

Summary of ACLA Board Discussion

CILOC Structure recommendations

January 18, 2010

The ACLA Board is appreciative of the time and effort put into developing recommendations intended for the improvement of the organization as a whole. It does feel that many of the concerns that led to these recommendations reflect the situation of the Board in the past. Now that the Board has a full complement of members and is actively engaged, it is possible that substantive change may no longer be required. With regard to the specific recommendations:

1. Increase the number of members on the ACLA board to 11.

As this would require special exemption from the State (the Code allows for 9 members on a multi-municipal system Board), and as the Board now has a full complement of active members, the majority of the Board did not feel this was critical at this time. One member did indicate that the State has in fact considered increasing the maximum Board number up to 11 and even as many as 15 in the past and that this is consistent with nonprofit practice overall.

2. The ACLA Board should be comprised of one representative from each of the five regions of the county, one representative from the ARAD, and five representatives elected at-large. If the ARAD elects not to appoint a representative, a sixth at-large member will be elected by the membership.

The Board as a whole was pleased to see the recommendation on retention of regional representatives. It acknowledges that once appointed or elected individual ACLA Board members should be committed to the interests of the organization as a whole; however, the regional connection is valuable in terms of perspective and information. One member expressed concern about not having the perspective of a practicing librarian on the Board (LAC representative).

3. Expand eligibility of membership on the ACLA board to include Local Libraries trustees. *The Board as a whole expressed concern about potential conflict of interest in having local library trustees on the County System board.*

4. Expand eligibility of membership on the ACLA board to individuals who live or work in Allegheny County.

The Board as a whole felt that there is an adequate pool of qualified candidates from among those individuals who live in Allegheny County and that it is unnecessary to extend that eligibility further.

5. Expand the Governance Committee of the ACLA Board to include representation from the Membership for the purposes of identifying, vetting, and proposing ACLA Board members.

The Board as whole felt that retaining regional representatives on the Board would provide a communication channel for member libraries to recommend candidates for at-large positions. The Board would entertain any recommendations from libraries, whether through regional representatives or directly to the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee holds a range of responsibilities that goes beyond identification of potential Board members, and those other functions need to be reserved to Board members specifically as falling within their fiduciary responsibility.