

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** Group membership in ALA United for Libraries

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

Extend the initial two year trial period for another two years for group membership for Friends groups and Boards of Trustees approved at the fall Board meeting in 2010.

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director  
Sally G. Reed, Executive Director, United for Libraries

**CONTACT PERSON:** Sally G. Reed, Executive Director  
United for Libraries

**DRAFT OF MOTION:**

The Executive Board approves an additional two-year trial period to offer group United for Libraries memberships to Friends groups and Boards of Trustees. These organizational memberships will give friends groups and boards of trustees United for Libraries benefits and opportunities, as specified in the October 2010 proposal.

**DATE:** September 28, 2012

**BACKGROUND:**

At its fall 2010 meeting, the Executive Board of ALA approved a two year trial period for a new model of retaining the 3,000 existing FOLUSA member groups following the merger of FOLUSA and ALA/ALTA. This model encouraged Friends groups and Boards of Trustees groups to become members in the new division formed at that time. This membership is based on an organizational membership model and does not include personal membership in ALA or United for Libraries. Group members may not serve on committees, run for office or vote in ALA elections.

This move is intended to give United for Libraries a better way to market itself to groups and boards, who were the former membership of FOLUSA. This will enable United for Libraries to effectively market state-wide group memberships (as in Nebraska) to other state library agencies as United for Libraries president-elect Rod Wagner (state library commissioner in Nebraska) begins his initiative this year to convince other states to follow suit.

Attachments: Fall 2010 proposed group membership trial.

October 2010

## ALTAFF Proposal for Citizen Group Membership

We propose a brand new category in ALA called **Citizen Group Membership**. Here's how it would work and how we can fit it into existing ALA requirements:

- Citizen groups would join ALTAFF in one of the following categories:
  - Friends group
  - Board of Trustees
  - Foundation
- Pricing would be based on size of group for the Friends and by size of library budget for Boards of Trustees and Foundations.
- These citizen groups would become "members" in ALA and get the following ALTAFF benefits:
  - A copy of the VOICE
  - Access to materials in the Friends & Foundation Zone or the Trustee Zone in ALTAFF depending on the category they selected when joining
  - Discounts from ALTAFF corporate sponsors
  - Eligibility for group awards & grants such as ALTAFF's "Best Friends Award" or the Nordstrom Books for Babies grants (not eligible for individual awards or grants)
  - Discounts on ALTAFF publications
- These citizen groups would get the following ALA benefits
  - Access to ALTAFF materials and services
  - 10% discount on items purchased through ALA's Online Store
- Citizen Group members would **not** get the following benefits:
  - *American Libraries*
  - Opportunity to join other ALA Divisions
  - Opportunity to serve on committees
  - Voting privileges
  - Opportunity to apply for individual grants or awards