

The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) is a non-profit corporation formed to encourage and promote the welfare of libraries and professional interests of librarians in the State of Alabama. The Mission of the Alabama Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, advocacy, and improvement of library and information services and to promote the profession of librarianship, in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

ALLA COMMUNICATOR

FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT

Hello Alabama Librarians!

I am so glad summer is over and fall is on the way! It was quite a busy summer for me in my role as president; here are a few of the things I have been working on:



First, I have been working with the Handbook Committee, chaired by Kevin Walker, to update our association handbook. Going through this nearly 300-page document has given me an even greater appreciation for all that our association does to make sure our profession thrives in the state of Alabama.

While on vacation in Fairhope, I had the opportunity to meet with Convention Chair, Wendy Congiardo, Convention Co-chair, Amy Maliska, and a representative of the Grand Hotel to start nailing down the main events for our upcoming convention. We hope to bring you an enlightening, fun, and relaxing convention as we celebrate "Alabama Libraries: The Heart of Your Hometown." If you are interested in assisting in convention planning, please contact Wendy at wcongardo@hotmail.com.

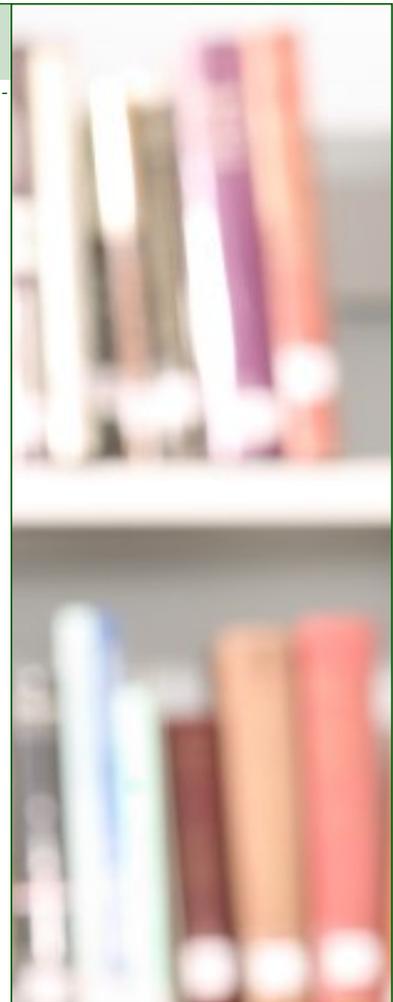
I also had the pleasure of writing letters of thanks to Representative Martha Roby and Senator Richard Shelby for their support of the IMLS and LSTA in the FY19 federal budget. It is due to the advocacy of librarians across our state and nation that the Senate approved to level fund LSTA and increase IMLS funding by \$2 million to offset admin costs for FY 2019. Information about this year's ALLA Legislative Day will be coming soon!

As always if you have any questions about the association or how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact me at caries@bham.lib.al.us.

Roll Tide, ya'll!

Carrie Steinmehl

2019-2020 ALLA President.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CSLD Updates	2
ALLA Nominations.....	3
Library Bill of Rights & Meeting Rooms ...	4
DSQH Comes to Mobile Public Library	6
2019 Convention Updates	7
Alabama Library Highlights	7
From the Editor	10
Items of Note.....	10



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Alabama Library Association

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CSLD UPDATES

Each September, National Library Card Month is celebrated. Our aim this year was to encourage all school and public librarians to work together to connect their students and patrons with the wonderful resources our libraries have to offer, and to continue collaborating throughout the year.

As we work towards convention in April 2019, we are looking at reinstating the CSLD Breakfast during convention and are looking for ideas for sponsors and speakers. We are also looking at the possibility of resurrecting the Outstanding Youth Services Award which would be given out during the breakfast.

The Nominations Committee is currently looking for requests, which would include CSLD candidates for ALLA President-Elect. If you know of anyone who would be interested in being President-Elect or CSLD Secretary, go to allanet.org/nominating to nominate yourself or someone you know who would be a good candidate for these positions.

On September 10 from 2-3 p.m. we held our first webinar, CSLD Presents: "Creating Affirming Spaces for the LGBTQ Community." Amanda Keller and Amanda Wilson of the Magic City Acceptance Center presented. Members that could not attend live can access the recording at allanet.org/webinars.

