



access to federally funded research, funding for the National Endowments of the Humanities and the Arts, civil rights, immigration, and workforce planning, and so on.

Other developments and events demanded action. Support was extended to the Clovis-Carver Public Library in New Mexico in response to the tragic shooting of library staff members. Natural disasters in Texas, the southern US, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other areas of the Caribbean involved statements of support and efforts to raise relief funds. ALA took a strong position in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy and actions to undermine its protections. This support for the Dreamers and library commitment to serving immigrants, refugees and displaced persons must be a sustained message. ALA issued a joint statement with the ethnic affiliates affirming equity, diversity and inclusion as a core value requiring constant attention to breaking down barriers and to building understanding and action. ALA issued a joint statement with the GLBT Round Table

publishing program, expanded capabilities for virtual participation, accreditation of library education programs, the Center for the Future of Libraries, fundraising and resource development, and member engagement and participation for example. I meet and consult on a regular basis with the Washington Office, the Public Awareness Office, the Office for Library Advocacy, the Chapters Relations Office and the International Relations Office.

Working and consulting with the leaders in other national and international library associations, in national libraries and federal funding agencies, and in various organizations that share our core values and professional interests has expanded over the last six months.

### Key Initiatives

During the last three months, planning and implementation for several initiatives have advanced:

ALA is launching a new Policy Corps to expand our ability to advocate on key policy issues on behalf of the library community. Participants will focus on issues for which deep and sustained knowledge are necessary and on skills needed to be effective in targeted policy advocacy work. This may include testifying before legislative committees, meeting with legislative leaders and their staffs, being interviewed by the national media, participating in national forums, and working with policy partners. The first cohort of participants has been selected and will begin its work at Midwinter in Denver. The working group includes representatives from the ALA presidential advisory committee, OITP, AASL, ACRL, PLA, and United for Libraries. All of these units have invested in the pilot programs. Sub-groups were formed to work on selection, curriculum and assessment. An additional idea in development as part of the Washington Office's strategic plan is to expand the number of ALA advocates working in

## The President's Program at Midwinter

Another important area of focus is the financial health of the Association. The Executive Board working with ALA staff and with BARC is exploring several critical actions, including: a study focused on marketing and communication, a study focused on new models of membership and engagement, the continuing review and improvement of ALA conferences, internal reorganizations, governance

"Advancing to Phyletic Extinction: Library Leadership in a Time of Transformation and Turmoil," Brigham Young