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The American Library Association has a 125+ year history of protecting the rights of others, including the right to advocate for one's own viewpoint, the right to choose what to read, the right of access to information and resources, the right to privacy, and the right to equality. ALA also has a 70-year old Code of Ethics governing the practice of the entire staff of libraries -

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/codeofethics/codeethics.cfm>.

In 2002, ALA established the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association to be a champion for the right of library staff to be paid fairly and to make available certification programs to enable library staff to improve their skills and knowledge of the field of librarianship. In Professionals for the Public Interest (PftPI), which is addressing the rights of library staff to practice in accordance with the ALA Code of Ethics, is quite fitting and a natural, albeit long time in coming, progression.

ALA shares interests in PftPI with other endorsing organizations and unions that look forward to success in changing mindsets and policies in the areas of improved funding education, including higher education and grants, and libraries' ability to provide services that meet the needs of their communities; protecting whistleblowers, employees who wish to expose truths; and protecting privacy and civil liberties. ALA-APA has additional concerns in the areas of collecting and publicizing accurate salary data and trends, particularly with gender as a variable; and the ways PftPI will be able to assist organizations and unions with demonstrating and highlighting the value of well-trained professionals.

The **American Library Association (ALA)** is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 65,000 members. Its mission is to promote the highest quality library and information services and public access to information. ALA offers professional services and publications to members and nonmembers, including online news stories from American Libraries and analysis of crucial issues from the Washington Office.

The **American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA)** is a nonprofit professional organization established "to promote the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers." To that end, the ALA-APA is focused on two broad areas: 1) Certification of individuals in specializations beyond the initial professional degree, 2) Direct support of comparable worth and pay equity initiatives, and other activities designed to improve the salaries and status of librarians and other library workers.