As it has been for every organization, 2020 has been a difficult year for ALA. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of ALA Annual Conference along with Division and Round Table conferences and events. Although there has been great effort to move these events online, the cancellation has had an extreme impact on ALA’s already tenuous budget situation. The decline in purchasing of ALA Publishing titles and reduced number of renewed/new memberships has also compounded these issues.

Despite these budget issues, the work of the organization continues. The appointment of Tracie D. Hall as executive director in February has had a great impact on the workings of ALA and Tracie has been the ideal person to lead ALA through the current crisis. She has worked with staff to stabilize the budget situation, to support members and libraries with their changing needs through the pandemic, and work to make ALA a more equitable organization.

The work of member volunteers to make ALA a better organization has also continued through the work for the Forward Together committee. With Council, the committee has worked tirelessly this year to reimagine the structure of the organization to serve us better in the future.

**ALA Names Executive Director**

American Library Association has announced the appointment of Tracie D. Hall as its executive director, effective February 24, 2020. Hall will succeed Mary W. Ghikas, who has served as executive director since 2018. Hall has previously worked for ALA as the Director of the Office for Diversity in the early 2000s and has worked for library systems such as Seattle Public Library, New Haven Free Public Library, Queens Public Library, and Hartford Public Library. Hall is currently with the Chicago-based Joyce Foundation. Hall was a part of the first cohort of ALA’s Spectrum Scholars and is the first female African-American executive director in ALA’s history.

Please see the following American Libraries article for more information about Hall’s appointment: [https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ala-appoints-tracie-d-hall-as-executive-director/](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ala-appoints-tracie-d-hall-as-executive-director/)

**ALA’s Response to COVID-19**

**ALA and Executive Board Statements**

- ALA Executive Board recommends closing libraries to public
- American Library Association recommends libraries leave WiFi open during closures while continuing to follow any applicable local, state and federal health and safety guidelines
- On National Library Workers Day, ALA Executive Board reaffirms need to protect safety and well-being of library workers during COVID-19 pandemic
- Library associations underscore importance of IMLS COVID-19 efforts

- ALA takes responsibility for past racism, pledges a more equitable association

- ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall says dismantling racism in library and information services is overdue

### Advocacy Efforts

#### Virtual Library Legislative Week
National Library Legislative Day was also cancelled due to COVID-19. ALA transitioned to a Virtual Library Legislative Week. The week's events included daily advocacy activities and opportunities to connect with our colleagues from across the country. More information at [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/nlld](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/nlld)

#### IMLS Funding

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced measures to award the first $30 million of $50 million appropriated to the agency in the CARES Act. ALA's Advocacy efforts were instrumental in securing this funding for IMLS


### Continued Advocacy Efforts

ALA summons support for Library Stabilization Fund Act


The legislation would have provided $2 billion to libraries, to be delivered through IMLS. This is the only relief bill that was focused on libraries of all kinds. Although this measure was not passed at the time, ALA is still hopeful that future bills will include funding for libraries and are actively working to make sure libraries are included.

### Patty Wong Wins 2021-2022 ALA Presidency
Patricia "Patty" M. Wong, city librarian at Santa Monica (Calif.) Public Library, has been elected 2021-22 president-elect of the ALA. She will serve as president-elect for one year before stepping into her role as president at the close of the 2021 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

### CORE Division Approved
Thanks to members, Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures is moving forward. The three existing divisions’ members all voted to approve the bylaws change that will unite ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA to form CORE.

A Personal Note:

I’d like to thank NLA members for the opportunity to be their representative to ALA over the past 3 years. It has been a pleasure to serve NLA and ALA in this capacity. I appreciate the opportunity I’ve had to work with my colleagues from Nebraska and across the country.

Respectfully Submitted,

Micki Dietrich