

LIBRARIAN REPORT

September 12, 2023

Budget – reference only

Our MLGQ (Maximum Levy Growth Quotient), formerly known as the AVGQ, for the State is 5%. This is a .7% increase from last year. The MLGQ is the percentage we are allowed to increase our budget total and Maximum Levy. Your budget still must be fully funded no matter what the MLGQ is. The meeting with our DLGF rep went well. The Budget Committee, Dustin (Chair), Deb and Angie were provided the suggested budget for 2023 last month, which we will all look at and approve further down the agenda. I have attached the Department of Local Government and Finance calendar to the agenda. The dates that mostly pertain to us are:

June 30-Maximum Levy Growth Quotient (MLGQ) is provided

July 15-Receive maximum allowable budget

July 15-Receive our estimate of the miscellaneous revenue

July 19-Beginning of Department Budget Workshops

August 1-Circuit Breaker estimates

August 1-Receive Net Assessed values

August 9-Board meeting:

-Approve Salary Resolution and Proposed 2023 Budget

August 17-Deadline for release of 2023 LIT estimates

September 13-Board meeting:

Public Hearing on Proposed Budget

October 1-Deadline for second 2023 LIT estimates

October 11- Board Meeting:

Adopt 2023 budget

Policy and By-laws-review only

The policies/information for review this month are Internal Control, Fixed Asset and Hotspot Policy and chapter 5 of the *IN the Public Trust* trustee manual.

Public Awareness/Outreach

Board Committees and Calendar-voting item

You will find the Board Calendar and new Board contact information in the Board information section of the board site. I have also attached them to the agenda. Please let me

know if any of your personal information needs updated. Board committees will also be assigned at this meeting.

FMLA Request

Hilary Habegger is requesting FMLA leave to be enacted for her over the next 12 months. Her husband was recently in an accident which has caused mobility issues until he can heal. She doesn't plan to be off consistently, but she will need time off to assist with doctor/physical therapy appointments. Her request letter, with dates, is attached to the agenda.

Request for item reconsideration-voting item

We have a request for item reconsideration for the movie Blazing Saddles. The patron has asked the title be reviewed by the library and the library board and then removed. I have attached both the request and supporting evidence for why the movie is on our shelf. I have also included our collection development policy for reference. We have owned 1 copy of Blazing Saddles that we have record of. We may or may not have had a VHS, but we don't have anything that would tell us that. We have had the title since 2013. It has a total of 44 circs with 16 of those circs happening after 2018.

ALA Membership – review

It has been suggested that the library not renew our membership with the American Library Association (ALA). (Ala.org) I believe this stems mostly from the elected President of ALA, Emily Drabinski. Drabinski has used her position as president of ALA to have a louder voice for her personal and political agendas, which is unfortunate. Whether or not this misstep is something that should cause our library to not renew our ALA membership is something I believe that board should discuss. I am not big on knee-jerk reactions, and believe that this is something that may need observation and each of you doing your own research before a decision can be made. I have laid out basic information of how the ALA is governed, what they do for the library financially, their stance on banned books, the breakdown of their finances and how they are spent, different articles of opinion on Drabinski and the description of next year's president for ALA. I have also included other items asked of me to share.

We spend \$600 a year for an ALA institutional membership. Currently, those funds come from our Operating fund. Since, the article in the newspaper, I have had private donors reach out asking to pay this fee so the cost of membership is not coming from tax dollars. At this time, our state has not given opinion or guidance on libraries and ALA membership. We are not required to act on any directives of ALA as all decisions for a library (with the exception of the law) are made at the local level.

Also, it is currently in our Employee Benefits policy section 5.14 that the library will maintain an institutional membership with ALA as an employee benefit.

How is ALA governed?

ALA Governance

Headquartered in Chicago, the ALA is governed by an elected [Council](#), which is its policy-making body, and an [Executive Board](#), which acts for the Council in the administration of established policies and programs. In this context, the Executive Board is the body that manages the affairs of the Association, delegating management of the Association's day-to-day operation to the [executive director](#). The ALA also has 37 standing [committees](#), designated as committees of the Association or of the Council. The Association's operations are directed by the executive director and implemented by [staff](#) through a structure of programmatic [offices](#) and support units.

The ALA is home to 8 membership [divisions](#), each focused on a type of library or library function, and 19 [round tables](#) for members who share interests that lie outside the scope of any of the divisions. A network of [affiliates](#), [chapters](#), and [other organizations](#) enables the ALA to reach a broad audience.