Save the date for Ed Camp 2019 on Friday, February 15 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Homewood Public Library. This year Ed Camp will be a collaboration between school and public librarians. More details will be available at a later time.

Laura Tucker, CSLD Chair,

tucker@bham.lib.al.us,

205-332-6616



CSLD Chair Laura Tucker with National Library Card sign-up display, promoting ALLA and CSLD.

ALLA NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU: ALLA BALLOT POSITIONS 2019

The Nominating Committee of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) requests suggestions of possible nominees for 2019/2020 Alabama Library Association, Inc. officers. Please suggest individuals known personally to you who have shown themselves through service to the ALLA to be qualified for leadership. The following positions are open for nominations:

President Elect (from CSLD)
Secretary
MAL North
CSLD Secretary
CUS Chair Elect
CUS Secretary
CUS MAL for Planning
PLD Secretary
ALIRT Moderator Elect
GODORT Moderator Elect
GODORT Secretary/Treasurer
MCIRT Moderator Elect
MCIRT Secretary
PART Moderator Elect
RASRT Moderator
RASRT Moderator Elect
TSSRT Moderator Elect
YASRT Moderator
YASRT Moderator Elect

To nominate, visit <https://www.allanet.org/> and look in the Announcements Section. Please submit nominations by November 14.

Nominating Committee Information:

Karlie Johnson, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University
kljohnson@jsu.edu
Sonya Jordan, Chair, Mountainbrook High School Library
jordans@mtnbrook.k12.al.us
Scott Kinney, Mobile Public Library
skinney@mplonline.org
Gloria Repolesk, Emmet O'Neal Public Library
gloriar@bham.lib.al.us

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/tS79Dq6YqFbjiS812>

WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO MEET AND SPEAK: LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS AND MEETING ROOMS

Contributed by Paula S. W. Laurita, Alabama Chapter Councilor, ALA

At the 2018 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference a revision to the Library Bill of Rights was considered and approved. This revision specifically addressed the right to use library meeting rooms and the affirmation that libraries do not attempt to restrict or censor particular groups or their speech. This revision immediately gathered criticism from within and without the library profession. Librarians found themselves falling onto one side or another depending upon their vision of service to the public.

The division came down to the inclusions of “hate groups” and “hate speech” in the revised statement.

Before addressing the revision a review is important. Libraries have legal obligations in making meeting rooms equally available. This has been the approach of the American Library Association since 1939. Article VI of The Library Bill of Rights stated, “Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliation of individuals or groups requesting their use.”

“Regulation of libraries and other public facilities must be reasonable and nondiscriminatory and may not be used as a pretext for punishing those who exercise their constitutional rights.” - Justice Fortas

The library as a limited public forum has been upheld by the Supreme Court in multiple cases. Its roots are firmly planted in *Brown v. Louisiana* (1966). Justice Fortas wrote, “Regulation of libraries and other public facilities must be reasonable and nondiscriminatory and may not be used as a pretext for punishing those who exercise their constitutional rights.”

Libraries may make policies regulating use of their meeting rooms, but they must be equally applied. If outside individuals or groups are allowed to reserve rooms all must have access. A library may restrict time, place, behavior, etc. It has been believed, and some library policies still reflect this, that political and religious groups may be excluded. This is false. The courts have consistently ruled that libraries may not exclude these groups. If library policy allows a non-profit group to collect dues, serve food, etc., they must allow political and religious groups to do the same. Libraries may place time, location, or noise limitations. They may place restrictions on approaching patrons within the library building.

How then did ALA come to specifically mention “hate groups”? The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) and Office of Intellectual Freedom reacted to questions about allowing groups such as the KKK to use meeting rooms. Various iterations were distributed to the ALA Council multiple times and received feedback. The Public Library Association (PLA) reviewed and provided feedback to an earlier version (distributed before Annual Conference), but did not review or approve the final version. The following version was distributed at the second Council Forum session:

WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO MEET AND SPEAK *CONTINUED*

A publicly funded library is not obligated to provide meeting room space to the public, but if it chooses to do so, it cannot discriminate or deny access based upon the viewpoint of speakers or the content of their speech. This encompasses religious, political, and hate speech. If a library allows charities, non-profits, and sports organizations to discuss their activities in library meeting rooms, then the library cannot exclude religious, social, civic, partisan political, or hate groups from discussing their activities in the same facilities.

