

## **ALA COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION (COO) ACTION REQUEST FORM**

**TO:** ALA Committee on Organization (COO)

**DATE:** January 9, 2018

**RE:** Merger of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) with the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT)

**UNITS AFFECTED:**

**Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)**

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**Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT)**

**Contacts:** Stephen Pomes, FAFLRT President, [stephen.pomes@boem.gov](mailto:stephen.pomes@boem.gov); and Rosalind Bradley, ALA Washington Office

**ACTION REQUEST:**

The Committee on Organization is asked to approve the merger of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) with the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) to form a division with the new name of the Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA). The anticipated merger date is September 1, 2018, the beginning of the 2019 fiscal year for ALA.

**BACKGROUND:**

I. Reasons Merger and Actions Taken to date

The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) is the ALA division with the smallest membership. The division seeks to increase membership with the addition of ALA member groups with similar purpose and mission. In 1998, ASCLA merged with the Independent Librarians Round Table (ILRT). These members are now represented in ASCLA by the Library Consultants Interest Group.

The Federal and Armed Forces Round Table has a mission compatible with ASCLA. Both groups represent members in libraries providing services to defined and specialized audiences. Many FAFLRT members are currently members of ASCLA representing libraries such as the Library of Congress and programs such as the Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. FAFLRT and ASCLA co-sponsored a program at the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and will co-sponsor two programs at the 2018 Conference. The two groups have already merged awards ceremonies at ALA Annual Conference.

Since 2015, leaders from ASCLA and FAFLRT have held discussions regarding a possible merger. In April 2016, ASCLA leadership sent a memo to FAFLRT indicating a desire to move forward on the merger. Both groups separately and jointly, provided information to members with opportunities for feedback through online meetings, a webinar open forum, and articles in the respective newsletters and listservs. In the 2017 spring ballot FAFLRT members voted on the question “Should FAFLRT merge with ASCLA?” The measure was approved with 76% in favor and 24% opposed.

To date in 2017-2018, an ASCLA-FAFLRT Merger Planning Task Force has met regularly to complete the steps in a timeline for the merger and to identify details incorporating members into the enlarged division. The Task Force will continue to meet and work with division staff through the remainder of the year.

**PROPOSAL:**

- II. Steps ASCLA has taken to prepare for the merger.

**Bylaws Change:**

A Bylaws Revision Committee is reviewing and editing the Bylaws for the merged division. Committee representation includes current and past leaders of ASCLA and two members who are dual members of ASCLA and FAFLRT. The Bylaws change includes revisions to fourteen of the seventeen Articles, including the Name (Article I), Object (Article II), Interest and Responsibilities (Article III), and Board of Directors (Article VI). The proposed changes will be sent to the Boards of both ASCLA and FAFLRT in early January 2018 for review and comment. The Bylaws revision will be included submitted to the ASCLA Board of Directors at the February Board Meeting and will be included in the 2018 spring ballot for approval by the membership.

**Name Change:**

An online poll the “ASCLA / FAFLRT Poll to Name Our Division” was prepared for members of both FAFLRT and ASCLA to select among three names suggested by the ASCLA-FAFLRT Merger Planning Task Force. The poll was open in October and November 2017 with 143 participating votes.

Current Name: Article I Sec. 1 Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)

New Name: **Article I Sec.1. Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA)**

**Object:**

Current Object: Article II Sec. 1. The object of the Association shall be to strengthen the usefulness, efficiency and services of state library agencies, specialized library agencies, and library cooperatives and to provide a focus for addressing the needs and interests of individual members as they relate to the Association's area of responsibility.

New Object: **Article II Sec. 1. The object of the Association shall be to strengthen the usefulness, efficiency and services of state library agencies, federal and armed forces libraries, specialized library agencies, library cooperatives, and independent librarians and consultants. The Association will provide a focus for addressing the needs and interests of individual members as they relate to the Association's areas of responsibility.**

**Interest and Responsibilities:**

Current Interest: Article III Sec. 1. The Association represents the interests of the following types of library organizations and agencies:

- a) State library agencies, which are those organizations created or authorized by state government to promote library services in the state through the organization and coordination of a variety of library services.
- b) Library agencies and individuals which provide library materials and service to populations with special needs. These populations include but are not limited to people with sensory, physical, health or behavioral conditions and people who are incarcerated or detained.
- c) Library cooperatives, which are combinations, mergers, or contractual associations of one or more types of libraries (academic, public, special, or school) crossing jurisdictional, institutional, or political boundaries, working together to achieve maximum effective use of funds to provide library and information services to all citizens above and beyond those which can be provided through one institution. Such cooperative organizations or agencies may be designated to serve a community, a metropolitan area, a region within a region, or may serve a statewide or multi-state area.
- d) Independent librarians who work outside of traditional library settings.]

