



# ***Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC):***

## ***Standing Committee Guidelines***

***Revised November 2021***



***Western New York Library Resources Council:  
Standing Committee Guidelines***

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## Western New York Library Resources Council

### *Who We Are*

#### **Purpose statement**

WNYLRC is a member-driven organization that helps libraries build connections with each other, library users, and the larger community.

#### **Vision statement**

Questioning existing practices. Testing new ideas. WNYLRC: a leader in library innovation.

#### **WNYLRC Guiding Principles**

Strategic Principle 1: WNYLRC facilitates collaboration

Strategic Principle 2: WNYLRC embraces experimentation

Strategic Principle 3: WNYLRC cultivates learning

Strategic Principle 4: WNYLRC advocates for libraries

Strategic Principle 5: WNYLRC builds community

## Western New York Library Resources Council: Standing Committee Guidelines

The basis for the establishment of WNYLRC committees is found in the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Bylaws, Article V Committees, Section 1 states:

“The Executive Committee shall charge all standing committees and appoint members as required, except appointments to the Nominating Committee, which shall be confirmed by the Board of Trustees. The duties of each standing committee shall be such as are associated with its name or assigned to it by the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee is also responsible for establishing and revising committee guidelines to ensure a fair and representative roster is appointed for each committee. Please see the WNYLRC Committee Guidelines for more information on appointing WNYLRC members to these committees.”

The role of any standing committee is to support the Strategic Plan of Service or as sometimes referred to The Member Plan. The work initiated by the committee supports the goals and objectives as outlined in the current Strategic Plan of Service and must also adhere to the five operating principles of the organization as outlined above.

To fulfill the goals of the plan, the WNYLRC Board of Trustees assigns the charge to each standing member committee and may assign a charge to any other ad hoc or discussion group it deems necessary. Advisory groups may also be developed as short-term work groups that have a specific task at hand. Advisory groups to WNYLRC may choose to adopt these guidelines either in part or in full.



Excepting the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee, the relationship of standing committees to the WNYLRC Board of Trustees is advisory in nature.

## **Article I Representation**

**Section 1** In appointing members to committees, the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee will give consideration to appropriate qualifications provided by the nominee on the application form in relation to the committee's charge. Criteria for consideration include, but are not limited to, experience and awareness of library service in the areas relevant to the committee; membership and participation in such professional groups as ALA, NYLA, SLA, MLA, etc.; and the constituency represented by the appointee.

A Committee Member must be employed by a member institution or be a dues-paying individual member under the patron category. The category of representation may be changed anytime during the Committee Member's term by a vote of the committee initiated by the Committee Chair, WNYLRC Executive Director, and/or by the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee.

If the Committee Member is separated from his/her current employer anytime during the committee year, the Committee Chair(s) can choose to have the Committee Member stay on the committee until the end of the current committee year. If the Committee Member becomes employed by any organization that is not a member of WNYLRC, the Committee Member must resign at the end of the current committee year. Committee Chairs work with the committee liaisons to temporarily fill committee vacancies until the next appropriate committee recruitment window is open. Temporary appointments may complete the term vacated by his/her predecessor and then is obligated to complete the committee recruitment requirements if he/she wishes to stay on the committee for two official terms.

## **Section 2**

Every committee can have up to sixteen (16) Committee Members. In the case of a committee that has received more requests for members than the committee requires, preference will always be given to those members who do not serve on other committees, who are from an institution not represented on the committee, and/or who fulfill the required geographical and professional representation.

Every attempt will be made to ensure broad representation of WNYLRC constituencies on every standing committee including at least one member from each constituent group up to sixteen (16) representatives and include those appointed by the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee,

- Private academic library (1)
- Public academic library (1)
- Public library (1)
- School library P-12 (1)
- Special library - hospital, corporate, cultural (1)
- Member-at-large representatives (minimum 7)

and those appointed by the Committee:



- Representative from the Patron Membership level (organizational, personal, or student) (1)
- Liaisons appointed by committee (maximum 2)
- Member Emeritus (1) (see Article II, Section 4)

If representation from a specific constituency cannot be achieved, a member-at-large will be substituted. The official member-at large participants are selected with care given to balance by library type, organization, and geographic area.

