

DUTIES OF ALA COUNCILORS

The ALA Council is the governing body of ALA. It delegates authority to the divisions of the Association to plan and carry out programs and activities in accordance with policy established by Council. Council determines all policies of the Association and its decisions are binding unless set aside by the membership.

There are currently 186 Council members--100 Councilors-at-Large; 53 Chapter Councilors; 11 division Councilors; 12 Executive Board members, and 10 Round Table Councilors. Those round tables with personal membership equal to or greater than one percent of ALA's total personal membership as of August 31 of each year are entitled to elect one councilor. The remaining round tables are jointly represented one councilor.

Any personal member of the Association can be elected to the Council. The officers of Council are the ALA President, the ALA President-Elect and the ALA Executive Director.

The ALA Council normally meets four times during the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference [three Council sessions and a Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session]. All Councilors are expected to attend each of the scheduled meetings. In addition, Councilors are expected to attend two Membership Meetings at the Annual Conference. While it is not mandatory, many Councilors choose to attend Council Forum meetings held at both the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. New Councilors will be asked to attend orientation sessions at the Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting following their election.

ALA Councilors also serve as members of the ALA-Allied Professional Association [ALA-APA] Council.* The ALA-APA Council is the governing body of the ALA-APA and determines all policies of the ALA-APA. It meets at least once at the Midwinter Meeting and at the Annual Conference. There is also an ALA-APA Information Session, which is currently held immediately before or after the ALA session. All Councilors are expected to attend each of the scheduled meetings.

Councilors are charged with the following duties:

To annually elect a Council Committee on Committees (COC) upon nomination by the President-Elect and the Committee on Committees (floor nominations are also accepted). The COC works with the President-Elect to appoint members to Council and ALA committees. (For detailed information on Committees, please see Bylaws, Article VIII.)

Because the ALA-APA is a 501(c)6 organization and thus is governed by different regulations than ALA, which is a 501(c)3 organization, some employers may impose restrictions on participation in the ALA-APA.

Individuals considering ALA-APA office are encouraged to consult with their employer regarding any restrictions regarding lobbying activities or service on the governing body of a 501(c)6 organization.

The ALA-APA Bylaws state: "Notwithstanding the provisions in Articles IV, V, VI, and VII, an individual who is unable or unwilling to serve as a member of the ALA-APA Council, Board or Committee shall be entitled to submit a written resignation to the Executive Director, and upon submission of said resignation, that individual shall cease to be a member of that respective body."

- To review the actions of the ALA Executive Board; receive the minutes of all Executive Board meetings, receive a report from the President for the Executive Board, from the Executive Director for the Headquarters staff; from the Treasurer, the division presidents, and the Budget Analysis and Review Committee [BARC] on the projected budget for the ensuing year.
- By directive to receive at each meeting a report from the Freedom to Read Foundation, the Endowment Trustees, and the Policy Monitoring Committee.
- To receive the views of its Resolutions Committee about all resolutions presented to Council from Councilors, ALA units and the Membership.
- To originate and act on all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws before these are submitted to the membership for vote.
- To establish dues for chapter, organization and corporate ALA members upon recommendation of the Executive Board.
- To receive the report of the ALA Nominating Committee and Committee on Committees.
- To act on petitions from national organizations requesting affiliation with the Association.
- To act on resolutions referred by the Membership.
- To review at each meeting information on implementation of actions from previous meetings.
- To establish state, provincial, regional and territorial library associations as ALA chapters as provided in the Bylaws.
- To establish or discontinue divisions or round tables.
- To establish or discontinue committees and determine their composition, function and size as the Association's needs require.
- To determine all Association policies; may delegate responsibility to speak for the Association within assigned fields of responsibility in accordance with general Council policies.
- To authorize changes, additions, and deletions in the ALA Policy Manual upon recommendation of the Policy Monitoring Committee.