Council Update
Since my last report Council held its “midwinter” sessions, however many significant items that were under consideration had to be pushed to a special meeting currently scheduled for March 10. The reason for the delay was considerations related to the restructuring of ALA governance that came out of the “Forward Together” initiative. The Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) committee was convened at the recommendation of the Forward Together working group to determine how to make ALA governance more effective, and after several years of work brought recommendations to Council at the midwinter meetings. However, many councilors had concerns about the proposals, and discussion got bogged down around procedural concerns related to those issues. As a result, several other resolutions were also postponed to the March 10 meeting, including the “Resolution to Support School and Youth Services Librarians Facing Increased Intellectual Freedom Challenges.”

From my perspective this is just serving to underscore the need to make the changes proposed by the TAG committee. I was one of three councilors who volunteered to speak in favor of those changes at an information session held on March 2nd, and I will also advocate for Council to accept this proposal at the special meeting on March 10th. Advocating for these changes and being able to help shape them is why I ran for ALA Councilor, and I am hopeful that we will accept this proposal and continue to move forward with this major transformation of ALA’s governance. I will report on the results of the Council meeting at the Board meeting.

ALA Stands with Ukrainian Library Community
Hopefully by now you have all seen the press release from ALA expressing support for the Ukrainian library community by providing accurate information as a means to support democracy and freedom of expression. This is a core principle of librarianship, and I trust that all Ohio libraries are already heeding ALA’s call to “encourage our members to help raise public consciousness regarding the many ways in which disinformation and media manipulation are used to mislead public opinion in all spheres of life, and further encourages librarians to facilitate this awareness with collection development, library programming and public outreach that draws the public’s attention to those alternative sources of information dedicated to countering and revealing the disinformation.”