Third Town Hall Meeting for 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Time: Mar. 31, 2020 2-3pm Central time

Attendees: Wenli Gao, Lian Ruan, Min Tong, Michael Huang, Dora Ho, Shuzhen Chen, Jianye He, Toan Lam-Sullivan, Xiaocan Wang, Fu Zhuo, Shuhua Liu

Meeting Chair: Wenli Gao & Lian Ruan

Minutes Taker: Min Tong

Question 1: Compared with other library associations (ALA, IFLA, CEAL, ALCTS, APALA, etc.), what do you think CALA can adopt?

Attendees Responded:
• Open to new trend, new change, and global perspectives; make CALA a dynamic, and progressive organization
• Develop, promote and facilitate professional development & leadership
• Connect and collaborate with other professional library associations
• Advocate and committed to diversity, inclusiveness and social justice
• Achieve organizational excellence, raise visibility
• Preserve the history and legacy of CALA
• Reach out to members, committed to service to members
• Be more proactive, reach out to potential members, cultivate younger generation leadership
• Consolidate our efforts in areas that are most important and focus our energy on them; REFORMER is a good example to cultivate younger generation leadership. CALA has too many committees and task forces. CALA needs to be a “moving/flowing organization”, always keeping up with what’s going on in the field of librarianship; CALA is losing its voice among the ethnic library associations
• Tend to social justice issues more; APALA is more upfront in social justice issues; local community involvement
• More mentorship program, starting from library students
• Expanding mentorship between types of library? Such as public library vs. academic library; or types of job responsibilities. Goal is to attract more people to enroll in the mentorship program
Question 2: What improvement can CALA do to meet your expectations?

Attendees Responded:

- CALA members are not very well connected with one another.
- Leadership training
- Social justice issue involvement; more assertive and strong to defend our heritage
- Mentor & mentee accountability
- Take community needs into more consideration
- Too many board meetings? maybe simplify the org charts a little?
- Better transition between committees; better documentations; longer committee service terms; staggering committee terms (half new, half old members)
- Utilizing software to help better team work, like basecamp?; online meeting between departing committee chairs/members and incoming chairs/members
- CALA has too many committees? Need to help young members find leadership opportunities
- Handbook updating
- Committee procedures can be documented on CALA websites
- FAQ page to encourage involvement
- Chapter presidents take more active role
- Does CALA have a business Zoom account to enable committees/chapters to communicate better? (Lian noted: Just set up a zoom account for CALA)
- Add “Contact us” form to CALA homepage to allow members to express their opinion and make suggestions more easily (Xiaocan Wang will take care of the setting up)
- Develop more professional development program nationally and internationally; create more scholarship opportunities to junior members/library students; fundraising; archive CALA history

Other note: CALA Assessment committee is doing assessment survey for CALA webpage, please participate