

To: LITA Board of Directors

Topic: President-Elect's Report

Action/Information/Report: Report

Submitted By: Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, LITA President-Elect

Date: January 12th, 2020

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

Appointments Committee

As chair of the Appointments Committee, I have been remiss in recruiting new members to work with me on the project of populating our LITA committees.

I am planning on reaching out to people in early January to help me with my appointments work and to try to garner new names of volunteers for our list.

CORE Merger Project

The three presidents-elect of LITA, LLAMA and ALCTS were tasked with leading the work, and owning the decision-making around the potential merger of the three divisions into a new single division - Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures. As part of that work, we created the [Core Steering Committee](#) to help us create both a communication plan for discussing the merger with the LITA, LLAMA, ALCTS, and larger ALA communities, and a [formal proposal](#) for the three boards of directors. The three boards will vote at the ALA Midwinter Meeting whether or not to put the question of forming the new division to a member vote in the ALA Election, which will be held Spring 2020.

We have held [four Town Hall sessions](#) on October 9th, October 22nd, November 12th, and December 13th, discussing various aspects of Core. We did a Twitter Chat in October, and began to [directly address questions and concerns](#) the members of all three divisions were curious about. These included: where the idea of a merger came from, a large number of questions and complaints about the selected name, benefits to the membership, estimated dues, and the process. All of the questions have been answered by the [Core Communications Team](#), led by LITA Board member Lindsay Cronk. As time went on, we found that the questions became ever more complex and tied very specifically to what various aspects of the new division would look like.

In August, we were notified that ALA had approved the use of the name, Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures for use in our communications about the proposed division. The Steering Committee approved a logo for the new division in early December. It is based on the ALCTS Exchange logo used in 2017 but was updated to address accessibility concerns. We feel it is flexible and aesthetically interesting. The LITA Board was given a draft of the Core Steering Committee's formal proposal for what a joint division looks like for comment at a January 10th discussion. Suggested changes from LITA Board members were then incorporated into the final version.

This has been a tremendous undertaking and has taken significant time and a tremendous amount of staff resources. Jenny Levine, Kerry Ward, and Julie Reese have been invaluable in organizing us, keeping us on task, and navigating the complexities of ALA, including getting the new division name through ALA legal, getting the logo approved, and acting as the main event during the last of our Town Hall sessions. The Core Steering Committee and the Core Communications Team have done a stunning amount of work over the past few months and it is not an exaggeration to say that we would not have the documentation or had the robust, and honest conversations with our communities without their hard work. It has also been a tremendous pleasure having an opportunity to lead this work along with Tyler Dzuba (LLAMA PE) and Chris Cronin (ALCTS PE). We have really been able to work well as a team and it's been a wonderful learning experience.

At Midwinter, we hope that all three divisions boards will vote to put the proposed merger onto the Spring ALA Election ballot for our members to decide how we proceed. Regardless of how our membership votes, it has been a privilege to be able to help lead these conversations and this work.

Looking ahead to another pivotal year for both the members and the leadership of LITA. I expect to spend time over the next few months preparing for both potential futures. I encourage our membership to reach out to me at any time at evvivawe@buffalo.edu.

Respectfully submitted,

Evviva Weinraub Lajoie