

Public Library Division Chair-Elect Candidates

Rebecca Anderson, *Riter C Hulsey Public Library*

At this time in our country, we should all be concerned with the long-term and social implications that come with allowing politics and the personal opinions of individuals to influence and obstruct the collections, services, and resources a public library provides to the public. To maintain the integrity of the public library system and all that it stands for, we must work together and support one another in upholding the standards and principles the institution was built on; intellectual freedom and the freedom to read, access to diverse collections, and the opportunities to continue learning throughout one's life.

John Hayden, *Walworth Harrison Public Library*

Looking at critical issues through the eyes of a Public Library Director can be different than looking through the eyes of a circulation staff member. We have ban books, financial cuts, and more and more public libraries are becoming a political standoff than ever before.

We need to find ways we can get back to what public libraries are all about, empowering lives, making a difference in those who walk in our doors, and how we are the cornerstone of the communities we are in. We need to stand unified on the issues we're facing so we can face them together. The more together we are the more impact we will have in this state and in this world.