Each committee may also appoint liaisons to other WNYLRC committees as appropriate and will be identified by the name of the committee. Liaisons from other committees have voting status. Additional liaisons may be appointed and may include a representative from UB's LIS program or other WNYLRC task group but will not have voting status.

Additionally, a WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison without voting status will be appointed to each committee by the WNYLRC Executive Director but is not included in the count of 15.

Each new Committee Member will receive an invitation to a new Committee Member Orientation held each spring which will provide the opportunity for a meeting with the chair(s) of the committee and/or WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison. Each new Committee Member will receive a packet of information which may include information about WNYLRC and the committee. Additionally, each new (as well as existing) Committee Member will be added to the committee listserv and the regional listserv WNYLib-I to facilitate communication avenues.

## **Article II      Terms of Service**

- Section 1      Standing committee appointments shall be made for a period of three (3) years with a limit of two (2) consecutive full terms. Terms of each Committee Member are staggered so that a portion of the members on the committee expire each year. Each year, the terms will expire for approximately one-third of the members. A Committee Member who has served two (2) consecutive terms and wishes to be reappointed to the same committee may reapply after having been off the committee for one full year. The committee service year and terms of committee appointments begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> and end on June 30.
- Section 2      Conscientious attendance at committee meetings is expected of all Committee Members. Two (2) consecutive absences, excused or unexcused, may cause a participant to be dropped from committee membership by a vote from the committee. The Committee Chair(s) is responsible for contacting the individual to let them know of the committee's decision.
- Section 3      If a Committee Member is unable to complete the term of service on a committee, a letter of resignation should be sent to the Committee Chair(s) with a copy sent to the WNYLRC Executive Director.
- Section 4      At the discretion of the Committee Chair(s), a Committee Member whose term is expiring may be elected to serve as a Member Emeritus for a temporary period after their service term has ended. The Emeritus status must be approved by a vote from the committee and may not exceed six months. The Member Emeritus may attend committee meetings and participate in committee functions but will not have voting status.



**Article III Governance**

- Section 1 Each committee shall elect a chair from the Committee Membership. The term of office of a standing committee chair shall be one (1) year. The committee chair can be re-elected for an additional consecutive one-year term. The Committee Chair(s) is responsible for calling all meetings. Each committee must meet a minimum of two (2) times per year,
- Section 2 If a member leaves a committee mid-term, the Committee Chair(s) in consultation with the committee can recruit a replacement Committee Member on a temporary basis until the term is completed. Afterwards, the recruited member must officially nominate him/herself to be appointed to the first three-year term.
- Section 3 The WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee may discontinue a committee, even though some members may have unexpired terms. The Executive Committee may increase the size of a committee by making additional appointments. The importance of assigning terms to maintain the composition of the committee with first, second, third/final year members shall be considered.
- Section 4 With the exception of the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Nominating Committee, the WNYLRC Board of Trustees President and the WNYLRC Executive Director of the Council shall be a member of all committees, *ex officio*.

**Article IV Committee Meeting Dates, Locations, Minutes**

- Section 1 To maximize effective participation, meeting schedules, whenever possible, should be set for a full year ahead and must include a minimum of two (2) meetings per year. A calendar of all WNYLRC committee meetings is updated regularly and maintained on the [www.wnylrc.org](http://www.wnylrc.org) web site. It is highly encouraged that committee meetings are held throughout the region or planned for a convenient midpoint to minimize travel inconvenience for Committee Members.
- Section 2 Agendas, meeting minutes, and supporting documents will be transmitted by email by the committee chair, with assistance from the WNYLRC office, approximately seven (7) days prior to scheduled meetings. It is encouraged that each committee appoint a note-taker or secretary to record minutes for each meeting.
- Section 3 Meeting minutes will be reported in the action step format. (See sample action step format attached to these *Guidelines*.) The Committee Secretary or note-taker shall send the Committee Chair(s) a draft of the minutes for review. The Committee Chair(s) will forward meeting minutes to Committee Members. One hard copy must be on file at WNYLRC and posted to the Standing Committee page on [www.wnylrc.org](http://www.wnylrc.org) or committee LibGuide.

