

This resolution was referred to President Julie Todaro's task force on June 27, 2016

Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association

Whereas the mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all;

Whereas one of the core organizational values is an open, inclusive and collaborative environment;

Whereas the Association has established a governing structure in which 53 chapter councilors representing states and territories encompass approximately one third of ALA Council membership;

Whereas Chapter Councilors, in addition to their governance duties, are responsible for disseminating information to and from the Chapter to ALA leadership;

Whereas ALA leadership and staff do not always make an effort to seek input from Chapters regarding planned contacts with, and invitations to, State elected officials;

Whereas several Chapters have expressed concern that the Chapter Councilors do not have the opportunity to discuss initiatives with ALA leadership prior to those initiatives being implemented nationally and being imposed on the state Chapters; and

Whereas several Chapters have expressed concern that ALA leadership has not responded directly when Chapter Executive Directors and other Chapter leaders have reached out to ALA; now, therefore, be it

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

1. Ensure that the Chapters have a role in developing national initiatives and /or campaigns and that such campaigns specify the expected role of the Chapters
2. Keep communication channels open by responding directly to any communication from the Chapters in a timely manner and prior to responding publicly to the ALA membership and council
3. Support efforts to expand the role of the Chapter Relations Committee, ensuring that Chapter Councilors have a presence on the Chapter Relations Committee
4. Consult the Chapter Leadership prior to any response to local legislative issues, or any invitation to or recognition of an elected official from that state and
5. Communicate the resolution to all Chapters and to the ALA membership.

Mover: Jayne Beline, New Jersey Chapter Councilor
Seconder: Cynthia Czesak, ALA Councilor-at-Large

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E-From for Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association

Submitted on Sunday, June 26, 2016 - 20:54

Submitted by user:

Submitted values are:

Date: 06/26/2016

Resolution author(s): Jayne Beline and Cynthia Czesak

E-mail address: jayne.beline@parsippanylibrary.org

1. Title of Resolution: Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association

2. ALA Units and/or Committees Consulted (if any):

Chapter Councilors; Chapter Council Forum;

CRC

3. Endorsements by ALA Units and/or Committees (if any):

Chapter Councilors

NJLA Board

4. Fiscal implications: Specify the resources needed to carry out the resolution's directive(s).: None

5. List all parties to whom resolution should be sent:

ALA Council

ALA Executive Board

Resolutions Committee

6. Impact on ALA Policies and Positions: Explain how the resolution supports

ALA's Strategic Plan, its mission, and/or its core values.: Supports core

organizational value of an open, inclusive and collaborative environment

6a) ALA general policy or viewpoint: If the resolution sets forth a general

policy or an ALA viewpoint, describe.:

6b) Change in existing policy: If this resolution necessitates a change in

existing policy, state the policy number and the change.:

6c) New policy: If this resolution establishes new policy, describe.:

6d) Policy conflicts: If this resolution conflicts with existing policy,

state provisions for resolving the conflict.:

7. Initiating Committee or Unit (if any): NJLA Board

8. Pertinent Background Information, e.g. bibliography, citations, supportive

quotes, URLs, etc.:

9. Mover's Name: Jayne Beline

10 Seconder's Name: Cynthia Czesak