

Resolution to Discontinue ALA Council Forum

Whereas ALA Councilors are elected to conduct Council's business at regularly scheduled open meetings;

Whereas ALA Policy A.1.4 states that ALA is committed to “[an] open, inclusive, and collaborative environment”;

Whereas ALA Policy 4.3.16 states that “All activities of the committees, boards, etc. of the American Library Association and its units should be conducted as openly as is feasible,”;

Whereas ALA Policy 7.4.4, “Open Meetings,” reiterates this principle of openness;

Whereas in recent years, Council Forum, an informal and nonrequired gathering of ALA Councilors which some but not all Councilors attend, has begun exhibiting the attributes of regular meetings of Council, including debate of items on the Council agenda;

Whereas more discussion can and needs to happen in ALA Connect which allows year-round access for all councilors and can be read by all ALA members. Comments, documents, discussions become permanent and helpful to refer to in future years;

Whereas debate of motions on the floor of Council has significantly decreased in recent years;

Whereas discussions in Council are often limited due to insufficient time, Council meetings should be re-structured in ways to allow for the vigorous debate required for Council to act on resolutions that come before it;

Whereas ALA has in recent years provided meeting room space and equipment for Council Forum, using ALA funds and human resources for these informal gatherings; and

Whereas ensuring fully accessible Council Forums would require more investment of resources in these extralegal meetings. Now therefore be it

Resolved that ALA on behalf of its members:

Discontinues the practice of holding ALA Council forums and holds all discussions during regularly scheduled open ALA Council meetings.

Moved by: Ann K. Symons, Councilor-at-Large

Seconded by: Sara Dallas, Councilor-at-Large;

Endorsed by:

Eileen M. Palmer, New Jersey Chapter Councilor

Peter Coyl, IFRT Councilor

Stephanie Chase, PLA Councilor

Lisa Scroggins, Wyoming Chapter Councilor

Bob Diaz, Councilor-at-Large

Larry Neal, ALA Executive Board Member

Karen Downing, Councilor-at-Large

John DeSantis, Councilor-at-Large

Amy Lappin, New Hampshire Chapter Councilor

Crystal Gates, Arkansas Chapter Councilor

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