Greetings members of the Alabama Library Association! I am so honored to serve as your 2018-2019 President and I look forward to working not only with the association’s executive council, but with all the librarians across our wonderful state. In case we have never met, let me introduce myself. I graduated from the University of the South in 1998 and received my MLIS from the School of Library and Information Studies at The University of Alabama in 1999. Since graduating, I have worked solely at the amazing Hoover Public Library, first as a temp employee, then as an assistant in the Technology Department and, since 2003, as the Technology Coordinator. I chaired the ALLA Convention Committee in 2012 and have served as a Member-at-Large, Central, as well as the Chair-Elect of the Public Library Division and Chair of the Alabama Authors Awards Committee.

As we look forward to this year, I want to focus on keeping libraries as their patron’s Third Place, the place they go when they are not at home, at work or in the classroom. Whether it be a school, a public or an academic library, we want our patrons to make their library an essential part of their daily lives. We are more than just a repository of books; we are community leaders, educators, entertainers and servants. I will admit that I was not a library user growing up; I had a reading disability that made reading a chore and not fun at all. Now, I know that libraries are so much more than just books. I am amazed when I hear about what our Alabama libraries are doing for their communities.

Please let me know how I and the Alabama Library Association can help your library and community. And, mark your calendars for the 2019 convention, April 2-5 at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama!

Carrie Steinmehl
2018-2019 ALLA President
June 9, 2017 Meeting

Review of Executive Council business taking place via email since last meeting

Carrie Steinmehl’s resignation as PLD Chair, Heather Cover’s resignation as PLD Secretary and appointment as PLD Chair, and Barbara Curry’s appointment as PLD Secretary – May 5, 2017

Temporary appointment of Tim Bailey as Treasurer through July 1, 2018 and approval of Paula Laurita’s recommendation to send a letter to Representative McCutcheon requesting representation on the committee formed as a result of Alabama HJR 404 – May 9, 2018

Authorization of the transfer of funds sufficient to cover all convention expenses from the Membership account to the Convention account – May 17, 2017

Discussion about goals

Core Handbook and Convention Handbook Update
Increase Communication via all Association Platforms
Encourage Committee/Division/Roundtable Involvement

Plans and Priorities:


September 8, 2017 Meeting

New Business:

Based on a recommendation from Abby Carpenter and the Convention Committee, a motion was made by Carrie Steinmehl, President-Elect, to proceed with the paperwork to secure Mr. Aaron Schmidt as the keynote speaker for the Opening Session of the 2018 Florence Convention. The motion was seconded by Heather Cover, PLD Chair. After discussion and voting periods, the motion passed with 6 YES votes and 0 NO votes.

Plans and Priorities:

Meet with Convention Planning Committee regularly.
Work with Angie Moore and Jeff Simpson to complete the State of the Chapter Annual Report survey by Sept. 29
Submit possible revisions to Core Handbook to Kevin Walker.

December 8, 2017 Meeting

Unfinished Business:

Contacted David Burrow of the Alabama Library Expo (ALE) and arranged to have a membership table at their September event. He gave us a table free of charge and I sent membership brochures to each location via Wendy Stephens, Carla Johnson, and Kim Gray. Also, I submitted a suggested revision to Kevin Walker for the Core Handbook timeline item corresponding to this event to update the name and date.

Continued on next page
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT CONTINUED

New Business:

Submitted the proposed 2018 Convention Logo to the Executive Council for approval. It passed with 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes, and 4 non-votes.

Submitted the Exhibitor and Sponsorship Application/Fees to the EC for approval. After some discussion and an amendment, it passed with 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes, and 4 non-votes.

Plans and Priorities:

Work with the appropriate council member or committee chair on the administrative timeline items from the Core Handbook due in the coming months.

Work with Yinqi and the membership committee on some type of Leadership Conference session at the 2018 convention to encourage people to stand for election in the upcoming years.

Recommendations to Council:

I have been remiss in referring to the Strategic Plan in my work with my Association, so I’d like to address it at each Executive Council meeting and encourage all of us to keep the strategic plan in mind as we make plans and revisit it constantly.

