

Resolution on Continuing Virtual Access to ALA Membership Meetings

Whereas the American Library Association has held an annual Virtual Membership Meeting since 2011;

Whereas during the two-year pandemic, the American Library Association held virtual Membership Meetings as part of ALA's ongoing focus to connect members and provide an avenue for input on strategic direction, budget priorities, and topics of interest;

Whereas these virtual meetings provide a major benefit for ALA members, i.e., an overview of what is going on at ALA as well as a status report of the association as well as reports from the President and other key leaders;

Whereas these meetings also provide an opportunity for members to discuss and vote on any resolutions offered by members;

Whereas all "ALA members may attend general membership and council meetings, whenever and wherever held, by showing either a conference badge for the day of the meeting or a current membership card" (ALA Policy Manual A.7.4.5);

Whereas the above quote shows that ALA members need not register for conferences to participate in ALA Membership Meetings;

Whereas ALA's Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE) guiding principles were to develop strategies for increased member engagement and ensure that structure and processes support equity, diversity, and inclusion;

Whereas access is one of ALA's core values (ALA Policy Manual B.1.1) - all information resources that are provided directly or indirectly by the library, regardless of technology, format, or methods of delivery, should be readily, equally, and equitably accessible to all library users; and

Whereas these meetings not continuing as hybrid or virtual is unacceptable when members should have ready access to information around the work, policy making and decisions of their association; now, therefore, be it

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

- Shall provide virtual access to Membership Meetings for ALA members, mirroring the access provided for in-person members.

Mover: Sherre Harrington, ALA Member

Seconded: April Sheppard, ALA Member