

REFORMA DE FLORIDA

Noticias del mes/News of the month

Notes from the Editor

Happy April!

We begin this newsletter with important information about our chapter and the Executive Board's 2025 Call for Nominations. Members are encouraged to nominate themselves or another member for a position.

ReDeFL will be well represented at the upcoming FLA conference. In one program, we're joining Spanish Publishers to sponsor an author breakfast on Thursday May 15th, but space is limited to the first 50 registrants. Be sure to go to page 3 to reserve your spot and to read about our other amazing programs.

Finally, we end with a new column titled "*In the Know*," which features interesting things happening in Florida libraries. Please [email](#) me if there's something you want our members to know.

PS- If you're a corporate member, check out p. 4!

Until next time!

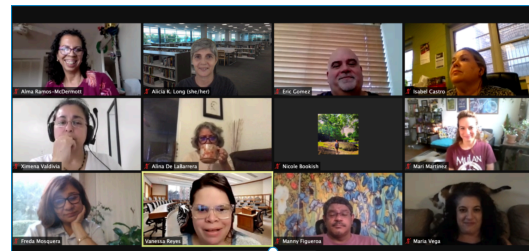
Alma Ramos-McDermott
Editor

A Chapter History: A Call for Nominations

by Alma Ramos-McDermott

It's Nomination time! Every spring, members are asked to step up and run for a Board position. Without an Executive Board helping to keep our chapter active and growing, and without members, we would quickly become a memory rather than a happening.

Look at our chapter's beginnings in the late 90's. At that time, and for the next two decades, we followed a pattern of



building up speed, then dying off due to member inaction. In 2020, during one of those periods of inaction, I chaired a task force of 3 REFORMA members from FL and we worked hard to revitalize the chapter. Within months COVID hit, but we held fun, online meetings. At that time I dubbed us "*The Phoenix*," because we rose from the ashes to hold our first election in 2021.

The first President in our 2021-2022 *Phoenix Year-of-Action* was Alicia Long. Mari Martinez-Serrano held up the Presidential torch in 2022-2023, while Maria Vega took the plunge and was elected President for 2023-2024. When our 2024 President-Elect backed out shortly before taking office, the Board asked Maria to serve another year. Maria rose to the challenge and has served our chapter as President for the past 2 years (2023-2025). Thank you for your service, Maria!

For our 5-year Presidential "*wood anniversary*" (representing strength, wisdom, and deep roots), we're proud Lucia Gonzalez (former ALSC President, former REFORMA National President, Award-winning Pura Belpré author, former City of North Miami Library Director, Storyteller, and Consultant) answered the Board's call and stepped up to be appointed Vice President. Lucia

A chapter history and a Call for Nominations (con't.)

will take up the reins as our 2025 President in June.

The positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer are open for the 2025-2026 year. Please look over the descriptions below and contact us to run. I look forward to hearing from you!



****2025 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS****

Attention, current members of REFORMA de Florida! Are you looking to energize our chapter with fresh ideas? Are you ready to join a dynamic group dedicated to developing, supporting, and enhancing library services and programs for the Latinx and Spanish-speaking communities in Florida? Do you know someone who could contribute to our mission?

****WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!****

Take action and nominate yourself or a deserving friend for one of the following Executive Board positions:

****President****

- Lead Executive Board and Membership meetings with authority.
- Appoint Chairpersons to spearhead key committees.
- Serve as the chapter representative on REFORMA National's Board of Directors.
- Represent REFORMA de Florida on the FLA Board of Directors.
- Prepare an annual report detailing REFORMA de Florida's achievements and activities for the annual ALA meeting, and keep REFORMA National informed of chapter events and updates.

****Vice President/President-Elect****

- Step up in the absence or disability of the President, executing all necessary duties.
- Actively assist the President and perform additional responsibilities as mandated by the by-laws and Executive Board.
- Chair the Membership Committee and drive engagement.
- Keep the President and Secretary updated on new members.

****Secretary****

- Take charge of minutes for Executive Board, Advisory Board, and Membership meetings.
- Ensure that minutes from previous meetings are readily available to all members.
- Handle chapter correspondence efficiently.
- Archive and preserve all REFORMA de Florida minutes and reports for future reference.

Call for Nominations (con't.)