See agenda items

Adopt a Library initiative – Susan Jennings
CDMRT - Steven Gillis

March 9, 2018 Meeting

New Business:

Executive Council approved dates and location of the 2019 Convention via email meeting on 12/14/17 (The Grand Hotel, Point Clear – April 2-5, 2019)

Executive Council approved slate of nominees for the Association annual election via email meeting on 1/31/18

Executive council approved Association Award recommendations via email meeting on 2/27/18

Appointed Tellers Committee
Chair – Angie Moore, Association Administrator
CSLD rep – Ann Bourne, University of Alabama SLIS
CUS rep – Karlie Johnson, Jacksonville State University Houston Cole Library
PLD rep – Maya Jones, Birmingham Public Library West End Branch
Association Administrator – Angie Moore, Chair

Plans and Priorities:

Announce election results and introduce new officers at the Opening Session on Wednesday, April 11 at the Convention

Continue working with Yinqi and the membership committee to promote our Strategic Plan Program Goal of Providing Professional Development/Providing Workshops to new members via the Leadership Expo session on Thursday, April 12 at 11 AM.

Work with Angie and Carrie to plan the Transition Meeting on Friday, April 13.

Network to encourage Convention registration.

GET INVOLVED

ALLA Divisions:
CSLD
Children’s and School Library Division
CUS
College, University and Special Libraries
PLD
Public Library Division

ALLA Roundtables:
ALIRT
Alabama Library Instruction
CDMRT
Collection Development and Management
GODORT
Government Documents
MCRT
Multicultural Information
PART
Paraprofessional
RASRT
Reference and Adult Services
TSSRT
Technical Services & Systems
YASRT
Young Adult Services

ALLA Committees:
Association Awards
Authors Awards
Bibliographic
Budget & Finance
Bylaws
Convention
Education
Emeritus Council
(Formerly Past Presidents)
Employee Evaluation
Handbook
Intellectual Freedom
Legislative Development
Membership
Nominating
Planning
Public Relations
Publications

To get involved with an ALLA Committee, fill out the Committee Interest form at: https://goo.gl/forms/TS79Dg6YgFbijS812
ALLA OFFICERS 2018-2019

President
Carrie Steinmehl

President Elect
Jessica Hayes

Secretary
Paula Webb

Treasurer
Karen Preuss

MAL North
Laura Pitts

MAL Central
Jeff Graveline

MAL South
Wendy Congiardo

ALA Councilor
Paula Laurita

SELA Representative
Margie Calhoun

Association Administrator
Angie Moore

Web Administrator
Jodi Poe

ALLA COMMunicator Editor
Taylor Kirby

Archivist
Donnelly Walton

AVL Representative
Bryce Thornton

CSLD Chair
Laura Tucker

CSLD Chair Elect
Jennifer Powell

CSLD Secretary
Daniel Tackett

CUS Chair
Kim Westbrooks

CUS Chair Elect
John Upchurch

CUS Secretary /TSSRT Moderator Elect
Jia He

CUS MAL for Programs
Dana Hettich

CUS MAL for Projects
Stephanie Ard

PLD Chair
Gloria Repolesk

PLD Chair Elect
Barbara Curry

PLD Secretary
Katie Guerin

ALIRT Moderator
Delores Carlito

ALIRT Moderator Elect
Rachel Hooper

GODORT Moderator
Tim Dodge

GODORT Moderator Elect
Stephanie Rollins

GODORT Secretary/Treasurer
Barbara Hutto

MCIRT Moderator
Wendy Stephens

MCIRT Moderator Elect
Ashley Cummins

MCIRT Secretary
Michele Wimbish

PART Moderator
Laura Poe

TSSRT Moderator
Cynthia Barnett

YASRT Moderator Elect
Matthew Layne

Scholarship and Loan Board President
Heather Cover

Association Awards Chair
Amanda Melcher

Author Awards Chair
Wendy Geist

Bibliographic Chair
Nancy Dupree

Budget and Finance Chair
Karen Preuss

Bylaws Chair
Peggy Kain
REGARDING HENRY

Contributed by Dr. Christopher Shaffer, Dean of Library Services, Troy University

Dr. Henry Stewart, longtime dean of Troy University Libraries, died on February 1, 2018. I have been given the task of giving a summation of his life, which seems unfair. I only knew him for his last 13 years. During that time though, he was a most generous friend and colleague.

Although he was born and raised in Delaware, Henry’s professional life bookended in Alabama. He began as a library science professor at the University of Alabama. During what can be considered an interregnum, he served in posts at both Old Dominion University and Emporia State University. In 1996 he returned to Alabama to assume the dean’s position at Troy University Libraries.

