

I never imagined my first message to all of you as President of the Albany ALA, would be one about a terrible disease that is affecting so many people's lives and businesses.

First and foremost, my heart goes out to anyone who is dealing with the Coronavirus illness either directly or with their family, friends or in their workplace. An event like this can remind us all about what is truly important and what is not.

Second, if any of our members need any guidance on any of the issues surrounding this pandemic, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the Board members and we will make sure we get you answers or at least pointed in the right direction.

I am sure you all have been dealing with all the new administrative issues that come with working remotely and the other business impediments that have been created as a result of the courts being limited and other shutdowns. Feel free to share any stories, experiences or any other knowledge you may have gained so far that you feel may be helpful to the group. If it helps one person in the Chapter, it was important. After all, one of the missions of the ALA is to "provide access to solutions for the most critical, strategic and operational challenges you face while preparing you for the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow."

While we had planned an outstanding Chapter meeting for April 23rd, with the Red Cross, it seems unlikely that we will be able to host this meeting as planned and therefore we have made the decision to cancel our Chapter monthly meeting for April. Later in April as we learn more about the State and Federal government's guidance on the safety of resuming more normal activities, we will determine if we will have a May meeting in person or remotely; and whether the June Business Partner Summer Social will need to be postponed as well.

Again, I am hoping everyone is doing ok during this stressful time and please be safe. Again, any questions, please feel free to reach out.

All best wishes,

Richard Lauricella President Albany Chapter of the ALA