LibLearnX 2024 Recap
Council sessions at LLX all went largely as expected. Council passed a streamlined membership fee structure as recommended by the Membership Committee, updated the structure of the Committee on Appointments, and passed the first amendments to the new Bylaws, ensuring that virtual participation in Council and Executive Board meetings will always be allowed.

Following some lively debate about the changes to the ALA Core Values, Council adopted the new Core Values (more on that below). Council also adopted a resolution put forward by the International Relations Committee condemning the destruction of libraries and other cultural institutions in Gaza. This resolution matched similar resolutions adopted during previous global conflicts. Council declined to adopt a more broadly worded resolution on the Gaza conflict.

I mentioned in my January report that a resolution was being put forward to have the ALA Chapter Relations Office work with the non-ALA chapters in states where this is the case, including Ohio, and also to formalize a relationship between the state’s Chapter Councilor and the non-ALA chapters in the State. The individuals working on this resolution chose to withdraw the resolution from the LLX agenda based on feedback they had been receiving about the resolution. They will be working to take all the feedback they’ve received into account and plan to bring an updated version to the floor at the Annual Conference.

Core Values
As mentioned above, at LLX the Council approved updated Core Values for ALA. These core values are meant to be foundational principles that we can then build on to create policies, make decisions, set goals, and prioritize our actions. This means that we will now need to develop interpretations of the core values for different aspects of our work, the same way we have developed interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights and other foundational principles.

In order to do this work, the Council has asked the Executive Board to appoint working groups to develop these interpretations. More details on the Core Values and this process can be found on the ALA website here:
https://www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy/intfreedom/corevalues

Executive Board Elections
Following LLX, Council voted on new members for the Executive Board. This was the first election for Executive Board under the new composition laid out in the new Bylaws, with designated seats for specific groups within ALA. The open seats in this election were for a
member at-large, a member from the Rainbow Round Table, and a member from an ALA Division. The winning candidates were:

- Nick Buron, At-large
- Peter Coyl, Rainbow Round Table
- Dr. Corinthia Price, Division (AASL)

ALA Presidential Candidates

The candidates running for the 2025-26 Presidential term are Sam Helmick, Community & Access Services Coordinator at Iowa City Public Library, and Raymond Pun, Academic and Research Librarian at the Alder Graduate School of Education in California.

Helmick is a current member of the ALA Executive Board and president of the Iowa Library Association. They previously served as chair-elect on the Freedom to Read Foundation and chair of the Iowa Governor's Commission of Libraries. They have served on committees for the Network of the National Library of Medicine, the Stonewall Book Awards, the ALA Policy Monitoring Committee, Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Michael L. Printz Committee, on the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Sophie Brody Award Committee and on the YALSA Fundraising Task Force. Helmick is a 2017 Emerging Leader as well as an author, consultant, and instructor for social media marketing and graphic design.

Helmick holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Wesleyan University and a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois.

Pun currently serves as the immediate past president of the Chinese American Librarians Association and was past president of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. Pun previously served on the ALA Council, ALA Policy Corps, and as a member of the advisory committees for two ALA past presidents. Pun is a member of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Pun is a member of the California Library Association (CLA) Advocacy and Legislation Committee, the Library Freedom Project (LFP), and other ALA affiliates including the American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA), the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL), the Association of Rural and Small Libraries, and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. Pun is also a member of the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) and the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). In addition to librarianship, Pun is a member of the Committee of 100’s Next Generation Leaders program and a speaker for The Weave Speakers Bureau.

Pun holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fresno; a Master of Library Science from CUNY Queen College; a Master of Arts in East Asian Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in History from St. John's University in New York.

Helmick and Pun engaged in a virtual candidates' forum on Thursday, February 8, 2024. Each candidate shared a statement and answered questions from members. A recording of the forum can be viewed on ALA’s YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9JS3T8HgTo
Ballot mailing for the election will begin Monday, March 11, 2024, and will run through Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Individuals must be members in good standing to vote in the 2024 ALA elections. For more information, visit the ALA Election webpage.

**ALA 150th Anniversary**
The American Library Association (ALA) will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2026. The association will recognize and commemorate the leadership and support that ALA has provided to library workers, library users, library trustees and supporters throughout the United States and the world. ALA has been an essential professional venue for learning, sharing, networking, and advocacy.

The ALA Executive Board has created two member-led committees to lead the association in the planning for the anniversary:

- The 150th Commemoration Committee will develop and guide events, programs, products, and a public awareness campaign related to the yearlong anniversary in 2026. It will focus on the impact the association has made and will take a forward-looking approach to exploring a vision for the next 150 years. Co-chairs are Martin Garnar, Amherst College library director, and Courtney L. Young, ALA past president and university librarian at Colgate University.
- 150th Fundraising Campaign Committee will establish a campaign goal, partner to create campaign strategies, provide opportunities for donor engagement, host events and meet with potential donors. Co-chairs are Jim Neal, ALA past president and university librarian emeritus at Columbia University, and Christina Rodriques, ALA Executive Board member and OCLC senior program manager.

More information can be found on the ALA website [here](#).