

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **7.B**

MEETING DATE: **Jan. 20, 2023**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

We are all gearing up for the first in-person LibLearnX in New Orleans January 27-30, and while I'm looking forward to opportunities to hear new ideas and spend some time networking, the main event will of course be a special session of Council for a constitutional convention. After Council officially rescinded the ALA Constitution in two votes this summer and early fall, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee has worked to present Council with three drafts of a new, streamlined bylaws for the organization. C&B has incorporated all of the aspects of the Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) working group recommendations that were adopted by Council, and while the resulting document is not everything we had hoped would come from the work of TAG, I do believe that it will give us a much more streamlined and nimble framework for governing the organization.

However, I honestly cannot guess what direction things will go in New Orleans. It's clear that the members who disagreed with the recommendations of the TAG working group are not ready to let those go, and while C&B has been clear that it is not within their authority to change anything that Council has voted to adopt, some members have expressed concerns about those parts of the new bylaws. I would say at this point that the main points of contention are that the new bylaws significantly reduces the number of at-large members of Council, down to only 18 at-large members; and that the new bylaws specify that the Executive Board have members who come from specific groups of the organization (Divisions, Round Tables, Chapters, RRT, AASL, and NALCo). I think that both of these changes will help a great deal in streamlining the work of the organization and ensuring that the voices who need to be heard have a direct say in the governing of the organization. But I don't know how the debate will go on the floor.

I am still hopeful that we will pass the new bylaws as presented and continue to move ALA to be more responsive to the ever-increasing needs of our members. Please let me know if the Board has any feedback on this or any other aspect of the governance debate.

Executive Board Candidates

As a member of the Committee on Committees I assisted with the process of identifying candidates for the Executive Board, and I am pleased to share that one of the candidates is Maria Estrella, Public Services Manager III for the Cleveland Public Library. The other candidates are:

- Adriana Blancarte-Hayward - Senior Manager, Outreach Services, The New York Public Library, New York, NY
- Stephanie Chase - Executive Director, Libraries of Eastern Oregon & Founding Principal for the Constructive Disruption Consultancy, Portland, OR
- Dorcas Hand -School Librarian Retired, now Full-time Advocate, Houston, TX
- Sophia Sotilleo - Dean, University Library, Thurgood Marshall Library, Bowie State University, Bowie, MD
- Steven Yates - Associate Professor and Assistant Director, University of Alabama School of Library & Information Studies, Tuscaloosa, AL