**ALA 2020 Midwinter Report**

Philadelphia, PA January 24-28, 2020

**Documents**

1. [All 2020 Council Documents](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/annual-and-midwinter-2020)
2. [Complete list of ALA Council Actions](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions)

**Highlights**

1. **ALA Budget**

ALA’s budget dominated ALA Council Session III and Council Forums II and III. This summary describes the state of ALA’s budget: [ALA Responds to Financial Shortfall](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ala-responds-financial-shortfall/)

1. **Tributes Adopted**

[Florida Library Association’s 100th Anniversary](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/Tribute%20Resolution%20Recognizing%20the%20Florida%20Library%20Association.pdf)

[Dita Kraus, “The Librarian of Auschwitz”](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/Tribute%20Resolution%20Honoring%20Dita%20Kraus.pdf)

1. **Resolutions Adopted**

[**Resolution ensuring intellectual freedom and the right to peacefully assembly at ALA Conferences and Meetings**](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/Resolution%20Ensuring%20Intellectual%20Freedom%20and%20the%20Right%20to%20Peacefully%20Assemble%20at%20ALA%20Conferences%20and%20Meetings.pdf)

This resolution was primarily in response to ALA’s creation of “The Square,” which was later revoked. The resolution requires that ALA Council approve all internal restrictions to First Amendment rights at all ALA events proposed by all ALA offices, ALA committees, or other ALA bodies.

[**Resolution in opposition to charging prisoners to read**](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/Resolution%20in%20Opposition%20to%20Charging%20Prisoners%20to%20Read.pdf)

This resolution was a statement that condemns the existence of for-profit programs that charge incarcerated people for access to reading material, acknowledging such programs deepen existing inequalities barring free access to information for all people. ALA strongly encourages library workers to contact state legislatures to express this concern.

1. **Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness Updates (SCOE)**

The document, [Forward Together](https://forwardtogether.ala.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Forward-Together-Nov-2019.pdf), proposes a new governance model for ALA, which was developed by the SCOE committee. The next steps are for a legal analysis of the proposal to be conducted and presented. SCOE also recommends a more robust financial analysis. The timeline beginning on page 30 of the Forward Together document (linked above) provides more details for next steps. ALA Council was to hold vote 1 at ALA Annual 2020 which has now been canceled.

**Meetings Attended by VLA Chapter Councilor**

**Saturday, January 25**

ALA Council Orientation Session for New and Re-elected Councilors, 8:00-10:00 AM

ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session, 3:30-5:30 PM

ALA Council Forum I, 6:00-7:00 PM

**Sunday, January 26**

ALA Council I, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness: Forward Together & Chapters Discussion, 4:00-5:00 PM

ALA Council Forum II, 5:30-6:30 PM

**Monday, January 27**

ALA Council II, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Chapter Relations Committee 2, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

ALA Council Forum III, 5:30-6:30 PM

**Tuesday, January 28**

ALA Council III, 8:30-11:00 AM

*Submitted by Lucinda Wittkower, ALA Councilor for Virginia Library Association, 04/09/2020*