

## American Library Association Committee on Organization Report to Council

2016 Annual Conference  
Orlando, FL

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### **1. Definition of "Subdivision":**

The ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee found a discrepancy between the ALA Constitution (Article X) and the ALA Bylaws (Article VI, Section 4c and Article VII, Section 4). Article X of the ALA Constitution discusses external organizations becoming an affiliate of ALA or its subdivisions. Article VI and VII of the ALA Bylaws discusses external organizations becoming an affiliate of an ALA division or round table, but do not use the word "subdivision." "Subdivision" also appears in the ALA Policy Manual, policy A.4.3.6.1 and A.10.3.

Jim Rettig, chair of the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee, requested that COO define the word "subdivision" within the ALA context to be included in the ALA Policy Manual. After reviewing the instances the term is used in ALA governance documents, COO determined that "subdivision" should be defined as an ALA division or round table. COO based the definition of "subdivision" on the following information:

In defining "subdivision," COO's primary strategy was to determine the original intent of the word when first used in the ALA Constitution in 1959 (Article X: Affiliated Organizations and Chapters.) COO concluded that "subdivision" is defined as an ALA division or round table. Explanatory and contextual reasons are as follows:

- Divisions and round tables both existed in 1959 and operate in a similar fashion within the ALA structure in the sense that they are both organized entities with declared members who elect officers. In addition, both bodies have their own budgets, both may generate revenue, and both are created via Council approval.
- In the ALA Constitution and Bylaws, only divisions and round tables are granted permission to affiliate with outside organizations:
  - Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4c: "A division may affiliate with itself regional, state, or local groups interested in the same field of library service or librarianship. Such groups may admit members who are not members of the division or of the Association."
  - Bylaws, Article VII, Section 4: "A round table may affiliate with itself regional, state, or local groups interested in the same field of library service or librarianship. Such groups may admit members who are not members of the round table or of the Association."
- In the ALA Policy Manual, policy A.10.3 (Definition of Affiliate), the word subdivision is clearly equated with divisions/round tables: "An affiliate is a group having purpose or interests similar to those of the Association or its Divisions/Round Table which has made successful formal application for affiliate status to Council (national and international group) or Division/Round Table (local, state

or regional groups). No subdivision of the Association may separately affiliate itself with an organization with which ALA as a whole is affiliated.”

Other bodies that might possibly be considered subdivisions are standing committees, chapters, and membership initiative groups (MIGs.) However, COO chose not to include them in the definition of “subdivision” for the following reasons:

- Standing committees: In the ALA Policy Manual, policy A.4.3.6.1 (Types of Committees: Standing), standing committees are clearly differentiated from subdivisions: “A standing committee is a committee with long-term objectives so closely interwoven with the total program and development of policy of the Association or its subdivisions that it should have a continuing life.”

Also, committees are differentiated from divisions, round tables and other membership units in Policy Manual A.4.3 Units, Committees, Etc.: “A unit is any membership group within the American Library Association which has a distinct organizational entity. Committees and subcommittees which are appointive groups are excluded from this definition of unit.”

- Chapters: Chapters are separate organizations that interact with ALA as dues-paying, affiliate members, rather than as a sub-section of the larger ALA structure (as divisions and round tables operate.)
- MIGs: With regard to the original intent of the word “subdivision,” MIGs could not have been part of that definition, because they did not exist at the time. In addition, they are informal structures that lack declared members, official officers, and budgets. In that sense, they share very little in common with divisions and round tables, particularly with regard to forming affiliate relationships with other organizations. The lack of a formal leadership structure and declared members would make forming and maintaining affiliate relationships difficult, if not impossible.

**ACTION ITEM #1:** Resolved, that Council defines the word subdivision as an ALA division or round table.

**2. Chapter Relations Committee Composition Change:**

To fulfill its charge effectively, the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) determined that a majority of its members should be Chapter leaders, preferably with current Chapter experience as executive directors, elected leaders, and committee chairs. This change in structure will allow the CRC to address the interests brought before it in a timely manner. The CRC believes this readiness can only occur when most members have Chapter leadership experience or have demonstrated an understanding of the importance of Chapter issues and concerns - and a willingness to address them.

The CRC also recognizes that individuals without chapter leadership experience often have perspectives valuable to ALA Chapters, and therefore the committee does not recommend that the entire committee should consist of individuals with Chapter leadership experience.

To help ensure the CRC is comprised of members with state library association (Chapter) experience, members filling out the ALA committee volunteer form will be instructed to describe their Chapter and ALA Student Chapter experience in a section of the volunteer form called "State/Regional Appointments/Offices."

**The current composition of the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC) is as follows:**

Eleven (11) Members, which includes the Chair. To be eligible to be a member of the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC), an individual must be an ALA member who is also a member of an ALA Chapter or Divisional Affiliate.\*

\*At the 2007 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Council voted to revise the composition of the Chapter Relations Committee to include the following requirement: To be eligible to be a member of the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC), an individual must be an ALA member who is also a member of an ALA Chapter or Divisional Affiliate. Names of individuals being considered for the CRC should be forwarded to the Director of the Chapter Relations Office, who will check to see if the individual is a member of an ALA Chapter or Divisional Affiliate. (ALA CD#27.1, Item #1, Committee on Organization Report on CRC Composition). *[Due to a communications error, this requirement has not been routinely observed during the appointments process since passed by Council. However, going forward, this requirement will be consistently enforced.]*

COO recommends the following composition change to the Chapter Relations Committee:

**ACTION ITEM #2:** Resolved, that Council approves the composition of the Chapter Relations Committee, as follows:

Eleven (11) Members, which includes the Chair. To be eligible to be a member of the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC), an individual must be an ALA member who is also a member of an ALA Chapter or Divisional Affiliate. In addition, eight (8) of the eleven (11) members should have state library association (Chapter) leadership or committee experience.

The following guidelines are used when the ALA President-Elect, with advice from the ALA Committee on Appointments, nominates members and interns to serve on the CRC:

- Volunteers with Chapter leadership experience (i.e., presidents, presidents-elect, Chapter councilors, executive directors, and committee chairs) will be considered over those with no leadership experience.
- Volunteers with current Chapter leadership experience (i.e., current executive directors, newly elected leaders or leaders having served within five years prior to appointment, and committee chairs) will be considered over those with former Chapter leadership experience.
- Volunteers with Chapter experience (i.e., former Chapter leaders having served greater than five years prior to appointment, current or former Chapter committee members, or current Chapter members) will be considered over those with no Chapter experience.

- Interns with Chapter or Student Chapter experience should be considered over those with no Chapter or Student Chapter experience.

## INFORMATION ITEMS:

### **1. STEM in Public Libraries Membership Initiative Group (MIG) Name Change**

COO approved the name change of the STEM in Public Libraries MIG to the STEM in Libraries MIG. This name change is inclusive of all fields of study and all library types, including public, academic, and school libraries. The charge of the MIG will remain the same.

### **2. Editorial Change to the Charge of the Public Awareness Committee**

COO approved an editorial change to the charge of the Public Awareness Committee. The change reflects the name change of the Public Information Office to the Public Awareness Office and is as follows:

To develop programs that promote libraries and library issues nationwide. To assist ALA members in promoting their libraries at the local, state and national levels. To work closely with the ALA ~~public information office~~Public Awareness Office and ALA officers, committees and units in developing and coordinating promotional and marketing programs and tools for libraries, librarians and ALA, including National Library Week and other national campaigns focused on the continuing support of libraries.

Respectfully submitted to the ALA Council, Sunday, June 25, 2016.

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