

CLA Board Member Position Description

Authority

The function and authority of the Board are set out in the CLA Bylaws.

"The function of the Board shall be to set broad general policy and plan the direction of the Association, set Standing Rules, conduct the business of the Association, establish committees, appoint, employ and evaluate the Executive Director among other duties."
(Article XI, Section 1 A-E.)

Board members are elected to staggered three-year terms.

Role/Responsibility

The CLA Board represents the interest of all California Libraries by advising and assisting the Association's participation in programs of statewide concern. Additionally, Board Members actively formulate CLA policy and legislative positions on state and local issues relevant to the library community and its stakeholders.

Through the ALA Councilor, the Board ensures that California's interests are represented at the national level. Specifically, the Board provides input upon and coordinates mutual activities and programs between the CLA and the American Library Association.

In addition, the Board sets the Association's goals in accordance with the CLA Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the Board sets policy, provides leadership for standing and working committees, as well as ensuring that all activities are executed within the confines of the Association's mission, goals, priorities, and general resource allocation.

Members of the Board have the responsibility to participate in forming policy, to support Board decisions, to support membership in CLA and to act corporately.

Other Specific Duties of Board Members

- Make suggestions to the Nominating Committee for candidates for the Board who have displayed leadership skills
- Have proven interest and knowledge of library issues
- Have evidenced a commitment to the library community and to CLA
- Represent all types of diversity--for example, ethnic, geographic, gender, and library type
- Support efforts in their local institutions to incorporate topics and programs of state interest
- Promote a statewide focus at CLA's Annual Conference and Meeting by attending CLA sponsored events and organizing, when possible, a session or an event

Qualifications

To serve on the CLA Board, a nominee must be a current individual member of CLA and be willing to promote Institutional Memberships.

A nominee needs to have the support of his or her library jurisdiction. This includes making available the financial resources to pay all expenses associated with attending two to four Board meetings per year and to devote time to CLA issues.

A successful nominee demonstrates leadership in the library field in relationship to state and local matters. Such indicators include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the nominee's own library issues
- Participation in state and local projects, such as evidenced by sharing “best practices” in library service and delivery
- Prior involvement with CLA, ALA and/or other library organizations