**Article V Committee Support**

- Section 1 WNYLRC supports standing committee requests out of the General Operating Fund (Committee Workshop Funds or other designated funds). Requests are honored for such items as honoraria for presenters at workshops, support for regional conferences, support for committee sponsored field trips, and other expenses deemed appropriate by the WNYLRC Standing Committee Chairs and the WNYLRC Executive Director. The amount of committee support will vary from



year to year based on the total monies received for the General Operating Fund. Occasionally, committee requests may also be funded through other WNYLRC grant funding. Generally, WNYLRC provides support through general operating funds which are allocated annually.

Section 2 When available, there may be a pool of additional funding available. The process for WNYLRC standing committees to request funding is on a rolling basis and accepted anytime during the fiscal year from the Committee Workshop funds is as follows. Funding requests must include the following information:

- Name of Committee Chair(s)
- Name of Committee
- Date submitted for approval
- Purpose of the request
- Timeline of activities
- Intended audience (e.g.: academic, school, public librarians, all WNYLRC members, etc.)
- Benefits for the WNYLRC membership
- Detailed budget

The Committee Chair(s) should submit the request electronically to the WNYLRC Executive Director. The WNYLRC Executive Director will forward the request to the other Committee Chairs and put one hard copy on file.

Section 3 The WNYLRC Executive Director will follow-up by email with all WNYLRC Standing Committee Chairs shortly after a funding request is made. All attempts will be made to have this meeting coincide with the Fall and Spring Committee Chairs meeting. If this is not possible, the “Request for Funding” meeting can take place electronically. This group will review and prioritize the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the WNYLRC Executive Director for approval.

Section 4 Once approval is made and the activity is completed, the Committee Chair is required to submit a brief report of the activity outcomes, attendance, and budget summary of expenditures to the WNYLRC Executive Director within thirty (30) days of the completion of the event.

Section 5 Standing Committees are provided with funds to sponsor events and training sessions that may include a door prize or raffle. Items that are to be raffled off should be self-supporting either through a paid drawing by event attendees or with items donated or paid by the committee members. Committee members are encouraged but not required to remove themselves from the raffle or drawing whenever possible.

Each committee is assigned a WNYLRC staff liaison. When an event is being held that requires attendees to pay a fee, neither the committee liaison nor WNYLRC has to pay for his/her attendance since the liaison’s work is within his/her scope of job duties. If, however, the event also charges for extraneous or additional features, such as tours, the liaison will be required to pay for these add-on features - either personally or, if approved, through WNYLRC. WNYLRC staff who wish to attend a committee-sponsored event, yet do not hold the role of the committee’s liaison, will be required to pay for the event – either personally or, if approved, through WNYLRC.



