

Committee on Membership Meetings
Final Report, Annual Conference 2016

August 10, 2016

Charge: To plan the agenda for the membership meetings specified in ALA policy A.7.4.10; to identify potential discussion topics for the membership meetings; to educate the membership about the purposes of the membership meeting and the opportunities it offers members; to identify and recommend incentives for attendance; to advise staff on logistics for membership meetings; to oversee publicity plans for membership meetings; to assess the effectiveness of the membership meetings in addressing the ALA membership's needs; and to recommend changes in light of that assessment.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting in Orlando, the Committee on Membership Meetings met on Friday, June 24, 2016. The committee members present discussed a full agenda that included the following:

- De-briefing on the Virtual Membership Meeting held (VMM) on Wednesday, June 1, 2015. The VMM had 610 registrants and 340 of those attended. The post survey gave great insight to how members learn about the VMM and how well they like the format. Some issues discussed were participants who had problems entering the meeting. The Committee also discussed ways that we can make the VMM open for more discussion and dialogue.
- Last minute publicity and logistics for the membership meeting to be held on Saturday, June 25. Committee members were delegated to distribute flyers and walk through the conference facilities with signs advertising the event. Other COMM members were assigned to hand out raffle tickets and track quorum at the event. An added publicity feature this year was bookmarks designed by a member of the Committee on Membership Meetings.
- Talking points from the Executive Board liaison, Mike Marlin were discussed.

The membership meeting took place the following afternoon.

The ongoing challenge for COMM and by extension ALA includes meeting the 75 member quorum at the in-person meeting. Despite this perennial challenge, owing in recent years to the elimination of a no-conflict time of the ALA Membership Meeting, the necessity for continued member contributions via resolutions, dialogue, and steering the agenda is still a vital rationale for holding membership meetings.

The committee had a very successful year, staging the virtual (inauguration of and in-person membership meetings. The committee met at Midwinter and at Annual and via conference calls in between. Members took advantage of the e-mail distribution list to share thoughts as well. Though each of us has had inevitable conflicts that sometimes made scheduling calls and meeting participation difficult, the committee as a whole worked well together.

Holly Camino takes over as committee chair for 2016-2017. I want to expressly thank staff liaisons Lois Ann Gregory-Wood and Ron Jankowski. Without their guidance and knowledge this committee would not be able to function.

Submitted by

Derek T. Mosley
Committee Chair, 2015-2016