

## ALA Councilor Report for Virginia Library Association, January 2025

### I. Meetings Attended by ALA Councilor since last report:

- ALA Virtual Membership meeting, 1/14/25 – virtual
- Standing Up for Libraries: The Next 100 Days, 1/15/25 – virtual

### II. ALA News & Updates:

#### From the Membership meeting:

- ALA is undertaking 3 key strategic initiatives this fiscal year, **ALA Forward** will include:  
(1) an Organizational Assessment led by Westman and Associates that will examine our internal processes and structures to ensure operational excellence,  
(2) a Program Assessment, reviewing the impact and value of our individual programs and,  
(3) Strategic Planning, a deep dive into refining our mission and goals – led by the ALA Executive Board and consultants with the Association Management Center.
- James W. Lewis of Washington, D.C. has made the largest individual bequest to the American Library Association in the association's history. The approximately \$25 million bequest is truly transformational and will fund scholarships for aspiring librarians.
- As of October 2024 statistics, the total ALA membership count stands at 47,247, compared to 47,948 for October 2023. This represents an overall decrease of 1.46%.
- New membership model with simplified cost structure.
- Public Partner Program – launch in early 2025

### III. Upcoming

- [LibLearnX will be held January 24-27, 2025](#) in Phoenix, AZ.
- [ALA Annual Conference will be held June 26-30, 2025](#) in Philadelphia.

### IV. Ongoing:

- Executive Director (round 2) search continues

### V. Other:

- ALA Election Opens: March 10, 2025 - Election Closes: April 2, 2025
  - Candidates for President:
    - Lindsay Cronk
    - Maria McCauley
    - Andrea Jamison
  - Candidate for Treasurer:
    - Larry Neal
  - Currently 21 candidates for the 18 Councilor at-large seats on ALA Council
- More ALA News can be found at: <https://www.ala.org/news>

–Submitted by Kerri Copus, January 15, 2025