

Committee on Membership Meetings
Semi-annual report of activities

February 10, 2014

At the 2014 MidWinter Meeting in Philadelphia, the Committee on Membership Meetings had one meeting (Friday, January 24, 2014). Four members attended in person, one by phone, and both ALA staff liaisons were present. Other members had alerted the chair prior to the meeting that they could not attend.

The committee had a productive discussion laying the groundwork for two upcoming events: the Virtual Membership Meeting (to be held in late spring) and the Membership Meeting (to be held at the 2014 Annual Conference in Las Vegas). Members brainstormed ideas for content, publicity, and logistics. Work on the two events will be intense through the spring with a next meeting (via Adobe Connect or conference call) tentatively scheduled for later in February 2014.

Finding ways to make the Virtual Membership Meeting more engaging is a particular challenge facing the committee, and the members generated ideas that may work well in the long run as well as the near term. Achieving quorum at the Membership Meeting at Annual is another challenge, but with new committee members in place, new ideas for promoting the meeting are coming forward. The membership meetings are the most important avenue by which members can make themselves heard and bring forward ideas that may ultimately come to Council as resolutions. The value of the events to the association – especially where quorum means that votes may be taken – is potentially great.

The committee does not foresee any other issues it must address. Member involvement is substantive, indeed.

Committee documents, including a draft of notes from the meeting in Philadelphia, are available in Connect at <http://connect.ala.org/node/64021>.

Respectfully,
Peter Hepburn
Chair, Committee on Membership Meetings (2013-2014)a