

GLBTRT Bylaws & Mission Statement

Mission Statement

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (hereafter referred to as the GLBTRT) of the American Library Association is committed to serving the information needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender professional library community, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender information and access needs of individuals at large. We are committed to encouraging and supporting the free and necessary access to all information, as reflected by the missions of the American Library Association.

The GLBTRT provides its members, other American Library Association divisions, members, and affiliates, and the library and information science field as a whole with a forum for discussion and an environment for education and learning regarding the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender professional community and population at large.

I. PURPOSE

The GLBTRT of the American Library Association (ALA) shall:

- promote the improved quality, quantity, and accessibility of library materials and service of particular interest or usefulness to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people of all ages;
- develop, promote and defend unrestricted access of all library users to information by or about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people;
- sponsor and promote awareness of programs and of the Stonewall Book Awards;
- provide bibliographic services to librarians, archivists, other information professionals, and library users;
- work toward eliminating job discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender employees of libraries, archives, and information centers;
- advocate revising classification schemes, subject heading lists, indices, etc., in order to remove terms derogatory to the lives, activities, and contributions to culture and society of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people;
- advocate within the membership and leadership of ALA on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender librarians, archivists, other information specialists, and library users;
- support other under-represented and disadvantaged groups working for adequate representation and equal opportunity within ALA;
- work with groups outside ALA interested in achieving equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people;
- provide opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender librarians, archivists, and other information specialists attending ALA conferences to meet and socialize with one another; and

- promote the ALA's Library Bill of Rights and its Code of Ethics.

II. EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. The Executive Board is made up of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Past-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, five (5) Directors-at-Large, and the Round Table Councilor.
- B. The Chair serves a three-year term: in the first year as Chair-elect, in the second year as Chair, in the third year as immediate Past-Chair
- C. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors-at-Large serve a two-year term and are eligible for up to two consecutive terms in the same position.
- D. The Round Table councilor serves a three-year term and may be reelected to a second three year term.
- E. All officers and elected members of the Executive Board shall serve until the adjournment of the Annual Conference that follows the selection of their successor. If a position is vacated before the completion of the term, the Executive Board will select a person to serve the remainder of that term.
- F. The Executive Committee of the Executive Board is comprised of the Chair, Past-Chair, and Chair-elect. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the GLBTRT in the intervals between meetings.

III. CANDIDATES AND ELECTIONS

Elections

- A. The Round Table shall elect a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, five Directors-at-Large, and a Round Table Councilor.
- B. Elections will take place annually on the spring ballot.
- C. Chair-Elect is elected every year.
- D. Secretary and Treasurer are elected on alternating years.
- E. At least one but not all Directors-at-Large will be elected in alternating years.
- F. Round Table Councilor is elected every three years in accordance with ALA's Bylaws Article IV, Section 2(d). Candidates for Round Table Councilor must meet the requirements outlined in ALA Bylaws Article IV.

Candidates for Office

The immediate Past-Chair of the Round Table will be charged with providing GLBTRT election information to the membership and encouraging members to run for office using the ALA Election system in accordance with the deadlines set by ALA. Any personal member of the GLBTRT may self-nominate for any vacant position.

Qualifications

Candidates for elected offices must be members of ALA and GLBTRT. Candidates are required to attend the in-person membership and Executive Board meetings scheduled for the Annual Conferences and Midwinter Meetings as well as other official meetings of the Executive Board that may include any regularly scheduled conference calls, virtual meetings, etc. as applicable to current Executive Board practice during their term of office

Voting Status

Members of the American Library Association GLBTRT are eligible to vote in Round Table elections and on Round Table ballot initiatives.

IV. COMMITTEES

The Round Table shall pursue its goals primarily through the work of its committees. Any member interested in serving on a committee must fill out the GLBTRT committee volunteer web form(s). All members of GLBTRT committees and GLBTRT representatives to Joint Committees shall be members of the Round Table.

Committee Creation and Dissolution

The Executive Board may create or dissolve standing committees. Dissolution of a Standing Committee requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board at both ALA Annual Conference and a Midwinter Meeting occurring in two different fiscal years in order to allow consideration of the decision under two different leadership terms.

Standing Committees

Standing Committees refers to committees with long-term objectives to carry out the work of the GLBTRT. Standing Committees and their charges are identified in the Round Table Procedures.

- A. Member terms for standing committees begin at the end of the Annual Conference.
- B. Members shall be appointed by the Round Table's Chair-Elect. Members of standing committees shall be appointed for terms of two years, and may be reappointed for a second but not a third consecutive term; but in no case shall a person serve on a committee for more than four consecutive years. Appointments shall be made in such a manner as to provide continuity in membership.
- C. Chairs shall serve one-year terms and will be appointed by the Round Table's Chair-Elect annually from the upcoming membership of the committee. Standing committee Chairs may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- D. Members of newly formed committees authorized during the year shall be appointed to initial terms by the GLBTRT Chair in such a manner so as to provide future continuity in membership.

