

## 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/19tlxeraQeNjxu94IPBvAZt67FtRM9J88MkkHrQaKf2o/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)