

ALA Committee/Taskforce Report Form to Council

TO: ALA Council

DATE: December 5, 2024 (Revised January 17, 2025)

RE: *(select one)*

ACTION REQUESTED

INFORMATION

REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: *(add below)*

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

Approve the Action Request to create a MakerSpace Round Table

Approve the Action Request to discontinue the Council Tellers Committee

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Committee on Organization

CONTACT PERSON:

Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, COO Chair

kackroyd@heightslibrary.org

216-215-1063

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:

Marsha Burgess

BACKGROUND:

ALA Committee/Taskforce Report Form to Council

In the spring of 2024, members of COO began a comprehensive audit of all ALA committees. We connected with each committee chair, asking them to fill out a ten question information gathering survey. As each committee completed the survey, COO member Mary Rzepczynski updated a spreadsheet for all COO members to see the progress of our work.

Completion of the survey allowed committees to examine the work that they do currently, rather than making assumptions based on the past. The goal of this work has been to create a more effective and realistic committee structure for ALA.

Survey questions included:

- Annual and Mid-year reporting frequency
- Meetings per year (in person and virtual)
- Participation Level (number of appointees who regularly participate)
- Existing Challenges

Out of the twenty one (21) Committees of the Association, three committees did not respond to the survey, nor is there an Annual Report on the ALA website. Those three are *Appointments*, *Public & Cultural Programs Advisory* and *Rural, Native & Tribal Libraries of All Kinds*.

The *Literacy* committee has an Annual Report posted, but didn't respond to the survey.

Of the seventeen (17) Committees of Council, two committees did not respond to the survey, nor is there an Annual Report on the ALA website; *Budget Analysis & Review* and *Sustainability*.

The *Education*, *Legislation*, *Library Advocacy* and *Public Awareness* committees each do have an Annual Report posted, but didn't respond to the survey.

At COO's January 16, 2025 meeting, we were joined by ODLOS (Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services) Director Kevin Strowder and a member of the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee, to discuss an Action Item that COO received on Tuesday, January 14th.

The Action Item is to split the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee into two separate committees: Rural Libraries and Native & Tribal Libraries. The speakers cited the differences in organizational structures and in needs. While COO doesn't necessarily disagree, we felt that the movers need to do more inquiry into how exactly this proposal, if approved, would work.

ALA Committee/Taskforce Report Form to Council

This committee, unfortunately, didn't respond to our survey request, nor did they submit an annual report. This made it difficult for COO to make a decision on this request, with only two days to read the request before the meeting, which took place a week before the LibLearnX conference.

I anticipate that this Action Item will return to COO at one of our spring meetings and could come up at ALA Annual in June.