

Forward Together Working Group Discussion
Topic: Minimum 1% Member Threshold for Round Table
October 09, 2020

Councilors in Attendance: 87 current councilors, 146 registrants (Former councilors, active or interested members, staff)

Presenters: Eboni Henry, Lesliediana Jones, JJ Pionke

Reminder: The presenters are synthesizing the feedback and commentary to the SCOE recommendations. The views expressed are not not those of the FTWG.

Introduction:

The discussion convened around the main topic: Minimum 1% Member Threshold for Round Table Existence. As a subsidiary topic we also put forth the SCOE (name?) idea of the RoundTables also being placed into a legislative assembly structure. In attendance were (number) of council members, working group members, staff and other interested parties. Presentation discussion points were as follows:

- 1% member threshold
- Round table as Legislative Assembly

Feedback/Commentary/Questions Presented:

I. Topic: 1% threshold for Round table

- Use a different metric system to determine the contribution factor of a RoundTable. Use this as a way to determine whether or not the RoundTable should exist.
 - Ann Ewbanks has provided Council with background material.
 - RoundTable impact on ALA
 - RoundTable audit to look at function, sustainability, role, possible merge, etc.
 - Does the RoundTables have awards?
 - What contributions do the RoundTables make?
- Financial Analysis of RoundTables to determine viability
 - Financially sustainable
 - Contribution to ALA coffers
 - Direct cost to ALA - including staff cost
- Detailed financial analysis of each RoundTable is needed.
- What will be done with the tangible assets such as awards, endowments, publications and other financial/physical resources that will need administration?
- What is the direct cost to ALA of a Rt with less than 1% membership in staff time, web maintenance, etc?

- Membership numbers should not be the only determiner.
- 1% is arbitrary and undermines minorities.
- Response to the analysis prepared by the Membership coordinator which used 2019 numbers to show which RoundTables would be viable and which would not.
 - Current and up-to-date numbers will be needed.
 - Unpaid memberships were not used by SCOE to determine the RoundTable membership numbers.
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- Possibility of merging of RoundTables to reach 1% threshold.
 - What about niche RT's where a merger does not make sense?
 - What would be the effect on the identities and functions of the different RT's?
- Is the membership threshold number based on an average of the last 3 years or the number of members at the 3rd year point? (Query to the point that RT's have 3 years to increase the numbers to meet the 1% threshold.)
- If this is a financial concern why not have a set number as the threshold since the 1% number can fluctuate based on the fluctuation of ALA's total membership numbers year to year.
- Leave the RT structure and organization as is.
- Decision by new Executive Board making a Round Table a priority.
 - Transparency needed as to how any decision comes about.
 - Clear guidelines necessary
- Where do MIG's fall in the SCOE recommendations?

II. Topic: Round table as Legislative Assembly

Speaker List:

Brian Boling (FMRT Councilor)

Aaron Dobbs (Small RT Councilor)

Martin Garner (IFRT Councilor)

I Paula Laurita (AL Chapter Councilor)

Tara Brady (SRRT Councilor)

Christina Rodriques (New Member RoundTable Councilor)

Ann Ewbank (Councilor-at-Large)

Jack Martin (Rhode Island)

Natalie DeJonghe (Councilor-at-Large)

Aaron Dobbs (Small RoundTable Councilor)

Emily Drew (GNCRT Councilor - Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table)

Jennifer Boettcher (Councilor-at-Large)

Victor Baeza (LIRT Councilor)

Brian Boling (FMRT Councilor)

Joan Weeks (Councilor-at-Large)

Jennifer Boettcher (Councilor-at-Large)
Aaron Dobbs (Small RoundTable Councilor)
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (Councilor-at-Large)