After review the final draft was included the IFC committee included this version in its Report to Council, which was distributed Monday, June 25, and presented at ALA Council Session III on Tuesday, June 26. IFC Chair Helen Adams discussed the IFC's and OIF's work saying, "The revision that you see today has strengthened the guidance on providing nondiscriminatory access to meeting rooms and addressed fees for the use of meeting spaces. Council voted to adopt the revised interpretation."

The response from within and without the library community was immediate. Overwhelmingly it was treated negatively and as a threat to library patrons and staff. Discussions on social media and within professional and Council discussion groups quickly split into two factions. Those who desire to protect the public and library employees from any contact with white supremacists, misogynists, etc. How do we allow groups that may say our GLBT employees or patrons are "an abomination"? Do we not have an obligation to protect them from this type of harm?

The other group is staunch defenders of the First Amendment. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are immediately associated with the First Amendment. Also included are, "...the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." As a profession that celebrates and protects the First Amendment do we say to a group, "Everyone is included but you"? "We fight for all speech but yours."

Two questions raised by those concerned with excluding "hate groups" or "hate speech" were; 1. Who decides who is a hate group? 2. Who decides what hate speech is? Is there a clear dividing line? While the immediate association is the KKK or white supremacists others have been listed as "extremists" or "haters".

Maajid Nawaz was listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as an Anti-Muslim Extremist. Mr. Nawaz is a Muslim who fights against extremism. Nawaz sued and was awarded a multi-million dollar settlement and apology from SPLC. Could he be denied the use of a library meeting room in the name of "protecting" the library staff and public? Throughout history one group or another has been considered a threat to society.

Where is the revision to Article VI of The Library Bill of Rights today? In August 2018 there was an official vote to rescind the Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. The results were:

146	Participants
140	Yes
4	No
2	Abstain

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WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO MEET AND SPEAK *CONTINUED*

All votes were linked to the authorized voter's name and position. As the ALLA Chapter Councilor I voted "yes" to rescind the interpretation. My vote was not that I disagreed with the intent, but more that the wording is awkward and prone to misinterpretation. I would suggest a simpler word is "controversial". Libraries are open to controversial groups and controversial speech.

Problems can best be dealt with through policy and procedures. What behavior policies are in place and what are the procedures with someone violates policy? If a controversial group is meeting and protestors are present there needs to be a mechanism to ensure the rightful use of the library space. Other groups should not be allowed to disrupt the meeting. If an outside group sponsors a Drag Queen Storytime how will those who want to prevent it be addressed?

Ultimately the Library Bill of Rights is non-binding on any library. Libraries are accountable to court rulings. The intent of both Article VI and the various court decisions are in sync. This is a good time for libraries to review their meeting room policies and ensure they do not violate the law. It is an opportunity to address how the library will handling requests from groups the staff does not approve of, behavior policies, and procedures in dealing with differences of opinion and beliefs.

DSQH COMES TO MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Contributed by Scott Kinney, Director, Mobile Public Library

Alabama's first Drag Queen Story Hour took place at the Mobile Public Library on September 8th. This ground-breaking event for the state of Alabama was planned and carried out through the hard work and dedication by the local pride group, Rainbow Mobile. Rainbow Mobile reached out to the Mobile Public Library and requested to use one of the Ben May Main Library's meeting rooms. This organization filled out the meeting room application, the application was reviewed and the date was booked. Sounds simple and straight forward, right? This event was anything but straight forward.

Actually, that is not true. Although historic for our state, this event was just like the thousands of other library programs that attempts to bridge the social divide across our country. Libraries always try to help those who may feel marginalized. Why is this important? It is important because the Public Library is seen as a "Limited Public Forum", that means all library patrons are protected by the First Amendment under the United States Constitution.

