**2017-2018 ALA CD#27.1\_62418\_ACT**

**2018 ALA Annual Conference**

**American Library Association Committee on Organization**

**Report to Council**

**Annual Conference 2018 –New Orleans, LA**

# ACTION ITEMS

1. **Redesigning of the ALA and Council Committee Intern Position – ALA COO DOC#5**

**Background:**

The ALA & Council Committee Intern position provides an opportunity for newer library workers that have yet to serve at the ALA Council or Committee level to become familiar with the structure of ALA and in particular its Council and Committees. At present, the Intern position is open to any ALA member who has yet to be appointed to a position on a Committee of the Association or a Committee of Council, nor held an elected office within the American Library Association or any unit of the Association (including its Divisions, Round Tables, etc.). Interns are appointed by the ALA President-elect, and potential interns express their interest in serving via the submission of the annual ALA Committee Volunteer Form.

Input from surveys and anecdotal feedback from committee members, ALA staff and interns themselves documented a lack of intern engagement. This lack of engagement is reflected in poor attendance at committee meetings and intern training events. In addition, survey data indicates a lack of understanding regarding the corresponding roles and responsibilities of the intern on their respective committees.

With many committee interns already in the middle of their library careers, the intern label itself presents a potential barrier for participation. Many mid-career librarians may incorrectly assume that the intern program is focused on librarians just entering the profession and as a result fail to perceive the beneficial value of participation. As a result, the intern branding attracts a pool of candidates that may not yet have the skills or context to fully engage and participate at the top levels of the Association.

An initial action request form was submitted and discussed during the COO Meeting held on June 25, 2017 at ALA Annual in Chicago. At the time, TOLD proposed renaming the ALA & Council Committee Intern position to *ALA Presidential Fellow*. At that time, the members of COO expressed reservation about the use of the term “fellow” and the potential for misinterpretation of corresponding financial support. After discussing the recommendations from COO, the TOLD committee modified the renaming request to *ALA and Council Committee Associates.* The TOLD Committee also engaged in additional promotion of the current Intern program hosting a virtual Twitter chat and Midwinter Discussion Forum designed to increase awareness of the program and to illuminate benefits and expectations of participation. An additional discussion forum is scheduled for delivery at the 2108 ALA Annual Conference.

As the coordinator for training initiatives for members appointed as ALA & Council Committee Interns, the TOLD Committee requests the changes below as a way to revitalize and add value to the leadership development opportunities within the Association and to support the transition of mid-career librarians into the future leaders of the Association. A rebranded opportunity for members will clearly convey the roles and responsibilities to participants, market this level of committee membership to desired candidates and ensure clarity regarding associate committee member objectives designed to illuminate paths to leadership within the Association.

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**ACTION ITEM #1: *Resolved*, that the Council approves the requested changes to the ALA & Council Committee Intern position as follows:**

**● Rename position to *ALA and Council Committee Associate***

**● Remove programmatic elements to rebrand as a level of committee membership, not a separate program**

**● Expand the ALA Committee Volunteer Form to provide additional details on the option of Associate Committee membership**

**● Develop a Committee Associate Letter of Agreement that outlines desired activities including in-person attendance during midwinter and annual conferences, participation in scheduled orientation and/or training sessions, as well as mentorship of incoming Committee Associates**

**● Eliminate the service learning activity component from the official program guidelines**

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**ACTION ITEM #2:**

**Background:**

1. **Graphics Novels & Comics in Libraries (MIG) request to convert the MIG to a round table. ALA COO DOC#3**

**The Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries Round Table will be to foster critical thinking and advocacy through member engagement and collaboration across the association. Members will encourage the incorporation of comic books and graphic novels in library services, programming, and collections for libraries of all types through efforts including organizing professional development opportunities, creating resources, and promoting community outreach.**

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**ACTION ITEM #2: *Resolved*, that the Council establishes the Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table under Article 7 of the ALA Bylaws.**

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# INFORMATION ITEM

1. Video Round Table (VRT) is now the Film and Media Round Table (FMRT)
2. COO would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its charge:

To advise and assist regarding structural and organizational concerns in ALA. To recommend to Council the establishment or discontinuance of divisions, round tables, membership initiative groups, ALA committees, assemblies and joint committees, as the needs of the Association may require. To define the functions of these units, subject to approval of the Council. To recommend to Council the establishment, including the name and size, of other standing committees to consider matters of the Association that require continuity of attention by the members. To recommend to Executive Board the appropriate unit to appoint Official Representatives to outside organizations. To receive notification of the formation of interdivisional committees.

COO looks forward to participating in the organizational effectiveness discussion and reorganization process.

# 2017-2018 COO ROSTER

**Chair**

Susan Considine (Chair, July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2018; Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2018)

**Members**

Dr. Shali Zhang, Chair (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019)

Rickey D. Best (July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2019)

Brett Bonfield (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018)

Steven K. Bowers (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019)

Jill Dixon (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2018)

Megan Drake (July 1, 2017 to June 30. 2019)

Paolo P. Gujilde (July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2019)

Latanya N. Jenkins (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2018)

Frank M. Lester (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2018)

Christine M. Peck (July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2019)

Eric D. Suess (July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2019)

Angela A. Williams (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2018)

**Intern:** Megan Garrett (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019)

**Executive Board Liaison:** Mike Marlin

**Staff Liaison:** Lois Ann Gregory-Wood