

Committee on Professional Ethics

REPORT TO COUNCIL

2013 Midwinter Meeting — Seattle, Washington

As chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), I am pleased to report on the committee's activities since the 2012 Annual Conference:

Explanatory Statements on the Code of Ethics

As a committee of Council, COPE's charge is to augment the Code of Ethics by explanatory interpretations and additional statements. Currently, two such explanatory statements exist: "Questions and Answers on Speech in the Workplace," and "Questions and Answers on Enforcement of the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association." COPE has undertaken to revise and update the Q&A on workplace speech and also to develop a new explanatory statement on ethical obligations around social media. These documents should be available by the 2013 Annual Conference in Chicago.

Educational Programming

The committee will be presenting the following program at ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago on Sunday, June 30, 2013 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.:

"Ethics in Action: Addressing Conflicts of Interest"

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict, and librarians often find themselves navigating real or potential conflicts of interest in the course of their professional duties. This program will explore the complex dynamics of vendor relationships, book award committees, and other situations where such conflicts frequently arise. Speakers will share their own experiences, challenging attendees to grapple with real world scenarios and work together to untangle them.

The committee will also invite the audience to generate questions to be addressed in a new explanatory statement on the Code of Ethics on conflicts of interest, with a target publication date of Annual Conference 2014.

In addition to the conference program, the committee will present a half-day preconference at Annual Conference (tentatively scheduled for the morning of Friday, June 28). This preconference grew out of a 2009 Council-approved resolution acknowledging ethics as an educational priority of the Association. ALA has contracted with the Institute for Global Ethics (IGE) to offer their Ethical Fitness® seminar. Nancy Zimmerman, former chair of the committee, is an IGE-certified trainer and will be the main presenter.

In closing, the Committee on Professional Ethics thanks the unit liaisons and the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALA Committee on Professional Ethics
Martin Garnar (Chair)
Hilary Meg Albert
Ariel Cummins
Francesca L. Hary
Donald Rowe
Mary Jane Santos
Philip Tramdack
Leigh Rifenburg, intern
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