

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.C**

MEETING DATE: **Sept. 20, 2024**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Sam Helmick named ALA President-elect

At a special meeting on July 23, the ALA Council affirmed the Executive Board's selection of Sam Helmick as the 2024-2025 president-elect.

Helmick is Community & Access Services Coordinator at Iowa City Public Library, was a member of the ALA Executive Board until their term ended in early July, and is immediate past president of the Iowa Library Association. They previously served as former chair-elect on the Intellectual Freedom Round Table 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, the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Sophie Brody Award Committee and the YALSA Fundraising Task Force. Helmick is a 2016 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 Iowa Wesleyan University and a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois.

There was some discussion on ALA Connect and elsewhere about the process of how this selection was made. The Executive Board and Council followed the process outlined in the newly adopted ALA Bylaws for filling a vacancy in the position of President-elect. The Executive Board had identified multiple individuals who could fill the role, and after careful consideration and discussion brought Council their top candidate. In the event that Council had not affirmed the appointment of Helmick, the Executive Board would have brought forward their next choice. However, after a robust discussion Council overwhelmingly approved the appointment of Helmick, so no other candidates were brought forward. If any Ohio members have any questions about this process or how the decision was made, please let me know.

Freedom to Read Day of Action – October 19

On Saturday, Oct. 19th, the Freedom to Read Community Day of Action, organized by Unite Against Book Bans, the Association for Rural & Small Libraries, [@bklynlibrary](#), [@nypl](#), and [@qplnyc](#) in collaboration with libraries and advocates nationwide are planning a Freedom to Read Community Day of Action with rallies at libraries, bookstores, places of worship, and other community hubs in towns big and small all across the nation. The goal is to demonstrate the broad support that exists in our communities for libraries and the freedom to read. The in-person rallies aim to build momentum toward robust voter participation on Nov. 5th – where the simple act of casting a ballot can help protect the right of everyone in our communities to read what they want. Please consider holding Oct. 19th for a Freedom to Read day of action rally at your library. Get more information [here](#) and opt in to participate [here](#).

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