

September 12, 2026

Hello Department Chairmen and Committee members!

Fall Conference is coming up and planning is underway. I will be able to share a lot more information in a couple of weeks, but wanted to share what I can now:

- One of the presentations will include a walk-thru of the Department website. Please review your program information on www.aladeptaz.org and make sure it's accurate and up-to-date. Are your bulletins current? Do you have pictures you'd like on the site? Wish lists current? Important upcoming events and dates included? I don't want anyone caught off guard if we click on your page.

- As previously communicated, please bring a simple program board that hits the high points of your program—especially as they engage youth in patriotism. We will again set those up around the room perimeter. If you want to have a game or give-away, that's great, but **we will not have time to pull raffle tickets**—so make sure you are self-reliant on your ideas.

- As leaders, how you dress is important. Please think "Business casual". Branded clothing is always welcome, but please no jeans, tank tops or shorts!

- More soon!!!

Meanwhile....

As I was perusing the National ALA Academy course list, I came across one that I thought would be of interest to each of you! It's from 2024, so the log-in process is a bit different (now you can click on "member portal" and get to the committee page without logging in) and it talks a little about "Unit Member of the Year" which is a Leadership award and doesn't apply to other programs. But the other information is very helpful! Here's the course description and link to the Academy catalog (click on the link and just keep scrolling until you find it).

ALA Leadership Series: So, You're a Department Chair.

Now What?

<https://alaacademy.alaforveterans.org/topclass/searchCatalog.do?catId=0>

This course contains a recorded webinar that will provide you with tips and ideas to help you excel in your role as an ALA Chair, especially at the Department level. Whether you're new to your leadership role or a seasoned veteran, you'll gain insights into leveraging resources available for your ALA program and discover effective strategies for ensuring your Department and Units receive the recognition they deserve for their service, dedication, and hard work. If you want to enhance your leadership skills and make a meaningful impact in your new leadership role, this course is for you!

Learning Objectives:

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Recognize effective strategies to maximize communication with committee members.
- Apply available resources to ensure success in their ALA leadership role.
- Know the correct process of completing Year-End Reporting and Award Submissions.

Thank you for all you do! I'm looking forward to seeing you in November.

Yours in Service,

Marge