

## 6.2.1

At the 2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, the ALA Executive Board voted to support the use of electronic signatures wherever the American Library Association Constitution, Bylaws, and *ALA Policy Manual* require members to petition for candidacy or other action. At the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC, to bring the *ALA Policy Manual* in agreement with this resolution, the Policy Monitoring Committee recommended and the ALA Council approved the following revision to Policy 6.2.1:

Change Policy 6.2.1 from this current text:

### **6.2.1 Petitions for Establishment of New Units of ALA**

Minimum acceptable standards for petitions requesting the establishment of new divisions, round tables, and other units of ALA are: 1) The purpose of the petition shall be clearly stated on a single sheet attached to each group of signature pages. 2) Each signature page shall contain this statement: "I favor this petition to..." 3) Petitioners shall sign and give library affiliation legibly. Failure to do so may result in the invalidation of the petition. 4) Information about this format and a sample petition will be supplied from ALA headquarters to anyone inquiring. 5) Petitioners shall be personal members of ALA.

To this text:

### **6.2.1 Petitions for Establishment of New Units of ALA**

Petitions requesting the establishment of new divisions, round tables, and other units of ALA may be filed in electronic or paper format. Minimum acceptable standards for petitions requesting the establishment of new divisions, round tables, and other units of ALA are: For electronic petitions the process found on the ALA website shall be used in the petition process. For petitions using paper format, 1) The purpose of the petition shall be clearly stated on a single sheet attached to each group of signature pages. 2) Each signature page shall contain this statement: "I favor this petition to..." 3) Petitioners shall sign and give library affiliation legibly. Failure to do so may result in the invalidation of the petition. 4) Information about this format and a sample petition will be supplied from ALA headquarters to anyone inquiring. 5) Petitioners shall be personal members of ALA.

**Report on Electronic Signatures on Petitions** – EBD #12.19 (Exhibit 22)

Mary Ghikas reported on requests for the use of electronic signatures wherever the ALA Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Manual require members to petition for candidacy or other action. She received two requests to use electronic signatures on petitions to form new ACRL interest groups, and for Council candidate petitions.

Ghikas reported:

- Using electronic signatures on petitions is technologically feasible and can be done within the resource budget, and with no legal impediments.
- ALA Policy requires signatures either to refer a Council action to a vote of members or to form a new entity. Signatures are required within ALA Bylaws in relation to divisions, round tables, and member initiative groups, or candidates running for office.
- Currently, individuals supply a membership ID number, place of employment and written signature on petitions. A comparable level of assuredness can be provided using electronic signatures on online petition forms with a log-in process on the ALA Web site.

On a motion by Charles Kratz, seconded by Mario Gonzalez, the Executive Board

**Voted to**, support the use of electronic signatures wherever the American Library Association Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Manual require members to petition for candidacy or other action. *E-Signatures*

**Task Force on E-Member Participation** – EBD #12.18 (Exhibit 23)

Janet Swan Hill, Chair, Task Force on E-Member Participation (TFOEMP), joined the Board via conference call, to provide an update on activities of the Task Force.

The Task Force has begun work on the final report for Council to be submitted at the 2009 Midwinter Meeting. The Task Force submitted a report to BARC to review the recommendations, and performed a voluntary survey on the use of electronic communications and participation in association activities and business by virtual members. Hill reported on the Task Force's preliminary recommendations. Highlights of the recommendations include:

- Encourage all units of the Association to engage in active experimentation with providing electronic access to non-governance activities.
- Develop a new interpretation of Open Meetings Policy 7.4.4, which acknowledges that a primary purpose of openness is to assure transparency of Association governance. A task force that is a subset of the TFOEMP should be charged to write the interpretation.
- Develop a policy addressing openness of between-meeting activities of committees and boards that reflects the Association's commitment to transparency of Association governance, while protecting the privacy of individuals. The task force developing a new interpretation of Policy 7.4.4 should also be charged to write this policy.
- Eliminate Policy 6.16 (Virtual Members) and enable appointment of full committee members who may attend meetings virtually.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: PETITIONS Item Number: 213.1  
 Approved by: ALA Council Page: 1 of 1  
 Issue Date: July, 1966 Supersedes: \_\_\_\_\_

Petitions

Finding that no guidelines have been established for the format of petitions submitted requesting the creation of new divisions, round tables, etc. of the American Library Association, the Committee on Organization proposes the establishment of the following as minimum acceptable standards for such documents:

1. The purpose of the petition shall be clearly stated on a single sheet attached to each group of signature pages.
2. Each signature page shall contain this statement: "I favor this petition to..."
3. Petitioners shall sign and give library affiliation legibly. Failure to do so may result in the invalidation of the petition.
4. Information about this format and a sample petition will be supplied from ALA Headquarters to anyone inquiring.
5. Petitioners shall be personal members of ALA.

6.2 New Units of ALA

6.2.1 *Petitions for Establishment of New Units of ALA*  
Minimum acceptable standards for petitions requesting the establishment of new divisions, round tables, and other units of ALA are:

- 1) The purpose of the petition shall be clearly stated on a single sheet attached to each group of signature pages.
- 2) Each signature page shall contain this statement: "I favor this petition to..."
- 3) Petitioners shall sign and give library affiliation legibly. Failure to do so may result in the invalidation of the petition.
- 4) Information about this format and a sample petition will be supplied from ALA headquarters to anyone inquiring.
- 5) Petitioners shall be personal members of ALA.