Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITEM NO.: 5.D MEETING DATE: Sept. 18, 2020
SUBJECT: ALA Councilor Report SUBMITTED BY: Meg Delaney

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Larger ALA
- Monthly ALA Connect Live events continue. September’s session focuses on intellectual freedom and celebrates the freedom to read. Sept. 24, 2pm via: Zoom - After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar and an option to add the webinar to your calendar.
- 2021 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits scheduled for January 22-26 in Indianapolis will take place virtually.
  - “It is clear that as we continue to coexist with coronavirus, we need to adjust our approach to meetings and events,” said Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA president. “In the last few months, we have successfully pivoted our delivery to present the Virtual Event in June and ALA’s Holding Space tour series this summer. Though we very much hoped to be able to meet in person in Indianapolis, the health and safety of conference attendees, ALA members and staff, exhibitors, and other stakeholders are the priority.”
  - Jefferson continued: “We will have incredibly dynamic speakers, a full online exhibit floor, and more features that I know you’ll love.”

- ALA Scholarship Application for 2021 is now open

Chapter News
- Libraries across the country will serve as election ballot drop-off locations in November. While this is not permitted in Ohio, it’s interesting to see the ways in which libraries continue to expand essential functions of government.
  - Here’s an opinion article from Eric Klinenberg, a sociologist at New York University: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/03/opinion/mail-voting-trump-libraries.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage
  - States that have said they do not allow drop-offs or only the voting office are: Indiana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia (but legislators looking to change for this election)

Council News
- Virtual Council meetings are coming up on Sept. 18 and Nov. 5. From my perspective this is great. Benefits include sustaining momentum between meetings and moving the Association toward its goal of becoming a 12-month organization (as opposed to Midwinter, Annual, and not much in between.)
- Forward Together Working Group is offering six information sessions for Councilors to dig into the details of the recommendations for the reimagined Association. This should help with the debating and voting coming up during Midwinter. The sessions are scheduled every other week until Nov. 20.
  - The first session was on 8/28. It presented ALA’s Core Values and showed how they will weave into all of the work of the Association.
  - The second session is on 9/11 and will focus on the Board of Directors.
  - Other sessions will cover Committees, Round Tables, governing documents, and where else in the Association the functions of Council might be better located.