

## ALA Executive Board Election 2018

**Candidate:** Diane R. Chen

**Current Position:** School Librarian, Stratford STEM Magnet School,  
1800 Stratford Avenue, Nashville, TN 37216 615-800-1488

**Education:** University of Iowa, Master of Arts in Library Information Science, 1989  
Buena Vista University, B.A. Elementary Education & Modern  
Languages/Chinese, 1988

**ALA Activities:** ALA, member since 1989. 23 years total, 20 years continuous.  
Currently a member of AASL, Sustainability Roundtable, International Relations Round  
Table, Chinese American Library Association, ALSC, and YALSA.  
Executive Director Search Committee member chosen by divisions, 2017-2018  
Presidential Task Force for Loida Garcia-Febo on Advocacy, 2017-2018  
Committee on Committees 2017  
ALA Division Councilor, 2015-2018  
ALA Councilor-At-Large, 2007-2011, 2011-2014  
Youth Council Caucus 2007-2014, 2015-2018  
Nominating Committee, 2014  
Planning and Budget Assembly, 2012-2014  
ALA Executive Board, 2008-2011 with liaisons to the Committee on the Status of  
Women in Libraries (COSWL), Federal Arm Forces Library Round Table (FAFLRT),  
Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC), Public Awareness Committee, ALSC, COLA  
(Library Advocacy, OLA Advocacy), CALA, Election, and the Committee on  
Organizations (COO)  
ALA Board Effectiveness committee 2008-2010  
Award Committee, 2011-2013: Scholastic Library Publishing Award, 2013; Elizabeth  
Futas Catalyst for Change Award Jury, 2011;  
Presidential Initiative Co-Chair Why I Need My Library, 2010  
Legislative Grass Roots Advocacy Subcommittee GRAS, 2006  
Committee on Organization, 2006-2008

### **AASL, Active Committee work**

Standards & Guidelines Implementation Task Force 2016-2018 Board Liaison  
STEM Task Force, 2014  
AASL Vision Summit, 2006  
AASL Awards Committee Intellectual Freedom Award Committee, 2013; Distinguished  
Service Award Committee, 2011; Innovation Reading Grant committee, 2006  
AASL National Conference, 2009 Digital & Technology Subcommittee  
Regional Director-Elect, 2007-2008  
AASL Legislation committee and liaison to ALA Committees and groups, Legislation,  
2004-2007  
Affiliate Assembly Chair, chair-elect, past chair, 2004-2006  
National Conference Program Reviewer subcommittee, 2004  
Affiliate Assembly representative from Tennessee, 2003-2005

**OVER**

**Honors & Awards:** Tennessee Library Association's Louise Meredith Award; Teacher of the Year, Hickman Elementary School 2004. Previously blogged for Deep Thinking and Practically Paradise. Published in School Library Journal blogs, Knowledge Quest, School Library Media Activities Monthly, Kidlit blog, and School Library Connection (to be released in 2018).

**Other Professional Activities:** Tennessee Association of School Librarians active member, including President in 2004 and on committees for Standards Implementation, Information Power, Legislative, Advocacy, Intellectual Freedom, VSBA reader, and Long-Range Planning; member of Tennessee Library Association, Tennessee Education Association, MNEA, TENN-Share, and the Freedom to Read Foundation.

### **Statement of Professional Concerns**

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are currently driving factors in my career. The new AASL National Standards include these shared foundations: Include, Inquire, Collaborate, Curate, Explore, and Engage. I aim to exemplify these areas in my professional practice both as a school librarian and as an ALA member. According to the ALA Factsheet, there are 98,460 school libraries in the country and the NEA article "Library/Media Centers in U.S. Public Schools" indicates 90% of public schools have school libraries. Of the 56000 ALA members, approximately 6500 belong to the American Association of School Librarians, yet we do not have a representative on the Executive Board. I understand the importance of Executive Board members representing and including all viewpoints/members. During a time of exciting new standards but economic uncertainties for youth-related library jobs and new directions for ALA, it is essential that passionate advocates for youth and school libraries are included.