

March 10, 2019
Post Midwinter Meeting Report
ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee

1. Accomplishments

During the period leading up to the Midwinter Meeting, GLBRTR asked for advice about restructuring the way chairs were elected for their Over the Rainbow Book Committee. We helped the Round-Table find a solution conforming to ALA Bylaws and practices.

We consulted with the Three Division Steering Committee for the divisions that are contemplating merger (ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA) and shared the document which we produced entitled "How to Merge Two or More ALA Divisions under the Current ALA Bylaws." We also shared this document with COO.

2. Planned Activities

Most of our work is set into motion by questions or by proposed actions which have direct bearing on the ALA Constitution or Bylaws. The following are now being considered by Constitution and Bylaws:

- An amendment to the ALA Bylaws concerning the "Status of Division Councilors During the Discontinuance Process after Combination (Merger)
- Consultation with the ALA Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting for ALA Council. I have been asked by the Chair of this Task Force, Ed Sanchez to sit in on the phone meetings of this Task Force to provide information and possible guidance as they decide how they would like to proceed.
- With the proposed change, in both the name and the function of the Midwinter Meeting, we will be making recommendations for any editorial changes (or substantive changes) that will need to be made to the Bylaws. We are waiting for the possible action from the Executive Board Spring Mtg to see if we can start the process of making the necessary recommendations for the change.

3. I was concerned that two members of this committee did not attend or communicate with the committee via ALA CONNECT. I have asked both of them to confirm that our communication mechanism is reaching them effectively. It is especially important that all committee members at least communicate in our online discussions and quite possibly a vote later this spring. We are such a small committee that we need everyone onboard.

4. This is a vital and necessary committee. Some people think of Constitution and Bylaws as boring and unnecessary, but it is the way we chose to set the rules that we embrace and follow as an organization and apply the values that are vitally important to us as a profession. C&B is a universally available standard which works to advance and encourage what units and members would like to accomplish. Mechanisms to allow change are important parts of both documents.

Submitted by Steve Matthews, Chair, ALA Constitution & Bylaws Committee