

*The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) is a non-profit corporation formed to encourage and promote the welfare of libraries and professional interests of librarians in the State of Alabama. The Mission of the Alabama Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, advocacy, and improvement of library and information services and to promote the profession of librarianship, in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.*

# ALLA COMMUNICATOR

## WELCOME FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Academic, public, school, and special libraries have a long tradition of supporting literacy in Alabama to ensure that we have lifelong learners who are job ready and serve as assets to their communities. The Alabama Library Association is proud to represent and support the Alabama librarians and paraprofessionals who are essential to that tradition.



In keeping with the American Library Association's four strategic directions of Advocacy, Information Policy, Professional Leadership and Development, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, I ask all ALLA members to join me in these three focus areas for our organization over the upcoming year. First, let us increase participation among our divisions, roundtables, and committees. Second, let us focus on improving communication via all association platforms. Finally, let us stay relevant by updating and revising the Core and Convention Handbooks. I encourage all library professionals across the state to share in these goals and reach out to Executive Council Members, Division Chairs, Roundtable Moderators, and Committee Chairs to get involved in the association.

As we work toward these areas of focus in the upcoming year, let us also look ahead to our next Annual Convention, which will be held in Florence on April 10-13, 2018. The theme, Play By Ear, speaks to another long time tradition that is synonymous with The Shoals region. I hope you will make plans to join us there!

Sincerely,

Sonya Jordan  
Alabama Library Association  
President, 2017-2018

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

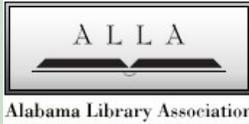
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**2017/2018 ALLA  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**OFFICERS**

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Carrie Steinmehl  
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James Gilbreath  
*College, University & Special*

Heather Cover  
*Public Library*

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*ALLA COMMunicator Editor*

Donnelly Walton  
*Archivist*

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*President, Scholarship Fund, Inc.*

**WRITING YOUR REPRESENTITIVES**

by Paula Laurita, Legislative Development Chair

Building a strong, personal relationship with your Alabama Senators and Representatives and their staff is one of the most important things you can do to build support for libraries and librarians. While it is important to get to know their positions on issues and legislation, it is just as important to nurture and strengthen the relationships that you have with them. Positive communication and effective follow-up are keys to enriching these relationships.

*“Positive communication and effective follow-up are keys to enriching these relationships.”*

This month set a goal to write each of your state legislators a letter. Encourage them to think of your library as a source of assistance when they are in the area and need copies made, a place to meet with constituents, or help with research. If possible let them know about a book that you have in on the legislator’s favorite topic. Inform them of an award your library has received. The adage that everyone wants to be part of a winning team applies to libraries and legislators.

Be positive in your message. If you have not won an award include a press clipping about a program, visiting author, story-time, etc. Tell them a story. Share how someone found a job using library resources. You want them to be part of your winning team.

The most important part of this letter? The parts you do not put in. Do not ask for money! Do not write more than one page. Do not include anything about other issues you support. This is an opportunity to build bridges. Keep the name of your library in their minds as a helpful source of information and gathering space. You want them to feel free to drop by without an appointment without worrying they will be inundated with requests. Be warm, be welcoming, be their library.

**UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Watch the Alabama Library Association Listserv and future COMMUNICATOR issues for more details on these upcoming events. To sign up for the ALLA listserv, visit: <http://maillists.samford.edu/mailman/listinfo/alala-l>.

Sponsoring Group	Event Type	Contact Name	Contact Email
CSLD	Webinar	Gloria Repolesk	<a href="mailto:gloriar@bham.lib.al.us">gloriar@bham.lib.al.us</a>
PLD	Mid-Winter Mini Conference		<a href="mailto:hcover@bham.lib.al.us">hcover@bham.lib.al.us</a>
GODORT	Webinar	Paula Webb	<a href="mailto:pwebb@southalabama.edu">pwebb@southalabama.edu</a>
MCIRT	Webinar	Muriel Nero	<a href="mailto:mnero@southalabama.edu">mnero@southalabama.edu</a>
Education Committee	Webinar	Dusty Folds	<a href="mailto:dfolds@lawsonstate.edu">dfolds@lawsonstate.edu</a>

## THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ACCURATE HANDBOOK

by Kevin W. Walker, PhD

The Alabama Library Association's Handbook is the lifeblood of our organization. It outlines the history of "the Association," our official shortened name according to the Handbook, as well as our organization's extensive structure of divisions, round tables, and committees that serve the interests of our membership and the field of librarianship more broadly. Importantly, the Association's Articles of Incorporation as well as its Bylaws, which form the legal and most basic procedural foundations of our organization, are also found within the Handbook. In addition to outlining the Association's legal framework, the Handbook provides our elected and appointed officers, as well as the membership at large, insights into the functional, day-to-day procedures of our organization. This makes the Handbook a valuable tool that supports effective participation by our membership—especially those elected to serve in leadership positions.



It has been several years since the last substantial revision of the Handbook, and in that time quite a lot has changed with the Association as well as with librarianship and the very structure of information itself. For example, one would be hard-pressed to argue that the Internet Age has not altered the way in which organizations conduct business. Indeed, web-based technologies have not only changed the way in which we do business, but the speed at which that business is conducted. We are now able to make faster, more informed decisions, and the policies and procedures outlined within the ALLA Handbook should reflect this reality. Unfortunately, in their current state many of the procedures outlined in the Handbook assume a world still ruled by tangible media and in-person/on-site interactions. Consequently, a new revision effort currently underway will focus on an update to these aspects of our organizational policies and procedures.

To be clear, the Articles of Incorporation, as well as the Association Bylaws, are both in fine shape and need not be updated at this time. Like all well-fashioned foundational documents, these two elements of the Association's Handbook are specific enough to legally establish the organization, without being so specific as to hamper the Executive Council's flexibility to alter day-to-day procedures as needed. Importantly, the current round of revisions is not about codifying completely new policies and procedures, as much as updating the Handbook to reflect practices that have naturally fallen into place over the past decade. For example, for several years now, Executive Council members have had the option to attend meetings virtually. However, portions of the Handbook that relate to meetings of the Council do not currently reflect this reality. Instead, the language of the document continues to imply that traditional on-site meeting attendance and in-person voting are the only viable options for conducting the Association's business. This inconsistency is less than ideal for reasons that should be clear to any librarian. As we all know, information is only as good as it is accurate.

### GET INVOLVED

#### **ALLA Divisions:**

CSLD  
*Children's and School Library  
Division*

CUS  
*College, University and Special  
Libraries*

PLD  
*Public Library Division*

#### **ALLA Roundtables:**

ALIRT  
*Alabama Library Instruction*

CDMRT  
*Collection Development and  
Management*

GODORT  
*Government Documents*

MCRT  
*Multicultural Information*

PART  
*Paraprofessional*

RASRT  
*Reference and Adult Services*

TSSRT  
*Technical Services & Systems*

YASRT  
*Young Adult Services*

#### **ALLA Committees:**

Association Awards  
Authors Awards  
Bibliographic  
Budget & Finance  
Bylaws  
Convention  
Education  
Emeritus Council  
*(Formerly Past Presidents)*  
Employee Evaluation  
Handbook  
Intellectual Freedom  
Legislative Development  
Membership  
Nominating  
Planning  
Public Relations  
Publications

To get involved with an ALLA  
Committee, fill out the Committee  
Interest form at:

[https://goo.gl/forms/  
tS79Dq6YqFbjiS812](https://goo.gl/forms/tS79Dq6YqFbjiS812)

## ALLA GODART ROUNDTABLE

by Paula Webb, Moderator

A little bit about the ALLA GoDort Roundtable. Currently, Paula L. Webb, University of South Alabama is the Roundtable Moderator; Tim Dodge, Auburn University, is the Roundtable Moderator-Elect and the Secretary is Stephanie Rollins, Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center.



No one realizes the value of something till it is no longer there, seems to be the mantra when it comes to government information. The transition from print government information to digital government information has developed in the minds of many that we no longer need to have government document librarians. This is far from the truth, as we have seen constantly when the United States government transitions from one administration to another.

