

GLBTRT Bylaws & Mission Statement

Mission Statement

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table 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 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table 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 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association shall:

- promote the improved quality, quantity, and accessibility of library materials and service of particular interest or usefulness to lesbian, bisexual, gay, 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 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 Library Bill of Rights and its Code of Ethics.

II. VOTING STATUS AND CANDIDACY FOR OFFICE

Voting Status

Members of the American Library Association Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table are eligible to vote in round table elections and on ballot initiatives.

Candidates for Office

The immediate past-chair of the round table will chair a nominating committee charged with developing a slate of candidates, to be presented to the round table executive board at the Midwinter Meeting. Nominated candidate names will be submitted to ALA for inclusion on the spring ballot. Newly elected officers will take office the last day of Annual Conference during which they were elected.

Qualifications

Candidates for elected offices must be members of ALA, must be members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table, and must agree to attend the membership and executive board meetings scheduled for the Annual Conferences and Midwinter Meetings during the term of office.

Elections

Round table officers will be elected annually on the spring ballot. Each year the round table will elect a chair-elect. In alternating years the round table will elect a secretary or a treasurer. In alternating years the round table will elect at least one but not all directors-at-large. Every three years and on condition of satisfying ALA policy on membership required for council representation, the round table will elect a round table councilor.

III. MEETINGS

The round table must conduct at least one membership meeting at the Association's Annual Conference. The round table executive board shall meet at least once at both Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting. Membership and executive board meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend them.

IV. OFFICERS

Titles and Terms of Office

The round table shall elect a chair, a secretary, a treasurer, five directors-at-large, and a round table councilor. 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. The secretary, treasurer, and directors-at-large serve two-year terms. The round table councilor serves a three-year term. No person may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. 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.

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.

V. COMMITTEES

The round table shall pursue its goals primarily through the work of its committees. A voting round table member as designated by the round table chair-elect shall chair each committee. Whenever possible, a committee chair will be selected after having served in an apprentice capacity during the preceding year, and after consultation with other committee members. Any member interested in serving on a committee must fill out the GLBTRT committee volunteer web form.

Standing Committees

The ongoing work of the round table shall be carried out by its standing committees. The executive board may create or dissolve standing committees. Dissolution of a standing committee requires a two-thirds majority vote at two consecutive ALA Annual Conferences.

Standing committee chairs shall serve one-year terms, and will be appointed by the chair-elect. Standing committee chairs may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Ad hoc Committees and Projects

Special projects shall be authorized by the chair as the round table membership, the executive board, or the chair deems necessary to carry out specific activities.

Any member of the round table may propose a special project at an executive board meeting, membership meeting, or through an announcement distributed through the round table's communication channels. Upon endorsement of the project by the membership or by the executive board, the chair shall appoint an individual to coordinate the project or to direct those interested to designate a chair.

Ad hoc committees shall be formed as necessary to complete the business of the round table for projects of limited length. Formation of ad hoc committees will require a majority vote of the executive board or of round table members in attendance at a membership meeting.

VI. 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. Liaison terms will be for two years, not to exceed two consecutive terms (four years). Liaison appointments may be for specific projects or on-going.

VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Disputes over the procedures used in making a decision at a round table membership meeting or executive board meeting shall be resolved by reliance upon the provisions contained in the "Rules of Order" that ALA Council uses.

Quorum

A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum of 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.