

American Library Association
Resolutions Committee Report to Council
Midwinter Conference 2019—Seattle, Washington

Recent work by the Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee held two online meetings between the Annual 2018 and Midwinter 2019 conferences. Following up on our Online Office Hours goal presented at Annual 2018 we have these results:

A pilot chat function using the *libraryh3lp* software allows instantaneous resolutions support from any browser anywhere but particularly during our regularly scheduled Resolutions Table hours which are provided to Council each conference.

In addition to allowing Council and other membership to interact with the Resolutions Committee online this pilot was designed to untether Committee members from the Resolutions Table which in the case of this conference is a fair distance from the Council chamber and to enable the them to host online office hours from other locations such as near the Exhibits area. Unfortunately, the current version of the software does not feature a mobile version of the administrative backend, so Committee members would need at minimum a tablet or laptop to effectively monitor the chat queue. We are open to any of your suggestions on an alternative that will meet that need.

The committee thanks JoAnne Kempf, Pam Akins, and Marsha Burgess from the ALA office for their support on this project and Mike Marlin for reviewing the product to be sure it meets accessibility requirements.

Clarifying one provision of the ALA *Policy Manual*

There have been instances in which the Resolutions Committee has submitted a resolution with fiscal implications to BARC where it stayed for a time with no formal referral from Council or debate on the merits of the resolution itself. The Resolutions Committee wishes that the wording, "... before they appear on the Council agendas ..." be expanded to clarify the options available to Council and the movers of resolutions that have fiscal implications. As a reminder, the follow was added to ALA Policy Manual A.4.2.3 at the 2018 Annual Meeting:

- a. At a Council meeting, a resolution which the Resolutions Committee has deemed to have fiscal implications is moved and seconded by its proponents.
- b. The proponents of the resolution open the debate on the resolution they have initiated.
- c. Council members are then invited to briefly debate the resolution.
- d. After a brief debate, BARC Chair (or designate) moves to refer the resolution to BARC and then explains the potential fiscal implications that necessitate the referral.
- e. Other members are then invited to debate the motion to refer.
- f. The motion to refer to BARC is then put to a vote.

Participation in online deliberation and voting

The Committee has been monitoring the movement toward online voting. In November 2017 and August 2018, the ALA Council participated in asynchronous online voting. These were completed outside of an in-person Council meeting. At our October phone conference, the Resolutions Committee concluded that before we really start in on electronic Council votes, a group of Councilors needs to establish a solid procedure for doing so given the logistical complexities of such votes. The process needs to be owned by Council and ideally with the guidance of the ALA Parliamentarian Eli Mina.

To that end we drafted the resolution, ***Resolution Proposing a Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting*** for ALA Council to bring the issue to Council.

ACTION ITEM #1—Resolution Proposing a Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting for ALA Council

Whereas in November 2017 and August 2018, the ALA Council participated in asynchronous electronic voting on issues that the Executive Board deemed to be important to act upon without waiting until an in-person Council meeting, including the vote on the qualifications of Executive Director candidates and the rescission of the IFC Meeting Rooms Interpretation;

Whereas Article II, Section 5 of the ALA Bylaws authorizes the ALA Executive Board to “initiate” an electronic vote of Council, but does not specify the circumstances under which such a vote should or must take place, and what conditions, actions, or guidelines determine whether an electronic vote should be conducted as a stand-alone vote, or part of a synchronous versus an asynchronous electronic meeting;

Whereas electronic voting has the potential for more complexity than face-to-face voting; and

Whereas it is critical that the ALA Council, as the Association’s policy-making body, be involved in determining the parameters for electronic voting, and the circumstances under which electronic votes may and should occur; now, therefore, be it

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

1. directs the ALA President to appoint a task force that includes, among others, the ALA Parliamentarian in an advisory capacity, ***[and representation from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee]*** with the following charge:
 - a. Explore options and develop a procedure to facilitate online deliberation and voting for Council outside of the ALA Annual Conferences or Midwinter Meetings; and

- b. Review the ALA Constitution and Bylaws to determine if the current guidelines meet the complexities of online deliberation and voting; and
- c. Report findings and recommendations to Council at the 2019 ALA Annual conference in Washington, DC.

Respectfully submitted,

ALA Resolutions Committee

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The Resolutions Committee invites all comments/suggestions on improving our service to Council and ALA membership. Please send your feedback to this email address:

ala-resolution-feedback-request@ala.org

Respectfully submitted,

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