

FAFLRT and ASCLA: a Proposed Merger to Benefit Both Groups

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Who we Are



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Webinar Outline

- ▶ What is FAFLRT
- ▶ What is ASCLA
- ▶ What is being proposed
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ Benefits for FAFLRT members
- ▶ Benefits for ASCLA members
- ▶ What are the next steps
- ▶ Discussion and questions/answers



What is FAFLRT?

▶ The Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table:

- ▶ Promotes library and information service and the library and information profession in the federal and armed forces communities.
- ▶ Promotes appropriate utilization of federal and armed forces library and information resources and facilities.
- ▶ Provides an environment for the stimulation of research and development relating to the planning, development, and operation of federal and armed forces libraries.



What is FAFLRT?

- ▶ Is a supportive network for professional growth and advancement and a focal point for discussion of key information management and technology issues.
- ▶ An official round table of the American Library Association.
- ▶ Librarians, library staffs, library agencies, students, and others interested in the activities and work of federal and armed forces libraries.



What is FAFLRT?

- ▶ Includes the full spectrum of librarians working in the largest national and federal libraries to those working in smaller base libraries, worldwide.
- ▶ FAFLRT members serve diverse populations with a broad range of library needs from academic researchers to children and young adults.



What is FAFLRT?

- ▶ Currently, 287 members.
- ▶ Represented by Small Members Round Table Councilor at ALA. Lost its own councilor due to decreased size of membership.
- ▶ Newsletter published three times a year.
- ▶ Recognizes federal and armed forces librarians and students of librarianship through three awards.
- ▶ Develops programs for the ALA Summer Conference.
- ▶ In the past, offered regional presentations and continuing education programs outside of ALA meetings.
- ▶ Board and membership run all operations and activities of FAFLRT on a volunteer basis.



What is ASCLA?

▶ VISION

- ▶ The Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) is the premier destination for ALA members to find information and build capacity to serve populations that are served by state library agencies, specialized libraries, library cooperatives and library consultants.



What is ASCLA?

▶ MISSION

- ▶ The Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) enhances the effectiveness of library service by advocating for and providing high quality networking, enrichment and educational opportunities for its diverse members, who represent state library agencies, libraries serving special populations, library cooperatives, and library consultants.



What is ASCLA?

- ▶ Librarians, library agencies and staff serving populations with special needs,
- ▶ Librarians and staff of state library agencies, and state library consultants
- ▶ Library networks and cooperatives
- ▶ Consultants, independent or contract librarians



What is ASCLA?

- ▶ **Division of ALA**

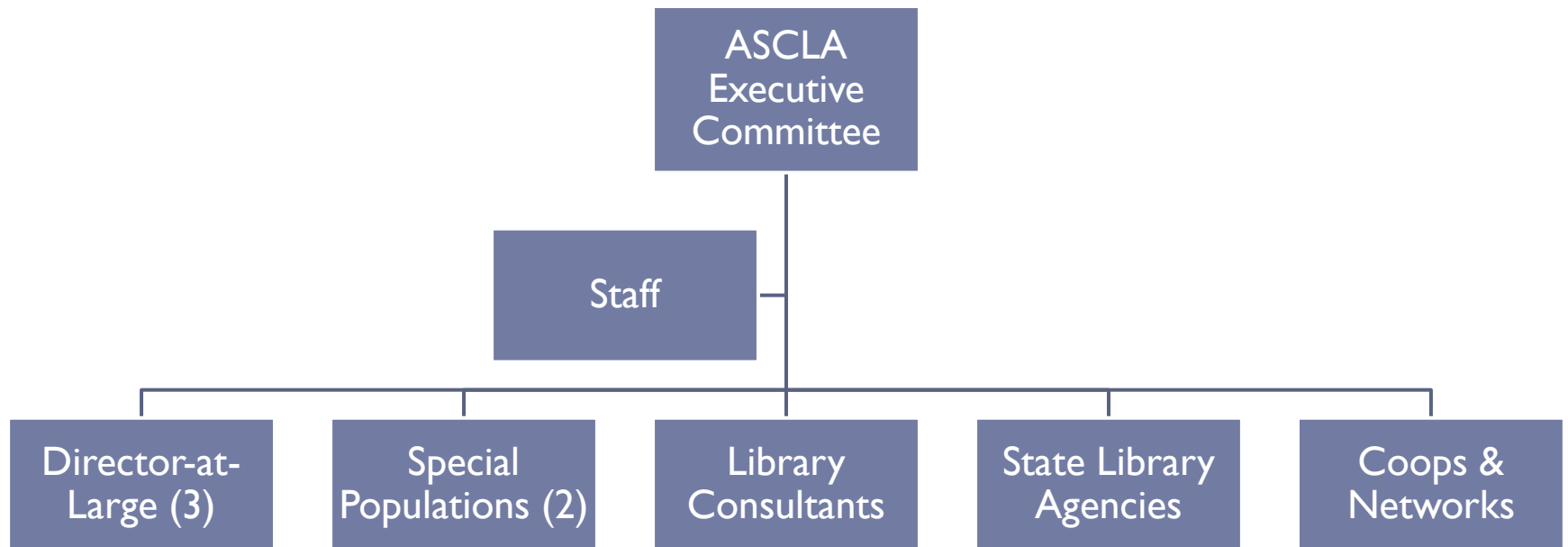
- ▶ Have staff
- ▶ Representative on Council
- ▶ Can set own directions (within limits)
- ▶ Speak for the Association on areas of specialty

