

ALA Council Meetings Annual Conference 2025

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Council I

Saturday, June 28, 2025, 8:30 AM CT

ALA President Cindy Hohl called Council I to order at 8:41 AM CT.

APPROVED by Consent:

- Adoption of APA Council Rules, CD #3.1
- Adoption of Agenda, CD #1.1
- Approval of 2025 ALA-APA LibLearnX Council Meeting Minutes, CD #2.1

Emily Drabinski presented a motion to dissolve the ALA-APA Council.

Motion: Resolve that the ALA-APA bylaws be amended to effect the dissolution of the ALA-APA Council as described in the proposed amendments shared prior to this meeting and pursuant to ALA-APA bylaws, Article X.

ALA-APA Council Dissolution Vote

Results:

- 125 yes
- 3 no
- 1 abstain

APPROVED amendment to ALA-APA Bylaws to dissolve the ALA-APA Council.

The ALA Council meeting was called to order.

APPROVED by Consent:

- Adoption of Council Rules, CD #5.2
- Adoption of Agenda, CD #8.4

- Approval of 2025 LibLearnX Hybrid Council Minutes, CD #2.2
- Approval of 2025 Virtual May Council Minutes, CD #2.3

Committee on Organization (COO), CD #27

Chair Kim DeNero-Ackroyd reported that COO met six times in 2025, reviewed several proposals, and continued its review of standing committees. Ongoing work will continue under incoming chair Karen Schneider.

Resolution: Disband Committee Associates Program, CD #27.1

Discussion: Councilor Aaron Dobbs expressed support, citing personal history with the program and agreement with the motion's logic.

Vote Results:

- 135 yes
- 1 no
- 2 abstain

APPROVED to discontinue the Committee Associates Program.

Resolution: Disband Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA), CD #27.2

Discussion included appreciation from Maggie Farrell and comments from Treasurer Peter Hepburn regarding alternative communication structures through codified town halls.

Vote Results:

- 131 yes
- 3 no
- 3 abstain

APPROVED to discontinue the Planning and Budget Assembly.

Action Item: Reunify ALSC and YALSA, CD #XX

Extensive discussion occurred regarding structure, finances, and services. General support expressed from multiple Councilors and Board members.

Vote Results:

- 139 yes
- 5 no
- 2 abstain

APPROVED reunification of ALSC and YALSA. Second vote to occur at Council II.

Conference Committee Report, CD #53

Chair Christina Rodriguez reported on conference planning, including consideration of alternative dates and equity concerns.

Vote Results on Extension Request:

- 138 yes
- 7 no
- 1 abstain

APPROVED extension for ALA carbon neutrality goal from 2025 to 2027.

Policy Manual Revision Working Group (PMRWG), CD #40.1

Co-Chair Brian Schottlaender reported progress on revising the ALA Policy Manual Section A. After discussion, Council voted:

- 144 yes
- 0 no
- 0 abstain

APPROVED adoption of the general revision of ALA Policy Manual, Section A.

Additional APM Action Items

Vote Results:

- 145 yes
- 0 no
- 0 abstain

APPROVED adoption of specific APM section revisions.

Announcements

- ALA reported 2,537 first-time attendees at conference.
- ALA Executive Director Dan Montgomery was introduced and welcomed.
- The American Library Association represented the largest hotel block purchase in Philadelphia this year.
- Division Councilors announced caucusing after session.
- Next Council meeting scheduled for June 29, 2025, at 9:00 AM ET.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM CT.

ALA Council Meetings Annual Conference 2025

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Council II

Sunday, June 29, 2025, 8:00 AM CT

ALA President Cindy Hohl called Council I to order at 8:05 AM CT.

APPROVED by Consent:

- Adoption of Agenda, CD #8.5
- Confirmation that Resolutions Committee reviewed resolutions at least 24 hours in advance
- Noted: No resolutions were received under the 48-hour rule

Reunification Vote: ALSC and YALSA, CD #XX

Chair Kim DeNero-Ackroyd introduced the second vote on the reunification of ALSC and YALSA.

