

The National Associations of Librarians of Color

Florida Library Association – DEIA Webinar

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National Associations of Librarians of Color



... formerly known as “ethnic caucuses”



- Independent associations
- “ALA affiliates”
- Influence: “A seat at the ALA Table”
- Advocacy: Library Services with Diverse Communities

1876

1976

American Library Association

Clara Stanton Jones

“ALA leaders constituted an elite corps of WASP, mostly male, middle-class professionals immersed in the disciplinary and literary canons of the dominant culture.”

(Wiegand, 2015, p. 4)



Before “DEI” there was activism...

1960s Social movements...

Civil rights movement...



ALA Conferences & Segregation
Southern states' Library Associations
E. J. Josey - 1964 Annual Conference
“Integrating librarianship”

“... When you have meals together, when you get together, you tend to gather your people, so they find that they can support each other a little bit better, you know, when they have an association.”

Dora Ho
APALA/CALA



“... three of us sat in a hotel room and we thought: we need identity, we need numbers. What can we do to improve or make ourselves visible in the library world?”

Lotsee Patterson
AILA



“... because of the segregation policies and Jim Crow practices in the South, members of the Black community were not allowed to stay in the hotels, they couldn't go to many restaurants. If they were going to the conferences they couldn't ride the elevator with the rest of the people, they had to ride the freight elevator...”

Andrew P. Jackson / Sekou Molefi Baako
BCALA

“I want to help our people, and libraries. I want us to be influential in the library world and get resources for our people, and books, and materials, and programs, and all this stuff they don't have... they don't get, because they [library leadership] ignore us.”

John Ayala
REFORMA



The 1970s

1970

1971

1973

1979

1980



“Each of us would have our own programming that were related to the specifics of our organizations, but collectively we came together as a mighty fist of five ethnic caucuses.”

Andrew P. Jackson / Sekou Molefi Baako



5 decades later...

- Leadership



- Resources for serving diverse populations

- Advocacy



- Belonging



**Chinese
American
Librarians
Association**

What you can do...



**Attend NALCo
Conferences &
Events**



**Promote NALCo
Book Awards &
Initiatives in your
library**



**Support NALCo
Advocacy for
Diverse
Librarianship**



Bring your ideas



Become a member!

**Everyone is
welcome**

Join a NALCo!

- AILA: <https://ailanet.org>
- APALA: <https://www.apalaweb.org>
 - Southeast Chapter: Hyunjin Han
- BCALA: <https://www.bcala.org>
- CALA: <https://cala-web.org>
 - Southeast Chapter: Yi Wan
- REFORMA: <https://www.reforma.org>
 - REFORMA de Florida: Maria Vega (reformafl@gmail.com)



¡Muchas gracias!

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