- ▶ **Informal Division motto:**

- ▶ Small but mighty



ASCLA (org chart)



What is being proposed?

- ▶ FAFRLT members will be asked to vote to merge with ASCLA
- ▶ ASCLA will review bylaws to add director positions to represent federal and armed forces libraries, one for Federal Libraries and one for Armed Forces Libraries
- ▶ ASCLA will establish Interest Groups (as needed) to represent unique concerns of federal and armed forces libraries



Why?

- ▶ FAFLRT Membership has continued to decline.
 - ▶ FAFLRT is no longer large enough to have its own Councilor on ALA Council.
 - ▶ Fewer FAFLRT members are willing to serve in leadership roles or volunteer, due to their own heavy workloads.
 - ▶ Inability to have regional programming or career development activities .
 - ▶ Difficult to maintain FAFLRT web page and social media sites.
 - ▶ Difficult to maintain regular issues of *Federal Librarian*.
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Why?

- ▶ Fewer FAFLRT members can attend ALA due to reduced budgets at home institutions.
 - ▶ FAFLRT does not have regular representation on critical ALA Committees, such as the Round Table Coordinating Assembly and the Legislation Assembly.
 - ▶ Difficult to put on robust programs at ALA conferences.



Why?

- ▶ Missions of FAFLRT and ASCLA are closely aligned.
- ▶ Some members of FAFLRT are also ASCLA members.
- ▶ Can bring together strengths of both memberships through merger.



What will the merger look like?

- ▶ Representation on the ASCLA Board
- ▶ Possibility of changing the ASCLA name to reference federal/armed forces libraries
- ▶ Interest groups to focus specifically on needs/issues of federal and armed forces librarians
- ▶ ALA staff support for programs and activities



Benefits for FAFLRT members

- ▶ **Guaranteed voice in ALA governance.**
- ▶ **Guaranteed voice in ALA policy setting.**
- ▶ **Direct ALA staff support for activities that support federal and armed forces librarians.**



Benefits for FAFLRT members

- ▶ Ability to partake of more webinars and continuing education activities.
- ▶ Greater ability to advocate for needs of specialized libraries and agencies, including federal and armed forces libraries.



Benefits for ASCLA members

- ▶ **Some FAFLRT members are already ASCLA members**
- ▶ **Increases size of ASCLA**
 - ▶ Increased financial ability
 - ▶ Increased presence within ALA



What are the next steps?

▶ FAFLRT

- ▶ Referendum on 2017 ALA Ballot to merge with ASCLA.
- ▶ If vote is favorable current Board and 2017-18 Board will work with ASCLA Board on specifics related to the merge.

▶ ASCLA

- ▶ If vote is favorable, draft proposals to change ASCLA Bylaws for a vote of the membership



Timetable

- ▶ **ALA election results**
 - ▶ Announced April 12, 2017
- ▶ **ASCLA Bylaws revision proposal**
 - ▶ Board has Task Force
- ▶ **FAFLRT Board action**
 - ▶ Send documents to Committee on Organization (COO) – Fall 2017
- ▶ **ALA Council Action**



Discussion and Q+A

- ▶ Open discussion time with webinar participants.



Thank you for
participating!



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