Where this program became different, news worthy, and polarizing is when the group began advertising for their event, to be held at the Library. Our local news media covered the story, then the national news media, and so on. For brevity's sake I am going to try and put this event into a nutshell: Rainbow Mobile had a very entertaining, vibrant, educational and successful story hour. They had over 300 children with their families attend, with attendees coming from as far away as Birmingham and Huntsville, Alabama. They even had attendees from Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi. In addition, approximately 40 protesters picketed the event and almost 500 counter-protesters marched to show their support for the event.

Obviously, from a library administrative standpoint managing this event was not that simple. There were appearances before the City Council and lots of media requests. It should be noted that this event was not a co-sponsored event by the Mobile Public Library, mainly because the group did not ask for our sponsorship. However, the library staff worked diligently with organization to make sure their program was a success as we would do for any other group who uses our facilities.

2019 ALLA CONVENTION UPDATES

We are excited to announce the return of the Annual Convention to the Gulf Coast. Please join us at The Grand Hotel Golf Resort and Spa in Point Clear, Alabama, April 2-5, 2019 to celebrate "Alabama Libraries: the Heart of your Hometown."

The hotel recently completed a multi-million dollar makeover recognized by USA Today as one of the notable hotel renovations of the year. They revealed their inclusion in Marriot International's Autograph collection of more than 150 one-of-a-kind hotels that champion visionary owners and thoughtful design.

Plans for great speakers and programs are in the works. The convention will kick off with keynote speaker Ben Bizzle. Ben is a library technology and marketing specialist, national speaker, consultant, and author of *Start a Revolution: Stop Acting like a Library*. Be on the lookout, as plans are in the works to start taking program proposals in October. We look forward to seeing you at The Grand.

Wendy Congiardo, MLIS
ALLA Convention Chair 2019

ALABASTER LIBRARY EARNS GRANT; RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE DONATIONS

Contributed by Francis Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library

NEW KIDS' BOOK CLUB TO LAUNCH WITH GRANT FUNDS

The Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster is the recipient of the 2018 Virginia Hamilton and Arnold Adoff Creative Outreach Grant awarded by the Advisory Board of the Virginia Hamilton Conference at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

The \$1,000 grant is to launch the library's new Wonder Kids' Book Club. The monthly club will showcase the books of the late award winning author Virginia Hamilton and her husband, award winning author and poet Arnold Adoff.

The co-director of the conference advisory board, Dr. Meghan Harper, wrote in the congratulatory letter to the library, "Your project titled 'Wonder Kids' Book Club' is an excellent example of a multicultural program that will raise awareness of the need to respect and honor human diversity."

The club will be for children age six years old to 10 years old. The grant will support the book club exclusively. Youth Services Librarian Frances Smith said, "The goal is to introduce the children to the books of Hamilton and Adoff as well as the works of other authors in a fun way. We plan to include music and art as well as poetry and biographies. We'll discuss not only the themes and plots of the books but the illustrations and how the books relate to the children's' lives." Smith continued, "We also hope to improve children's reading skills, vocabulary, imagination, social skills, and world view."

The first session, 'Terrific Talents,' met on September 11. A surprise guest shared balloon sculpting. Each club member also received one of Hamilton's books to keep.

Smith said sign up is ongoing and space is limited. Parents may check the library's in-house calendar, the city's newsletters, and www.cityofalabaster.com for more information.

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ALABASTER LIBRARY EARNS GRANT; RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE DONATIONS *CONTINUED*

\$2,000 AWARDED TO ALABASTER LIBRARY
MONEY SLATED FOR NEW SENSORY STORY TIME

The children of Alabaster will soon be enjoying fun and learning during a new program at the Albert L. Scott Library thanks to two community service donations from two state representatives.

State Representative April Weaver (R-Brierfield) and State Representative Matt Fridy (R-Montevallo) each presented a \$1,000 check to library director Nan Abbott on October 3. The total \$2,000 will fund a bi-monthly Sensory Story Time for individuals with special needs and multiple disabilities – and their siblings.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer Sensory Story Time to families,” Mrs. Abbott said. “And we are very appreciative of these two donations to fund it,” she added.

Sensory Story Time will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. starting October 10. The story teller will be Rhoda Trimble who has worked with special needs children and their families for nearly a decade. Sensory Story Time, which will be 45 minutes, will be held in the library’s meeting room.



The Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster is set to kick off a new Sensory Story Time funded by community service donations from Rep. Matt Friday and Rep. April Weaver. Pictured with the checks are (left to right) Rep. Matt Friday, library director Nan Abbott, and Rep. April Weaver.

SUMMER AND FALL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Contributed by Francis Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library

CHILDREN ROCKED THE ALABASTER LIBRARY BY READING

Alabaster children started off this school year with an advantage because they read library books during the eight-week *Libraries Rock Summer Challenge* at the Albert L. Scott Library. Research shows that reading in the summer helps students avoid the “summer slide” of skills. More than 250 children participated in the event, selecting a reading goal and earning prizes and certificates for achieving their goal. The challenge also featured more than 60 programs and activities.

The 2018 Summer Reading Program was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Alabama Public Library Service. Challenge sponsors included: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AmStar Cinemas, Birmingham Barons Baseball, Bike Link, Friends of the Library, Jim 'N Nick's, McDonald's, Oak Mountain Lanes, Red Mountain Theater Company, and Whataburger.



Left: Tweens and teens age 11 years and older have a sweet time kicking off the Libraries Rock Summer Challenge with their dessert creations and door prizes May 31. Right: Hands-on kiddos turned out for the Block Party on June 26 for building with blocks, coloring, and snacks.

KIDS FALL FOR FUN AND READING: SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES



Left: Students learned about making and tasting ice cream during Homeschool Happening: The Science of Ice Cream on September 10. Charity Waldrep from Shelby County 4-H demonstrated the fun side of dairy and covered the history and science behind the cold, tasty treat. Right: “Terrific Talents” were explored in the first session of the Wonder Kids’ Book Club, made possible by money awarded by the 2018 Virginia Hamilton and Arnold Adoff Creative Outreach Grant. Participants received books by Hamilton, Adoff, and other authors, as well as a balloon creation.

COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

Please feel free to submit your library-related news to:
communicator.alla@gmail.com

Submissions must include:

- Your Name
- Job Title
- Library or organization name
- Contact Email and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of images

ALLA-COMMunicator Publishing Schedule

Edition	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
Jul/Aug/Sep	Mid-June	July
Oct/Nov/Dec	Mid-Sept.	October
Jan/Feb/Mar	Mid-Dec.	January
Apr/May/June	Mid-March	April

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 7, 2018
10 AM—12 PM
APLS
6030 Monticello Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117

March 8, 2019
10 AM—12 PM
APLS
6030 Monticello Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117

April 2-5, 2019
2019 ALLA Convention
The Grand Hotel
Point Clear, AL 36564

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for your continued support of the ALLA COMMunicator. Libraries have wonderful news to share as they make a positive impact in the communities they serve on a daily basis.

We would love to highlight successful programs, award recipients, papers accepted for publication, community collaborations, and all the wonderful things your libraries do to build strong communities.

Please submit your contributions following the guidelines listed on the left. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to: communicator.alla@gmail.com.

At the conclusion of the 2018/2019 ALLA cycle, I will be stepping down from the Editor position in order to complete the capstone portion of my MPA program. If you're interested in an editorial role with the ALLA COMMunicator, please send a brief letter of interest and summary of qualifications to: communicator.alla@gmail.com. It is my hope that a team of awesome librarian-editors can be assembled to continue and improve the ALLA COMMunicator.



ITEMS OF NOTE

- Nominations for ALLA positions remain open through November 14. Visit www.allanet.org and visit the *Announcements* section to nominate yourself or someone else.
- The Fall issue of the GODORT Connection is online. You can check it out here: https://issuu.com/allacommunicator/docs/alla_godort_fall_2018_final.
- Save the date for Ed Camp 2019: Friday, February 15, 2019 from 8 A.M.-3 P.M. at Homewood Public Library.
- Save the date for the 2019 ALLA Convention in Point Clear, April 2-5, 2019 at the Grand Hotel.
- Be sure to visit the Webinars section of the Association Website where you can access:
 - * Coding on a Budget (CSLD, October 10, 2018)
 - * Creating Affirming Spaces for the LGBTQ Community (CSLD, S September 10, 2018)
 - * An Assessment of Frequently Challenged LGBTQ Books in Alabama Libraries (MCIRT, March 6, 2018).