

GLBTRT Bylaws & Mission Statement

Mission Statement

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association is committed to serving the information needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender professional library community, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender information and access needs of individuals at large. We are committed to encouraging and supporting the free and necessary access to all information, as called for by the missions of the American Library Association.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table provides its members, other American Library Association divisions, members and affiliates, and the library and information science field as a whole with a forum for discussion and an environment for education and learning regarding the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender professional community and population at large.

I. PURPOSE

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association shall:

- x promote the improved quality, quantity, and accessibility of library materials and service of particular interest or usefulness to lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender people of all ages;
- x develop, promote and defend unrestricted access for library users to information by or about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people;
- x sponsor and promote awareness of programs and of the Stonewall Book Awards;
- x provide bibliographic services to librarians, archivists, other information professionals, and library users;
- x work toward eliminating job discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender employees of libraries, archives, and information centers;
- x advocate revising classification schemes, subject heading lists, indices, etc., in order to remove terms derogatory to the lives, activities and contributions to culture and society of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people;
- x advocate within the membership and leadership of ALA on behalf of lesbian, bisexual, or transgender librarians, archivists, other information specialists, and library users;
- x support other under-represented and disadvantaged groups working for adequate representation and equal opportunity within ALA;
- x work with groups outside ALA interested in achieving equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people;
- x provide opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender librarians, archivists, and other information specialists attending ALA conferences to meet and socialize with one another; and

The round table shall elect a chair, a secretary, treasurer, five directors-at-large, and a round table councilor. The chair serves a three-year term: in the first year as chair-elect, in the second year as chair, in the third year as immediate past-chair. The secretary, treasurer, and directors-at-large serve two-year terms. The round table councilor serves a three-year term. No person may serve more than two consecutive terms in these offices. If a position is vacated before the completion of the term, the executive board will elect a person to serve the remainder of that term.

No decision or instruction made by a chair shall conflict with decision or instruction made by the round table membership or the executive board.

V. COMMITTEES

The round table shall pursue its goals primarily through the work of its committees. A voting round table member as designated by the round table chair-elect shall chair each committee. Whenever possible, a committee chair will be elected after having served in an apprentice capacity during the preceding year, and after consultation with other committee members. Any member interested in serving on a committee must fill out the GLBTRT committee volunteer web form.

Standing Committees

The ongoing work of the round table shall be carried out by its standing committees. The

Establishing liaisons to specific target groups will be encouraged when the relationship appears to be beneficial to the round table. The Chair will appoint liaisons from the membership to other groups both inside and outside ALA. Liaisons will be for two years, not to exceed two consecutive terms (four years). Liaison appointments may be for specific projects or on-going.

VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Disputes over the procedures used in making a decision at a round table membership meeting or executive board meeting shall be resolved in reliance upon the provisions contained in the "Rules of Order" that ALA Council uses.

Quorum

A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

VIII. AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Bylaws amendments may be proposed by the executive board or by the round table membership at a membership meeting. The bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote on the spring ballot. The proposed amendments must have been announced not less than thirty days before the spring ballot.