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2018 ALA Annual Conference

American Library Association Resolutions Committee

**Report to Council**

# Annual Conference 2018—New Orleans, Louisiana

## **Recent work by the Resolutions Committee**

1. During the 2018 Midwinter meeting in Denver, ALA President Jim Neal and ALA Treasurer Susan Hildreth worked with the Resolutions Committee to strengthen and clarify the procedure for referring an item with financial implications to the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC). Given the effectiveness of the new process at Council III in Denver, ALA Parliamentarian, Eli Mina, recommended the following procedure for future Council meetings in his 2018 Parliamentarian Report:
   1. A resolution which the Resolutions Committee has deemed to have fiscal implications would be moved and seconded by its proponents.
   2. The proponents would open the debate on the resolution they have initiated.
   3. Council members would then be invited to briefly debate the resolution.
   4. After a brief debate, BARC Chair would move to refer the resolution to BARC and would then explain the potential fiscal implications that necessitate the referral.
   5. Other members would then be invited to debate the motion to refer.
   6. The motion to refer to BARC would then be put to a vote.
2. During the 2018 Midwinter meeting in Denver, Councilor Christine Hage suggested the use of an e-form to simplify the amendment process. As a follow-up to her request and to similar requests from virtual membership meeting attendees who were locked out of submitting amendments, the Resolutions Committee has developed an online form to facilitate Council participation in a pilot Amendment E-form process during ALA Annual conference to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of an electronic amendment process.

## **Clarifying one provision of the ALA *Policy Manual***

ALA Policy A.4.2.3 Council Resolutions: Guidelines for Preparation (Old Number 5.3); currently states:

The Resolutions Committee must submit to the Executive Director and the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) all resolutions deemed to have fiscal implications at least 24 hours before they appear on the Council agendas so that BARC can provide fiscal information as required in by ALA policy. Standing committees of ALA and Council presenting resolutions to Council will follow the same process of submission to the Executive Director and BARC. Committee resolutions need no second.

There have been instances in which the Resolutions Committee has submitted a resolution with fiscal implications to BARC where it stayed for a time with no formal referral from Council or debate on the merits of the resolution itself. The Resolutions Committee wishes that the wording, “... before they appear on the Council agendas ... “be expanded to clarify the options available to Council and the movers of resolutions that have fiscal implications.

The Resolutions Committee recommends amending this clause by adding:

a. At a Council meeting, a resolution which the Resolutions Committee has deemed to have fiscal implications is moved and seconded by its proponents.

b. The proponents of the resolution open the debate on the resolution they have initiated.

c. Council members are then invited to briefly debate the resolution.

d. After a brief debate, BARC Chair (or designate) moves to refer the resolution to BARC and then explains the potential fiscal implications that necessitate the referral.

e. Other members are then invited to debate the motion to refer.

f. The motion to refer to BARC is then put to a vote.

## **Procedural information on amending the ALA *Policy Manual* (italicized):**

ALA Constitution, Article VI. Council

Section 1.

1. The Council of the American Library Association shall be the governing body of the Association. The Council shall delegate to the several divisions of the Association authority to plan and carry out programs and activities within assigned fields of responsibility and in accord with general Council policy.
2. *The Council shall determine all policies of the Association, and its decisions shall be binding upon the Association*, except as provided in Section 4.c. of this Article.

## **ACTION ITEM #1—Recommendation that clarifying language is added to ALA *Policy Manual*, A.4.2.3 (and other areas as determined by the Policy Monitoring Committee)**

Resolved, that the ALA Council adopts the following amendment to the ALA Policy A.4.2.3, Council Resolutions: Guidelines for Preparation.

Amend ALA Policy A.4.2.3 section on Process, number 5 as follows (new language is underlined):

The Resolutions Committee must submit to the Executive Director (ED) and the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) all resolutions that the Resolutions Committee deems to have fiscal implications at least 24 hours before they appear on the Council agendas, so that BARC can provide fiscal information as required in by ALA policy. Standing committees of ALA and Council presenting resolutions to Council will follow the same process of submission to the Executive Director and BARC. Committee resolutions need no second. After such a resolution is submitted to the ED and BARC, the following procedure is to be followed:

a. At a Council meeting, a resolution which the Resolutions Committee has deemed to have fiscal implications is moved and seconded by its proponents.

b. The proponents of the resolution open the debate on the resolution they have initiated.

c. Council members are then invited to briefly debate the resolution.

d. After a brief debate, BARC Chair (or designate) moves to refer the resolution to BARC and then explains the potential fiscal implications that necessitate the referral.

e. Other members are then invited to debate the motion to refer.

f. The motion to refer to BARC is then put to a vote.

## **Testing the use of an E-Form to facilitate the Amendment process at Council meetings.**

The existing amendment method using printed motion forms will continue alongside the new electronic method which will follow these instructions:

• Motion forms must be completed as outlined at: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/motionwebform>.

• After e-motion form has been completed, the mover must notify the projectionist.

• After processing the e-motion form, the projectionist will let the mover know when the motion is ready for presentation.

• The mover will then go to a microphone to introduce the motion when called upon by the presiding officer.

For your convenience, instructions for both methods are available at the end of the tables (together with voting cards). Please send us your feedback on this potential change at our new feedback address:

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

Respectfully submitted,

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