

American Library Association Committee on Organization
Report to Council
Midwinter Meeting 2013—Seattle, Washington

ACTION ITEM

COO brings the following action item to Council at the 2013 Midwinter Meeting:

1. **Approval of the new Sustainability Round Table:** COO has received a petition to create a new round table, the Sustainability Round Table. The petition has received more than the required number of ALA members' signatures. The petition is available at <http://www.ala.org/CFApps/epetition/index.cfm?pid=B48D3C0825CDD3C6>. These actions fulfill the requirements of Article VII, section 1 of the ALA Bylaws:

The Council may establish round tables under the following conditions:

- a.) The Council may authorize the organization as a round table of any group of not less than 100 members of the Association who are interested in the same field of librarianship not within the scope of any division, upon petition of such group which shall include a statement of purpose.

The purpose of the proposed Sustainability Round Table is to provide:

- A forum for ALA members to exchange ideas and concerns regarding sustainability in order to move toward a more equitable, healthy, and economically viable society.
- Resources for the library community to support sustainability through curriculum development, collections, exhibits, events, advocacy, communication, and library buildings and space design.

ACTION: Resolved, that Council approve creation of the Sustainability Round Table.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. The Boing Boing Membership Initiative Group has changed its name to Library Lab Membership Initiative Group because the scope of its work is expanding to include MAKE Magazine, the SxSW Conference, and more. Because this is a name change rather than creation of a new MIG, COO has approved the name change. COO approved this MIG under its original name at the 2012 Midwinter Meeting at which time it met the requirements of ALA Policy 6.2.

ALA Policy 6.2 states: "A Membership Initiative Group (MIG) is formed when a group of ALA members identifies a common concern or interest about librarianship which falls outside the delegated responsibility of a single division, roundtable, or unit, and wishes to establish a short-term mechanism to address this concern or interest. To establish a MIG, which must be approved by COO and reported to Council, a group must submit to the Committee on Organization a statement of purpose, at least one hundred signatures of ALA members in good standing, and the names and addresses of designated organizers."

2. In 2006 COO brought to Council and Council approved the Committee Information Update (CIU) form with the accompanying requirement that ALA and Council committees submit the form to the Governance Office after each Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. Links to the CIUs submitted as follow-up to

the 2012 Midwinter Meeting are posted at http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/cmte_info_report. These are the most recent ones posted. In some cases reports to Council (such as this report) have been posted rather than a report in the CUI format. Only about half of the committees have a report posted from the 2012 Midwinter Meeting.

In the spirit of President Maureen Sullivan's initiative to reimagine ALA, COO discussed the current CUI during its meetings here in Seattle. COO has concluded that this form places undue emphasis on individuals' attendance at face-to-face meetings and not enough on overall committee accomplishments. It also implies that committee work is accomplished only at the Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Conference. Increasingly groups within ALA are working outside those times.

At the 2012 committee chairs orientation at the Annual Conference in Anaheim, chairs received a copy of John F. Schlegel's pamphlet *Enhancing Committee Effectiveness: Guidelines and Policies for Committee Administration* (Washington: American Society of Association Executives, 1994). It advises that "The committee chair and staff are responsible for keeping leadership and appropriate staff fully informed of committee activities. A written report of goals and achievements should be provided to the board of directors two or three times a year." (p. 3) COO endorses this in the interests of organizational transparency and communication.

Between now and the 2013 Annual Conference in Chicago COO will discuss this further using ALA Connect and other appropriate means. As a part of that process COO will ask chairs of the ALA and Council committees and the staff liaisons to those committees for their input about what sort of reporting system can most effectively provide needed information and communication to Council, to other committee chairs, and—in the spirit of the transparency we as an association value—to ALA members. Based upon that review, COO may bring an action item on this issue for Council's consideration at the 2013 Annual Conference.

Respectfully submitted, January 27, 2013

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American Library Association
Committee Information Update

Please note: ALA and Council Committees are required to submit an update of their activities within one-month after each Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. This form will be sent to the ALA Council and the ALA Committee on Organization.

Report for Midwinter _____

Report for Annual Conference _____

Name of Committee:

Committee Chair:

Committee Members Present:

Committee Members Absent:

Others Present:

Accomplishments [at this meeting], a concise account:

Planned activities for upcoming year, a concise account:

Other comments/information you believe will help the Association in its work:

Submitted by: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Please return the completed form to COO Staff Liaison, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Current COO staff liaison is Kerri Price, kprice@ala.org.