Discussion:

- Councilor Josh Homan inquired about whether the 'next year to work everything out' was part of the motion.
- Dr. Price (Executive Board) confirmed it was included.
- Executive Board Member Nick Buron stated confidence that details will be resolved over the next 12 months.
- Executive Board Members Emily Drabinski and Amy Lappin spoke in favor of reunification.

Vote Results:

- 125 yes
- 3 no
- 3 abstain

APPROVED reunification of ALSC and YALSA.

Nominations for 2025-2026 Committee on Committees, CD #XX

ALA President-Elect Sam Helmick presented nominations for the Committee on Committees. Bylaws Article XIV, Section 5 permits nominations from the floor. Councilors must have terms extending through 2026 to be eligible.

Nominated Candidates:

- Ana Lisa De Campos
- Sonnet Ireland
- Gina Kromhout
- Bradley Kuykendall
- Tina Lerno
- Erica Long
- Kerry Miro
- Joseph Thompson

Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) Report, CD #XX

Chair Chip McAuley reported ongoing work on an Artificial Intelligence and ALA Values Vision statement, and the role of AI in committee meetings.

Action Item: Resolution to create an Artificial Intelligence Cross-Divisional Working Group tasked with developing a unified ALA position on AI in libraries for consideration no later than Annual 2026.

Discussion included concerns about AI ethics, representation, and group size. Amendment proposed to simplify language by removing 'cross divisional.'

APPROVED to create a working group charged with developing an ALA position on AI in libraries.

Committee on Legislation (COL) and Public Policy & Advocacy (PPA) Report, CD #XX

The report coincided with the 80th anniversary of PPA. Updates included Supreme Court rulings on E-Rate, IMLS lawsuits, and ALA advocacy efforts. ALA launched the 'Show Up for Our Libraries' campaign with resources at ala.org/showup.

COL presented a Memorial Resolution honoring Representative Raul Grijalva, endorsed by the Arizona Library Association and AASL.

APPROVED Memorial Resolution honoring Representative Raul Grijalva.

Core Values Interpretation Working Group, CD #35.1

The group presented interpretations on Access and Intellectual Freedom & Privacy. Amendment to grant a six-month extension for revisions was **DEFEATED**.

Votes:

- Action 1 (Access Interpretation): 132 yes, 3 no, 4 abstain – **APPROVED**
- Actions 2–4 (Block Vote): 127 yes, 3 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**

AASL–ACRL Chapters Task Force Report, CD #36.1

Co-Chairs Kimberly Franklin and Kathy Lester reported on recommendations to strengthen communication between school and academic library chapters, address barriers, and provide staffing support. Next steps include Executive Board review and implementation planning.

Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Report, CD #19.2

Chair Eldon Ray James provided updates:

- Reviewed interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.
- Reported 724 attempts to ban or restrict resources between Sept 2024–May 2025, including 4,411 books.
- OIF prioritized confidential support, legal efforts, and programmatic activities.

Votes:

- Economic Barriers to Access (Appendix 7): 136 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**
- School Library Access (Appendix 13): 135 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**
- Remaining 11 interpretations (block vote): 130 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**
- Interpretation 26 (amended): 122 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**

Announcements

- Registration: 14,134 total attendees, including 2,556 first timers.
- New Member Roundtable seeking resume reviewers.
- Nominating Committee seeking recommendations for President and Councilor-at-Large.
- Ebony Henry wished Steven Yates a happy 26th birthday.
- Next Council Meeting scheduled for June 30, 2025, at 9:00 AM ET.

ALA President Cindy Hohl called the meeting to adjournment.

ALA Council Meetings Annual Conference 2025

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Council III

Monday, June 30, 2025, 8:00 AM CT

ALA President Cindy Hohl called Council I to order at 8:00 AM CT.

Quorum was confirmed.