New Interest: **Article III Sec. 1. The Association represents the interests of the following types of library organizations and agencies:**

- a) **State library agencies, which are those organizations created or authorized by state government to promote library services in the state through the organization and coordination of a variety of library services.**
- b) **Federal and armed forces libraries which are libraries established to serve federal agencies and armed forces installations.**
- c) **Library agencies and individuals which provide library materials and service to populations which include, but are not limited to, people with sensory,**

***physical, health or behavioral conditions and people who are incarcerated or detained.***

- d) Library cooperatives, which are combinations, mergers, or contractual associations of one or more types of libraries (academic, public, special, or school) crossing jurisdictional, institutional, or political boundaries, working together to achieve maximum effective use of funds to provide library and information services to all citizens above and beyond those which can be provided through one institution. Such cooperative organizations or agencies may be designated to serve a community, a metropolitan area, a region within a region, or may serve a statewide or multi-state area.***
- e) Independent librarians and consultants who work outside of traditional library settings.***

Current Responsibilities: Article III Sec. 2. Within the interests of these types of library organizations, agencies and individuals, the Association has specific responsibility for:

- a) Development and evaluation of goals and plans [for state library agencies, specialized library agencies, and library cooperatives] to facilitate the implementation, improvement, and extension of library activities designed to foster improved user services, coordination such activities with other appropriate ALA units.'
- b) Representation and interpretation of the role, functions, and services of state library agencies, specialized library agencies, and library cooperatives within and outside the profession, including contact with national organizations and government agencies.
- c) Development of policies, studies, and activities in matters affecting state library agencies, specialized library agencies, and library cooperatives relating to (1) state and local library legislation, (2) state and other grants-in-aid and appropriations, and (3) relationships among state, federal, regional, and local governments, coordinating such activities with other appropriate ALA units.
- d) Establishment, evaluation, and promotion of standards and service guidelines relating to the concerns of the Association.
- e) Identifying the interests and needs of all citizens, encouraging the creation of services to meet these needs within the areas of concern of the Association, and promoting the use of these services provided by state library agencies, specialized library agencies, and library cooperatives.
- f) Stimulating the professional growth and promoting the specialized training and continuing education of library personnel at all levels in the areas of concern of the Association and encouraging membership participation in appropriate type-of-activity divisions within ALA.
- g) Assisting in the coordination of activities of other units within ALA that have a bearing on the concerns of the Association.
- h) Granting recognition for outstanding library service within the areas of concern of the Association.
- i) Acting as a clearinghouse for the exchange of information and encouraging the development of materials, publications, and research within the areas of concern of the Association.

***New Responsibilities: Article III Sec. 2. Within the Association's interests and types of library organizations, agencies and individuals, and in coordination with appropriate ALA units, the Association has specific responsibility for:***

- a) ***Development and evaluation of goals and plans to promote the implementation, improvement, and extension of library activities provided by libraries and agencies within the interests of the Association.***
- b) ***Representation and interpretation of the role, functions, and services of the Association's interests within and outside the profession, including contact with national organizations and government agencies.***
- c) ***Development of policies, studies, and advocacy in matters affecting the Association's interests, specifically relating to (1) library legislation, (2) grants-in-aid and appropriations, and (3) relationships among state, federal, regional, and local government library services.***
- d) ***Establishment, evaluation, and promotion of standards and service guidelines relating to the concerns of the Association.***
- e) ***Identifying the interests and needs of all citizens, encouraging the creation and promotion of inclusive services to meet these needs.***
- f) ***Promoting the specialized training and continuing education of library personnel at all levels in the areas of concern of the Association.***
- g) ***Granting recognition and awards for outstanding library service within the areas of concern of the Association.***
- h) ***Promoting the exchange of information and encouraging the development of materials, publications, research and development within the areas of concern of the Association, including establishment, evaluation, and promotion of standards and service guidelines.***

III. Continuing planning for the integration of FAFLRT Components and Services the division Structure

Assuming that the Committee on Operations approves the merger and the division bylaw revisions are approved, the ASCLA/FAFLRT Merger Planning Task Force will continue to work in 2018 on the details for a smooth integration of FAFLRT functional components and services. These include:

- Appointment of designated directors for the federal librarian and armed forces librarian seats on the Board of Directors for 2018-2019 until elected designated directors will fill the seats
- Merger of membership lists for email, listserv, and member communication
- Provide for membership transfers and renewals along with discounted dues for former FAFLRT members over an introductory period
- Creation of Interest Groups to reflect the interests of federal librarians and armed forces librarians in ASCLA
- Editing the logo, websites, social media presence of the division and/or integrating FAFLRT information for continued access
- Assuring representation of federal and armed forces members on division level committees, and liaison posts
- And more decisions as they arise

The ASCLA Board and staff welcome the upcoming merger. We look forward to the strength of membership and diversity of ideas from new members. To this end, the current ASCLA Board and staff will make sincere and concerted efforts to provide a smooth transition.