November 20 Forward Together Working Group Information Session
Topic: Future of Council
Attendance: 121 current councilors, 175 total registrants (This includes ALA staff, former councilors, active members)

Notes / Overall themes:

- Lots of support for Council meeting online and removing the requirement to be at the meeting in-person as a way of engagement.
- Several people said that the number of at-large Councilors could be reduced
- Term limits for Councilors were discussed. There was a mix of support and disagreement.
- Concern from the Board session that 5 of 17 members not directly elected (30%) but currently 45% of Council is not elected by the general membership.
- Need for better communications of Council decisions to membership
- Question as to what Council actually does for membership
- Several questions in person and in the chat as to the purpose of the December meeting and when Council will vote on the issues raised in the information sessions
- Also questions about how/when Councilors will propose actual changes
- Governance vs. social policy issues as Council business—how do you balance?
- Idea that updating Policy Manuals should be part of this process
- Discussion in chat of engagement v. structure conflation
- More equal representation needed in governance model
- How will assemblies talk to each other? Will that create silos?
- Listening to other viewpoints a strength of council. This was brought up by a few people in relationship to assemblies creating silos. In chat someone said Council creates one big silo
- Several requests to clarify and define: Inclusion; Constitutional Convention; “common understandings”
- Procedural issue: it is difficult to follow both the speakers and the chat. Several people were also monitoring other social media backchannels

**Instant Poll Results:** During the meeting we took 2 non-binding, unofficial polls to measure the temperature of the group before and after the discussion. We asked that Council members be the only poll participants.

**Poll Question:** What are your thoughts on the most effective structure for ALA governance going forward?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Poll #1 (pre discussion - 94*/145 participants)</th>
<th>Poll #2 (post discussion - 88*/129 participants)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Keep Council exactly as it is</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>Make changes to Council</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<td>C.</td>
<td>Replace Council with new structure as outlined in FT</td>
<td>31%</td>
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*Please note this number represents the number of participants who took the poll.

**Speaker Order (name, affiliation)**
- Tara Brady (SRRT Councilor)
- Stephanie Chase (PLA Councilor)
- Jayne Blodgett (Colorado chapter councilor)
- Katie Cerqua (CAL)
- Joan Weeks (CAL)
- Aaron Dobbs (Small RT Councilor)
- Paula Laurita (Alabama chapter councilor)
- Lorelei Sterling (Alaska chapter councilor)
- Jennifer Boettcher (CAL)
- Jennifer Dean (Michigan chapter councilor)
- Sherry Machones (Wisconsin chapter councilor)
- Susan Jennings (Tennessee chapter councilor)
- Amber Williams (CAL)
- Ed Garcia (Council and member of Executive Board)
- Stephanie Chase (PLA Councilor)
- Jennifer Boettcher (CAL)
- Beth Munk (Indiana chapter councilor)
- Eileen Palmer (New Jersey chapter councilor)
- Diane Chen (AASL councilor)
- Martin Garnar (IFRT councilor)
Kaite Stover (CAL)
Meg Delaney (Ohio chapter councilor)