## **Article VI Responsibilities**

### **WNYLRC Standing Committee Chairs**

- Section 1 Committee Chair(s) Responsibilities: Effective leadership is essential for the work of WNYLRC's committees. Committee Chairs work closely with their members and with the designated WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison to accomplish the goals of the committee and are expected to attend two meetings with other WNYLRC Standing Committee Chair(s) annually.
- Section 2 The Committee Chair(s) will preside at committee meetings, work with committee and WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaisons to develop annual committee goals, and work with the WNYLRC Committee Liaison and/or the WNYLRC Executive Director to fill committee vacancies temporarily until the next appropriate committee recruitment window is open.
- Section 3 Committee Chairs should work with the WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison to set the agenda, arrange meeting dates, and review other documents as needed. Agenda and documents should be sent electronically to Committee Members in advance of the meeting no later than seven (7) days before the meeting.
- Section 4 The Committee Chair(s) and the committee's WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison are responsible for reviewing and revising draft minutes before they are distributed to Committee Members.
- Section 5 The Committee Chair(s) attends WNYLRC Committee Chairs meetings (usually twice per year) to share plans/annual reports with other committees and prepare a one- to two-page written annual report of committee accomplishments.
- Section 6 The current Committee Chair(s) assists in orienting his/her successor(s).
- Section 7 The Committee Chair(s) communicates with the WNYLRC Executive Director on the committee's request for funding (See Article V – Committee Support).

### **WNYLRC Standing Committee Members**

- Section 1 The Committee Member should make every effort to attend committee meetings or notify the Committee Chair(s) or WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison in advance if unable to attend a meeting. Two (2) consecutive absences excused or unexcused from a meeting may terminate membership on a committee (see Article II, Section 2).
- Section 2 The Committee Member should be prepared for each meeting by reading the agenda, minutes and supporting documentation beforehand. If items on the agenda will impact the type of library the Committee Member represents, the Committee Member should discuss implications with other members. The Committee Member should be prepared to provide information and participate in the discussion.
- Section 3 The Committee Member should bring the agenda and all documents including the minutes of the last meeting to be discussed at the meeting. The Committee Member should be prepared to take minutes if asked.





- Section 4 If a Committee Member is unable to complete a term of service, the Committee Member should send a letter of resignation to the Committee Chair(s) with a copy to the WNYLRC Executive Director (See Article II, Section 3).
- Section 5 Committee members are excluded from reduced pricing for any committee or WNYLRC sponsored workshops, conferences, or events. Therefore, committee members are eligible to participate in raffles and give-aways since they are paying the same price as other attendees.
- Section 6 The Committee Member should register on [www.wnylrc.org](http://www.wnylrc.org) to create an online profile on the website. This allows committee members to be included in committee rosters on the committee webpage as well as classifying the committee member according to their membership status for workshop and event discounts.

#### **WNYLRC Executive Director**

- Section 1 The WNYLRC Executive Director with the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee appoints new Committee Members to all established standing committees. The WNYLRC Executive Director communicates with newly appointed Committee Members and provides them with the necessary materials to begin their term. These communications may include a letter of appointment to the committee stating the committee term, minutes of last year's committee meetings or a link to their location on [wnylrc.org](http://wnylrc.org), a copy of the *Western New York Library Resources Council: Standing Committee Guidelines* or a link to its location on [wnylrc.org](http://wnylrc.org), a copy of the committee roster or a link to its location on [wnylrc.org](http://wnylrc.org), and a copy of the *WNYLRC Five-Year Plan of Service* or a link to its location on [wnylrc.org](http://wnylrc.org).
- Section 2 When appropriate, the WNYLRC Executive Director will provide newly elected Committee Chairs a copy of the *Western New York Library Resources Council: Standing Committee Guidelines*, a current committee roster, a copy of WNYLRC's *Bylaws of Members*, and a copy of the *WNYLRC Five-Year Plan of Service* or links to their locations on [wnylrc.org](http://wnylrc.org).
- Section 3 The WNYLRC Executive Director will work with WNYLRC staff to maintain each standing committee's mailing list, WNYLRC committee webpage, and committee roster.

#### **WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison**

- Section 1 The WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison will consult with the Committee Chair(s) about meeting agendas no later than ten (10) days before scheduled meetings and assist in preparing support documentation for meetings for duplication and distribution to the committee.
- Section 2 The WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison will attend committee meetings, record meeting minutes in action-step format (see page 11) or assist committee secretary or note-taker in recording meeting outcomes and provide a copy of the minutes to the Committee Chair(s) for his/her review.
- Section 3 The WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison will maintain the committee roster and ensure each new Committee Member is added to all appropriate communication channels.



