

American Library Association Committee on Organization
Report to Council
Annual Conference 2011—New Orleans, Louisiana

ACTION ITEMS

COO brings the following two action items to Council at the 2011 Annual Conference:

1. **Revision of the ALA-Children’s Book Council Joint Committee charge:**

The Joint American Library Association-Children’s Book Council Committee request Council’s approval for a revision of its charge. The current charge is:

“To explore mutual problems concerning content, format, distribution, and promotion of juvenile books and to propose cooperative action to resolve such problems.”

The recommended revised charge is:

“To foster communication and collaborate on mutual opportunities, concerns, and issues regarding the content, format, distribution, and promotion of materials for children and young adults, including, but not limited to, the creation and dissemination of appropriate resources, as they relate to both the library and publishing communities.”

The approach and tone of the revision are more positive than that of the existing charge.

ACTION #1: Resolved, that the charge of the Joint American Library Association-Children’s Book Council Committee be revised to:
“To foster communication and collaborate on mutual opportunities, concerns, and issues regarding the content, format, distribution, and promotion of materials for children and young adults, including, but not limited to, the creation and dissemination of appropriate resources, as they relate to both the library and publishing communities.”

2. **Approval of the new Games and Gaming Round Table:** The Games and Gaming in Libraries membership initiative group (MIG) was created in 2008. COO has received a request, supported by more than the required number of ALA members’ signatures on a petition, to create a new round table, the Games and Gaming Round Table. It will replace the Games and Gaming in Libraries MIG. The petition is accompanied by a set of bylaws for the round table. These actions fulfill the requirements of Article VII, section 1.a. of the ALA Bylaws:

The Council may authorize the organization as a round table of any group of not less than 100 members of the Association who are interested in the same field of

librarianship not within the scope of any division, upon petition of such group which shall include a statement of purpose.

The purpose of the proposed Games and Gaming Round Table is:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and concerns surrounding games in libraries
- To provide resources to the library community to support the building and maintaining of library game collections
- To provide a force for initiating and supporting game programming in libraries
- To create an awareness of, and need for, the support of the value of gaming and play in libraries, schools, and related learning communities
- To create an awareness of the value of games and gaming in library outreach and community engagement plans
- To provide a professional and social forum for networking among librarians and non-librarians interested in games and gaming

ACTION #2: Resolved, that Council approve creation of the Games and Gaming Round Table.

3. **Survey results and implications for action:** In the spring of 2011 the Committee on Organization sent a survey to the chairs of all ALA and Council committees. The survey asked the following questions:
- I. It is your committee's expectation
 - That all members meet face-to-face at Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference, requiring all appointees commit to attending both MW and AC
 - That most members meet face-to-face at Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference, with others being able to attend electronically/remotely (if this were affordable)
 - That no face-to-face meetings are routinely anticipated, and most all work is performed electronically/remotely
 - Other (please specify)
 - II. This committee would be able to accept membership appointments from the pool of volunteers who:
 - This committee would be able to accept membership appointments from the pool of volunteers who can commit to attending both Midwinter and Annual Conference meetings
 - Can commit to attending only one of the Midwinter or Annual Conference meetings
 - Cannot attend either Midwinter or Annual Conference, but can perform committee business electronically/remotely for the duration of the appointment
 - Other (please specify)
 - III. Any additional information you would like COO to know or evaluate with regard to committee membership?

A number of committee chairs indicated that they would put these questions on their committees' agendas at the 2011 Annual Conference. The survey's results will be

updated to include responses received after the response deadline. They will also be posted as a public document in COO's Connect space.

Nearly half of the 27 respondents selected the second response to the first question: "That most members meet face-to-face at Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference, with others being able to attend electronically/remotely (if this were affordable)"

COO has several recommendations for BARC and staff. That:

- a. Staff investigate the feasibility of modifying the member volunteer interest form to include ways for members to indicate their willingness to serve as a member who can participate electronically/remotely
- b. BARC and staff investigate the cost of conducting a pilot study to support *x* number of committees to experiment with a hybrid meeting process in which some committee members meet face to face at the Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Conference while other members simultaneously participate in those meetings electronically/remotely. COO recommends that the pilot run for two years so that it can assess the effects, if any, of committee membership turnover at the end of the first year. (COO does not know if any of these costs were calculated after Council approved provisions of the Electronic Participation Task Force recommendations in 2008. If so, these estimates can be updated.)
- c. Staff determine how much, if any, of this can be implemented for the member volunteer cycle that begins when the volunteer form goes live on August 4, 2011.
- d. Staff establish a feasibility timeline for implementation of the pilot study.
- e. Staff and the ALA president-elect who will make committee appointments effective for year one of the pilot (either serving in 2011-12 or in 2012-2013) select committees to participate in the pilot study.
- f. Staff devise a plan to assess the results of the pilot study and its cost implications if it is judged a success and were extended to all ALA and Council committees.

ACTION #3: Resolved, that Council directs the ALA executive director and BARC to implement steps "a" through "f" in action item #3 immediately above.

INFORMATION ITEM

1. The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) has informed COO that in the spring 2011 election the ALSC membership approved a change in its bylaws; the effect of that change is to revise ALSC's charge. The former charge stated:

The Association for Library Service to Children is interested in the improvement and extension of library services to children in all types of libraries. It is responsible for the evaluation and selection of book and non-book library materials and for the improvement of techniques of library service to children from preschool through

the eighth grade of junior high school age, when such materials and techniques are intended for use in more than one type of library.

The ALSC membership has approved the following revision:

The Association for Library Service to Children is interested in the improvement and extension of library services to children in all types of libraries. It is responsible for the evaluation and selection of book and non-book library materials and for the improvement of techniques of library service to children from **birth** through the eighth grade of junior high school age, when such materials and techniques are intended for use in more than one type of library.

The distinctive difference between the two statements is the substitution of “birth” for “preschool.”

Because ALSC membership has approved this change in compliance with its bylaws, COO concludes that it does not need to take any action on this matter. COO therefore conveys this to Council as an information item rather than an action item.

Respectfully submitted, June 27, 2011

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