TLA Executive Board

Voting Members:

Officers:
- President
- VP/President-elect
- Past President
- Secretary

3 At-Large Members elected by the membership

Non-voting members:
- Executive Director

TLA Board and Committee Structure

Divisions: (Each division has 1 representative on the Board)

I. Administrative
   Committees:
   - A. Finance/Development
   - B. Strategic Planning
   - C. Bylaws

II. Membership

III. Communications:
    Committees:
    - A. Publication Advisory Board
    - B. Public Relations

IV. Advocacy/Diversity
    Committees:
    - A. Legislative
    - B. Intellectual Freedom/Diversity

V. Conference and Continuing Education
    Committees:
    - A. Conference Planning
    - B. Honors, Awards, & Scholarships
    - C. Staff & Career Development
Round Tables (1 representative to the Board – rotates among the Round Tables)
  Children/Young Adult
  Technology
  Leadership
  Government Documents
  New Members
  Technical Services
  Access & Patron Services

Affiliates (1 representative to the Board – rotates among the Affiliates)
  TASL
  Tenn-Share
  Friends of Tennessee Libraries
  ALA/TLA Student Chapter
  UTSIS Alumni Chapter
  Tennessee Health Sciences Library Association

Regional Affiliates (1 representative to the Board – rotates among the Regional affiliates)
  Boone Tree Library Association
  Chattanooga Area Library Association
  East Tennessee Library Association
  Memphis Area Library Council
  West Tennessee Academic Library Consortium

3 At-Large Members, elected by the membership

3 Representatives:
  SELA
  ALA
  TSLA

Explanatory notes/comments: (not part of formal proposal?)

Each Committee, Affiliate, and Representative submits reports to the Board as in the past. If a committee, affiliate, or rep has an action item, the Chair comes to the Board
meeting to present the item and answer questions, but does not vote unless they are serving as the representative from their Division or Affiliate group.

Ad hoc Committees can still be created; they can be assigned to report to someone on the Board or the chair can be a Board member, depending on their purpose.

It is expected that Committees will meet 3-4 times per year to conduct the business for which they are responsible (more times if necessary). Round Tables also may meet as necessary. Meetings can be in person or via electronic means.

The Board will meet 3-4 times per year to conduct the business of the Association, either in person or electronically.

Some of the issues from the “What works; what doesn’t work” survey:

1. **Increased/improved communication:**
   a. Adding a summary of Board action to the newsletter is recommended to increase communication. Board minutes will be published in full to the web site in a timely manner.
   b. Announcements about Board meeting and availability of minutes can be made on the TLA listserv.
   c. The re-structure will require a re-write of the Manual of Procedures and the By-laws. The purpose, expectations, and responsibilities of each committee, round table, affiliate, etc. will be made clear in the manual.
   d. The pared down structure will be more streamlined and less redundant, allowing for improved communication.

2. **Structured like ALA:** Committees were formed under Divisions, similar to ALA’s structure.

3. **Value-added for membership:** This will be a responsibility of the Membership Committee to clarify existing advantages and introduce new member benefits.

4. **Support staff are ignored:** this problem is more of a local library problem than a TLA problem, but a support staff roundtable or professional development activities aimed at support staff can be implemented. We could also have a separate support staff listserv (members only) to facilitate discussions among support staff.

5. **Not enough regional meetings:** it was suggested that training meetings be held in different regions at the same time. More work will be done to identify regional leadership for planning training sessions in conjunction with the Staff
& Career Development Committee. Regional affiliate organizations can be tapped for advice and support for these efforts.

6. **Advocacy needs to be state and local**: this is a multi-faceted issue which may require a multi-faceted approach, coordinating the work of several committees within the Communication and Advocacy/Diversity Divisions.

7. **Desire for continuity**: staggered terms for members at large, elected by the membership, will allow for stability.

8. **Board is too big/there is committee overlap/responsibilities are unclear**: This proposal is intended to reduce the number of voting Board members to 18. Currently there are over 40 Board members.

9. **Executive committee is too small & 4 people make all of the decisions**: While the size of the TLA Board has been reduced and streamlined, the size of the executive board has been increased (by 3 members at large selected from the membership, by the membership) to address this concern.

**Timeline for Implementing Restructure (target dates included):**

1. Publish proposed structure (via Listserv, etc.) and ask for comments from the membership. Board will also discuss proposed structure (now – 3/25/16)
2. Based on comments, make revisions and publish again. (3/25/16-4/4/16)
3. Vote – first Board, then membership (4/5/16)

**FAQs:**

1. **What happened to the Sections?**
   Most of the sections experience very low participation and the interests of those groups could be represented elsewhere. Alternatively, new Round Tables could be developed if a particular group does not feel they are represented in the new organizational structure.

2. **Some functions are missing: where is the Nominating Committee? What happened to the Parliamentarian? Archives and History?**
   The sole function of the Nominating Committee was to come up with a slate of officers. The Executive Board will appoint a Nominating Committee from among the TLA membership. We will need to spell it out in the Bylaws to get wide representation.
   The Parliamentarian will be appointed as an ex-officio member of the Board. Keeping TLA history will become a task assigned to the Secretary.