
Georgia Library Association - Constitution

Constitution

Adopted at Atlanta, Georgia, April 22, 1949

(Including revisions adopted at Savannah, Georgia, November 7, 1957; Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 26, 1961; Augusta, Georgia, November 6, 1965; Jekyll Island, Georgia, November 2, 1967; Atlanta, Georgia, October 30, 1969; Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 28, 1971; Savannah, Georgia, October 26, 1973; Atlanta, Georgia, October 23, 1975; Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 29, 1977; Savannah, Georgia, October 25, 1979; Atlanta, Georgia, October 30, 1981; Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 28, 1983; Atlanta, Georgia, March 30, 1984; Augusta, Georgia, October 26, 1985; Columbus, Georgia, October 23, 1987; and Savannah, Georgia, October 24, 1991; Augusta, Georgia, October 15, 1994; Athens, Georgia, October 9, 2002; Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 22, 2003; Athens, Georgia, October 14, 2010; virtual vote, September 23, 2020.)

ARTICLE I. Name

Section 1. This organization shall be called the Georgia Library Association.

ARTICLE II. Objectives

Section 1. The objectives of this Association shall be:

- a. To develop an understanding of the place that libraries should take in advancing the educational, cultural, and economic life of the state.
- b. To promote the expansion and improvement of library service.
- c. To stimulate activities toward these ends.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1. Qualifications.

Membership in the Association shall be open to persons engaged in library work and others interested in the objectives of the Association. They shall become members upon payment of dues.

Section 2. Types.

The Association provides several types of membership as follows:

- a. Regular - librarian/media specialist or library/media administrator.
- b. Paraprofessional - library or media center support staff.
- c. Student/Non-Salaried - library science or media student, library volunteer, or student assistant.
- d. Trustee/Friend - library trustee, library board member, or friend of the library.
- e. Retired - retired member.
- f. Supporting - membership which includes a donation to the Association.
- g. Sustaining - membership which includes a donation to the Association.

- h. Benefactor - membership which includes a donation to the Association.
- i. Organizational (non-profit) - library, media center, or other non-profit organization. Membership is for the organization and doesn't include membership benefits for individual employees.
- j. Corporate - corporation or for-profit organization. Membership is for the corporation and doesn't include membership benefits for individual employees.
- k. Honorary - a one-year membership bestowed to certain award winners.
- l. Life membership for retired members - an honorary membership bestowed by the Awards Committee to nominees that have contributed significantly to the work of the Association.

ARTICLE IV. Divisions, Sections and Interest Groups of the Georgia Library Association

Section 1. Divisions

The following are recognized as Divisions of the Georgia Library Association:

- a. Academic Library Division
- b. Georgia Library Trustees, Friends and Advocates Association
- c. New Members Round Table
- d. Paraprofessional Division
- e. Public Library Division
- f. Georgia Association of School Librarians
- g. Special Libraries and Information Services Division

Section 2. Sections

Any division of the Association may form sections which meet the needs of groups within that division.

Section 3. Interest Groups

An interest group may be formed from the membership to promote fields of interest not directly addressed by one of the divisions.

Section 4. Constitutional Authority of Divisions and Interest Groups.

- a. Each division shall have and shall operate under a constitution and bylaws, a copy of which must be posted on the division website and one copy filed with the Georgia Library Association archives. No article or section of such constitution or bylaws may conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Association.
- b. Each section, the Interest Group Council, and each interest group shall have and shall operate under a constitution and bylaws, a copy of which must be posted on the section, Interest Group Council, or interest group website and one copy filed with the Georgia Library Association archives. No article or section of such constitution or bylaws may conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Association.

Section 5. New Divisions

A new division may be established in the following manner:

- a. Submission to the Association Board of a petition to establish such division signed by 35% of the members of the Association.
- b. Approval of such petition by the Association Board.
- c. Approval of the proposed new division by a simple majority vote of the members present at any in-person business meeting, called special meeting or virtual meeting of the Association or with a vote held by virtual means then in common use by the Association. Virtual approval requires a simple majority of those voting. Quorum restrictions as defined in Article IX must be met.

Section 6. New Sections

A new section may be established in the following manner:

- a. Submission to the division's officers of a petition to establish such section signed by 20% of the members of that division.
- b. Approval of such petition by the officers of that division.
- c. Approval of the proposed new section by a simple majority vote of the membership of the division present at any in-person business meeting, called special meeting or virtual meeting of that division or with a vote held by virtual means then in common use by the Association. Virtual approval requires a simple majority of those voting.
- d. Approval of the Association Board.

Section 7. New Interest Groups

A new interest group may be established in the following manner:

- a. Submission to the Interest Group Council of a petition containing the following:
 1. A statement of purpose.
 2. A statement of criteria for membership.
 3. A list of signatures of charter members.
- b. Approval of such petition by the Interest Group Council.
- c. Approval of the proposed new interest group by the Executive Committee of the Association.

Section 8. Dissolution of Divisions, Sections, and Interest Groups

- a. A division may be dissolved on a petition to the Association Board from the majority of the active members of such division.
- b. A section may be dissolved on a petition to the division from the majority of the active members of such section with the approval of the division and of the Association Board.

