



Northern Virginia Chapter

2018 Quest Award Submission
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On behalf of the Northern Virginia Chapter, I am pleased to nominate our Chapter President, Megan Pfeifle, for the 2018 ALA Quest Award. Megan joined our Chapter in fall 2015 as a new legal administrator. She had previously worked as law firm support staff and was excited to be embarking on her new journey as a legal administrator.

From the very beginning, Megan came to every Chapter meeting and immediately got involved in working with the Board. In less than a year, she had volunteered to be the Chapter's Website Chair. As we moved into 2017, I was prepared to step down as Chapter President and knew Megan would be great for the role, so I nominated her. She happily accepted the role and hit the ground running.

Since Megan joined, she has attended nearly every Chapter-sponsored event, including happy hours and evening dinners. She actively promotes the Chapter and supports the endeavors of both members and Business Partners. She's participated in paint-and-sips and networking events hosted by our Business Partners. She has also attended member hosted events such as firm parties and charity walks to rally support and foster friendship. Megan strives to make sure every member and Business Partner feels not only valued, but like a friend, and it shows.

She joined the Business Partner Committee and worked with our Board of Directors to enhance the program, suggesting social media offerings to better connect Business Partners and members. Megan sparked the idea of the Membership Ambassadors, who actively recruit new members for our Chapter, and sought out two well-qualified members for the job. She participated on the Education Committee and found several great speakers for our luncheon events. This year, she joined the committee for the 2018 Virginia ALA Statewide Retreat and has been an active participant.

Most encouraging about Megan is her drive and dedication to continued learning. While working and being active in ALA this year, Megan also spent six months studying for and passing HRCI's PHR and SHRM's CP exam, being the first in our Chapter to achieve this certification. She encourages other members to pursue higher education, and since assuming the role as President, has made education and inclusiveness the forefront of her goals.

With just a few months of the presidency under her belt, Megan jumped straight in with fresh ideas. The first task was a redesign of our website. She managed the project from beginning to end, including finding a suitable website builder, negotiating the contract, and reworking much of the website content. She updates both the website and ALA National's Chapter Board with meeting minutes, educational luncheon summaries, and has ensured the Chapter News is delivered weekly.

Megan pushed for more regular Board meetings including initiating breakfast events, and has instituted a quarterly Board "round up" email in which she recaps progress, ongoing initiatives, and future planning, so everyone is up to speed on what is happening behind the scenes. This has really solidified the Board's sense of team work and has produced some excellent ideas.



2018 Quest Award Submission Page 2

Our new educational offering, the *Friday Fast Five*, which is a weekly newsletter, was an idea created by Megan. The weekly email is customized to the needs of our members and includes five industry-related articles. The Chapter is particularly proud of this idea, as it has taken off in popularity with not only our members but with our Business Partners. The offering has gone beyond our Chapter to other Virginia Chapters, as well as ALA Region 2 leadership.

Megan is regularly praised by our members for her leadership skills and ability to keep the Chapter running smoothly. She is an excellent role model of the ALA Code of Professional Responsibility, and takes her duties seriously with regards to ethical behavior, communication, and respect. She is an extremely honest individual who strives to promote diversity and cultivate an environment that projects a positive image not only of our Chapter, but of ALA as a whole.

Member ideas and suggestions are taken very seriously by Megan, and in October, she launched a member survey to find out how we could serve our Chapter better. She aggregated and disseminated the results to the Chapter, and the Board intends to use them in 2018 strategy planning.

Finally, our Chapter's participation in the 2018 ALA Award Cycle is largely due to Megan's encouragement to elevate our Chapter. Our chapter has put the *Friday Fast Five* forward for the IDEA Award, has met the qualifications for the President's Award, and is applying for the Elevate Award. Our Board felt Megan is truly deserving of the nomination for the Quest award.

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Board of Directors, our members, and our Business Partners who support Megan as our Chapter President, we hope you choose her as the recipient for the 2018 Quest Award.