Pre-submitted questions
Round Tables Financial Town Hall
July 12, 2024
Net Asset Balance

1. Will the 75% of Net Operating Surplus funds taken from round tables include current balances that we have saved? Can round tables place an encumbrance on funds that we plan to use so that those funds are not considered when calculating the 75% that ALA takes?
2. What happens to a round table’s starting Net Asset Balance? If the Hypothetical Round Table has accumulated assets of $50,000 over recent years, what happens to that money?
1. Could round tables and divisions be held to percentages that are more in line with their size?
1. What is ALA's plan for raising the $25M reserve if round tables and divisions spend down and don't have funds left over for ALA to take?
2. Can you please explain how/whether known annual proceeds from the endowment count toward that goal to achieve a liquid reserve of $25M? For example, if we know that the endowment payout will be $3M in 2025 (for example), does that count toward the $25M?
Innovation

1. What incentives will ALA create for round tables in order to convince round tables that having a surplus that is taken is a worthwhile thing?

2. Will there be a way to earmark or protect surplus money if it is being saved for a specific event, i.e. anniversary event?

3. Will round tables be penalized for not having surplus to be swept?
4. For the variations of the operating agreement that involve clawing back budget surplus into the ALA general budget, will there be accommodations made for (1) direct donations to the round table for projects such as award and grant programs and (2) fundraising based on building up funds for future projects?
Other Questions

1. Can we get a detailed, bulleted list of reasons for the ALA Council not supporting online meeting formats for annual conferences?
2. What will ALA be doing to wean itself from its dependence on expensive consultants going forward?