

## **NH ALA Councilor Report from ALA 2022 Annual Conference (DC) July 8, 2022**

ALA Council is the membership governing body for the American Library Association (a 501(c)3, consisting of 184 councilors). Representation comes from state chapters, ALA divisions, and ALA Roundtables. NH Library Association is a chapter of ALA.

This was the first time that ALA Council sessions were hybrid in nature, allowing for both in-person and virtual participation. All voting, whether virtual or in-person, was conducted using an online voting portal. Overall, this hybrid approach was very successful.

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](mailto:lori.fisher@dncr.nh.gov).

### **Executive Summary**

The major discussion/voting in ALA Council sessions revolved around the organizational restructuring process, as well as dealing with virtual access and how to be inclusive in organizational/governance processes. I will say that I am disappointed that the amended resolution to keep policymaking in ALA Council instead of vesting it in a proposed expanded Executive Board was passed. However, this is a long-term effort and I have no doubt that the issue will be raised again, since changes to governance have to go through two Council votes as well as a membership vote to be ratified, and we are not even at the first Council vote stage to change the by-laws and Constitution (that should come at LibLearnX in January 2023).

None of the resolutions passed at this annual meeting have particular impactful implications on our public libraries in NH. I will say that the resolution related to BDS boycotts would have been impactful if it had passed, and I did speak against this resolution given that ALA Council actions such as this could easily have been used as fodder by library opponents in our smaller communities who wish to defund libraries. This is the third time this resolution has come before Council (albeit with slightly different wording, and with previous approval at the ALA membership meeting held during this conference). I have heard that it will be presented again at a future meeting of Council.

*I would encourage all NHLA members to read the five reports from the ALA committees (legislation, advocacy, intellectual freedom, sustainability, and diversity) linked at the end of my report.*

### **ALA Council Saturday 6/25/22**

ALA membership meeting resolutions approved; need Council vote.

#### **[VMD#2 – Resolution Calling for Student Loan Cancellation](#)**

92 Yes, 45 No, 5 abstain - passed

I voted against this resolution. While I understand the desire to have student loans cancelled, it is not a realistic goal given our present state of government and inflation, and is not a legislative priority for ALA. With the passage of this resolution, the next step is for the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office to send a letter to President Biden with the request. It is not expected to have much effect on moving the needle in the direction of student loan cancellation.

[CD#55 as amended – Resolution in Defense of the Right to Engage in Political Boycotts](#)

51 Yes, 83 No, 9 abstain - defeated

I voted against this resolution

I spoke against this resolution on council floor from the standpoint of impact on small rural libraries who could easily face defunding with this resolution as part of the reason (interference by a national organization on state/local legislation, purchasing policies, etc.). ALA should not be making resolutions regarding state and local legislation unless the state chapter requests ALA assistance (see [ALA State & Local Protocol](#)). I was not the only councilor who spoke against this resolution for this reason, particularly since our libraries are already facing community hostility over book banning.

[CD#57 – Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries, Schools, and Other Cultural Institutions in Ukraine](#)

130 Yes, 6 No, 7 abstain - passed

[CD#59 – Resolution on Continuing Virtual Access to ALA Membership Meetings](#)

Eli M.(parliamentarian) states it is in bylaws for process so it will require a bylaws change

Amendment to refer to BARC due to financial implications

122 Yes, 4 No - passed

[Scholarship & Study Grants Committee resolution CD#48 \(Jason Reynolds/Simon & Schuster Travel grants to ALA annual for four black teen/youth/school librarians\)](#)

139 Yes, 1 No, 0 abstain

[Transforming ALA Governance \(TAG\) CD#36](#)

Amendment proposed to motion to make Council policymaking. I spoke against having Council as policymaking because I believe that Council as an advisory body makes more logistical sense especially given an increased Executive Board size. One of the major complaints about Council is how we are not nimble or able to address issues in a timely manner. Having policymaking in a smaller body that meets more frequently but is informed by the larger advisory body (Council) addresses that concern, especially with more than half of the new Executive Board potentially coming from Council by either appointment or election.

Call the question: 129 Yes, 14 No, 0 abstain – motion to call the question carries

Vote on amendment: 76 yes, 64 no, 4 abstain – passed (I voted no)

Vote on amended motion to include a Rainbow Roundtable rep on EB: 110 Yes, 9 No, 9 abstain

Vote on twice amended resolution: 102 Yes, 22 no, 7 abstain - motion passes

(I voted yes just to move this process forward into Constitution & Bylaws)

**ALA Council II Sunday 6/26/2022**

[CD#27.1 – COO action item re: ODLOS...changes to committee structure for the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services Advisory Committee](#)

126 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain

[CD#41.1 – Committee on Education....Approve 2022 revision of ALA Core Competencies of Librarianship. Amended to send back to committee to work with AASL re: inclusive language regarding school librarians.](#)

Vote: 129 Yes, 12 no, 0 abstain

[CD#30 – ALA Core Values Task Force – extend term of current task force by one year; expand membership of task force by 4 members; broaden charge to include revising & updating current values in conjunction with Library Bill of Rights and Code of Ethics; task force will report out at Annual 2023.](#) Added by housekeeping a

5<sup>th</sup> new member from tribal libraries. Amended to include another core document, “Libraries, An American Value.” Vote: unanimous in favor.

[CD#56 – Discontinue ALA Council Forum](#)

Vigorous debate: best arguments are the ethics questions of debating issues outside of formal council meetings.

Vote: 71 yes, 69 no, 7 abstain – resolution passes

**ALA Council III Monday 6/27/2022**

[CD#13.3 – approval of annual estimates of income \\$114,539,660](#)

Note that \$6 million in PPP has been obtained and forgiven by the federal government

Vote: 140 Yes, 0 No, 3 abstain

[CD#25.3 – Constitution & Bylaws resolution to consolidate ALA governing docs \(constitution and bylaws docs\) into one Bylaws document](#)

Motion 1 – move that the ALA Constitution be rescinded.

Vote: 144 Yes, 3 No, 1 abstain – motion carries

This is procedural and needs to happen now for C&B to move forward with a directive.

Motion 2 – Amend ALA Bylaws via a general revision to be completed by the C&B Committee, etc. by fall 2022 for Council, with a Spring 2023 ALA ballot for vote by membership

Vote: 148 Yes, 2 no, 0 abstain – motion carries

[CD#58 – ODLOS immigrant resolution](#)

Amendment 1 to include school/youth

Vote: 119 yes, 21 no, 5 abstain – amendment carries

Amendment 2 – change “actively petitions” in resolved clause 2 to “supports” (my amendment because otherwise the wording goes against the [ALA State and Local Protocol](#))

Made as a consent by President Wong and the mover of the resolution

Amended resolution with two changes

Vote: 140 yes, 2 no, 2 abstain – amended motion carries

[CD#61 – Resolution on Body Autonomy, Equity, and ALA Conference Sites](#)

Vote: 31 Yes, 97 No, 7 abstain – motion defeated

I voted against this resolution. I do not feel that it is appropriate to punish our colleagues in states where legislation is passed related to banning abortions. As a practical matter, if this resolution passed it would have created huge financial implications for LibLearnX in January 2023, which is slated to be held in Louisiana.

**Reports from ALA Committees, of note:**

[Committee on Library Advocacy](#), COLA (I am a liaison to this committee from ALA Policy Corps)

[Committee on Legislation](#), COL (I am a member of this committee)

[Committee on Intellectual Freedom](#) (COL is meeting with this committee on a regular basis now)

[Committee on Sustainability](#) (Important for our NHLA sustainability committee)

[Committee on Diversity](#) (Important for NHLA EDI committee)