E. Vacancies shall be filled by an appointment made by the GLBTRT Chair, and the new appointee shall serve until the expiration of the term for the member replaced.

Book Committees

Book Committees are a class of standing committee dealing with book awards and lists whose terms begin at the end of the Midwinter Meeting. Book Committees' and their charges are identified in the Round Table Procedures. The three book committees are the Stonewall Book Awards Committee, the Rainbow Book List Committee, and the Over the Rainbow Book List Committee.

- A. Member terms of all book committees begin at the end of the Midwinter Meeting.
- B. Members shall be appointed by the GLBTRT Chair for a one-year term. Appointments shall be made in such a manner as to provide continuity in membership. No individual may serve on a single book committee more often than once every two years. This guideline will not apply to the selection of Chair.
- C. Vacancies shall be filled by an appointment made by the GLBTRT Chair, and the new appointee shall serve until the expiration of the term for the member replaced.

Award Committees

Award Committees are a class of standing committee dealing with non-book awards. Award Committees are established by the Executive Board upon approval by the ALA Awards Committee and in compliance with restrictions outlined in the approval.

- A. Newlen-Symons Award for Excellence in Serving the GLBT Community
 - 1. The award jury and jury chair shall be appointed by the GLBTRT Chair, past chair and chair-elect.
 - 2. Five jurors (including the Chair) will be appointed annually for one year terms, and all jurors must hold membership in GLBTRT. Efforts will be made to appoint a jury reflecting diversity across library type, geography and culture.
 - 3. Donors are not eligible to serve on the jury for their award
- B. Larry Romans Mentorship Award
 - 1. The award jury and jury Chair will be chosen by the GLBTRT Chair, past Chair, and Chair-elect together with the GODORT Chair and GODORT Awards Committee Chair, with GODORT Steering Committee approval.
 - 2. The jury will consist of six members to be appointed annually for one-year terms, with three representing GLBTRT and three representing GODORT. The three GODORT representatives will be selected from the current GODORT Awards Committee, and one of those three will be the current GODORT Awards Committee Chair. An effort will be made to select members who work in a broad cross-section of library types.

3. Donors are not eligible to serve on the jury for the award.

C. GLBTRT Award for Political Activism

1. The award jury and jury Chair will be chosen by the GLBTRT Chair, past Chair, and Chair-elect. Efforts will be made to select jurors who work in a broad cross-section of library types.

2. The jury will consist of five members (including the Chair) who will be appointed annually for one year terms and who must be members of GLBTRT.

3. Donors are not eligible to serve on the jury for the award.

Ad Hoc and Special Committees

Ad Hoc or Special Committees may be formed as necessary to complete the business of the Round Table for projects of limited length.

A. Formation of ad hoc committees require a majority vote of the Executive Board. Any member of the Round Table may propose a special project to the Executive Board

B. The Ad Hoc or Special Committee Chair shall be appointed by the GLBTRT Chair.

C. Chairpersons and members of Ad Hoc Committees and Special Committees shall serve for the life of the committee except in cases where an Ad Hoc or Special Committee becomes a Standing Committee. In those cases, appointment, term length and limits are subject to normal Standing Committee rules.

D. Ad Hoc or Special Committees may be dissolved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

V. LIAISONS

Establishing liaisons to specific target groups will be encouraged when the relationship appears to be beneficial to the Round Table. The Chair will appoint liaisons from the membership to other groups both inside and outside ALA. Liaisons shall serve a two-year term and may be appointed for a second. In no case shall a person serve as a liaison to a specific group for more than four consecutive years. Terms shall be staggered such that approximately half of continuing liaison positions are appointed each year. Liaison appointments may be for specific projects or on-going.

VI. MEETINGS

A. At least one membership meeting shall be held at the ALA's Annual Conference.

B. The Round Table Executive Board shall meet at least once at both the ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting.

C. Membership and Executive Board meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend them.

VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- A. Decision making at Round Table membership meetings and Executive Board meetings shall be resolved by reliance upon the provisions contained in the "Rules of Order" that ALA Council uses.
- B. No decision or instruction made by a Chair shall conflict with a decision or instruction made by the Round Table membership or the Executive Board.
- C. Quorum shall be a majority of the voting members the Executive Board.

VIII. AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Bylaws amendments may be proposed by the Executive Board or by the Round Table membership at a membership meeting. The bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote on the spring ballot. The proposed amendments must have been announced not less than thirty days before the spring ballot.