

# NEWS

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Contact: Larra Clark  
312-280-5043

## ***ALA creates separate body for professional advocacy***

At its annual Midwinter Meeting, the American Library Association (ALA) Council voted to establish a separate advocacy organization, the ALA/Allied Professional Association (ALA/APA). The ALA and ALA/APA will have interlocked governance structures, but the ALA/APA will follow the federal tax rules governing a section 501(c)6 nonprofit trade or professional association. This tax status will allow the ALA/APA to conduct activities constrained by the ALA's 501(c)3 nonprofit (educational/charitable) status, including certification, recruitment, pay equity, status and salaries.

"ALA's current status allows us to speak on behalf of the millions of people who use libraries of all types," said ALA President John W. Berry. "It also allows us to raise funds as a charitable organization. But we need this new organization to aggressively address the serious professional concerns facing librarians now, notably recruitment, salaries and recognition."

The proposal to establish the new organization is a synthesis of recommendations from the Presidential Task Force on Recruitment, Presidential Task Force on Better Salaries, Ad Hoc Task Force on the Status of Librarians, Committee on Education and other ALA standing committees.

"The issues of salary and status are priorities for the profession," said ALA President-Elect Maurice J. (Mitch) Freedman. "The ALA/APA is part of an overall effort to build and share resources and inspiration for America's library workers so we can be better advocates for ourselves and our colleagues on these vital concerns."

Now ALA leadership has approved the formation of the ALA/APA, a taskforce is being formed that will define the roles and relationships between ALA and ALA/APA. For more information about the new organization and its development, please call Mary Ghikas at 800-545-2433 x2518.