

Thursday, January 20, 2022

TO: ALA Council
From: Mike Marlin, Chair, ALA Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) Committee)
RE: ALA Bylaws Amendment
INFORMATION REPORT/Action Requested

Introduction/background:

The 2021-22 C&B Committee began conversations and deliberations in September 2021 and has been busy since. In addition to discussion and weighing of motions concerning CD46.1, item 2 (Round Tables), C&B held in depth discussions among its members and in conjunction with the Policy Monitoring Committee regarding the formalization process for the LibLearnX (LLX) event in 2022 and beyond. ALA's Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Manual still contain references to the Midwinter Conference (proper) and a midwinter conference on the calendar in the months preceding the summertime ALA Conference. The committees concurred that current action on our part is not feasible in the transitory ALA governance environment, nor warranted, as the informal or formal adoption/codification of LLX is not within our joint purview. We have recommended that the ALA Conference Committee and Office of Conference Services, along with ALA Executive Board undertake this important matter so that it may be addressed by the governing body – ALA Council.

Additionally, C&B held discussions about the planning process for eventual Constitution and/or Bylaws revamping/revision that in the near future is likely to result from the Association's ongoing governance review process. In November C&B met with leaders of the Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) Working Group, Resolutions Committee, Committee On Organization, and ALA senior staff for a broad ranging, general conversation and overview of TAG's work and direction. The takeaway for C&B is, whatever and whenever a new governance model is voted upon and passed by ALA Council, ALA Bylaws and/or Constitution will necessitate revision, change, and reconstruction. Anticipating C&B as the potential committee for referral by Council, and the need to bring together subject matter experts to assist us

This discussion also suggested that, if this review of dues structures exclusively pertains to the directive for setting Round Table dues, then representatives from the Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) could be tasked with deeper investigation of the Forward Together Financial Analysis WG (FTFAWG) report and related discussions, to offer suggestions for an updated model for Round Table dues structures. It was also observed that standardization and reduction of dues-setting authority would reduce complexity and would be a good topic for discussions and recommendations by the TAG Task Force.

Options for consolidating dues structures and rates could include: adding Round Table dues options to the Bylaws-defined process for personal members, discussion among RTCA members to further develop new structures and rates, assigning ownership of dues structure and rate development to an existing group that has this in their charge, such as the ALA Membership Committee, or others.

Motion:

Move that, under existing ALA bylaws the ALA Membership Committee, through collaboration with and input from the Round Table Coordinating Assembly ((L)10(A)1 (M)7(em)7ber)7

Whereas Round Tables cannot create ALA policies or speak on behalf of the Association;

Whereas Round Tables may recommend policy and action to other units;

Whereas members of ALA may join Round Tables by payment of the specified dues;
and

Whereas Round Tables improve the vitality of ALA and are often the entry point to ALA engagement, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. affirms Round Tables are a vital part of the ALA structure;