Henry came to Troy during a period of great change for the University. Not only was Troy trying to grow in terms of their physical student body, they were trying to grow in terms of their distance learning student body. Using his knowledge of electronic resources that were available at the time, he encouraged the leadership at Troy University to invest in resources that continue to serve faculty and students today. He also recognized the changing nature of libraries, and altered the space of his library to make way for technology and collaborative learning by installing compact shelving in Wallace Hall on the Troy campus.

When I reflect on Henry I tend to think about his relationships with people. His impact on me specifically was enormous, as he helped guide me from a reference librarian with instructor rank to library director at our Dothan campus, and finally to dean. However, he was also remarkably influential within the context of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL). Within the context of this organization, Henry worked to forge bonds that stretched across libraries in Alabama that led to mutual cooperation and understanding that continues to facilitate the manner in which academic libraries operate in Alabama today.

As a past-president of the Alabama Library Association, and winner of the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from ALLA, there can be little doubt of Henry’s impact on the library science field in Alabama. He was passionate about his career throughout his life, and that passion is kept alive through people—such as me—whom he mentored. Alabama libraries lost an important figure on February 1, 2018, but more importantly, many of us lost a dear friend.
2018 CONVENTION VENDORS

Sheer Pleasures Soapworks
Dazed and Roasted Coffee
Lori Rhodes Jewelry
RandomStuff
Brodart Co.
Rainbow Book Company
Recorded Books
Book Systems, Inc.
Alabama Supercomputer Authority

The University of Alabama Press
ACI Alabama Correctional Industries
OverDrive
The New York Times
GN Associates, Inc.
David Mathews Center for Civic Life
Alabama Education Association
SirsiDynix
Baker & Taylor
TMG, LLC (The Mell Group, LLC)
Burrow Library Services

Hale Manufacturer
Business Systems & Consultants, Inc.
Alabama Dept. of Archives and History
Books-A-Million, Inc.
Book Signing
Swindell Fine Arts
Leigh Ann Hurst Handcrafted Jewelry
EBSCO Information Services
Docustor
The Child’s World

Gale, a Cengage Company
University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies
biblioteca
Visible Body
Wolters Kluwer/Ovid
Alabama Virtual Library
Health InfoNet of Alabama
State University Library
School Association for UA -SLIS
CONVENTION PHOTOS AT THE SHOALS

OPENING KEYNOTE

KEYNOTE

TRANSITION WORKSHOP
MAKING MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY

Contributed by Laura Tucker, Head of Children’s Services, Homewood Public Library

Back in 2015, Herb Trotman from Fretted Instruments in Homewood, Alabama donated eight ukuleles to our children’s department to circulate in our collection. Herb was already 100 percent on board for this idea because the ingenious Eve Parker from Avondale Public Library had previously talked to Herb about bringing ukuleles into their library. Their program was such a success we thought it would be fun to give it a try.

The instruments have checked out regularly and are a definite favorite with our patrons. The one caveat is that most of our patrons don’t know how to play. While our children’s department is full of people with a variety of talents, no one is proficient with playing an instrument (least of all a ukulele).

To solve this program, we partnered with the Birmingham Ukulele Society to host one of their monthly jam sessions at the library. We called it a Beginning Ukulele Jam and 14 members from the society showed up with their ukuleles to help teach children (and adults - they can learn too!) how to play This Land is Your Land. It was fun to see different generations of music lovers come together to play such a classic and poignant song.

We are continuing this program once a month in the Spring, and we hope we have inspired a future generation of Birmingham Ukulele Society members to spread the music around town!

Ukulele enthusiasts young and old take part in Beginning Ukulele Jam at Homewood Public Library in April.
FEBRUARY FUN @ THE LIBRARY
Families Enjoy Black History, Valentine’s Day, and Chinese New Year
Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library

Family Time Tasty Tales
Dozens of families get together to hear stories about Chinese New Year on February 27 during Family Time Tasty Tales at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. The Year of the Dog was celebrated with professional storyteller “Miss” Jennie Bunton as young and old munched on Chinese delicacies.