As we see it, the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) is a forum for Librarians who work with government information; it doesn't matter if you are a public librarian or an academic librarian. If you have to search for tax forms, you use the Library of Congress to get images or if you have to help find an environmental regulation from the 1970's, then this group is for you.

We have a variety of objectives, but the one that I strongly work with is the one that includes promotion of the availability of the materials to the public. However, we want to expand this objective. We want to become a place where we can help connect documents librarians with other librarians. We want everyone to know the resources are free and available for everyone to use.

## ALLA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

by Dusty Folds, Chair

Per the ALLA Handbook, the Education Committee is charged with promoting library education and training throughout the state and working directly with state library school programs. As such, the Education Committee has reached out to the six public institutions that offer programs in library education—

Alabama State University, Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, The University of Alabama, University of South Alabama, and The University of West Alabama. The Committee hopes to work more closely with these programs throughout the upcoming year to promote library education and the field of librarianship.

The Committee was also thrilled to offer a program on doctoral education for working librarians at the 2017 ALLA Convention. Dr. Julia Everett (Northeast Alabama Community College), Ms. Clare King (Jefferson State Community College), Ms. Jessica Ross (Washington County Public Library), and Dr. Wendy Stephens (Jacksonville State University) shared their experiences pursuing doctoral degrees. The session was attended by 45 people who asked wonderful questions and made the panel discussion a great success.

As we look forward, the Education Committee is hoping to explore several opportunities in the 2017-2018 ALLA session. Some of these include a mentoring program for library students and new librarians and planning an event for the 2018 ALLA Convention. If you would like to know more about the Education Committee or you're interested in helping, please visit our page on the ALLA website (<http://www.allanet.org/?60>).



## GET TO KNOW A MEMBER AT LARGE

by Laura Pitts, Member-at-Large North Alabama

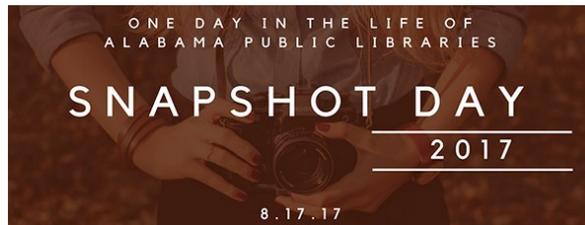
My name is Laura Pitts and it is my pleasure to serve as the Member at Large for North Alabama for the Alabama Library Association. I am the library director at the Scottsboro Public Library in Scottsboro. I am passionate about the work that libraries do all over this state and look forward to meeting many faces throughout this position. My goal is to visit as many libraries in North Alabama as I can and learn about the people that work there and the needs and concerns that they have. In turn I want to communicate these needs to the ALLA Executive Council members so that they can get a better understanding of the wonderful opportunities and continued needs that libraries in these districts have. I encourage libraries in the northern part of our state to contact me with anything they need and I will do my best to serve them and assist them as I can. I am a storyteller at heart. For many years I was a newspaper reporter and magazine editor, working hard to capture the stories of the town I served. I want to take the same idea of telling stories to this position and work to help tell your stories in this state. My belief is that everyone has a story, we just have to be willing to tell it. Let me help you tell the story of your library!



## SNAPSHOT DAY 2017

#SnapShotDayAL17

This year's Snapshot Day Alabama is scheduled for August 17, 2017. This is an event purposed to capture a typical day in the life at your public library and the essential services you provide. On any given day, libraries offer materials and services that make their communities better. With the constant threat of funding cuts, it's more important than ever to increase your advocacy efforts. These snapshots of our libraries are a great way to show elected officials and funders the importance of Alabama's public libraries. APLS encourages you to join this initiative to help us show how libraries improve lives and bring communities together.



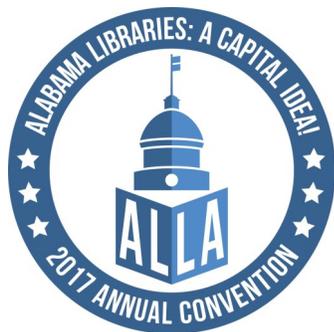
All libraries are encouraged to participate by collecting photos, statistics, and patrons' comments on this day and to share your experience with APLS. It's easy because you are just showing a typical day in the life at your library. Because it may be difficult for some libraries to participate on that specific day, libraries may choose any day during that week to take part. A toolkit including a customizable press release, photo consent form, and tally sheet are available at: [http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls\\_web/apls/apls/snapshot](http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/snapshot).

