November 6 Forward Together Working Group Information Session
Topic: Round Table Governing Documents

Attendance: 90 current councilors, 144 total registrants (This includes ALA staff, former councilors, active members)

Notes:
● Agreement that efficiency is good/welcome and “could be a relief”
  ○ Discussion within the roundtables themselves that there needs to be streamlining
  ○ Bylaws alignment and structural alignment is welcome
  ○ Support for the streamlining of bylaws
  ○ Increased efficiency shouldn’t result in RTs folding or remove well-working governance structures
  ○ Questions about who would write standardized bylaws, etc.; Council interested in the work already happening in this area
● Concern about standardization about of awards that roundtables might give out/Discussion of how bylaws protect different things within the roundtable, like awards
● Discussion about the use of bylaws templates (lots of support)
● Idea about bylaws not being needed so much as flexible guidelines
  ○ Do RTS even need bylaws, or just guidelines (ie the rubric regarding activity as discussed last time) -- or minimal bylaws, manuals procedures, guidelines; standard or modular table of organization
  ○ Standardized bylaws might define the governing power of the RT Board, and some governing structures within the RT (committees), relationship to Council; operational procedures more fluid and can be in RT specific documents
● Discussion of operating agreement vs bylaws
● Several questions about dues which was gently redirected by WTTF as it wasn’t a point of focus for this discussion
  ○ Efficiency and questions on savings that could be seen from efficiency has come up in both RT discussions
  ○ Questions about how much time commitment from ALA staff for roundtables
  ○ Discussion of surveys of liaisons and time apportionment towards roundtables
  ○ ALA membership committee is looking at standardizing membership rates
● Question as to whether or not Divisions have standardized bylaws
  ○ They have separate bylaws and more flexibility through an operating agreement
● Multiple questions about the work of the other groups exploring this area: RTCA, RT Effectiveness Committee, Operating Group, FT Fiscal group
  ○ Question about whether or not a crosswalk exists about bylaws (yes - RTCA bylaws group has done it, talk to Mark Robison)
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19tlxeraQeNjxu94IPbAZt67FtRM9J88MkkHrQaKf2o/edit#gid=0

Speaker Order:
Aaron Dobbs - Small RT
Deb Sica - Rainbow RT
Muzghan Nazarova - Councilor at Large (CAT)
Jennifer Boettcher - CAT
Tara Brady - SRRT
Stephanie Chase - PLA Councilor
Brian Boling - FMRT
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles - Director at Large
Lorelle Swader - Head of ALA Member Relations
Christina Rodrigues - NMRT
Stephanie Chase - PLA
Ann Ewbank - CAT (point of personal privilege)