ALA Resolutions Committee Report to Council
2017 Midwinter Meeting – Atlanta, GA
Ed Sanchez, Chair, ALA Resolutions Committee
January 23, 2017

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: According to our charge, the Council Resolutions Committee serves in an advisory and channeling capacity for all resolutions presented for Council’s consideration. We review all resolutions submitted to Council pursuant to the criteria established by Council. The Committee is also directed to provide consistent, in-depth training for all new members.

We have begun a review of the Committee’s charge and our implementation of that charge.

The ALA Handbook of Organization states, in part, that the Committee’s charge includes the following responsibilities:

- To provide an advisory and channeling function for all resolutions presented for Council;
- To advise the makers on how to bring their resolutions into compliance with the Guidelines adopted by Council in Policy 5.3;
- To determine the policy or non-policy nature of all resolutions to be presented to Council and transmit the resolutions with the appropriate indication;
- To review all resolutions passed by Membership to determine those that are clearly policy matters and therefore should be forwarded to Council for action;
- To submit to the Executive Director and the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) all resolutions deemed to have fiscal implications at least 24 hours before they appear on the Council agendas so that BARC can provide fiscal information as required in by ALA policy.

After examining our charge and reviewing the procedures surrounding the preparation and presentation of resolutions, it has become clear to us that we have not fully embraced the full extent of our responsibilities. We can do more to assist Council in the creation of concise, well-structured, professional resolutions which allow Council to focus on content not minutiae (e.g., grammar, parallel construction, etc.). In addition, we will strive to identify and provide guidance around potential policy, by-law, financial, and legal implications earlier in the process.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS: Going forward our priorities as a committee will be to develop consistent, in-depth training for members as well as adopting a more proactive and engaged approach to advising resolution movers (see attached examples of resolution flowcharts for various entities). We ask for your patience and participation as we develop a more rigorous resolutions process in pursuit of a more efficient use of Council’s time and energy.

We will be reviewing our charge, the scope of our work, and how we as Committee members can train ourselves to better meet your needs both as writers of resolutions and as councilors whose time is valuable. As we progress, we hope to enlist the help of the Committee on Organization to recommend any potential changes to our charge. We ask that Council bear with us as we clarify mandate, process, scope and authority of the Resolutions Committee.

If we do this work together and do it well we believe it can benefit the entire organization.
ALA & Council Standing Committees

Committee Resolutions

Resolutions Committee

BARC

Committee Reports

Council Secretariat

Council I-III

Adopted?

no

yes

Dissemination

Implementation

Directive

Exec. Director Report

Resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to BARC

— ALA Policy A.4.2.3