha “Tiki” Love
 - Round Table Candidates:
 - Shanna Hollich
 - Janice Moore Newsum
 - Chapter Candidates:
 - Caroline Akervik
 - Ziba Perez
 - American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Candidates:
 - K.C. Boyd
 - Elizabeth Burns

President Hohl called for floor nominations. There were none.

Appointment of the Tellers Committee for the ALA Executive Board Election, CD #11.1

- The following Councilors will serve as election tellers:
 - Adrianna Blancarte-Hayward, Head Teller
 - Amber Williams

- Maria Estrella
- Leah Richardson
- The ballot will open immediately following the hybrid ALA Executive Board Candidates Forum on January 26 from 2:00-3:00 pm MT and close Thursday, January 30th at 9:00 am CT
- Tellers will certify results virtually and post on ALA Connect

ALA Corporate Sponsorship Guidelines, CD #34:

President Hohl noted that the Executive Board approved the Core sponsorship guidelines and asked ALA staff to develop sponsorship guidelines organization-wide, to be reviewed by legal counsel, for ALA Executive Board and Council approval.

ALA Public Programs Director Melanie Welch led a staff team to develop the guidelines provided, which were reviewed by ALA legal counsel.

President Hohl read the motion from Alan Inouye, Interim PPA ED, and Melanie Welch, Public Programs Director:

On the recommendation of the ALA Executive Board, forwards the ALA sponsorship guidelines for approval and inserted into ALA's policy manual section A, CD #34

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #34.

Results:

- 139 yes
- 3 no
- 1 abstain

APPROVED ALA sponsorship guidelines and insertion into ALA's policy manual section A, CD #34

Resolution on the ALA Executive Board Composition, CD #48

Executive Board Member Stephanie Chase moved the following:

Be it resolved that,

1. Article V, Section 1 of the ALA Bylaws, Executive Board Composition, be revised to return to its previous language: The Executive Board of the American Library Association shall consist of thirteen (13) members including: the four (4) officers of the Association, the immediate past president, and eight (8) councilors elected by Council to three-year (3-year) terms, CD #48

Councilor Kestrel Ward moved to table this proposal until Annual 2025, CD #48 Motion to Postpone

Executive Board Member Kathy Carroll called to question CD #48 Motion to Postpone.

President Hohl called for a vote on the motion to end debate on CD #48 Motion to Postpone.

Results:

- 105 yes
- 35 no

- 1 abstain

APPROVED to end debate on CD #48 Motion to Postpone

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #48 Motion to Postpone

Results:

- 71 yes
- 74 no
- 2 abstain

DEFEATED CD #34 Motion to Postpone.

President Hohl called for debate on the original CD #48.

Councilor Gina Kromhout called to question CD #48.

President Hohl called for a vote on motion to close debate on CD #48

Results:

- 99 yes
- 39 no
- 4 abstain

APPROVED to close debate on CD #48

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #48

Results:

- 90 yes
- 49 no
- 6 abstain

APPROVED Resolution on the ALA Executive Board Composition, CD #48.

Announcements:

- Interim Executive Director Leslie Burger reported the following registration numbers for LLX 2025:
 - 1,208 paid registrants and 1,625 total registrants
 - 73% to total budget for this conference, and 61% to budget for exhibitors
- Ad-Hoc caucus for responses to the election will caucus immediately following this meeting

President Hohl adjourned Council I at 5:08 pm MT.

Council II
January 26, 2025: 3:00-5:00 pm MT

President Hohl called to order Council II at 3:05 pm MT.

President Hohl called for any changes to agenda. Councilor Leah Richardson requested an update on the ALA Executive Director search.

APPROVED by Consent:

- Agenda, CD #8.2 as amended

Council recognized the following Memorial Resolutions:

- Sheila Intner
- Kathleen Weibel
- Ellen Spring
- Garrett Crowell
- George Lindall Abbott
- Alden Rollins
- Helen Amabile
- Chrystal Carr Jeter

Council recognized the following Tribute Resolutions:

- Honoring Alan Inouye upon his retirement from the American Library Association
- In Honor of FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel
- Honoring Clara Nalli Bohrer for Her Exceptional Service to the American Library Association and its divisions, especially the Public Library Association

Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC), CD #19

Chair Eldon Ray James provided the following updates:

- Office of Intellectual Freedom and IFC continue ongoing efforts in support of intellectual freedom and fighting book bans and challenges
- New program called “Lawyers for Librarians”
- Produced book resumes for works that have been challenged
- IFC Privacy Subcommittee is reviewing privacy aspects of the ALA website
- IFC is reviewing the *Library Bill of Rights* interpretations for the 11th Edition of the *Intellectual Freedom Manual*

Chair James moved to approve “Prisoner's Right to Read: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*”, CD #19.1

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #19.1

Results:

- 145 yes
- 0 no
- 0 abstain

APPROVED “Prisoner's Right to Read: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*”, CD #19.1

