

2010-2011 ALA CD#25.1
2011 ALA Annual Conference

DATE: 27 June 2011
TO: ALA Council
FROM: Tom Wilding, Chair, Constitution & Bylaws Committee
RE: **Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report**

1. Election of councilors-at-large.

At this conference the Committee completed the only remaining action from the Norman Horrocks' task force to clean up the constitution and bylaws. This action has to do with the election of councilors-at-large and specifically with an issue concerning the withdrawal of a candidate during the election process. The Committee surveyed Council members via the Council listserv to get a feel for the mood of Council concerning this issue and decided to bring an action to amend Bylaws Article III, Section 5. Councilors on the listserv generally agreed that in the case of a candidate withdrawing during the election process, it would be best to elect the person with the next highest number of votes to replace that person. It was not clear that councilors wanted to extend that to a candidate who might withdraw after the election results were announced. In its discussions, the Committee decided that doing so would raise more issues than it would solve and so is not recommending that a provision for such an occurrence be included in this action.

Action Item #1

RESOLVED, that ALA Bylaws, Article III, Section 5 be replaced in its entirety by the following:

Article III, Section 5.

- a. For each office the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected and shall be so reported to the Association by the Committee on Election. In the case of a tie vote the successful candidate shall be determined by lot conducted by the Committee on Election.
- b. In the event that a candidate for election as a Councilor-at-large withdraws from or is unable to continue his or her candidacy in the period between the distribution of ballots and the reporting of election results, the votes for that candidate shall be ignored.

2. Votes at Virtual Membership Meetings.

The Committee was asked to consider the inclusion of an allowance for votes at virtual membership meetings since the move to such meetings has already begun. The committee recommends the addition of a sentence to an existing section of the Bylaws covering membership meetings.

Action Item #2

RESOLVED, that ALA Bylaws, Article II, Section 4 be revised so as to include to read as follows (the underlined sentence is the addition):

Bylaw, Article II, Section 4. Membership Meetings.

A membership meeting consists of the voting members of the Association with authority to act as set out in Article VI, Section 4(a) and 4(c) of the Constitution. A membership meeting shall be held during the annual conference and at such other times as may be set by the Executive Board, Council or by membership petition as provided for in Article II, Section 2, of the Bylaws. Membership meetings may be held virtually, and the Executive Board shall establish the procedures for such meetings.

3. Unexcused absences by councilors-at-large

The committee valued the input of councilors on the listserv concerning whether or not to include in the bylaws a provision for the removal of a councilor-at-large for numerous unexcused absences. The Committee considered this issue because it had been raised by one or more councilors but agreed that there did not seem to be a serious problem enough to warrant action at this time. Should Council or the Executive Board wish the Committee to consider this issue further, they can move to direct the Committee to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah DeGeorge
Sue Kamm
Robbie Nickel
Tom Wilding, chair
Ryan Baker, intern
Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts, intern
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