



Public Library Association
Board of Directors
January 7, 2020 1-3 pm CT
Via Zoom (instructions below)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions, *Ramiro Salazar*
2. **Action Item: Adoption of the Agenda**
Additional items may be added to the agenda prior to the adoption of the agenda. Items may also be removed from the consent agenda and moved to a discussion item. The PLA policies related to Board service, the strategic plan and a Board roster have been included in ALA Connect as reference materials. These are not agenda items.

<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<u>Document Number</u>
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- | | |
|---|---------|
| 3. PLA 2020 Nominating --Candidates Slate | 2020.26 |
|---|---------|

Action/Discussion/Decision Items

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 4. ALA Presidential and PLA Board Candidates at PLA Conference- ACTION | 2020.27 |
| 5. SCOE Response, Midwinter planning | 2020.28 |
| 6. PLA/ALA Finances | no doc |
| 7. E-book update | no doc |
| 8. New Business | |

Zoom Instructions

Time: Jan 7, 2020 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Jan 7, 2020 1:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Jan 7, 2020 12:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)
Jan 7, 2020 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

When it's time, please click this link to join the meeting:
<https://ala-events.zoom.us/j/405863225>

Meeting ID: 405 863 225

Then follow the on-screen prompts to connect your audio via either computer or telephone.

If you're unable to join the meeting online and can only listen in via telephone, then use these numbers. Use this telephone-only option only if you have NOT joined the meeting via the link above:

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,405863225# US (New York)

+16699006833,,405863225# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 405 863 225

Find your local number: <https://ala-events.zoom.us/j/abHYqNMyYA>

Reference Documents:

[PLA Strategic Plan](#)

[PLA Board of Directors Manual](#)

[PLA Board Roster](#)

[PLA Conflict of Interest](#)

[Policy](#)

TO: PLA Board of Directors
FROM: Pam Smith, Chair, Nominating Committee (2020 Election)
RE: 2020 PLA Election Slate
DATE: December 9, 2019

On behalf of the PLA Nominating Committee 2020, I am happy to report that we have finalized a slate for the PLA ballot for 2020, serving terms from 2020-2023. The candidates are as follows:

Candidates for President:

Melanie Huggins, executive director, Richland Library (Columbia, S.C.)
Kent Oliver, library director, Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library

Candidates for Director-at-Large:

Kevin King, Kalamazoo (Mich.) Public Library
Brandy A. McNeil, The New York Public Library
Steven V. Potter, Mid-Continent Public Library (Independence, Mo.)
Dara Hanke Schmidt, Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library

Candidate for Division Councilor:

Stephanie Chase, Hillsboro (Ore.) Public Library

PLA is in the process of finalizing the candidate profile page on our website and candidates will be announced via a press release once we have all candidate information. We anticipate this to be completed in the next few weeks.

PLA has offered each candidate a table in the exhibit hall at PLA 2020 in order to promote their candidacy.

Members of the PLA Nominating Committee 2020 were:

Pam Smith, chair
Douglas Crane, member
Kevin King, member
Carrie Willson, member

TO: PLA Board of Directors
RE: **PLA-ALA campaign practices**
DATE: December 9, 2019

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: ACTION ITEM

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Ramiro Salazar, PLA President

DRAFT OF MOTION: Approve inviting all PLA and ALA candidates running for election for president, treasurer, and board to be introduced at the PLA board winter meetings, in addition to existing practice as described [here](#)

OVERVIEW

PLA past practice related to candidates for election to ALA and PLA board positions was to invite candidates to be introduced at our board meetings at Midwinter. During a PLA conference year, PLA also offers candidates space in the exhibit hall to promote their candidacies. For PLA candidates, we create a candidate webpage and promote election participation for ALA and PLA to our members. Information about the process is [here](#).

This year, there is no PLA board meeting at Midwinter. An ALA candidate reached out to Ramiro about being introduced in January and Ramiro invited the candidate to be introduced at our Nashville meeting. The opposing ALA candidate will be invited as well. Should this offer be extended to PLA presidential and board candidates and made standard practice for PLA in light of the changes to Midwinter?

TO: PLA Board of Directors
RE: SCOE strategies for Midwinter and beyond
DATE: December 9, 2019

Background

At its fall meeting, the PLA board reviewed the SCOE report “[Forward Together](#).” The board was concerned about the report’s lack of clarity related to future division structure, roles, and level of independence. Specifically, SCOE (page 20, italics added for emphasis) recommends:

“A review of the “Operating Agreement” in relationship to the Forward Together recommendations. This review may include ***but is not limited*** to a review of bylaws, dues, and dues structures. Within this larger umbrella of the Operating Agreement are several recommendations:

- Replace individual division bylaws with a shared policies and procedures document. This will help define the relationship and fiscal responsibility of divisions, helping members understand the symbiotic relationship between divisions and the rest of ALA.

- With assistance from the Membership Office and the Membership Committee, align dues and dues structures across the divisions. This makes the process easier for members to join divisions and helps members understand how dues are spent. It is recommended to explore the rate of \$70 for each division from the preliminary fiscal analysis models. This would have the least fiscal impact overall and is only a recommendation for the Membership Office and Committee to further explore and test this model.

- Schedule a regular review of the Operating Agreement.

- ***A process and timeline for the above recommendations is to be determined in consultation with the divisions and the executive director.***

The [ALA Operating Agreement](#), (pages 23-37) defines division governance structure and programmatic and financial relationships with ALA; the essence and very nature of divisions are contained in its terms.

PLA Response

Leaving open the scope, timeline, and parties who will participate in the OA review challenge PLA’s ability to support SCOE’s recommendations. The Board discussed a response to SCOE and timing of the response. It also discussed whether other divisions might want to join PLA in a cross-divisional statement, since such a statement could have significantly more impact on getting the OA reviewed in a timely manner. A PLA statement could include the following points:

- thank SCOE for its hard and thoughtful work on a complex issue
- agree that change is needed, that ALA is not nimble, and that the association can seem confusing to some (Note: while ALA’s complexity has always been a key driver of SCOE, SCOE recommendations increase the number of working groups, at least in the short term.)
- state that it is challenging for PLA to recommend to its members to vote in the affirmative on SCOE when changes to the very nature of divisions are unclear
- state that PLA members cannot be informed voters if the work on the OA is not completed before Council and membership votes and that a clear timeline and process must be developed

- recognize that PLA wants to help address how to update the OA and that PLA members should have a seat at the table
- recognize that there are several factors contributing to member confusion and uncertainty, e.g., the “new” Midwinter; lengthy hiring timeline for a new ALA ED; subpar IT and business rules that do not allow for targeted communication and accessible platforms for member engagement
- recognize that since ALA will announce a new ED in January, there should be time allocated for the ED to review, assess, and support changes
- state that PLA can take no position on SCOE until these issues have been resolved

Questions for the Board’s Consideration

1. Is the board still in favor of a response? Anything to add/edit to the response above?
2. Agree that inviting other divisions to join our response makes sense?
3. When should the response be sent? How critical is it that SCOE and the ALA board hear PLA (and other division) concerns by Midwinter? Should those who are attending Midwinter share these concerns at SCOE and other meetings, get feedback and then issue a statement? Will a strong response be better later on in the process? Should we wait to officially respond until the new ED is on staff?
4. Does our PLA Councilor have enough information to speak for PLA on this issue at Council meetings at Midwinter?
5. Should these concerns be discussed at [the Council breakfast](#)? How shall we frame discussion at that meeting? We have one hour.