- c. Each interest group must declare itself active to the chair of the Interest Group Council prior to the first general session of each annual conference, or it shall be considered in dissolution.

ARTICLE V. Officers, the Association Board, and the Executive Committee

Section 1. Officers

- a. Only individual members of the Association shall have the right to hold office.
- b. The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President/President-Elect, a Vice-President for Membership, a Vice-President for Marketing and Branding, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. Elections shall be held by secret ballot in accordance with the Bylaws prior to the annual meeting of the Association.
- c. The Vice-President/President-Elect shall be elected annually. After serving a one-year term as Vice-President/President-Elect, this officer of the Association shall assume the office of President and shall continue in that office for one year or until a successor is elected, subsequently serving an additional one-year term as Past-President.
- d. The Vice-President for Membership and the Vice-President for Marketing and Branding shall be elected biennially and shall continue in office for two years or until their successors are elected.
- e. The Treasurer shall be elected triennially and shall continue in office for three years or until a successor is elected.
- f. The Secretary shall be elected annually and shall continue in office for one year or until a successor is elected.

These officers constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Association Board

The elected officers of the Association, the chair of each division of the Association, the chair and vice-chair of the Interest Group Council, the ALA councilor, and the SELA Representative are voting members of the Association Board.

The immediate past president, the chair of the Handbook Committee, the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, a representative from the Carterette Webinar Team, the parliamentarian, the advisor to the president, the head of the Georgia Public Library Service program and the editor of the official organ of the Association are non-voting members of the Association Board.

Section 3. Vacancies in Office

- a. The Vice-President/President-Elect shall assume the office of the President should a vacancy occur.
- b. The Vice-President for Membership shall assume the office of the Vice-President/President-Elect should a vacancy occur.

- c. The President with the advice and consent of the Association Board shall make appointments to fill vacancies in other elected offices of the Association until the next regularly scheduled election. The Board can approve special elections when vacancies occur before a candidate takes office.

ARTICLE VI. Chapter in the American Library Association

Section 1. ALA Councilor

The Association shall be a chapter of the American Library Association and shall elect a representative to serve on the ALA Council. This Councilor shall serve as a voting member of the Association Board of the Georgia Library Association.

Section 2. Nomination

The Nominating and Elections Committee shall present the nominee(s) for Councilor every three years along with its regular slate of officers commensurate with the American Library Association's constitution and bylaws. The election of the new Councilor will take place one year before the end of the term of the sitting Councilor to allow the sitting Councilor to serve as a mentor for the new Councilor.

ARTICLE VII. Member of the Southeastern Library Association

Section 1. SELA Board Member

The Association shall be a member of the Southeastern Library Association and shall elect a Representative to serve on the SELA Association Board in compliance with the SELA constitution. This representative shall serve as a voting member of the Association Board of the Georgia Library Association.

Section 2. Nomination

The Nominating and Elections Committee shall every four years present the nominee(s) for Representative along with its regular slate of officers commensurate with the Southeastern Library Association constitution and bylaws. Only members of the Georgia Library Association who are members of the Southeastern Library Association may vote for this office.

ARTICLE VIII. Meetings

Section 1.

Meetings of the Association shall be held annually.

Section 2.

Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President with the advice and consent of the Association Board upon thirty days written notice, and only business mentioned in the call shall be transacted at such meetings.

Section 3.

The Association Board meets on call of the President or by a petition of a quorum of the Board.

ARTICLE IX. Quorum

Section 1.

One tenth of the membership shall constitute a quorum at any in-person business meeting, called special meeting or virtual meeting of the Association or for any vote held by virtual means then in common use by the Association.

For a quorum to be valid all members of the Association must be given notice of the date, time and place or method of the meeting.

Section 2.

Seven voting members of the Association Board including at least two members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum at Board meetings whether held in-person or virtually or for any vote held by virtual means then in common use by the Association.

For a quorum to be valid all members of the Executive Board must be given notice of the date, time and place or method of the meeting and the information should be available to the membership at large.

ARTICLE X. Amendments

Section 1. Constitution

This Constitution may be amended by a simple majority vote of those present at any in-person business meeting, called special meeting or virtual meeting of the Association, notice of the proposed change having been given at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

This Constitution may also be amended with a vote held by virtual means then in common use by the Association. Approval of an amendment requires a simple majority of those voting within a 30 day voting period.

For an amendment to be approved, quorum restrictions as defined in Article IX must be met.

Proposed constitutional amendments must be reviewed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and approved by the Executive Board before a vote can be called.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, Divisions and Interest Groups may change the name of their organization with the consent of a majority of the Association Board. This name change will automatically be incorporated into the Georgia Library Association Constitution and Bylaws upon ratification by the Board.

Section 2. Bylaws

Bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by a simple majority vote of those present at any in-person business meeting, called special meeting or virtual meeting of the Association, notice of the proposed change having been given at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

Bylaws may also be adopted, amended or repealed with a vote held by virtual means then in common use by the Association. Approval of an amendment requires a simple majority of those voting within a 30 day voting period.

For an amendment to be approved, quorum restrictions as defined in Article IX must be met.

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be reviewed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and approved by the Executive Board before a vote can be called.

ARTICLE XI. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Rules

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order*, the latest edition, shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, the Bylaws, or special rules of order of the Association.