Statistics gathered throughout the day include the number of patrons that you help with workforce recovery, number of reference questions answered, circulation data, number of program attendees, and number of patrons that come to the library. Libraries also have the opportunity to collect patron comments. All together, this project should help create a picture of how important public libraries are to our communities. We hope that you will share your photos, statistics, and comments with APLS! Submissions should be emailed to Stephanie Taylor no later than September 1, 2017.

Let this be a chance to show your community how much they need you! ***If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Taylor at 334-213-3943 or [staylor@apls.state.al.us](mailto:staylor@apls.state.al.us).***

## 2017 ALLA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

by Jessica Hayes, Convention Chair



The Alabama Library Association 2017 Convention was held April 18-April 21 at the Renaissance Hotel & Spa in Montgomery, Alabama. During the course of the convention, over 450 attendees visited and enjoyed the emerging Montgomery Entertainment District.

Attendees enjoyed listening to Gypsy Cornbread, a local Montgomery band, during the Welcome Reception on Tuesday, April 18. The next morning, Wednesday, April 19, the Convention was kicked off with a vibrant welcome from Montgomery

Mayor Todd Strange followed by the Opening Keynote Speaker and best-selling author Steve Berry.

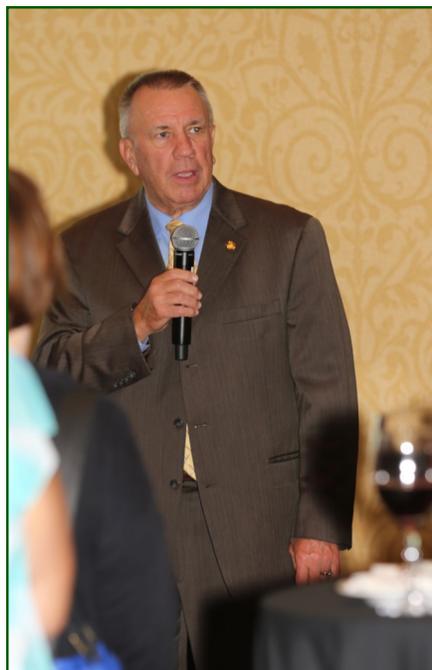
During the Alabama Author Awards Luncheon, the association bestowed recognition on the four prominent Alabama authors. Present at the luncheon were all four award recipients: Yaa Gyasi (Fiction – *Homegoing*), Kim Cross (Non-Fiction – *What Stands in a Storm*), Watt Key (Juvenile – *Terror at Bottle Creek*), and Ash Parsons (Young Adult – *Still Waters*). After the luncheon, all four participated in a book signing in the exhibit hall.

On Wednesday evening, ALLA was excited to host the first ever Public Officials Reception and were thrilled to have over 20 state and local officials. Most notable was Alabama Speaker of the House, Representative McCutcheon who not only attended but made very significant remarks the group of officials, special guests, and librarians. Additionally, the local NBC news affiliate, WSFA, sent a camera crew to the event and reported on it at that evening's broadcast.

On Thursday, attendees of the President's Program enjoyed hearing from ALA President-Elect Jim Neal (current ALA President) on the role of the library in our ever-changing American culture. That evening, ALLA awarded their annual association awards to six librarians and/or cultural institutions who have made an impact within the profession and the state (see Association Award Bios for more information).

As usual, both Wednesday and Thursday were filled with workshops, training sessions, and learning opportunities from professional librarians, paraprofessionals, educators, and more! There were so many great presentations to choose from that the most common "complaint" from attendees was that they "couldn't choose" which one to go to!

During free times, attendees visited the Exhibit Hall and mingled with over 50 exhibitors and other attendees, or they relaxed in the Librarian Lounge, a new feature for 2017. Visitors to the Librarian



*Representative McCutcheon addresses the room during the Public Officials Reception.*

## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Lounge could color Doctor Who coloring sheets, crochet pot holders, or laugh hysterically while playing an uproarious game of Cards Against Librarianship with new friends. The fun continued in the After Hours Librarian Lounge where attendees from across the state could listen to music, talk about library and non-library topics, and play more fun-filled games.

