Proposed Bylaw Changes

A bylaws vote is scheduled to be held during the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2016. The following changes are proposed to bring MLA’s bylaws into alignment with current practice. All MLA members in good standing are invited to attend the annual business meeting to vote on these changes.

Proposed change #1

Present wording

Article IV. Officers.

Section 2. Nominating Committee: The President, on assuming office, shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a chair and three members, giving consideration to geographical and type of library diversity.

Proposed wording

Section 2. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the Past-President. Three additional members shall be chosen to serve on this committee, creating a committee diverse in geography and library type.

Rationale

This brings the MLA bylaws into alignment with current practice.

Proposed change #2

Present wording

Article V.

Section 3. Elections: Ballots and statements of professional concern shall be distributed to all voting members in a timely manner in order to permit notification of the winners at least twenty-one days prior to the beginning of the Annual Business Meeting. Only ballots received by the designated deadline shall be counted. A committee of three selected by the Executive Board shall count the ballots prior to the Annual Business Meeting and announce the results at the Annual Business Meeting, normally held during the Annual Conference. A plurality vote shall elect. In the event of a tie vote, those eligible Members present at the Annual Business Meeting shall vote to determine the outcome.

Proposed wording

Section 3. Elections: Ballots and statements of professional concern shall be distributed to all voting members in a timely manner in order to permit notification of the winners at least twenty-one days prior to the beginning of the Annual Business Meeting. Only current MLA members may vote in MLA elections. To be eligible to vote, members must be current in their membership at the start of the election. Only ballots received by the designated deadline shall be counted. A committee of two selected by the Executive Board shall count all ballots prior to the Annual Business Meeting. In the event of a disagreement, an Executive Board member may
be appointed by the President to act as a third committee member. Election results will be formally recognized at the Annual Business meeting, normally held during the Annual Conference. A plurality vote shall elect. In the event of a tie vote, those eligible members present at the Annual Business Meeting shall vote to determine the outcome.

**Rationale:**

- Codifies that only members who are currently in good standing at the start of an election may vote in an election. Codifying this date at the start of the election lightens the workload for the nominating committee and management staff. It also encourages members to renew earlier in the year.
- Asking an impartial committee to count all ballots, online and paper, ensures greater transparency.
- This request is made for logistical reasons. Ballots must be counted in person at the Amigos office in Ballwin, MO. This reduces the potential pool of counters considerably. Among the small pool that is available geographically, schedules must be coordinated to find a time when everyone and the Amigos representative is available. This must be done in a timely manner to allow for the notification of results to the candidates. Reducing the committee from three to two makes it easier to accomplish this task.
- With a committee of two, the remote possibility of a disagreement exists. To address this concern, it is asked that the President be granted the power to appoint an Executive Board member to be a third committee member, if necessary.
- The MLA election ends in mid-August and currently, the official announcement is not made until early October. In today’s age of instant news, this creates an awkward month of not being able to announce the new Board members. To address this, it is recommended that formal recognition of new members be given at the Annual Business Meeting rather than making this occasion the first official announcement.

**Proposed change #3**

**Present wording**

**ARTICLE IV.**

Officers Section 1. Elected Officers: The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Immediate Past-President, ALA Councilor and six Members-At-Large. The officers shall be elected by ballot in advance of and announced at the Annual Business Meeting. The terms of all elected begin at the start of the new calendar year, except the ALA Councilor whose term begins at the conclusion of the summer ALA Conference following his/her election. The newly elected Board shall vote among themselves to select the Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Membership Chair from the Members-At-Large. The Assistant Treasurer will succeed to the Treasurer at the beginning of the calendar year. President-Elect succeeds to the President at the beginning of the calendar year. The President will succeed the Past-President at the beginning of the calendar year.

**Proposed wording**
Officers Section 1. Elected Officers: The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Past-President, ALA Councilor and six Members-At-Large. The officers shall be elected by ballot in advance of and announced at the Annual Business Meeting. The terms of all elected begin at the start of the new calendar year, except the ALA Councilor whose term begins at the conclusion of the summer ALA Conference following his/her election. The newly elected Board shall vote among themselves to select the Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Membership Chair from the Members-At-Large. The Assistant Treasurer will succeed to the Treasurer at the beginning of the calendar year. President-Elect succeeds to the President at the beginning of the calendar year. The President will succeed the Past-President at the beginning of the calendar year.

Rationale
Brings the terminology into alignment with current practice.

Proposed change #4

Present wording
ARTICLE VII.
Executive Board Section 1. Composition: The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, President-Elect, six Members-At-Large, and the American Library Association Councilor. All members of the Executive Board have voting privileges.

Proposed wording
Executive Board Section 1. Composition: The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, six Members-At-Large, and the American Library Association Councilor. All members of the Executive Board have voting privileges.

Rationale
Brings this section into alignment with Article IV. Section 1 which already includes the past-president as an elected officer.

Proposed change #5

Present wording
ARTICLE VII.

Executive Board Section 3. Meetings: The meetings of the Executive Board may be held before and after the Annual Business Meeting. The Executive Board shall meet a minimum of five times throughout the year, the place and date to be fixed by the President. The agenda of all regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be determined by the President and must include all items submitted by members of the Executive Board. Meetings may be conducted via telecommunications.

Proposed wording
Executive Board Section 3. Meetings: The Executive Board shall meet a minimum of five times throughout the year, the place and date is to be fixed by the President, including a meeting prior to the Annual Business Meeting. There shall be a Board meeting in November to adopt the budget. The agenda of all regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be determined by the President and must include all items submitted by members of the Executive Board. Meetings may be conducted by telecommunications.

Rationale
Brings the wording in line with the handbook.

Proposed change #6
Present wording

Article IV.

Officers Section 6. Duties of Officers: Immediate Past-President. The Immediate Past-President shall serve in an advisory role to the President and President-Elect

Proposed wording

Officers Section 6. Duties of Officers: Immediate Past-President. The Immediate Past-President shall serve in an advisory role to the President and President-Elect and serve as chair of the Nominating Committee.

Rationale
Brings the bylaws in alignment with current practice and current terminology.