



COPE is cosponsoring three events at the 2020 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago: the Intellectual Freedom Round Table Breakfast and Awards program; the IFRT program “Intellectual Freedom, Hate Speech, the First Amendment, and You”; and the Intellectual Freedom Committee program “Practical Applications of the Interpretations of the ALA Library Bill of Rights.” Members of the COPE will speak to professional ethics in the latter two programs.

## **Forward Together Response**

Members of the Committee on Professional Ethics, the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table have expressed concern about the lack of a standing committee to address issues and topics of importance addressing professional ethics, intellectual freedom, and privacy in the Forward Together recommendations. Many expressed a belief that the decision suggests that professional values are no longer viewed as a core value or core function of the association or the library profession. COPE Chair Andy Harant and IFC Chair Julia Warga will be creating specific recommendations on how professional values can be incorporated into the future proposal for ALA.

Members of COPE recognize the need for change in ALA governance structure and appreciate the amount of time, energy, and thought that the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness has put into its recommendations. Aligning ALA structures and reducing the financial footprint will allow leaders to implement a vision for a reimagined association as outlined in the *Code of Ethics of the American Library Association* ([ala.org/tools/ethics](http://ala.org/tools/ethics)) to “strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.” As we move forward together through this process, we must also endeavor to “treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith.”

## **Professional Ethics Liaisons**

Stephen Matthews served as COPE's liaison to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee. He has actively raised ethical issues and concerns in email conversations, in comments on documents, and in virtual and in-person IFC meetings.

The opening line of the *Code of Ethics of the American Library Association* states, "As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying