

Committee Members:

Susan J. Schmidt (Chair), Melissa M. Brooks, Kristine L. Ferry, Terri L. Grief, Carol Hanan, Carey D. Hartmann, Julee A. Hector, Patricia Hofmann, Patti McCall, Louis Munoz, Jr, Lisa R. Varga, Steven Bailey (Intern), Jillian K. Hayes (Intern), James Neal (Executive Board Liaison), Michael Dowling (Staff Liaison), Don Wood (Staff Liaison)

Division Representatives to CRC: Nancy J. Weiner (ACRL Representative), Dana Lucile Jemison (ALCTS Representative), Carolyn Larson (RUSA Representative)

CRC Member Liaisons to Other Groups: ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion—Majed Khader; Advocacy Coordinating Group—Ben Hunter; Freedom to Read Foundation—Patricia Hofmann; ALA Legislation Assembly—Carey Hartmann; Library Education Assembly—Patti McCall; Literacy Assembly—Jillian Hayes; Planning and Budget Assembly—Carol Hanan; Recruitment Assembly—Lisa Varga

Chapter Relations Committee at Annual Conference

Documents and reports related to this report are located in the Chapter Relations Committee ALA Connect community at <http://connect.ala.org/node/267005>.

Discussions and Action Item (Action Item is distinguished by **Action Item**.)

The CRC held two meetings (Saturday, June 24, and Monday, June 26) in Chicago. Attendees (approximately 50 each mtg.) included Chapter Presidents, Executive Directors, and Chapter Councilors.

The CRC organized, with the Chapter Relations Office (CRO), another successful full-day Chapter Leaders Forum. The Forums, which have been held at each Midwinter and Annual for over twenty years, help prepare incoming Chapter Leaders (President-elects, treasurers, Chapter Councilors, Ex. Directors, etc.) for their roles guiding their associations. Fifty-three participants from 31 Chapters attended. Topics covered included "ALA Support for Chapters on State and Local Issues," presented by Marci Merola, Director, and Megan Cusick, Grassroots Specialist, ALA Office for Library Advocacy; "Teach a Committee to Fish," presented by Lisa Varga, Executive Director, Virginia Library Association, and Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director, New York Library Association; and "Chapter Relations Committee and Communication Subcommittee Update," by Susan Schmidt, Chair, Chapter Relations Committee. The afternoon session was an open discussion on topics and issues solicited from the attendees prior to conference.

The mission of the Subcommittee on Improving Communication and Coordination Among ALA and its Chapters is to identify potential solutions to improve Chapter engagement by identifying roles for Chapters in national ALA efforts, roles for ALA in Chapter efforts, and solutions to improve the communication among ALA and its Chapters. (See [CRC Report to Council, MW 2017](#), for details on why the subcommittee was established.)

Members of the subcommittee are Susan J. Schmidt, Chair, Chapter Relations Committee, and President, United for Libraries; Gloria Creed-Dikeogu, President, Kansas Library Association; Cynthia Czesak, Member, New Jersey Library Association; Ben Hunter, Chapter Councilor, Idaho Library Association; Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director, New York Library Association;



Dale K. McNeill, Chapter Councilor, Texas Library Association; Lisa R. Varga, Executive Director, Virginia Library Association; ALA Executive Board Liaison Gina A. Persichini, Member, Idaho Library Association, and Networking Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries. Staff Liaisons are ALA President Julie B. Todaro; ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels; Michael Dowling, Director, Chapter Relations Committee; and Don Wood, Program Officer, Chapter Relations Committee.

respectful dialogue in community, and directs the Committee on Diversity, with the support of the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services and the ODLOS Advisory Committee, to develop, provide, and disseminate materials and programming for libraries that deter hate, foster community, and oppose bigotry toward or oppression against any group." He asked Chapters to help COD disseminate the information.

- o Jody Gray noted that the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) section in the ALA strategic directions document does not replace the EDI Implementation Working Group (IWG) efforts to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on EDI with the units designated by the Task Force final report. Units charged with a recommendation that do not have an official representative on the IWG shall be appointed a liaison from the Working Group. The IWG shall explore partnerships with the ALA ethnic affiliates and other related groups as needed to implement the recommendations, and may consider appointing liaisons to other groups, such as the ethnic affiliates, to facilitate communication as needed. Gray also noted that the IWG was developed to talk about conference and how to make it a more inclusive, diverse space, whereas the strategic direction document opens the conversation up to what are we doing across the association in terms of educating, programming, communications, etc. Ascertaining how to measure equity, diversity and inclusion effectively requires a conversation within the profession. ODLOS welcomes input and feedback from the Chapters

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