Committee on Legislation (COL), CD #20

Chair Ed Garcia provided the following updates:

- Completed the 2025 Federal legislative and public policy agenda, which will inform the work of the Public Policy & Advocacy (PPA) office
- Appointed Museum and Library Services Act Task Force, which worked closely to gather information for a report on the reauthorization of MLSA, which will be shared soon
- Working to address the flurry of activity from the new Administration and urged members and advocates to focus on responses to direct attacks on libraries, librarian workers and library values
 - Efforts are focused on two prongs: actions taken by the administration and proposed presidential budget for FY26, which is expected to significantly cut library funding for programs and agencies
 - Through budget reconciliation and impoundment, there may be additional budgetary implications for libraries
 - Launched new advocacy campaign “Show Up for Our Libraries.” Visit ala.org for more details and to access campaign resources
- Will support State librarian colleagues during their advocacy days in early March with Federal legislators
- ALA Fly-in in Washington, D.C. will be in April just before National Library Week
- Filed a brief in support of court case that will decide the fate of the FCC's Universal Service Fund

Chair Garcia moved the Tribute Resolution in Honor of FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, CD #20:

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

- 1) Recognizes Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel’s commitment to broadband access for all communities and closing the digital divide.
- 2) Expresses our gratitude for her leadership, contributions, and public service, as well as her support and friendship to libraries.

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #20

Results:

- 141 yes
- 0 no
- 1 abstain

APPROVED Tribute Resolution in Honor of FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, CD #20

Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC), CD #17

Chair Aaron Dobbs provided the following updates:

- A working group formed to update section A, which is the internal policies of ALA
- PMC is focused on section B of the Policy Manual, which concerns ALA external or public statements

Chair Dobbs moved to merge Policy Manual B.1.2.1 into B.1.2, CD #17

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #17

Results:

- 142 yes
- 0 no
- 0 abstain

APPROVED to merge Policy Manual B.1.2.1 into B.1.2, CD #17

Bylaws Committee, CD #25

Chair Brian Schottlaender, Chair of the ALA Bylaws Committee provided the following updates:

- According to Bylaws, Council can, upon recommendation of the Bylaws Committee, make editorial changes in the bylaws that don't change their substance and meaning

Chair Schottlaender moved as per Article XVII, Section 3 of the ALA Bylaws, on behalf of the ALA Bylaws Committee, that the ALA Council approve the following editorial update of Article VI, Section 8. Inasmuch as the proposed update, in our opinion, does not change the substance of this Section, it need not go to the ALA membership for a vote, CD #25

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #25.

Results:

- 140 yes
- 2 no
- 0 abstain

APPROVED editorial update of Article VI, Section 8, CD #25

ALA Treasurer's Report, ALA CD #13

Treasurer Peter Hepburn provided the following updates:

- Planning & Budget Assembly (PBA)
 - In communication with President-Elect Helmick, who chairs PBA, and agreed to pause on holding meetings so a small group can develop models for how PBA functions in the future
 - These models will be shared with PBA for feedback, as well as Budget Analysis & Review Committee (BARC) and Finance & Audit Subcommittee (F&A), with the goal to bring recommendations to Annual Conference 2025
- FY24 financials are closed, and Executive Board will review the audit report later this weekend
- FY25 Year-to-Date-numbers have been provided. It should be noted that two months is not

necessarily reflective of the full year's finances, but there is cause for concern regarding ALA financial health. The ALA Board, as well as the strategic and operational assessments, will need to do significant work to address these concerns

Resolution from the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, CD #43

President Hohl noted that the Resolution from the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, ALA CD#43, was withdrawn and will be addressed at tomorrow's Executive Board meeting.

Committee on Organization (COO), CD #27

Chair Kim DeNero-Ackroyd provided the following updates:

- Working on COO review of standing committees
- Committees were asked to respond to a survey, with close to 100% participation

Chair DeNero-Ackroyd moved to approve the Action Request to create a MakerSpace Round Table, CD #27, Action 1

Councilor Johannah Genett called to question CD #27, Action 1.

President Hohl called for a vote on the motion to end debate on CD #27, Action 1.

Results:

- 120 yes
- 13 no
- 1 abstain

APPROVED to end debate on CD #27, Action 1.

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #27, Action 1.

Results:

- 27 yes
- 108 no
- 5 abstain

DEFEATED the Action Request to create a MakerSpace Round Table, CD #27, Action 1

Chair DeNero-Ackroyd moved to approve the Action Request to discontinue the Council Tellers Committee, CD #27, Action 2

President Hohl asked if there were any objections to the Chair's proposal. There were none.

APPROVED Action Request to discontinue the Council Tellers Committee, CD #27, Action 2

Executive Board Member Lappin called a Point of Order to determine if a vote was needed on CD #27, Action 2. President Hohl noted that no objections were made to motion, and the committee is dissolved.

