

American Library Association
Annual Conference | June 23 – 28, 2022

Parliamentary Summary

Enclosed is a summary of significant parliamentary activity observed during the American Library Association 2022 Annual Conference. This conference was unique for a variety of reasons, one of which being the transition of the association parliamentarian role from Eli Mina, PRP, CPP to Adrian Stratton, PRP, CP. Having served in an incoming capacity during the conference, I am truly grateful for all involved who took care in developing training and exposure opportunities that helped to facilitate a smooth transition.

The most significant actions that took place during the conference were 1) the event itself and 2) the adoption of resolutions to generally revise the governing documents of the association:

- On the conference, it is of historic and procedural note that this was the first in the history of the association to take place with mixed virtual participation. Although the majority of voting members attended in person a significant number participated virtually which will require the association to address a number of technical details in future meetings.
- The association agreed to generally revise the governing documents of the association through resolutions adopted to 1) rescind the *Constitution* and 2) generally revise the *Bylaws*. Any time an organization approaches a general revision care and balance is advised to ensure changes made are helpful to the transaction of business. The current *Constitution and Bylaws* will remain in effect until the necessary administrative steps are taken which is expected to conclude with a spring 2023 ballot proposal for the adoption of a new *Bylaws*.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my observations and to serve as the American Library Association Parliamentarian. In this role I hope that my advisory assists the association in a way that is beneficial and effective for the entire membership.

Sincerely,

Adrian Stratton, PRP
Partner
GAACC

Conference Preparation

- **Parliamentary Preparation/Transition:**
 - Meeting I (Mina and Stratton) (5pm, Sunday, May 1, 2022)
 - Meeting II (Mina and Stratton) 8pm Thursday, May 19, 2022)
 - Meeting III (Mina and Stratton) (9pm, Tuesday, May 31, 2022)
 - Meeting IV (Mina and Stratton) (8pm, Sunday, June 5, 2022)
 - Meeting V (Mina and Stratton) (8pm, Sunday, June 12, 2022)
 - Meeting VI (Mina and Stratton) (8pm, Sunday, June 19, 2022)
- **Promptbook Meetings:**
 - Promptbook Meeting I (12pm, Tuesday, June 7, 2022)
 - Promptbook Meeting II (2pm, Wednesday, June 8, 2022)
 - Promptbook Meeting III (3pm, Wednesday, June 15, 2022)

Conference Detail

- ALA Executive Board Meeting I (9:00am, Friday, June 24, 2022)
 - Adherence to an agenda and germaneness of topics is helpful to keep business on track.
 - Small boards should attempt to adhere to enforcement of debate rules to ensure fairness in deliberations.
- President/President Elect Training (12:00pm, Friday, June 24, 2022)
 - Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Emily Drabinski, Eli Mina (facilitator), Adrian Stratton (observer).
 - Scheduling conflicts prevented full participation for the duration of the training, recommend adjusting time going forward or hosting a training pre-conference to ensure focus.
- Council Forum I (6:00pm, Friday, June 24, 2022)
 - Time was dedicated to informally discuss business to come before the Council.
 - Parliamentarians were in attendance and responded to informal inquiries when asked.
- ALA Council Orientation (9:00am, Saturday, June 25, 2022)

- Valuable opportunity to answer questions. With the proposed changes to the composition of Council the parliamentarian will support ongoing onboarding at various points in between meetings (ongoing orientation and training).
- ALA Membership Meeting (10am, Saturday, June 25, 2022)
 - Some members were unclear of their rights during this meeting. The association may consider providing more upfront direction to attendees of this meeting on goals, obligations, and rights within the meeting.
- ALA & Council Incoming Committee Chair Strategic Leadership Meeting (12pm, Saturday, June 25, 2022)
 - Great opportunity to on board incoming leadership. With a mix of leaders (some returning with much experience, some new with little experience) I recommend that this time be spent in two part: overview and hands on practicum. This will allow for engagement from all.
- ALA Council Meeting I (2:30pm, Saturday, June 25, 2022)
 - Typically, registration numbers are presented at the beginning – a matter of preference of the association and presentation at the conclusion is also appropriate.
- Council Forum II (5:30pm, Saturday, June 25, 2022)
 - No parliamentary observation.
- ALA Council Meeting II (9am, Sunday, June 26, 2022)
 - Members and presenters are to be reminded that all questions are to be directed to the chair, informal dialogue/exchange without the chair makes it difficult to rule on points of order and/or enforce rules of debate.
 - For actions where a report is given and actions are postponed or referred, action to adopt the report and/or certain provisos can ensure items that can be adopted are not unnecessarily delayed.
 - Difference of opinions on parliamentary advisory to the chair impacted presiding.
- Council Forum III (6:00pm, Sunday, June 26, 2022)
 - Meeting cancelled via action of the Council.

- ALA Council Meeting III (9am, Monday, June 26, 2022)
 - Notable difference of opinions on parliamentary advisory to the chair impacted presiding.
 - The balance between recognizing in person and virtual participants is delicate – two options to consider are 1) to recognize all in person speakers first (to allow virtual participants to organize) or 2) to alternate (for instance, recognizing two in person, then two virtually, in continued alternation). Option 2 is preferable since virtual participants who are recognized later in the queue may have wished to debate raised earlier.
 - During debate modifications, a combination of debate mechanisms may be necessary to maintain fairness to all (both those who wish to extend and those who wish to speak). For example, debate could be extended for an additional 10 minutes and speeches would be limited to 1 minute per speech).
 - Points of order should be reserved for breaches of procedure; several speakers were observed using points of order when requests for information would have been more appropriate (the latter not having as high a precedence as the former). This may be an opportunity for member training.
 - A motion to delegate adoption of the minutes may be advisable if the Council will not meet for an extended period (greater than 90 days).
- ALA Executive Board Meeting II (1pm, Monday, June 27, 2022)
- ALA Executive Board Meeting III (8am, Monday, June 28, 2022)

Post Conference Detail/Action Items

- ASGCLA dissolution (clarity sought during the conference and additional information has been obtained).
- *ALA Constitution and Bylaws* – items adopted at the conference went into effect immediately, as the current document is in effect the existing document should be updated as soon as possible.
- *ALA Constitution* (rescind)
- *ALA Bylaws* (revise)