

LLAMA President's Message

John Spears



At the end of last year, a process that began nearly three years ago reached an important milestone when the membership of the Library Leadership and Management Association voted to approve a new set of bylaws that reorganizes our association into one that will be more flexible, more relevant, and more engaged. The approval of those bylaws was not the end of that process, though, as we must now work together to realize the goals that were set out and move through the process of reorganization. It is safe to say that, as with any reorganization, this will not be a completely smooth process that will occur without a certain amount of trial and error, but if the efforts toward success that were amply displayed by the many members present at Midwinter are any indication, we are well on our way.

At Midwinter, the Reorganization Task Force first convened by Past President Jeff Steely at the 2016 Midwinter Meeting in Boston concluded its work with a final gathering in which they identified several key concepts meant to define the culture of LLAMA: action oriented, unique/distinctive, inclusive, empowered, accountable, collaborative, and professional. We hope that these ideals will become the cornerstone of our association as we continue this process. Moving forward now will depend on the active involvement of our membership, and as the Sections transition to Communities of Practice, there will be many opportunities for members to become engaged in ways that were not available before.

LLAMA is not alone in having raised questions regarding its structure and the attendant strengths and weaknesses that created in how it relates to its membership and the broader field. Several other divisions within the American Library Association have been closely watching our progress, and the changes we are making to streamline our organization, eliminate bureaucracy, and focus on more relevant and meaningful professional development may

become a model for others. I want to thank you for your support in this process, and I look forward to working with you in the future as we continue to lead by example within the American Library Association.

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Published: February 2017