To close out the week's activity, the attendees heard award-winning author Tayari Jones speak on her development as a writer and had the great privilege of hearing her read from her latest novel, *Silver Sparrow*.

The inclusion of all the new features along with the program content variety and the inclusion of new Exhibitors, specifically local artisans, the majority of attendees were thrilled with the 2017 Convention. One even said that "more than ever before, it made me think of a mini-ALA." It was definitely a Convention that will not soon be forgotten!

Planning is already underway for 2018 Convention! Be on the lookout for all the fun details that will await you in Florence, Alabama!

*"...more than ever before, it made me think of a mini-ALA."*

## ALABAMA AUTHORS AWARDS

The Authors Awards Committee seeks to encourage and recognize Alabama authors and promote interest in local authors' books, whether the books are about Alabama or another subject. Awards are based on literary merit. An honored author must be an Alabamian by birth or have lived in Alabama for at least five (5) years. The book for which the award is presented must have been published within the past three (3) calendar years prior to the year of the Association Convention at which the award is presented.



Watt Key, Kim Cross, Ash Parsons, and Yaa Gyasi display their Alabama Library Association Author Awards.

### 2017 Children's Fiction Award

Watt Key for *Terror at Bottle Creek*.

### 2017 Young Adult Fiction Award

Ash Parsons for *Still Waters*.

### 2017 Adult Nonfiction Award

Kim Cross for *What Stands in a Storm: Three Days in the Worst Superstorm to Hit the South's Tornado Alley*.

### 2017 Adult Fiction Award

Yaa Gyasi for *Homegoing*.

ALLA 2017 CONVENTION PHOTOS



Best selling author Steve Berry addresses convention attendees during the Opening Session.



ALA President– Elect, (now current ALA President), Jim Neal speaks during the Public Officials Reception.



Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange with Convention Chair Jessica Hayes.



Author Steve Berry signs books following the Welcome Reception.



Troy University's Wade Hall Postcards display.



Convention attendees moving between a variety of learning opportunities offered at this year's Convention.



Local artisans displaying and selling merchandise in the Exhibitor area.

**ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MERIT AWARD  
ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION**

Founded in 1974 as the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) fosters learning, understanding, and appreciation of our people, communities, and cultures. AHF is the premier organization in Alabama driven to expand public humanities programming to all 67 counties in the state. AHF is the primary source of grants for public humanities projects. AHF also initiates major programs and events in support of humanities topics and collaborates with other organizations to advance the humanities in both the academic and public arenas.

**ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LIBRARY HONOR ROLL  
ZENOBIA BLACKMON**

Zenobia L. Blackmon, retired Head Librarian of H. Council Trenholm State Community College, began her career as a librarian in 1974. Since that time, she has continuously been involved in the promotion and advancement of the relevance of libraries. During the progression of her career as a librarian, she has been actively involved with many professional organizations including Past President of the Alabama Two Year College Library Association, Past Chairman of the Alabama Virtual Library Executive Committee, Coach and Mentor for the HBCU Library Alliance Phase II Leadership Development Pilot, and Member of the American Library Association and the Alabama Library Association.

As former Head Librarian of H. Council Trenholm State Technical College, she was instrumental in establishing and opening the first comprehensive automated library on the Trenholm Campus. After the merger with Patterson Technical College, she designed and opened the College's second comprehensive automated library on the Patterson Campus. One of her greatest passions has been mentoring others who aspire to become librarians.

**ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EMINENT LIBRARIAN AWARD  
DEBORAH FOUT**

Ms. Fout's library career started in 1985 as a part-time Circulation Assistant at Homewood Public Library. She rose through the ranks to become the Assistant Director in 1996 and was named Director on January 1, 2009. During her thirty-one-year tenure at Homewood Public Library Ms. Fout has been a member of local, state, and national professional organizations. She is currently serving her second term as the Chair of the Jefferson County Library Cooperative Executive Board of Directors. She maintains membership in the Alabama Library Association, the American Library Association, and the Homewood Rotary, where she is on the Board.

