

REFORMA DE FLORIDA

Noticias Electorales/Election News

Notes from the Editor

This election issue of *Qué pasa?/What's happening?* features Candidate Statements for members running for Executive Board positions.

Alicia Long, Academic Librarian and Access Services Supervisor at the State College of Florida, is running for President.

Mari Martinez Serrano, Youth Services Senior Librarian at the Southwest Regional Library, is running for Vice President.

Nicole Gaudier Alemañy, Librarian at the Jacksonville Public Library, is running for Secretary.

Isabel Castro, Branch Manager at the Newark Public Library, is running for Treasurer.

Voting is limited to members only. If you're an At-Large member and want to vote, please email reformaf1@gmail.com for information about how to attain voting status. Elections take place in June.

Until next time!

Alma Ramos-McDermott, Editor

Alicia K. Long: President

My name is Alicia K. Long. I use the pronouns she-her/ella, and I respectfully submit my self-nomination for the position of President of the Florida chapter of REFORMA. I am originally from Argentina, and have been a member of REFORMA since 2009. In 2010 I attended my first ALA Conference as an ALA Spectrum Scholar, and decided to take a look at REFORMA's sessions and events. I was hooked forever!



Since then I have served REFORMA in the following capacities:

- Member of CAYASC 2010-present
- REFORMA-sponsored ALA Emerging Leader 2012 (created Noche de Cuentos website)
- Member and Recording Secretary of REFORMA de Florida 2011-2012
- Chair of REFORMA Public Relations Committee 2013-2014
- Member of Pura Belpré Committee 2014
- Chair of Pura Belpré Committee 2018

I work as an academic librarian and access services supervisor at the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, and teach Multicultural Literature for Children at the University of South Florida, School of Information. (continued on page 2)

Alicia K. Long (continued)

In addition to those two jobs, I tend to get involved in any project that seeks to ensure access to knowledge and information to all. I have conducted family literacy programs and bilingual presentations in public and school libraries. I am also a reviewer for *The Horn Book Magazine*, and am the current Chair of the Walter Awards (from *We Need Diverse Books*.)

I am interested in being the President of REFORMA de Florida because I firmly believe in the mission of REFORMA, of promoting library services to Latinx and the Spanish-speaking, and can't find a better state to do that than Florida!

I am truly humbled and excited to see all the new members who are joining our renewed chapter, and can't wait to see what we will achieve together.

If I get your support, I envision a year of working together to establish our presence as leaders in library services and advocacy for all Latinx Floridians.

Mari Martinez Serrano: Vice President



My name is María de Lurdy (Mari) Martínez Serrano, and I am a Youth Services Senior Librarian at the Southwest Regional Library part of the Broward County Library System in Southern Florida.

My career in libraries began in 2012 when I was hired at the St. Helena Public Library in Northern California as a part-time Community Liaison. At that time, the population of the community was rapidly changing and the library understood the importance and need to work harder to reform its services, collections, and programs, especially for minority groups. Demographic information was clear evidence of that need. For example, the state census at that time showed that 60% of the student body in the school district were of Latino descent, first-generation Latino, or Spanish-speakers. Also, we were particularly alarmed by the fact that around 10% of the adult population in the town was linguistically isolated. Many of them only spoke Spanish and had recently arrived in the country.

With an evident need for more and better library services to these communities the library went into a shifting mode, and I am proud of my role in its transformation. As the only Latina, Spanish-speaker, and then, as an MLIS student, my positions were quickly modified and I began working closely with the library and city leadership to address opportunities and execute changes. Some examples include but are not limited to hiring more
(continued on page 3)

Mari Martinez Serrano (continued)

Spanish-speakers and culturally diverse staff, providing diversity training, increasing programming to reflect the needs of different community groups, and drastically improving the collection to include quality materials in Spanish. I am very proud of the accomplishments of that small but mighty library and it is an experience and knowledge I carry with me wherever I go.

I relocated to South Florida after I obtained my MLIS degree from San Jose State University early in 2017. Quickly after, I began working as Youth Services Librarian with Broward County Libraries. I am happy to share that I was recently promoted to Senior, Youth Services Librarian, which is an exciting new chapter in my path of service. I am very proud of the achievements of the previous library I worked at, and of Broward County Library's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and unity.

I would like to serve as the new Vice President/President-Elect of the REFORMA Chapter of Florida because I am ready to serve in a different capacity. I am eager to learn from all of you and to share my experiences, not only with our immediate familia in the REFORMA Chapter of Florida but also with REFORMA National and beyond. It will be an honor to serve as your Vice President/President-Elect, which I know will be a gratifying and wonderful experience and opportunity. I am looking to working with and for all of you.

Nicole Gaudier Alemañy: Secretary

I, Nicole Gaudier Alemañy, would like to nominate myself for Secretary of Reforma de Florida. I was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and have lived in Florida for most of my life. I grew up not only surrounded by fellow members of the Puerto Rican Diaspora, but also with families from across Latin America. I've lived in Jacksonville, Florida, and Tallahassee, Florida, and have family and friends all over the state. I have been assisting patrons at Florida libraries since 2015, and continuously assisted Spanish speaking and Latinx patrons across the digital divide.

I am invested and interested in helping our chapter flourish so we can continue to serve the Latinx & Spanish speaking populations in Florida. I hope to serve our team & members as the Reforma de Florida Secretary.



Isabel Castro: Treasurer

I am running for the position of Treasurer of Reforma de Florida, a position I have held in the past. I believe my experience in handling the financial affairs of the organization will be helpful in moving us forward. Thank you for your support.