Rocketry and Black History
The true story behind the film Hidden Figures inspires families to learn about black history and rocketry at the Albert L. Scott Library on February 20. During Rocketry and Black History, science educators Winfield and Elinor Burks led the group in several fun math-based and science-based activities and projects including origami, map reading, and rocketry. The program was courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

Pete the Cat Book Club
Children celebrate Valentine’s Day with card making and listening to Pete the Cat’s Groovy Guide to Love on February 13 during the Pete the Cat Book Club at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster.
ALABAMA LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

ALABASTER FAMILIES MARCH INTO FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library

Kids enjoy physical fun and learning during Homeschool Happening: Stretch & Strengthen with Miss Charity on March 12 at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Charity Waldrep from Shelby County 4-H led the session. She said that Stretch & Strengthen helps in many areas including improving physical fitness by increasing strength, flexibility and aerobic capacity.

EGG-traordinary fun! Young children and their caregivers have fun during Hippity-Hoppity Tales at the Albert L. Scott Library on March 21. “Miss Spring” as portrayed by story teller “Miss” Jennie Bunton shared hats and bonnets to wear in a parade. Later, there was excitement when the Easter Bunny appeared. Children visiting with the Easter Bunny were photographed and received a goody bag thanks to the Friends of the Library.

Toddlers and their families have fun during Toddler Tales on March 23 at the Albert L. Scott Library. Professional storyteller “Miss” Jennie Bunton dressed as a bumblebee to help them welcome the season of spring.
**ALABAMA LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS**

**ALABASTER FAMILIES MARCH INTO FUN AT THE LIBRARY**

*Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library*

**Superhero Saturday**

Families have fun meeting Alabaster community superheroes including firefighters and a police officer while celebrating National Superhero day on April 28 at the Albert L. Scott Library. Many children came in costume and there were superhero masks for those who needed one. Youngsters got creative with superhero-inspired crafts, looked at superhero books, and played games. They also snacked on superhero taste treats including Black Panther Bites, Robin’s Roll-Ups, Captain America’s Crunch, and Wonder Woman’s Wafers. Each child also received take home gifts.

**An Hour with James Spann**

More than 100 people came out to greet, meet, and learn from ABC 33/40 meteorologist James Spann at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. During An Hour with James Spann on April 2 homeschool students, kindergarteners from the first Baptist Church of Alabaster, and members from the public learned about spring weather hazards, safety, weather satellites, weather balloons, and more. The library surprised him with a cake decorated with his photo.

**MAY THE FOURTH @THE ALABASTER LIBRARY**

*Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library*

“May the force be with you,” the renowned phrase from the world of Star Wars, inspired the annual May the Fourth Be with You Day at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. About 50 Star Wars fans of all ages turned out to enjoy: Star Wars Lego Station, a Star Wars Creation Station for crafting, and a space craft that children could have their photo taken. A Jedi Library of Star Wars books was set up. Star Wars-themed refreshments were snacked on in the Cantina. The event also featured a display by Star Wars memorabilia collector Carter James, 14. Some fans wore costumes and others received a Star Wars mask and parting gifts provided by the library courtesy of the Friends of the Library.
FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for your submissions. Please keep them coming! If you include pictures with your submissions, please also provide a description. I will do my best to incorporate as much as possible into each quarterly issue of the ALLA-COMmunicator.

What exciting things are happening at your libraries? Who stands out amongst your employees? What issues are you confronted with that need addressed? What solutions to common issues would you like to share? Has someone won an award? Presented at a conference? Earned a promotion or tenure? The Alabama Library Association wants to hear from you! Submission guidelines can be found in the left-hand sidebar.

ITEMS OF NOTE

- Be sure to visit the Legislative Action Center on the Alabama Library Association Website for up-to-date information on current legislators. Sign up for the action e-list so you can be alerted to important legislative issues and make your voice heard! There are other valuable tools available for taking legislative action. [http://capwiz.com/ala/al/home/](http://capwiz.com/ala/al/home/)

- Play By Ear attendees, if you haven’t already, please fill out the 2018 Convention Evaluation form. The link can be found on the ALLA website, [www.allanet.org](http://www.allanet.org).

- Look for more Convention photos and highlights of this year’s award winners in the upcoming ALLA COMmunicator, Volume 16, Issue 1 sometime in July.

- Get involved with ALLA by joining one of the various committees! You can learn more about individual committees and who to contact by visiting: [www.allanet.org/committees](http://www.allanet.org/committees).