

ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: January 17, 2023

RE:

ACTION REQUESTED ALA CD 33.1

INFORMATION

REPORT ALA CD 33

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

This report includes one action item: CD 59, "Resolution on Continuing Virtual Access to ALA Membership Meetings," referred to BARC by ALA Council during ALA Annual 2022. Following fiscal review, BARC is referring CD 59 back to Council to resume voting.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC)

CONTACT PERSON:

Karen G. Schneider

510-207-5576

kgs@freerangelibrarian.com

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:

Holly Robison

BACKGROUND:

Request for ALA Council Action on CD 59

At ALA Annual 2022, ALA Council referred [Council Document 59, Resolution on Continuing Virtual Access to ALA Membership Meetings](#), to the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) to determine fiscal impact of the actions proposed in the resolution:

- Resolved, that the American Library Association on behalf of its members
- Shall provide virtual access to all Membership Meetings for ALA members, mirroring access provided for in-person attendees.

Following an asynchronous online review period over ALA Connect of approximately one month, BARC met via Zoom on December 2, 2022 to discuss the fiscal ramifications of Council Document 59. BARC determined that providing virtual participation for ALA members in ALA membership meetings, whether hybrid or fully virtual, has modest fiscal implications, primarily for additional voting software licenses and additional ALA staff support, that can be absorbed by ALA within the cost of doing business. Special thanks to ALA staff and the ALA Parliamentarian for submitting [BARC 3.9, a background document on membership meetings](#).

In discussion, BARC members, speaking not on behalf of BARC but as personal ALA members, also wanted to convey to the ALA Membership Committee and other stakeholders that we strongly affirm supporting virtual participation for ALA members as part of our commitment to help ALA realize its goal of becoming an equity-minded organization and to provide another avenue for increasing member engagement. We concur with ALA Parliamentarian Adrian Stratton that support for virtual participation in governance is essential.

Council Document 59 is returned to ALA Council for action at LibLearnX 2023.

Summary of BARC Activities, July 2022 – January 2023

1. Held an online orientation on September 16, 2022
2. Agreed to a pilot of a modified BARC liaison model
3. At the October 17 joint BARC/F&A meeting, voted to approve FY23 Estimate of Income and ALA budget ([BARC/EBD 3.2a](#))
4. At the October 17 joint BARC/F&A meeting, voted to approve the Retirement Plan audit ([EBD 3.7](#))
5. Met on 12/2/2022 to review CD 59 (Hybrid Membership Meetings) and voted to return resolution to Council
6. On 12/2/2022, discussed a proposed Bylaws change to increase Board size from 13 to 15 (no action taken, but BARC members noted the need to monitor the Bylaws discussions for fiscal impact of proposed amendments)
7. Additionally, the BARC Chair, the ALA Treasurer Peter Hepburn, and CFO Dina Tsourdinis meet monthly to review ALA's finances

Upcoming BARC meetings

Wednesday, January 18, 2023: Joint PBA/Division/BARC Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2023: Joint BARC/F&A Pre-LLX Meeting

BARC will also report out at the Information Session on Friday January 20; at ALA Executive Board on Wednesday January 25; and at Council I on Saturday, January 28. Thanks in advance to the ALA Treasurer for presenting the January 25 BARC report to the ALA Executive Board, as the BARC chair has a conflict for that time slot.

All BARC meetings for 2022-2023 are being held online.