Policy Manual Revision Working Group (PMRWG) Update, CD #40

Co-Chair Brian Schottlaender provided the following updates:

- Moved to a biweekly meeting schedule
- Two-thirds of the policy manual revision is now complete with the goal of completing the remaining third by end of March
- Intend to host a series of feedback sessions in April and May
- Goal to have draft general revision to Council at Annual 2025
- Executive Board approved the operating agreement proposal and directed this group to incorporate it into the revision, which the group is doing
- Tasked with explicating bylaws language regarding vacancy in the Office of the President elect or Treasurer

Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), CD #22

FTRF President Sophia Sotilleo provided the following updates:

- Activities around litigation, which are described in more detail in written report:
 - Fayetteville Public Library v. Crawford County, Arkansas: good news with ruling that both sections 1 and 5 of Arkansas' Act 372 are unconstitutional
 - Filed a friend of the court brief in the lawsuit filed by a group of library users in Read Freely Alabama v. Public Library Board of Trustees.
 - Continue to work with the Iowa Library Association and Iowa school libraries to support the overturn of the State's book ban law, taking a lead in preparing an amicus brief in that lawsuit
 - Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton: FTRF and its partners filed an amicus brief
- Continue to collaborate with allies and state, local, and national partners to advocate for the freedom to read
- Developing Issues Committee identified several areas of concern for those who support intellectual freedom
- Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund partners with the University of Illinois iSchool, San Jose State School of Information, and Longwood University in providing online dedicated course on intellectual freedom at each school
- With the support of Penguin Random House publishers, a poster was released to State Library conferences at ALA's Annual Conference about understanding First Amendment rights
- Continue to work with coalitions, such as Media Coalition, the Right to Read Working Group and Unite Against Book Bans

President Hohl asked if there were any objections to extending the meeting 30 minutes. There were no objections

Resolution on Elections to the ALA Executive Board, CD #49

Executive Board Member Stephanie Chase moved the following:

Be it resolved that,

1. The Executive Board forms an Ad-Hoc Committee to explore the possibility of those standing for election to the Executive Board not be limited to Council members. The Ad-Hoc Committee will report to the Executive Board with recommendations by October 2025.

Councilor Tara Brady moved to amend the resolution:

Be it resolved that,

The Executive Board forms an Ad-Hoc Committee to explore **possibilities for ensuring diverse representation in ALA's governance including but not limited to** the possibility of those standing for election to the Executive Board not be limited to Council members. The Ad-Hoc Committee will report to the Executive Board with recommendations by October 2025, CD #49 amendment

Treasurer Hepburn suggested changing "governance" to "Executive Board." Councilor Brady accepted this as a friendly amendment:

Be it resolved that,

The Executive Board forms an Ad-Hoc Committee to explore **possibilities for ensuring diverse representation in ALA's Executive Board including but not limited to** the possibility of those standing for election to the Executive Board not be limited to Council members. The Ad-Hoc Committee will report to the Executive Board with recommendations by October 2025, CD #49 amendment

Councilor Sonnet Ireland called to question CD #49 amendment.

President Hohl Called for a vote on the motion to end debate on CD #40 amendment.

Results:

- 118 yes
- 18 no
- 1 abstain

APPROVED to end debate on CD #49 amendment.

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #49 amendment.

Results:

- 112 yes
- 21 no
- 8 abstain

APPROVED CD #40 amendment.

President Hohl opened debate on CD #49 as amended:

Be it resolved that,

The Executive Board forms an Ad-Hoc Committee to explore possibilities for ensuring diverse representation in ALA's Executive Board including but not limited to the possibility of those standing for election to the Executive Board not be limited to Council members. The Ad-Hoc Committee will report to the Executive Board with recommendations by October 2025, CD #49 as amended

President Hohl called for a vote on CD #49 as amended.

Results:

- 118 yes
- 9 no
- 9 abstain

APPROVED Resolution on Elections to the ALA Executive Board, CD# 49 as amended.

President Hohl asked if there were any objections to extending the meeting another 10 minutes. There were no objections.

Councilor Kestrel Ward called a Point of Order regarding the Committee on the Status of Women and Librarianship action item, CD #43. President Hohl reiterated that the item was withdrawn and will be addressed at the Executive Board meeting tomorrow.

Update on the Executive Director Search

Past President Emily Drabinski, Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee, provided the following updates:

- On January 14, the committee received a first presentation of candidates from Isaacson Miller, and selected a number to ask for further information and letters of interest
- Second presentation of candidates planned on March 4, with semifinalists scheduled for all day interviews on March 20-21
- Finalist interviews to be scheduled following the Spring Executive Board meeting, in person in Chicago on April 28-30
- Received a robust pool of applicants from a range of backgrounds and geographies, and the pool included representatives from librarianship, the nonprofit sector and adjacent educational and cultural organization
- The committee reports out to the Executive Board, so please look at those documents

Announcements

Interim Executive Director Leslie Burger provided final registration numbers for LLX 2025:

- 1,212 paid
- 73% of total budget: \$585,615 of \$797,530 goal

Council moved into closed session at 5:40 pm MT.