

September 1, 2015

To: WLA Executive Board

From: Carey D. Hartmann, ALA Councilor

RE: Report for 2015

The American Library Association has done an excellent job in the last few years trimming budgets, cutting staffing and working more efficiently. ALA is financially sound and able to give 2% increases to employees, a first in several years. As of May 2015 membership was 55, 419, down 1218 from May 2014. The drop is due primarily to a drop in student memberships.

38 chapters are participating in the ALA-Chapter joint membership program for student membership. This may be something that WLA would like to explore considering the number of library employees who work on an MLS degree online throughout the state.

The Strategic Directions that will be the emphasis and focus in the next three to five years are Advocacy, Information Policy and Professional and Leadership Development. The ALA public awareness campaign, being developed as part of Sari Feldman's presidency, is Libraries Transform.

Funding for LSTA; support of the reauthorized and revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); privacy rights issues; ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty for print disabled and other changes relating to copyright law as well as net neutrality were the primary issues the ALA Legislative Office focused on in the 114th Congress. The American Library Association continues to be in the fore front of national issues that impact libraries locally.

Some interesting stats from the ALA Washington Office:

- In 2012 there were 17,219 public libraries and branches in the United States and 12,546 franchised McDonald's Restaurants.
- 63% of Americans who said that the closing of their public library would have a "major impact" on their lives with only 7% saying it would have "no impact".
- Number of American students K-12 who visited their school library in 2011 was 1.3 billion, the same number of movie tickets sold nationwide that year.
- Cents of each dollar spent on higher education received by academic libraries in 2013 – 3.

From a press release issued 6/25/15 (go to <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2015/06/ala-releases-national-policy-agenda-libraries> for the complete article):

Libraries are in a revolution fueled by rapid advances in technology, and thus the roles, capabilities, and expectations of libraries are changing rapidly. National public policy for libraries must reflect these changes. Today the American Library Association (ALA) released a [National Policy Agenda for Libraries \(pdf\)](#) to guide a proactive policy shift.

The American Library Association is working to ensure libraries are relevant in our societies and that ALA is relevant to the libraries and librarians it serves.