

**DATE:** January 15, 2008  
**TO:** ALA Council  
**FROM:** Thaddeus Bejnar, Chair  
Constitution & Bylaws Committee  
**RE:** **Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report**

**1) Applications for ALA Affiliate Status**

- a. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee reviewed the application of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM), and it meets the guidelines for affiliation as established by Council. There is no conflict with ALA policies in their Bylaws.

The ALA Executive Board recommends this organization for affiliate status with the American Library Association.

**ACTION:**

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association accept the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) as an affiliate under Article X of the ALA Constitution.

- b. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee reviewed the application of the On-Line Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC), and it meets the guidelines for affiliation as established by Council. There is no conflict with ALA policy in their Bylaws.

The ALA Executive Board recommends this organization for affiliate status with the American Library Association.

**ACTION:**

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association accept the On-Line Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) as an affiliate under Article X of the ALA Constitution.

2) **Constitutional Amendment - Vacancies**

Because the existing method for filling vacancies of elected officers is incomplete and unwieldy, the Committee recommends amending Article VIII, Section 2. Vacancy, which currently reads:

“When a vacancy occurs in the office of president-elect, the nominating committee shall reconvene to nominate candidates whose names shall be submitted to the membership for election by mail vote.”

Amendments to the Constitution are conducted under Article XII of the Constitution, and in order to go to the membership for ratification, must be voted on and approved by Council at two consecutive meetings held not less than two months apart. Therefore, if passed by Council, this item will be brought before Council again at the 2008 Annual Conference.

ACTION:

RESOLVED, that ALA Constitution Article VIII, Section 2 be revised to read:

“a. President-elect. When a vacancy occurs in the office of president-elect, or when an elected incoming president-elect withdraws or is unable to serve before the assumption of office, then the Executive Board shall appoint an individual to serve in such office, or to assume such office, subject to a confirmation mail vote by Council. Until the individual is confirmed by Council, they shall serve in an acting capacity.

b. Treasurer. When a vacancy occurs in the office of treasurer, or when an elected incoming treasurer withdraws or is unable to serve before the assumption of office, then the Executive Board shall appoint an individual to serve in such office, or to assume such office, subject to a confirmation mail vote by Council. Until the individual is confirmed by Council, they shall serve in an acting capacity. The position of treasurer shall be filled by regular election at the next election, unless at the time of appointment the next regular election is less than four (4) months away, in which case the position of treasurer shall be filled at the following election.”

3) **Constitutional Amendment – Terms of Office**

Because the terms of office for Executive Board as stated in the Constitution are inconsistent with current practice, the Committee recommends amending Article VIII, Section 5. Terms of Office, which currently reads:

"All officers and all elected members of the Executive Board shall serve until the adjournment of the meeting at which their successors are chosen."

Amendments to the Constitution are conducted under Article XII of the Constitution, and in order to go to the membership for ratification, must be voted on and approved by Council at two consecutive meetings held not less than two months apart. Therefore, if passed by Council, this item will be brought before Council again at the 2008 Annual Conference.

ACTION:

RESOLVED, that ALA Constitution Article VIII, Section 5 be revised to read:

"Terms of Office: All officers and elected members of the Executive Board shall serve until the adjournment of the Annual Conference that follows the selection of their successors."

4) **Unified Statement of Personal Membership**

At Council's direction and referral from the Policy Monitoring Committee, the Committee considered amendments to the Bylaws to provide a uniform statement regarding the circumstances and positions that require personal membership, as well as the propriety and utility of having the dues structure within the Bylaws. After analysis, the Committee determined that these two issues were significantly intertwined and that the best solution would be to tackle them together. A detailed analysis was begun and the Committee intends to present its solution to Council well before the 2008 Annual Conference.

**ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee Members:**

Thaddeus Bejnar, Chair  
Kathleen Degyansky  
Jack Forman (absent)  
Joyce Thornton

Thomas Wilding  
Dana Boden, Intern  
Yan Han, Intern (absent)  
JoAnne Kempf, ALA Staff Liaison