

Summary

At Midwinter, I was charged with looking into the feasibility of disbanding Affiliate's Council and options for putting something else in its place. In February I wrote letters to state NMRT chairs whose names I had gotten through the surveys sent out in the fall, and in response to a post to NMRT-L. I sent out five letters, and a general letter, which was published in Footnotes and put up on the NMRT webpage. The general letter is included as Appendix I.

I received four responses via e-mail (included as Appendix II). Responses ranged from unawareness of the existence of the group, to agreement that it is time for the structure to change. Nobody expressed outrage at the prospect of disbanding the council.

Recommendations:

The functions carried out by Affiliate's Council are unique. There is no other provision at present for fostering the relationship between ALA/NMRT and the state new member groups. I feel that there is a need for this outreach. If Affiliate's is to fulfill this purpose, it needs to be revitalized. To do this would require the effort of more than one or two people.

Therefore, I would like to propose a change in the structure of Affiliates Council. Rather than being run by a President/Vice President, the council could be run by committee, or cabinet (similar to ALA Chapter Relations committee). The structure of the NMRT Board need not change if the chair of the committee is the President of the Council, and retains a vote on the Board.

The committee which runs Affiliate's could be a choice on the Committee Interest Form. The group would organize a meeting at Midwinter and one at Annual for Representatives from state groups, build and maintain contacts with local new member groups, and put together a packet of resources which local groups might use should they want to organize an NMRT.

The other option is to disband the Council and rebuild a new outreach effort from the ground up. This is also a reasonable option, since it seems as though many states do not have NMRTS and so cannot send Representatives to Annual. If this option is taken, I would like to propose that a task force of some kind be established, or that the issue be taken up by Self-Study and Resource Allocation.

At Annual this year, I would ask the Board to decide which of these options is the best choice, so that the process of disbanding or revitalizing the group can be begun.