

Stories That Connect Us

I'm an avid follower of all things TLC – and by that, I mean the television channel. So when I learned that Matt Roloff from the show “Little People, Big World” would be speaking at the ALA Annual Conference & Exposition, I was excited to interview him for *ALA News*.



Amy Dvorak
Managing Editor
ASSOCIATION OF
LEGAL ADMINISTRATORS

I found incredible inspiration in the obstacles he has overcome, along with his professional feats. But his personal stories about volunteering, his family and the passion he's developed truly engaged me. Stories are what connect us – as professionals, as ALA members and as people. And that's just what you'll find here.

I am pleased to welcome you to a redesigned – and reconceptualized – *ALA News* magazine. In the following pages, we'll learn not just about Matt Roloff's story, but about some of yours as well. With this new approach, we are covering your personal journeys now more than ever before. Learn about ALA member achievements in the “Discover” section. Get tips from Certified Legal Managers (CLM)SM in our new “Certify” section. Check out the updates and see pictures from all ALA Chapters in “Link,” and connect with ALA President Susan French Koran in her “Relate” column on our back page.

The new concept also reinforces the ALA brand and tagline: *Your connection to knowledge, resources and networking*. All articles in *ALA News* will connect you to each of those professional needs you seek from ALA membership.

Finally, this new look isn't the only exciting change at ALA headquarters. In January, we welcomed new Executive Director Larry C. Smith. Read his first column for your member magazine on page 14.

I invite you to discover the new sections, delve into our feature articles and along the way to share your thoughts. Send your suggestions to me at advorak@alanet.org; I'd love to hear from you!

contributors



Sue Powers is the Education Staff Writer and Program Administrator at ALA headquarters, where she has worked for more than eight years. She holds a master's degree in creative writing and has taught the subject for a community college's adult education program for more than 10 years. She helped to write the feature story, “The

Year to Volunteer,” which begins on page 20. Powers' writings have been nominated for various literary awards, and she received a fellowship and grant for her efforts from the Illinois Arts Council.



Willard E. Lee is the Firm Administrator at Goodman McGuffey Lindsey & Johnson, LLP, in Atlanta, Georgia. He wrote the article, “An Energizing Experience,” (see page 48) about a particularly rewarding ALA Conference. “It rejuvenated me, and I returned to my firm energized. I strongly urge everyone to take advantage of the Conferences and

opportunities offered to us by ALA,” he said. Lee joined ALA in 2005 and is a member of ALA's Atlanta and Cyber Chapters.