

TO: LITA Board of Directors

TOPIC: Vice President's Report

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: Report

SUBMITTED BY: Emily Morton-Owens, LITA Vice President

DATE: January 21, 2019

Below are the primary activities I have been active in since the Annual meeting.

Appointments Committee

As chair of the Appointments Committee, I have recruited several new members to work with me on the project of populating our LITA committees. We started the fiscal year by tabulating how many members were still needed on committees left over from last year, identifying cases where too many members were going to rotate off a committee at once, and tapping several members to start the new Fundraising Committee. Twelve committee members were appointed in this process. (For some of these appointments, we asked the new member whether they would consider being appointed for 2019-21 and starting a few months early, to have a better overlap of old and new members going forward.)

After checking in with committee chairs about the status of their membership, we also formally appointed two chairs and two vice-chairs for 2019-21, where the appropriate person had already been identified. We learned about several committees with members who were inactive and not responsive to messages from the chair. I contacted those members to give them a friendly "out"; several accepted and have been replaced. One person is unreachable and will also be replaced.

In early January, attempting to capitalize on post-holiday energy, I sent several reminders (listserv and Twitter) about the volunteer form, which has garnered some new names on our list.

Cody Hanson has pulled together an omnibus spreadsheet of all the volunteers, which is easier for us to work with; and building on Bohyun's model, I created a spreadsheet for us to track the needs, invitations, and acceptances. The Appointments Committee is prepared to complete the process of making appointments for 2019-21.

ALA Appointments

I have been participating on Wanda Brown's Committee on Appointments for ALA. We have had several meetings and have made our recommendations for her appointments to twenty-one ALA committees for 2019-21, based on the volunteers' experience, their answers to questions about their interests, and the desire to promote diversity.

Wanda Brown has not announced her appointments, except for the ALA 2020 Nominating Committee, which was finalized first. I suggested former LITA president Michelle Frisque as one of the LITA members who would be a good choice, and she has been appointed to that committee.

“Small but Mighty” Merger Project

Along with Bohyun and Jenny, I have been participating in the weekly calls of the Steering Committee for the proposed merger with ALCTS and LLAMA. We have worked to solicit member questions and feedback; review the reports of the Working Groups on Activities, Operations, and Communication; and develop documentation around the mission, vision, and values of the new division to complement the documentation delivered by the working groups.

In the course of this work, some questions about the process arose that Bohyun, Andromeda, and I felt would be particularly relevant to the LITA membership. We have worked to raise these questions with both the LITA Board and the Steering Committee in order to represent LITA’s views accurately to the other divisions and to represent the Steering Committee’s deliberations to the Board. Thank you to the board members for their responsiveness to our discussions.

Looking ahead to a pivotal year for both the members and leadership of LITA, I welcome my fellow members to contact me at egmowens.lita@gmail.com at any time.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily G. Morton-Owens