For twenty years Homewood Public Library has hosted the Alabama Library Association Public Library Division's Midwinter Conference, which started as a fundraiser for the Public Library Division of ALLA. Ms. Fout has played an active role in planning this event from the very beginning and assumed full responsibility for the event in 2006. Aware that this conference is the only library convention many librarians and library staffers in the state are able to attend, Ms. Fout selects speakers and programs that will provide top quality staff training and development for many areas of public library service.

Ms. Fout also hosts the Jefferson County Public Library Association's Staff Development Day at Homewood Public Library as well as the Jefferson County Public Library Association's annual Storytelling Workshop. At each of these annual events Ms. Fout makes every effort to not only accommodate, but to also

## EMINENT LIBRARIAN CONTINUED

facilitate the training of staff, both her own and those of other libraries.

Since becoming Director, Ms. Fout has made significant contributions to Homewood Public Library. Building on the visions of past Directors, she has worked hard to help the Library fulfill its mission to the community. Many of these contributions have been in the form of grants that Ms. Fout has written and been awarded. Since becoming Director of the Homewood Library, Ms. Fout has been award approximately \$400,000 in grants for the Homewood Public Library and the City of Homewood. These grants include numerous LSTA grants, a grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, Rotary Grants, and several smaller grants.

A forward-thinking leader who embraces advances in library service, Ms. Fout strives for excellence in every aspect of library service. Under her leadership the Homewood Public Library has risen to new heights, exploring program opportunities and unique materials to fit the needs of the community. This commitment to excellence was awarded the first Gold Level Standard Award for the State of Alabama by the Alabama Library Association in 2014, the first library to receive this revamped Standards Award, and the only library to receive it that year. The Homewood Public Library has won several other local and national awards since Deborah Fout became Director including:

- Four Star National Award in the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service in 2009
- 2010 Best of Birmingham Award presented by Birmingham Magazine
- Five Star National Award in the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service in 2010
- 2012 Best of Birmingham Award presented by Birmingham Magazine
- 2013 Parent's Choice Award presented by Birmingham Magazine
- 2014 First Gold Level Standard Award winner in the State of Alabama
- Four Star National Award in the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service in 2015
- 2017 First Library in the State to Receive the Gold Level Standard Award for the 2nd time

Perhaps Ms. Fout's greatest contribution has been in the example she has set. She encourages her staff to think outside the box, to aim high, and to try new things. She never misses an opportunity to provide staff with training and cheers them on when they leave Homewood to advance their career. Former staff members are currently scattered throughout Jefferson and Shelby Counties, and have gone on to build on their Homewood foundations and become department heads, directors, and leaders in Alabama's public libraries.

Ms. Fout not only takes an active part in the local and state library associations, she encourages her staff to do the same. Homewood staff members have served on Alabama Library Association committees and on the Executive Council. They have participated in the Jefferson County Public Library Association Round Tables, led them, and served as President of the Association. They have served on state and county-wide committees. When opportunity knocks, Ms. Fout encourages her staff to seize the chance to make a difference.

Ms. Fout is an advocate for libraries, passionate about the mission of libraries and the role of public libraries in their communities. She communicates this every day to every person she meets. Ms. Fout never turns down an opportunity to extol the virtues of public libraries, whether it's in a speech given at a Chamber of Commerce meeting or just telling someone standing next to her in the grocery store line all about the benefits of a library card.

**ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD  
CHRIS SCHAFFER**

A senior level library administrator with over 20 years of experience in education, as well as considerable international experience, Christopher Shaffer is Dean of Troy University Libraries. He has previously served as Director of Troy's Dothan campus library and was also the social sciences reference librarian on Troy's main campus for one year. Prior to entering the library field, Shaffer spent 8 years as a history teacher in Georgia and one year teaching English as a second language in Slovakia. He received his MLIS from the University of Alabama in 2005 and his Ed.D in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law from Alabama State University in 2014. He has been published in several peer reviewed journals, has considerable experience writing and implementing grants, and has presented nationally. In 2015 the Carnegie Corporation, American Library Association, New York Times, and the New York Public Library presented him the I Love My Librarian Award for his work in public outreach.

**ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION HUMANITARIAN AWARD  
PAT SCALES**

Pat Scales is a retired middle and high school librarian whose program Communicate Through Literature was featured on the Today Show and in various professional journals. She received the ALA/Grolier Award in 1997, and was featured in Library Journal's first issue of Movers and Shakers in Libraries: People Who Are Shaping the Future of Libraries. Ms. Scales, who taught children's and young adult literature at Furman University for 27 years, has served as chair of the prestigious Newbery, Caldecott, and Wilder Award Committees. She is a past President of the Association of Library Service for Children, a division of the American Library Association, and the 2016 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Scales has been actively involved with ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee for a number of years, and served two terms as chair. She is a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation, serves as on the Council of Advisers of the National Coalition Against Censorship, and acts as a spokesperson for first amendment issues as they relate to children and young adults. In Fall 2016, Scales received the Defender of Free Speech Award from NCAC. She is the author of Teaching Banned Books: Twelve Guides for Young Readers, Protecting Intellectual Freedom in Your School Library; Books Under Fire: A Hit List of Banned and Challenged Children's Books, Scales on Censorship: Real Life Lessons from School Library Journal and Defending Frequently Challenged Young Adult Books. She writes a bi-monthly column, Scales on Censorship, for School Library Journal, curriculum guides on children's and young adult books for a number of publishers, and is a regular contributor to Book Links magazine.

A native of Alabama, Scales is a 1966 graduate of the University of Montevallo, and received a MLS from George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University in 1972.

**ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIAN AWARD  
LAURA PITTS**

Laura Pitts is the director of the Scottsboro Public Library in Scottsboro, Alabama. She has been named one of Jackson County, Alabama's "Top 40 People Under the Age of 40" who are making a difference in the community. Laura is a member of the Scottsboro Rotary Club, where she is chairman of the organization's Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Day program, the American Association of University Women Jackson County Chapter, The Association of Rural and Small Libraries, the American Library Association, and serves on the Alabama Author's Awards Committee.

## COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

Please feel free to submit your library-related news to:  
**communicator.alla@gmail.com**

Submissions must include:

- Your Name
- Job Title
- Library or organization name
- Contact Email and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached

## ALLA-COMmunicator Publishing Schedule

Edition	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
Jul/Aug/Sep	June 16	July
Oct/Nov/Dec	Sep. 15	October
Jan/Feb/Mar	Dec. 15	January
Apr/May/June	March 16	April

## UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 8, 2017  
10 AM—12 PM  
APLS  
6030 Monticello Dr.  
Montgomery, AL 36117

December 8, 2017  
10 AM—12 PM  
APLS  
6030 Monticello Dr.  
Montgomery, AL 36117

March 9, 2018  
10 AM—12 PM  
APLS  
6030 Monticello Dr.  
Montgomery, AL 36117

## FROM THE EDITOR

Hello. I'm Taylor Gaston Kirby, the newly appointed Editor for the ALLA-COMmunicator. It is my mission to revive this newsletter and improve news and communication among our organization and Alabama libraries. The ALLA-COMmunicator will be published quarterly. The ALLA Executive Council approved this change at the June 9, 2017 meeting. The publication will remain digital and will be available on the Association website and sent out through the Association Listserv.



What exciting things are happening at your libraries? Who stands out amongst your employees? What issues are you confronted with that need addressed? What solutions to common issues would you like to share? We want to hear from you! Submission guidelines can be found in the left-hand sidebar.



## LOOKING AHEAD

- Get ready! ALLA's web presence is going to have a new look soon. We are migrating to a new system, so if you cannot get to us at <http://allanet.org>, check us out on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaLibraryAssociation>) or Twitter (@ALLibAssoc) to stay up-to-date with the Association. We cannot wait for you to see our facelift.
- September is Library Card Sign-up Month! Visit <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card> for free promotional materials, PSAs, printable and digital graphics.
- Banned Books Week: September 24 –30, 2017
- Banned Websites Awareness Day: September 27, 2017
- Teen Read Week: October 8-17, 2017
- National Friends of Libraries Week: October 15-21, 2017
- International Games Week: October 29—November 4, 2017
- November is Picture Book Month