

President Elect: Lacy Wolfe

## Lacy Wolfe



Hi, I'm Lacy Wolfe, currently serving as Chief Operating Officer at the North Little Rock Public Library System. I earned my MLS from Indiana University in 2011 and spent ten years in academic libraries at Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University before returning to public libraries—where my library journey began. I've served ARLA as ALA Chapter Councilor for two terms and currently co-chair both the Membership and Public Libraries Communities of Interest.

I'm passionate about connecting people to library services and supporting staff at every level. As President-Elect, I want to strengthen member engagement, support leadership development across all types of libraries, and ensure ARLA remains a strong advocate for our profession.

Outside of work, you'll usually find me reading, knitting, hiking, or training for my next 5K.

SELA Representative: two year term



LaShonda Campbell serves as the Collections Development Librarian at the UA - Monticello. As a passionate advocate for the UAM Taylor Library, she has strengthened the library's resources and services to make it more welcoming for students and faculty. LaShonda earned a BA in Psychology from Tougaloo College, an MLIS from the University of Denver, and a Juris Doctorate from Mississippi College Law School. She also serves as an adjunct professor for the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at UAM.

LaShonda is actively engaged in ArLa, where she serves as a member of the Awards Committee and Conference Program Subcommittee. She is also the co-chair of SELA's New Members' Roundtable. LaShonda was selected as a 2025 American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leader (EL) and Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures Division EL Cohort. LaShonda's cohort had the distinct honor of participating in a poster session and presenting their project, *Financial Impact of Key Volunteer Roles in Core: Developing Financial Assistance Programs to Support Volunteerism*, to Core's Board of Directors at the 2025 ALA's Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LaShonda enjoys traveling with her husband, co-managing the family barbecue business, and spending time with her four daughters and grandkids.

ALA counselor: Crystal Gates, three year term Summer 2028 end of term



Crystal R. Gates, CEO/Chief Librarian of the North Little Rock Public Library Association, is a past president of ArLA and currently serves as ArLA's ALA Councilor and Awards Chair. A dedicated library leader, she actively champions statewide advocacy and legislative engagement in addition to embracing the honor and responsibility of mentoring others. Her professional service includes committee work in ALA and PLA, serving as Past President of the Southeastern Library Association, and filling in wherever needed for ArLA.

Crystal holds an MLIS from LSU and a Master's in History from Louisiana Tech. She believes libraries are more than books - they are catalysts for creative learning, community connection, and economic development. When taking time away from library work, you may find her resting in nature, reading, or creating new recipes in her kitchen.

Member At Large: Jim Curry:



Jim Curry has served as a Member at Large of the 2024-2025 ArLA Board and is running for a second term. A graduate of the UofA Fayetteville and the UNC Chapel Hill library science program, Jim has served as an Arkansas librarian for the last 7 years at the Fayetteville Public Library. This year, Jim graduated from the 38th class of the Fayetteville Chamber's leadership program, building on skills he gained as a member of the 3rd cohort of the Arkansas Library Leadership Institute. He also helped start a community advocacy group, NWA Libraries for All, to promote the importance of all libraries in Arkansas. His spare time consists of community events, gaming in all of its forms, and quality time with his family, friends, and doggo.

Member At Large: Ashley Cooksey



Ashley J. Cooksey (she | her) is an Assistant Professor and the Program Director for the Instructional Technology - Library Media Specialist Master's program at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas, where she also earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Ashley began her teaching career as a 3rd grade classroom literacy teacher in a small, rural school. After obtaining her Master's of Education in Instructional Technology - Library Media Specialist K-12, she served as a school librarian in a 5-8 grade STEM Charter school before moving to a new district to serve as a K-6 elementary school librarian. Ashley has also worked as a high school Instructional Technology Coach, an adjunct instructor, and the Director of the Technology Learning Center at the University of Central Arkansas.

She is a past president and current secretary of the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media (AAIM) and a member of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA), and the American Library Association and American Association for School Librarians (ALA/AASL). Ashley was the 2018 recipient of the AASL Social Media Superstar Award as an Advocacy Ambassador and has received several state and national awards. Currently, Ms. Cooksey is serving on the AASL National School Library Standards review committee. Ashley was recently appointed as an ISTE Community Leader. She also leads the ISTE-U Future Ready Librarians' course as a rotational instructor and enjoys being able to interact with school librarians around the world.

She is a passionate advocate for school library media services, student agency, technology-enhanced learning, and Universal Design for Learning. As a Change Leadership for Equity and Inclusion Ph.D. candidate, her dissertation research focuses on school librarians' lived experiences as leaders in their learning communities. Ms. Cooksey is also a 200-hour registered yoga teacher.

**Member At Large: Cassandra Barnett**



Cassandra Barnett has been a school librarian in both elementary and secondary school libraries for more years than she wants to count. She has presented at state and national conferences on a variety of topics concerning school libraries. An active member of the American Association of School Librarians, she has served on committees both in ALA and AASL, been a member of the AASL Board of Directors, and is a Past-President of AASL. She is currently the Program Advisor for School Libraries at the Arkansas Department of Education's division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Member at large: Shawna Thorup



Shawna Thorup has enjoyed ArLA membership for several years as both a public and an academic librarian. She has assisted in planning more than one ArLA conference, served on the awards and nominating committees, and actively participated in what is currently known as RISci, the Reference and Instructional Services Community of Interest. Currently, she edits the Two-Year Colleges column in *Arkansas Libraries*. Her areas of interest include academic and intellectual freedom, staff/professional development, assessment, information literacy, customer service, and generative AI. Shawna earned a BA in English from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MLIS from UCLA. Since 2016, she has helped Northwest Arkansas Community College students succeed by serving in a number of roles, including adjunct faculty of English. She was recently named NWACC's library director. With her strong background in reference services and having worked her way up in libraries by starting as a shelver, Shawna would advocate for and represent all types of libraries and library workers if elected as a Member-at-Large.

Member at Large Kay Strahan:



Kay Strahan, MSLIS, AHIP is a dedicated health sciences librarian focused on integrating information literacy and evidence-based practice into curricular instruction. Currently serving as Assistant Professor and Northwest Campus Librarian at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Kay oversees all library services on the Northwest Campus, collaborating closely with faculty to integrate librarians into curriculum and provide tailored educational support. As a member of professional organizations like the Medical Library Association (MLA), she remains dedicated to fostering continuous learning and skill development among her peers. Passionate about empowering students and researchers, Kay's hopes to shape the landscape of librarianship in Arkansas through her involvement in volunteer library organizations.

Member at Large: J. Jobe



J. Jobe [ she / her ] "The Rainbows Herself" is a vivacious exultant of color, sound, and movement. She celebrates alma maters Knox College and University of Central Arkansas. Since 2009, she has worked for the Central Arkansas Library System as the editorial assistant for the online resource Encyclopedia of Arkansas. Since 2014, Jobe has additionally taught CALS writing workshops, from journaling, memoir, writing 101, how to workshop, and various genres; to book talks with authors and courses on the ever-popular Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*, to name a few. Jobe's programs can be found under the CALS Writing Circle umbrella. Her current obsession is leading "The WAY," a workshop group for Writing All Year. She is working on her first book, a memoir, and also loves creating visual art collages and reading tarot. Jobe is out as pansexual polyamorous and is living her best life in a rowdy house full of laughter, love, and light...and cats.

Special election effective January- December 2026

**Secretary**

**Misty Hawkins**



Bio to follow soon