

**NH ALA Councilor Report from ALA 2021 Annual – Virtual
7/6/2021
Submitted by Lori Fisher, NHLA Chapter Councilor**

This is the third and final ALA Annual conference I have attended as your first-term ALA Councilor. ALA Council is the membership governing body for the American Library Association, consisting of 184 councilors. Representation comes from state chapters, ALA divisions, and ALA Roundtables. NH Library Association is a chapter of ALA.

My report below continues a list of the major agenda items for each Council meeting, with links to reports and resolutions. Unless noted otherwise, I voted yes when the vote occurred. I was there for all discussions, but what is clear to me (having been present) may not be clear to the reader of this report. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about anything related to this report, ALA Council, or ALA in general: 603-271-2393 or lori.a.fisher@dncr.nh.gov.

Council I – Monday 6/28/2021, 1 pm – 3 pm EST

Forward Together Resolutions Working Group (FTRWG) presented two resolutions to act on in this Council meeting. Note that while this link includes more than two resolutions, the only two that were voted on were the ones related to Core Values and Roundtables:

[ALA CD 46.1 FTRWG Resolutions to Council FINAL](#)

During Council Forum on Sunday night, 6/27/2021, ALA-President Elect Patty Wong announced that there would be a pause in moving forward with the rest of the resolutions due to resounding feedback from many quarters (including the FTRWG, Councilors, Membership, and ALA Leadership) that more time was needed to make sure the best researched resolutions were presented regarding Standing Committees, Council, Executive Board, and Assemblies. The main concern I heard at the PLA public libraries councilor's meeting on Friday afternoon was the fiscal component, and that the Forward Together Fiscal Analysis Working Group (FT-FAWG) did not have enough time (9 days!) or information to fully provide a fiscal analysis of the resolutions as presented. Wong assured the councilors present that there would be a new committee formed quickly to develop and process and plan to get the work done and resolutions drafted for consideration by Council in January 2022. Below is the link to the report provided by the FT-FAWG:

[ALA CD 37.1 Fiscal Analysis Working Group](#)

[ALA CD 37.1 a Standardized Dues Structure for Divisions and Round Tables DRAFT.pdf](#)

There was an amendment proposed to the FTRWG resolution list to only deal with two resolutions, which passed by a vote of 150 to 12 (with one additional abstention).

Core Values Resolution: Passed unanimously.

Council II – Monday 6/28/2021, 4 pm – 6 pm EST

Roundtables Resolution: Passed 154 to 4.

[Resolution to Obtain Carbon Neutrality for ALA conferences \(#53\)](#)

Spirited debate; included here because resolve clause #3 specifically mentions chapters, so the Sustainability task force for NHLA should take a look at this and see what efforts they may wish to propose to move in this direction for our conferences, workshops, etc.

Passed 145 to 9 (4 abstain); The four who abstained were concerned about the future costs of purchasing carbon neutral shares while ALA is still trying to stabilize their finances.

Council III – Tuesday 6/29/2021, 9 am – 12 noon EST

Approval of ALA Annual Estimates of Income:

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2013.3%20Treasurer%27s%20Report%20and%20Annual%20Estimates%20of%20Income.pptx>

ALA's financial situation has improved, with no furloughs scheduled in FY22 (9/1/2021 – 8/31/2022) and a 2% staff salary increase. However, the budget for FY22 (as planned previously) is a deficit budget when comparing revenues and expenses, and the \$1 million difference will be made up with a Paycheck Protection Plan (federal) loan. ALA has received \$6 million in PPP loans, and they have a 90% confidence rate that this new loan will be approved as well. The Estimates of Income was approved by Council 156 to 1.

ALA Code of Ethics Ninth Principle:

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2024.1-24.2%20Committee%20on%20Professional%20Ethics.pdf>

This is important to consider by our chapters, who often have their own professional ethics code policy. This resolution was passed by Council unanimously.

Intellectual Freedom Committee resolutions (2):

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2019.4%20Intellectual%20Freedom%20Committee%20action%20item.pdf> (#19.4 resolution)

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD19.5-19.7%20Intellectual%20Freedom%20Committee%20action%20items.pdf> (#19.7 resolution)

#19.4: Resolution on US Enterprises' Abridgement of Free Speech:

US Enterprise definition - Resolution passed by Council 158-0 (with 2 abstentions).

#19.7: Resolution in Support of Open Education Resources Resolution passed by Council unanimously.

[Committee on Legislation Report](#)

I include this report here because it documents the work of the committee, of which I am a member until June 30, 2022. We accomplished so much this past year in cooperation with the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy office...one of the biggest accomplishments is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by IMLS and distributed to every state for their libraries.

Resolution on Greater Transparency in the Library of Congress (LoC) Subject Headings Revision Process (#55):

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2055%20RESOLUTION%20on%20Greater%20Transparency%20in%20the%20Library%20of%20Congress%20Subject%20Headings%20Revision%20Process.pdf>

This resolution was brought forward by a minority group from the CORE Subject Analysis Committee (SAC). The committee itself voted 6-4 in opposition to this resolution. This resolution was hotly debated. One of the items from this resolution that struck me was the idea that ALA could tell any library how to staff their organization or suggest that a specific library should update their web site and policies. This sets a precedent that is unsustainable. This resolution also would damage relationships created and maintained by ALA staff with LoC. I voted no on this resolution. Final vote: 24 yes, 125 no, 9 abstain. Motion defeated.

Resolution on Replacing the Library of Congress (LoC) Subject Heading Illegal Aliens Without Further Delay (#56):

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2056%20RESOLUTION%20on%20Replacing%20the%20Library%20of%20Congress%20Subject%20Heading%20Illegal%20Aliens%20Without%20Further%20Delay%20Final.pdf>

This resolution was brought forward by the same minority group from SAC as the previous resolution (SAC voted to not support this resolution 6-4 as well). In this instance, this same resolution (lacking the “without further delay” language) was passed by Council in January 2017. It caused a political backlash and was basically a non-starter issue until the new Biden administration. When ALA reached out to LoC and Congressional staffers about moving forward with making this change early this year, they were told a very quiet approach was the best given the razor-thin Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, and that we should give them a few months to make headway. Another point to understand is that LoC can only make changes when Congress gives them permission to make changes. Congress doesn’t dictate what those changes might be, but they do govern the work of LoC – they are the Library OF Congress. Again, spirited debate with many councilors speaking to how this term needs to be changed right now. My problem with this resolution was that it does not give time for the current political strategy to show fruit, and would damage relationships ALA staff has built with Congressional staffers and LoC staff over many years. A resolution was presented by former COL member Ann Ewbank (and a colleague of mine from ALA Policy Corp) to refer this to COL for consideration of impacts, with a report due back to Council in January 2022. Motion to refer to COL: 91 yes, 61 no, 6 abstain. Motion carried.