APPROVED by Consent:

- Adoption of Agenda, CD #8.6
- Confirmation of Resolutions Committee review of resolutions at least 24 hours in advance

Resolutions Submitted

- Resolution calling for increased awareness and support for the Merit Fund
- Resolution to honor the contributions of librarians commemorated in the Librarians We Have Lost Initiative

Memorials and Tributes

Per ALA Policy A.4.2.3, memorials, tributes, and testimonials were presented at the beginning of the final Council meeting.

Memorial Resolutions recognized:

- Steven Kirchhoff
- Linda Ernst
- Dr. Gordon Baker
- Representative Raul Grijalva
- Mary Ellen Troutman

A moment of silence was observed. Tributes were also recognized.

ALA Treasurer's Report, CD #13.1, #13.3, #13.4

Treasurer Peter Hepburn presented financial updates:

- FY25 YTD deficit: \$8.4 million (compared to \$3.2 million FY24)
- Negative variance: \$3.9 million

- FY25 revenues: \$19.3 million, with General Fund at 54%
- Continued reliance on grants and awards; anniversary campaign underperformed
- FY26 projected deficit: \$8.7 million
- Strategies underway to reduce deficit by \$3.5 million through program/organizational assessment and strategic plan

Committee on Committees Election Results, CD #12.1

Chair John DeSantis reported election results:

- Ballot open June 29–30, 2025; 104 ballots returned
- Elected for 2025–2026: Ana Elisa De Campos, Bradley Kuykendal, Erica Long, Joseph Thompson
- Committee chaired by incoming President-Elect Maria McCauley

Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Report, CD #22.1

President Sophia Sotilleo presented highlights:

- Litigation: Little v. Llano County (Fifth Circuit ruled against plaintiffs); Krushanks v. Elizabeth School District; SF496 lawsuit declared unconstitutional; ongoing cases in Iowa, California, and others
- Advocacy: defending First Amendment rights, challenging social media age verification laws
- Appeal for continued support through membership

ALA Societal Statements Working Group, CD #51

Chair Stephanie Chase moved to extend the timeline for guidelines development to August 2025.

Vote results: 133 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain – **APPROVED**.

ALA Strategic Plan, CD #53

President-Elect Sam Helmick presented updated mission and vision.

Mission: Empowering and advocating for libraries and library workers to ensure equitable access.

Vision: Libraries thrive so everyone can succeed.

Plan developed with AMC consultants and stakeholder engagement.

Amendments considered:

- Amendment 1: Revise strategic objective on membership flexibility – **APPROVED**
- Amendment 2: Include international public awareness campaign – **DEFEATED** (36 yes, 97

no, 6 abstain)

- Amendment 3: Expand partnerships with national and international aligned organizations – **APPROVED** (126 yes, 12 no, 2 abstain)

Final Vote on CD #53: 135 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**.

Committee on Professional Ethics, CD #24.1

Chair Julia Warga presented revisions to:

- Speech in the Workplace Q&A
- Copyright and Interpretation of the Code of Ethics

Vote Results: 135 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED** revised interpretation.

Affiliate Request, CD #45.1

Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) requested affiliate status.

Discussion included concerns regarding bylaws alignment.

Vote Results: 130 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain – **APPROVED**.

Resolution on the Merit Fund, CD #52

Resolution encouraged donations and awareness, amended to include 'library workers.'

Vote Results: 134 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**.

Resolution on the Librarians We Have Lost Initiative, CD #54

Resolution to honor contributions of librarians through the initiative, part of ALA's 150th commemoration.

Vote Results: 132 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain – **APPROVED**.

Gratitude and Announcements

- Recognition of retiring Councilors and thanks to Aaron Dobbs for 18 years of service.
- Thanks to staff member Holly Robison for service.
- Final registration numbers: 14,229 attendees, including 10 new first-timers.
- Interim Executive Director Melissa Walling until Dan Montgomery begins in November.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM CT.