****Treasurer****

- Command responsibility for all REFORMA de Florida funds.
- Maintain precise records of receipts and disbursements.
- Deposit all chapter funds in a bank chosen by the Executive Board without fail.
- Deliver an oral or written financial report at each Executive Board and Membership meeting.
- Collaborate with REFORMA National and chapter officers to ensure proper collection of membership dues.
- Work hand-in-hand with Regional Delegates to effectively manage funds generated by each region.

****RESPOND NOW****

Submit your nominations to REFORMA de Florida between April 1 and April 15, 2025.

Let's shape our chapter's future together!

REFORMA de Florida joins the fun at the 2025 FLA Annual Conference!

by Lucia M. Gonzalez

We are excited to share that REFORMA de Florida will be joining the fun at the 2025 FLA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL from May 14 to 16! We look forward to a fantastic lineup of REFORMA de Florida programs planned for this year.

We will kick off our programs on Wednesday at 8:00 AM with *"Noche de Cuentos: A Family Literacy Initiative for Building Community Through Storytelling."* This panel will feature presenters Maria Vega from the Broward County Library, Dr. Alicia K. Long, LIS educator, and Lucia Gonzalez, Spanish Publishers Library Consultant. They will discuss effective strategies and tools for planning and implementing successful Noche events as well as marketing and outreach techniques. Additionally, they will share best practices for performing and presenting bilingual Noche programming. (Location: Pelican - Tower Conference Center, 2nd Floor)



In the afternoon, at 1:30 pm, join us for an engaging panel discussion hosted by the FLA DEIA Committee. REFORMA member Alejandra Rodriguez, who serves as Committee Co-Chair, will lead a thought-provoking session titled *"Libraries Are for Everyone: Building and Maintaining an Inclusive Collection."* This panel will explore best practices and strategies for creating collections that reflect and serve diverse communities. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to important conversations about inclusivity in libraries. (Location: Diamond - Palms Conference Center)

FLA Conference events (con't.)

Thursday morning May 15, from 7:00 to 8:00 AM, you are invited to a delightful **Power Breakfast** with Spanish Publishers, LLC and REFORMA de Florida! We are excited to welcome renowned author Julio Bevione, who will share insights and stories with us. All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of his book, "*Volver a mí*." Space is limited to the first 50 respondents, so please [RSVP](#).

(Location: Diamond - Palms Conference Center)

We will conclude our wonderful lineup with a presentation by REFORMA de Florida President Maria Vega titled "*Que no pare la fiesta—Don't Stop the Party!*" This session will celebrate REFORMA and GNCRT's inaugural Core Collaboration List of the Best Graphic Novels for Latinx audiences and how they can be used for engaging programming in Broward County Libraries during Hispanic Heritage Month.

(Location: Harbor - Tower Conference Center, 2nd Floor)

Get ready for an amazing time together!

In the Know

In this new column, we showcase what's going on in Florida libraries. If it sounds interesting, go ahead and research it! Stay "*in the know*."

If you want to contribute to "*In the Know*," send me an [email](#) and I'll make sure it's in our next newsletter. Are YOU in the know?

- *University of Florida Smathers Library* hosted an event in February featuring Emilio Cueto, a Cuban-American author who has done extensive research on Cuban heritage. There is an [article about it on their website](#)
- *FIU Libraries* is hosting an April event for National Poetry Month called "[Latino Poetry: Homes and Horizons \(Poesía Latina: Hogares y Horizontes\)](#)." This program is part of a larger initiative funded by the *National Endowment for the Humanities Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home*.

Are you a Corporate member of REFORMA de Florida?

Corporate members are an important part of our chapter. Send a photo, business card, or a short blurb about your company for a future newsletter. We want to know more about you!

What's happening in your region?: (Northern, Central, or Southern)

What's happening in your library or region related to our Latino community? Email us your name, region, title, library name, a short summary of your news or event, and any photos. Your news can grow membership in your region, and for our chapter, so we look forward to hearing from you.

***Were you forwarded this newsletter but are not yet a member of
REFORMA de Florida?***

To join or renew, go to REFORMA National's Membership page and make sure to check REFORMA de Florida as your chapter.



***Is your membership getting ready to expire?
Are you a Member-at-large?***

Not sure if your membership is expiring? Email me and I'll let you know your status.

If you're a Member-at-large (not associated with ReDeFL or any chapter), email me for information on how to join the Florida chapter as a full-fledged member.