

3.6 GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS/BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Committee Charge

The Committee monitors and informs MLGSCA members of existing and pending legislation, the implementation of public laws and the actions of governmental agencies on issues vital to the interest of health science libraries. It educates members about influencing the political process and encourages members to respond to governmental officials when action is needed. It also cooperates with other legislative committees of MLA chapters, the MLA Governmental Relations Committee and other associations and organizations which support similar goals. The committee also prepares bylaws changes and/or proposals as recommended by the Advisory Council or members, and continually reviews the Bylaws so that it can recommend to Advisory Council and members appropriate changes as needed.

- I. Chair
The Chair is appointed by the President and is a member of the Advisory Council.
- II. Members of the Committee
Members are requested to serve on the Committee based on the results of the Committee Interest Survey taken in the Spring or from general contacts. At least one Committee member should be from Arizona.
- III. Meetings
The Committee meets as often as is necessary to conduct the business of the Committee.
- IV. Reports
The Committee Chair reports on the Committee's activities at the Advisory Council meetings and also at the general business meetings of the Group. An annual report is written and given to the membership at the final general business meeting of the year. The original of the annual report is given to the archivist and a copy sent to the President.
- V. Budget
The Chair prepares an estimate of projected expenses for the year. A copy of the projected budget is submitted to the Treasurer.
- VI. General Duties.
 1. Legislation, Regulations, etc.
The Chair and committee members scan sources which provide information about legislative matters which are of concern to health sciences librarians. Responsibility for regularly checking certain sources is divided among committee members. The MLA Governmental Relations Committee Chair also provides the committee with information.
 2. Responding to legislative issues
The Chair and committee members respond to legislative issues as appropriate. When an urgent response to an issue is needed the Chair and committee members mount a telephone or electronic mail campaign to alert members to the need for immediate

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action. In responding to legislative issues the Chair solicits the support of relevant groups or organizations.

3. **Liaison with NCNMLG**
The Chairs of the NCNMLG and MLGSCA Governmental Relations/Bylaws Committees communicate at regular intervals to keep each other abreast of actions undertaken by each Committee. Joint efforts are mounted when appropriate.
4. **Liaison with MLA**
In order to receive legislative updates from MLA, the Chair contacts the Chair of the MLA Governmental Relations Committee and provides the Chair with the address to which the legislative updates should be sent. Prior to the Annual Meeting of MLA, the Chair of the MLA Governmental Relations Committee sends an announcement of the Governmental Relations Committee meetings scheduled to be held at MLA. It is important that the MLGSCA Chair or designee attend the meetings where issues of interest for the coming year are discussed and plans of action developed.
5. **Newsletter**
The Committee members keep the membership informed about legislative issues by contributing articles to *MLGSCA Link*. Campaigns mounted by the membership or actions taken by the Committee are also reported.

VII. Transfer to incoming Chair

Incoming chairs should subscribe to the MLA Governmental Relations Committee listserv (mla-grc) by sending a mail message to MAIORDOMO@MLAHQ.ORG, leaving the subject line blank, and writing the command SUBSCRIBE MLA-GRC@MLAHQ.ORG in the text of the message. This command will subscribe the sender to the list.