See also the [ALA Executive Office and Office of ALA Governance](#).

Each elected officer serves for a 1-year term. The president elect is elected and then serves 1 year as president elect, 1 year as president and 1 year as past president. The executive director shall manage the Association and its personnel, carry out the activities provided for in the budget, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the office. <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/constitution/bylaws>

ALA's thoughts on book banning:

<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/freedomtoread/#statement>

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/book-ban-efforts-record-high-trajectory-2022-report>

The term pornography is thrown around a lot when it comes to book banning at the moment. Here is what classifies a material to be pornography in Indiana:

Materials must, *as a whole*:

- describe or represent, in any form, nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sado-masochistic abuse
- appeal to the prurient interest in sex of minors
- be patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable matter for or performance before minors
- lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors

It is actually illegal for libraries to purchase “pornography”, by this definition above, from legitimate book vendors.

ALA’s financial support for Libraries:

ALA is a large supporter and advocate for the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996, 2023, 2010, and 2018. This act The Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) of 1996 established the Institute of Museum and Library Services within the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. The new agency combined the Institute of Museum Services, which had been in existence since 1976, and the Library Programs Office, which had been part of the Department of Education since 1956. It originally authorized federal funding for IMLS through FY 2002. IMLS would comprise the Office of Library Services (OLS) and the Office of Museum Services (OMS). This act has been renewed most recently in 2018 by President Trump through 2025. IMLS provides funds to the State Library to be distributed to Indiana libraries for internet and technology upgrades. ALA also supports and advocates for the continuation of eRate funding. eRate funding comes from the Federal Communications Commission and is awarded to schools and libraries by the Federal Government through our States. eRate funding supports 80% of our internet connectivity and IMLS funds support an additional 10-20% depending on the year. This is typically \$30,000 a year in funding for internet/internet services. IMLS funding is also used by the State Library to pay for our consortium fees to create and join the Indiana Digital Library (IDL) which allows us to use Overdrive for eBooks and eAudiobooks. Other than having a voice for libraries on the National Level, staff would have available to them classes or conference discounts. We would get a discount on any ALA professional books or publications. They also provide resources for defense within your library, National Library Week promotions and HR/policy information. To be honest, our staff don't utilize these aspects of ALA as much as they do our State Library and ILF. I think I have had 1 staff member ask to take an ALA class, since I have been in this position. I know staff have gone to the ALA conference in the past, but not since I have been in this position.

How is ALA funded?

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/treasurerspage#:~:text=ALA%20funding%20sources%20include%20your,additional%20%244%20in%20other%20revenue.>

ALA funding sources include your membership dues dollars **and** funds generated from our publishing activities, conferences and educational programs, and the grants we receive. For roughly every \$1 in membership dues revenue, the Association generates an additional \$4 in other revenue. I have attached infographics to the agenda that further breaks down ALA’s spending.

ALA’s X (Twitter) feed:

https://twitter.com/ALALibrary?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

Different perspectives on Emily Drabinski:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/american-library-association-president-marxist-lesbian-rcna98254>

<https://thefederalist.com/2022/04/22/amid-public-concern-about-grooming-kids-american-library-association-picks-marxist-lesbian-as-president/>

<https://thefederalist.com/2023/08/26/report-library-associations-president-wants-to-stock-kids-shelves-with-lgbt-propaganda-and-porn/>

Emily Drabinski's thoughts on the neutrality of libraries at ALA Midwinter 2018

Emily Drabinski

Coordinator of library instruction, Long Island University, Brooklyn

Libraries are spaces where we encounter real things. Books sit on shelves next to other books, and each book occupies a space that is strictly its own. There are only so many computer terminals in our computer labs and only so many minutes in each day to be parceled out to each seat. Libraries are material, just as library workers and library patrons are.

The debate about neutrality asks us to imagine a world where those real things are infinitely fungible, where we can buy and shelve all books and schedule every event. If we buy 45 copies of *Fire and Fury*, we can't also buy the run of books from Cave Canem. We have to make decisions about resources.

