

**Ohio Library Council  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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ITEM NO.: **5.B**

MEETING DATE: **May 13, 2022**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

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**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

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Transforming ALA Governance

As I covered at the March meeting of the OLC Board of Directors, at the March 10<sup>th</sup> special meeting ALA Council was able to complete the work remaining from our “midwinter” sessions and voted to move ahead with the Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) committee’s recommendation that Council become an advisory body and that all governance functions be placed with a much smaller executive board. The vote to move forward was very narrow, and in the time since that meeting it is clear that there continues to be a significant number of councilors who are very concerned about moving policy-making functions away from Council to a newly constituted Executive Board.

We have met for several information and discussion sessions to inform the details that TAG is working out in order to present Council with specific proposals at the Annual Conference in June. The discussion sessions have covered the composition of a new Executive Board and Council, a tool for “Taking ALA’s Pulse” in order to ensure that members are being heard in governance decisions, and the effectiveness of Council. I have been vocal in support of the new model proposed by TAG, and have been encouraging Council to think creatively about how a smaller governing body can still represent all the voices in our organization. I have heard frustration with the current form of governance in ALA from many of my colleagues around the state, and want to do my best to persuade other councilors that the proposed changes will be beneficial to the organization and our members.

For now there are no new details to report about the direction TAG is moving with their proposals, but I expect the Council sessions at the annual conference will be very busy!

ALA Election Results 2022 - President, Treasurer, Councilor at Large

In April the American Library Association members selected the 2023-2024 ALA President, 2022-2025 ALA Treasurer, and 2022-2025 Councilors at Large. Emily Drabinski will be the 2023-2024 ALA President and Peter Hepburn will be the 2022-2025 ALA Treasurer.

Additional information is available at:

*American Libraries*

[Drabinski Wins 2023-2024 ALA Presidency | American Libraries Magazine](#)

[Hepburn Elected ALA Treasurer | American Libraries Magazine](#)

Significant for Ohio libraries, CEO/Executive Director of the Stark County District Library Mary Ellen Icaza was elected Director-at-large for PLA, and Director of Capital Projects and Project Management for the Columbus Metropolitan Library Wendy Tressler was chosen as president-elect of the Core Division.

Councilor-at-Large results can be accessed [here, both in Alpha Order and Count Order](#).

A complete list of the ALA Election results (includes Divisions and Round Tables) is available on the ALA Election Information Website: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection>

**5.B: ALA Councilor Report**

### ALA Launches Unite Against Book Bans

In April ALA launched [Unite Against Book Bans](#), a national initiative to empower readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship.

Recent [polling](#) confirms that large majorities of voters and parents oppose book bans in public and school libraries, and they have overwhelmingly favorable opinions of public and school libraries. We must join with others and raise our voices together.

As National Library Week kicks off with the release of the State of America's Libraries Report, including the Top 10 Banned Books, the sense of urgency is clear. This campaign will engage with other state, local, and national efforts to build a strong and vibrant network of individuals and organizations working together to fight censorship.

Please join us by visiting [Unite Against Book Bans](#) and:

- signing up for the campaign.
- spreading the word to your networks.
- following the campaign on social media: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Together, we are a strong force for the value of libraries and the freedom to read.

### Book Bans a Focus of State of America's Libraries 2022 Report

The number of reported book challenges topped 700 in 2021—the most since 2000, according to the American Library Association's (ALA) annual [State of America's Libraries 2022 report](#) released April 4. [The report](#) summarizes library trends and outlines statistics and issues affecting libraries during the previous calendar year. It comes out annually during [National Library Week](#), this year April 3–9.