

**American Library Association**  
**Resolutions Committee Report to Council**  
**Midwinter Conference 2019—Seattle, Washington**

**1. Recent Work by the Resolutions Committee**

- A. The Resolutions committee held two online meetings between the Annual 2018 and Midwinter 2019 conferences. Following up on our Online Office Hours goal presented at Annual 2018 we have these results:

A pilot chat function using the *libraryh3lp* software allows instantaneous resolutions support from any browser anywhere but particularly during our regularly scheduled Resolutions Table hours which are provided to Council each conference.

In addition to allowing Council and other membership to interact with the Resolutions Committee online this pilot was designed to untether Committee members from the Resolutions Table which in the case of this conference is a fair distance from the Council chamber and to enable the them to host online office hours from other locations such as near the Exhibits area. Unfortunately, the current version of the software does not feature a mobile version of the administrative backend, so Committee members would need at minimum a tablet or laptop to effectively monitor the chat queue. We are open to any of your suggestions on an alternative that will meet that need.

The committee thanks JoAnne Kempf, Pam Akins, and Marsha Burgess from the ALA office for their support on this project and Mike Marlin for reviewing the product to be sure it meets accessibility requirements.

- B. The Committee has been monitoring the movement toward online voting. In November 2017 and August 2018, the ALA Council participated in asynchronous online voting on issues that the Executive Board deemed to be important to act upon. These were completed outside of an in-person Council meeting, including the vote on the qualifications of Executive Director candidates and the rescission of the IFC Meeting Rooms Interpretation. At our October phone conference, the Resolutions Committee concluded that before we really start in on electronic Council votes, a group of Councilors needs to establish a solid procedure for doing so given the logistical complexities of such votes. The process needs to be owned by Council and ideally with the guidance of the ALA Parliamentarian Eli Mina.

To that end we drafted the resolution, ***Resolution Proposing a Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting*** for ALA Council to bring the issue to Council.

**ACTION ITEM #1—Resolution Proposing a Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting for ALA Council**

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Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. directs the ALA President to appoint a task force that includes, among others, the ALA Parliamentarian in an advisory capacity, with the following charge:
  - a. Explore options and develop a procedure to facilitate online deliberation and voting for Council outside of the ALA Annual Conferences or Midwinter Meetings; and
  - b. Review the ALA Constitution and Bylaws to determine if the current guidelines meet the complexities of online deliberation and voting; and
  - c. Report findings and recommendations to Council at the 2019 ALA Annual conference in Washington, DC.

The entire resolution, with Whereas clauses was submitted to the Council list and ALA Connect for comments and shared at Council Forum. With your permission Madam President, we would like to bring this Action Item to Council for Consideration.

The Resolutions Committee invites all comments/suggestions on improving our service to Council and ALA membership. Please send your feedback to this email address:

[ala-resolution-feedback-request@ala.org](mailto:ala-resolution-feedback-request@ala.org)

Respectfully submitted,

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