



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: ALA Rep

Reported By: Matt Beckstrom

Date: March 29, 2017

Progress or Successes Since Our Last Meeting:

I attended the ALA midwinter meeting in Atlanta on January 19-24. This was my first ALA meeting as the Montana representative. At council meetings, there were several issues discussed. Here is a summary of some of the actions:

1. A new strategic direction was added to the ALA strategic plan: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.
2. A motion was made to amend the requirements of the ALA executive director to have an ALA accredited Master's degree or a CAEP accredited Master's degree with a specialty in school library media a strongly preferred but not required education qualification. The motion was defeated.
3. A resolution was passed to establish family/caregiver status as a protected class within the organization.
4. A motion was made and passed to amend the resolution on gun violence affecting libraries, library workers, and library patrons to read that the ALA:
 - grieves with the families and friends of all those victimized by gun violence
 - announces that any funding of non-political research does not violate the Dickey Amendment prohibition and to sponsor research into preventing firearm injuries and ways to prevent firearm deaths.
 - encourages libraries to collaborate with appropriate local agencies to provide training and education
 - encourages libraries to support community discussions around all aspects of guns in society
5. A resolution was adopted on access to accurate information. It reads: The ALA on behalf of its members:
 - reaffirms the resolution on disinformation, media manipulation, and the destruction of public information
 - Opposes the use of disinformation
 - Encourages its members to help raise public consciousness regarding the many ways in which disinformation and media manipulation are used to mislead the public
 - Urges librarians and library workers to actively seek and provide sources of accurate information

- supports the role of librarians and library workers of all types of libraries in teaching information regarding literacy skills that enable users to locate information and evaluate its accuracy
- will pursue partnerships with news organizations, journalism institutions, and other allies to promote access to accurate information and defend the role of journalists and the free press in American society.

The biggest issue facing the council at midwinter was the way the ALA approached the new administration. Julie Todaro, ALA president, released a press release stating that the ALA was prepared to work with the incoming administration. The council and the members felt that the ALA should be taking a stronger approach to the new administration and vowing to fight against any threats to the mission and values of the organization. At midwinter, the council held a town hall discussion to allow the members a chance to voice their opinions on how the council should be working with or against the administration. Here are the links to the video and the text:

<https://www.facebook.com/amlibraries/videos/>

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/0122ALATOWNHALL.pdf>

As a result of the town hall discussion, the ALA executive board will be releasing more information regarding the Association's stance on the new administration. Since the Midwinter conference, there have been several remarks and statements made by the association regarding:

Fake news

Executive orders (immigration, travel ban, budget)

They also released a new press release on 1/30. The link is:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2017/01/ala-opposes-new-administration-policies-contradict-core-values>

6. The executive council started the process of finding a new executive director for the Association.

I put out a survey to Montana libraries regarding mill levies. We discovered that the statistics reported to ALA were missing Montana libraries. I will summarize the information and send it to the Association later this month, and I will report it every year from this point on..

New Issues:

I will be attending the next ALA annual meeting in Chicago on June 22 – 27, 2017.

Board Action Requested:

None at this time.

Other Comments:

Financial Report: FY 2016 budget: \$3200_____

Amount spent: \$2338.37_____

(If unknown, please contact Executive Director)

**Please attach your completed report and email it to MLA Secretary.*