

NH ALA Councilor Report from ALA 2019 Annual in Washington DC

This was my first ALA Annual meeting in the role of NH Chapter Councilor, and I am starting to understand more about the dynamics of Council and the governance structure of ALA as a whole. For those unfamiliar with ALA Council, it is the membership governing body for the organization, consisting of 184 councilors. Representation comes from state chapters, ALA divisions, and ALA Roundtables.

My report below includes an Executive Summary with highlights, and then a listing 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; lori.fisher@dncr.nh.gov.

Executive Summary

For NH librarians, two major action item sets that occurred during Council included (1) passing 11 (yes, eleven) new or revised Interpretations to the *Library Bill of Rights* [Council II & III], and (2) passing a resolution regarding Digital Content Pricing in Libraries [Council III]. Details about all Council actions are referenced in my full report, available on the [NHLA web site](#).

The Interpretations to the *Library Bill of Rights* are created by the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee to assist in the application of the *Library Bill of Rights* to specific situations, detailing the historical and philosophical background. The recent Council-approved/revised Interpretations include:

- Library-Initiated Programs & Displays as a Resource
- Diverse Collections
- Minors and Online Activity
- Privacy
- User-Generated Content in Library Discovery Systems
- Education and Information Literacy
- Economic Barriers to Information Access
- User-Initiated Exhibits, Displays, and Bulletin Boards
- Access to Digital Resources and Services
- Evaluating Library Collections
- Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors
- Rating Systems

I have linked the drafts of these documents through the NHLA web site blog post for my report. Final versions of the new Interpretations should be available on the ALA web site [Interpretations page](#) this summer; a new printed *Library Bill of Rights* (including the Interpretations) is in the works for publication later this year. Please read these interpretations over and share them with your Boards of Trustees.

For the Digital Content Pricing in Libraries resolution, I want to be clear that while I was in favor the general tenor of the resolution, there were unresolved wording issues and the ALA Committee on Legislation had not vetted the resolution due to the resolution being submitted just before Council III for vote. Given that ALA spends a lot of time, money and resources cultivating relationships on Capitol Hill for a variety of reasons (not the least of which is support for continued LSTA and IAL money), I feel it is imperative that we involve the Committee on Legislation to review resolutions that specifically refer to creating legislation or refer to specific legislative initiatives. Unfortunately, the majority of Council members passed the Resolution. I did vote to refer the resolution to the COL, and when that was not supported, I voted against the resolution.

Last, if you are interested in the work of the Steering Committee for Organizational Effectiveness and their proposed major changes to ALA governance and structure, please consider taking part in a [webinar for feedback on the proposed changes](#). The webinar will take place on Monday 7/8 at 2 pm EST.

Below is my detailed account of Council activities. Please reach out with questions.

Submitted by Lori Fisher, NH ALA Councilor (2019-2021)

ALA Council I – Sun 6/22/2019

Two-hour workshop/facilitated discussion: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through Social Justice Lens: the Role of the ALA Council. With DeEtta Jones, DJA Founder and Principal.

ALA CD #49 – [Resolution in Defense of the Free Speech of Supporters of the Movement for Palestinian Rights](#). Motion to refer to the Committee on Legislation, the Committee on Intellectual Freedom, and the International Relations Committee (report at Midwinter 2020) because of legislation referenced in resolution. Passes majority vote.

ALA CD #50 – [Resolution on renaming the Melvil Dewey Medal](#). Passes majority vote with very little discussion

ALA Council II – Mon 6/23/2019

ALA CD# 27.1 - [Resolution to add two reps from Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services \(ABOS\) and from Association for Rural and Small Libraries \(ARSL\) to the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee](#). Passes majority vote with no discussion

ALA CD# 25.1 – [Changes to ALA By-Laws](#)

- Action item 1 passes majority vote, little discussion
- Action item 2: changed “email” to “Electronic voting”; passes majority vote
- Action item 3: passes majority vote after discussion

[ALA CD #19.7-19.11 \(Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights\) – Report summary from the Intellectual Freedom Committee](#)

ALA CD #19.7 – Library Initiated Programs and Displays As A Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. Passes majority vote, no discussion

ALA CD #19.8 – Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. Passes majority vote no discussion.

ALA CD #19.9 – Minors and Online Activity: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. Passes majority vote no discussion.

ALA CD #19.10 – Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. Passes majority vote no discussion.

ALA CD #19.11 – User-Generated Content in Library Discovery Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. Passes majority vote no discussion.

Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness Presentation: Timeline - SCOE recommendations to council at MW 2020; first vote of council Annual 2020; 2nd vote of council MW 2021; membership vote 2021. 58,000 members (their view paramount to SCOE). 154 membership categories (!!). Opportunity to include diverse perspectives very different today than 150 years ago when ALA founded. [Click here to see the SCOE slide presentation.](#) To provide input and hear the whole presentation, [click here to sign up for the webinar on 7/8 at 2pm EST.](#)

ALA Council III – Tues 6/25/2019

ALA CD #13.3 (annual estimates of income FY 2020)

Possible sale of Chicago offices not reflected in budget...if it happens revenue will go into endowment and increase annual interest draw (which now is \$700,000). Approve FY 20 Annual estimates of income of \$85,725,721 (includes assets and revenue). Passes by majority.

ALA CD #19.13-19.19: Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, Report Summary from the Intellectual Freedom Committee

ALA CD #19.13 Education and Information Literacy: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* Passes by majority.

ALA CD #19.14 Economic Barriers to Information Access: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*. Passes by majority.

ALA CD #19.15 User-Initiated Exhibits, Displays, and Bulletin Boards: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* Passes by majority.

ALA CD #19.16 Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* Passes by majority.

ALA CD #19.17 Evaluating Library Collections: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*
Passes by majority.

ALA CD #19.18 Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the
Library Bill of Rights Passes by majority

ALA CD #19.19 Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*
Passes by majority

ALA CD #19.20/#24.3 Intellectual Freedom Advocacy and Education

Passes by majority

ALA CD #42 Extend work of Task Force for online deliberation and voting until MW 2020

Passes by majority

**ALA CD #43 Extend Working Group deadline for report submittal - Eliminating
Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Justice**

Check out blog: <https://endlibraryfines.info/>

Extend deadline for report to Council to 8/31/2019; passes by majority

ALA CD #52 Library Service for Children in Detention at Migrant Detention Centers

Discussion about wording at the end of point 1 – motion withdrawn (which would have specified
refuges seeking asylum, not all detention centers)

Passes by majority.

ALA CD #53 Ebook pricing for Libraries

Change “ebook” to “digital content pricing”

Move to refer to COL and ITP advisory committee; report back at MW

Motion to refer defeated

Primary resolution vote with change “digital content pricing”: passes; I voted no because it
should be referred to COL for language, vetting, and unintended consequences to relationships
between ALA and stakeholders on Capitol Hill.