

TO: Core Board of Directors

TOPIC: DIVISION COUNCILOR REPORT

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: ACTION / INFORMATION / **REPORT** (pick one)

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Rachel Fleming, Core Councilor

SUBMITTED: February 2, 2023

SUMMARY

On Friday January 27th, ALA Council convened a special session where the General Revision to the ALA Bylaws was reviewed and approved. Regular session of the ALA Council for general business was conducted over two meetings, and the ALA-APA Council met for a brief session. A point of order raised about votes held during the meeting of Council at ALA Annual 2020, referred to the Committee on Organization, which has implications for Core. Other items of interest are also highlighted.

BYLAWS CONVENTION

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented three draft versions of a general revision to ALA bylaws throughout the fall for discussion and comment. A final fourth draft version was presented January 13th, with the opportunity to submit amendments in advance of the Bylaws Convention. No amendments were received for 12 of the 18 articles in the bylaws, and 9 amendments were submitted for the remaining 6 articles. The fourth draft and the amendments can be found in ALA CD#25 [Constitution and Bylaws Report](#). Council reviewed the General Revision article by article and approved the amended General Revision. This General Revision updates and modernizes the Bylaws and incorporates TAG recommendations as approved by the Council.

The General Revision of the ALA Bylaws will be presented to the membership in the spring election, along with the vote to rescind the ALA Constitution. The General Revision moves several items from foundational governing documents to the ALA Policy Manual, and a joint working group from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the Policy Monitoring Committee, and the Committee on Organization will be formed to revise the ALA Policy Manual to include recommended policy insertions from the adoption of the General Revision of the ALA Bylaws.

POINT OF ORDER REGARDING VOTES AT ALA ANNUAL 2020

A point of order was raised questioning the validity of votes taken during the ALA Annual Meeting in 2020. These votes include the votes to dissolve the Divisions that were reorganized into Core. This point of order was referred to the Committee on Organization with instruction to confer with the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and report back at ALA Annual 2023.

For context, the [ALA Bylaws](#) indicate that ALA Council may “by a vote of two consecutive meetings may discontinue a division” (Article VI.1.b). The Committee on Organization presented four resolutions at ALA Council II ([Minutes of the ALA Council 2020](#), pp. 19-22). These were (1) to dissolve ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA; (2) to form Core; (3) to dissolve ASGCLA (Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies); and (4) to allocate the ASGCLA components to the respective ALA units. Each of these resolutions passed overwhelmingly. A special meeting of the ALA Council was held after the adjournment of the regular council session to hold a second vote on the dissolution of divisions as required by the ALA Bylaws. During this session Council again overwhelmingly approved two motions, (1) to dissolve ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA; and (2) to dissolve ASGCLA. ([Minutes of the ALA Council 2020](#), pp. 44-45).

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- ALA Governance Institute. The inaugural AGI was held Friday, January 27th. This overview of ALA finances and parliamentary procedure is recommended for ALA member-leaders.
- [Operating Agreement Workgroup Update](#) (CD#40). A consultant will be engaged to move assist in moving this process forward.
- Membership Committee: simplified membership model timeline has been extended until FY2025 ([Extending Membership Model](#)); ALA Dues Increases using CPI model has been extended another five years and expanded to include all membership types ([ALA Dues Increase](#))
- [Intellectual Freedom Report](#) (CD#19), [Freedom to Read Foundation Report](#) (CD#22), and [Committee on Legislation Report](#) (CD#20) all include important advocacy updates.
- Programmatic Priorities and Presidential Initiatives:
 - [Executive Director's Report](#) (CD#23)
 - [ALA President's Report](#) (CD#21)
 - [President-Elect's Report](#) (CD#29)
 - [Budget Objectives/Programmatic Priorities \(FY 2024\)](#) (CD#13.1)
 - In addition to continued focus on membership growth and engagement, a continued focus on library workers and support of the ALA-APA, climate action including disaster preparedness and response are of note. Updates in the [APA Executive Director's Report](#) and the [Committee on Sustainability](#) highlight work being done at the Association level.
- [Publishing Committee](#) (CD#32)
 - *Discussed the need for a policy or guidelines on publication ethics for ALA journal editors.* Emily Knox shared a paper (<https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24593>) that criticizes ALA division journals for their lack of publishing ethics documentation. Members agreed to form a working group to draft guidelines that all journal editors can follow; next steps will include a project plan, collecting examples, and communication with journal editors.
 - **Planned Activities:** Form a publication ethics working group. The group will create a project plan with a timeline, stakeholders, and deliverables.

- [Committee on Education](#) (CD#41)
 - Council approved the 2022 Revision of ALA Core Competencies of Librarianship (see: <https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/ALACoreCompetenciesDec2022Version.pdf>, originally presented at ALA Annual 2022 and revised to be more inclusive of school librarians.