I don't think *neutral* is a thing that can exist. We are always siding with someone or something or some idea and against others. Those steeped in and rewarded by dominant ways of seeing the world don't have to know how intensely political the ostensibly neutral position is. If the white supremacists booking your meeting space are not after you, you don't have to know how dangerous they are. Books about reparative therapy for gay people can be simply another view if yours is not the body and mind those authors seek to destroy. To imagine that neutrality could be something we could choose is an intensely privileged position.

In focusing a conversation on an idealized notion of neutrality that none of us encounter in our real lives, I think we offer an alibi to those who have the power to define themselves and their worldviews as normal, as neutral, as apolitical, and that's not most of us. <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2018/06/01/are-libraries-neutral/>

ALA's 2024-2025 President

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/hohl-wins-2024-2025-ala-presidency/>

Cindy Hohl, director of policy analysis and operational support at Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library, has been elected 2023–2024 president-elect of the American Library Association (ALA).

Hohl received 4,965 votes, while her opponent, Eric D. Suess, director of Marshall Public Library in Pocatello, Idaho, received 2,409 votes.

Upon learning the outcome of the election, Hohl provided the following statement:

“Thank you to everyone who voted, and I am truly humbled to take these next steps together with all of you. It is an honor and privilege to support library staff across the field, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as 2024–2025 ALA president. A special thank you to Eric Suess for standing for election with me.

“We have a lot of good work ahead of us in libraries, and I look forward to listening to feedback, hearing your ideas, and moving forward with that inspiration to uphold the professional ethics of our trusted profession as we highlight the high value of libraries. Wopida Tanka, many thanks to all of the ALA leaders who have worked with diligence and fortitude to represent us well. These combined achievements strengthen our Association for the better, and there has never been a better time to be a librarian!”

Hohl is past president of the American Indian Library Association and an active member of other ALA affiliates, including the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of the ALA, Chinese American Librarians Association, and Reforma: the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. As a member of the Public Library Association (PLA), a division of ALA, she currently cochairs the Membership Advisory Group and was a member of the PLA Strategic Plan Review Team. Hohl is a member of several round tables, including the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, Library Research Round Table, and Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Hohl holds a bachelor's degree in organization management and leadership from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas; an MLIS from Wayne State University in Detroit; and a master's in business administration from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas.

Items requested to be shared:

<https://www.foxnews.com/search-results/search?q=American+library+association>

Material refereeing to Kirk Cameron/Brave Books/Violation of 1st Amendment

Updated by Director: 9/12/23

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/are-taxpayer-funds-used-block-kirk-camersons-public-library-event-gop-senators-want-answers>

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jun/27/american-library-association-accused-seeking-sabot/>

Webinar mentioned in article: <https://youtu.be/jnDknzi8Mso?si=uib1s6Ug3Bk2phUr>

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2023/07/kirk-cameron-demands-the-government-investigate-anti-christian-bias-in-library-organization/>

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/libraries-respond-drag-queen-story-hour>

<https://www.nysun.com/article/kirk-cameron-vs-the-marxist-librarians-how-childrens-libraries-have-become-ground-zero-in-the-culture-wars>

Other items:

https://www.ala.unikron.com/files/ugd/48581a_4243a601060244e89b34ae94f9c9066d.pdf

<https://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/aboutalsc/alsc-diversity-survey-results.pdf>

<https://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/200618-alsc-strategic-directions-handout-WEB%20%28003%29.pdf>

https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2017_mw_council_documents/cd_35_Strategic_Direction_--_Equity_Diversity_and_Inclusion_cover_0.pdf

<https://worldlibraryassociation.org/>

Library Closed:

Main: Closed to the Public 5 pm September 18-23

Ossian: Closed to the Public September 20-21

Director Updates

Community Meetings/Activities attended outside the library:

Bluffton NOW! Board Meeting

Chamber Board meeting

Chamber Executive Meeting

Chamber HR sub committee

Rotary Meetings

Wells County Foundation Board

Meeting Updates inside the library:

Department Head meeting – We mostly discussed policies and in-service planning

Current Projects/Big Programs/News:

-Friends of the Library Book sales

Next Book Sales will be:

2023

October 25-28, 2023 with Friends Only Sale on October 24th

2024

February 7-10, 2024 with Friends Only Sale on February 6th

June 26-29, 2024 with Friends Only Sale on June 25th

October 23-26, 2024 with Friends Only Sale on October 22nd

-Children's Book Festival - Save the date for **October 7, 2023**. If you have kids/grandkids come out for a fun time. We are always looking for volunteers for this program, if you are interested.