- Section 4 The WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison will assure that committee meeting minutes and other documentation are posted on [www.wnylrc.org](http://www.wnylrc.org) committee page or the committee LibGuide. The WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison will assure that an archival copy of the agenda and minutes are filed at WNYLRC.
- Section 5 The WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison will assist in coordinating activities and projects between committees and within the scope of the WNYLRC Guiding Principles as identified on [wnylrc.org](http://wnylrc.org) and in *WNYLRC Five-Year Plan of Service*.

#### **WNYLRC Board of Trustees President**

- Section 1 The WNYLRC Board of Trustees President participates in meetings of the Committee Chairs - minimally one (1) meeting per year.

#### **Members of the WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee**

- Section 1 The WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee will appoint new members to established standing committees in the spring prior to the new committee year.

#### **Members of the WNYLRC Board of Trustees**

- Section 1 The WNYLRC Board of Trustees will approve any changes in committee charges proposed by the Committee Chairs.
- Section 2 The WNYLRC Board of Trustees will establish standing committees as needed. Please see WNYLRC Board of Trustees Bylaws.
- Section 3 The WNYLRC Board of Trustees will annually meet with all WNYLRC Standing Committee Chairs at a specified meeting in the fall.



## **ANNUAL WNYLRC COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

In consultation with the WNYLRC liaison, each committee will set annual goals that fit with the committee's charge and that further the WNYLRC Five-Year Plan and mission. Note: Distribution of information below is via the WNYLIB-L listserv, posted on [www.wnylrc.org](http://www.wnylrc.org), and mailed directly to membership when fiscally possible. Committee updates are included in the WNYLRC Executive Director's report distributed at each WNYLRC Board of Trustees meetings.

### **July**

- Committee terms begin on July 1.
- Committee Rosters including identified committee chair, is given to each WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaison.
- WNYLRC compiles rosters and makes them available on [wnylrc.org](http://wnylrc.org).

### **September**

- Fall WNYLRC Standing Committee Chairs Meeting held with the chairs of all WNYLRC Standing Committees, WNYLRC Staff Committee Liaisons, WNYLRC Executive Director and with the WNYLRC Board of Trustees President and/or other members of the WNYLRC Board of Trustees.

### **November**

- WNYLRC Board of Trustees sets Board meeting calendar for the coming year. Calendar is distributed to members.

### **February**

- Call for WNYLRC Standing Committee representatives will be posted on WNYLIB-L listserv and on [www.wnylrc.org](http://www.wnylrc.org).
- Interested members submit their nomination form for consideration of an appointment to a WNYLRC standing committee.

### **April**

- The WNYLRC Board of Trustees Executive Committee and WNYLRC Executive Director meet to appoint/reappoint committee representatives.
- The WNYLRC Executive Director informs the newly appointed Standing Committee members via formal letter.
- Following the spring Committee Chairs meeting, a new Committee Member Orientation is held in which new committee members meet the committee chairs, WNYLRC staff, and any board members in attendance.

### **June**

- A new Committee Chair for the following year is elected.



WESTERN NEW YORK  
LIBRARY RESOURCES COUNCIL

Questioning existing practices. Testing new ideas.  
WNYLRC: a leader in library innovation.

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***Meeting Minutes Template***

**MINUTES/DISCUSSION RECORD**

**COMMITTEE:**  
**ATTENDING:**  
**EXCUSED:**  
**ABSENT:**  
**DATE:**  
**LOCATION:**  
**RECORDED BY:**

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION/ EVALUATION/FOLLOW-UP</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY &amp; TARGET DATE</i>



## **Standing Committees Charge Template (revised 11/16/2021)**

**About:** Standing Committees are created by the Board of Trustees to support the organizational goals and objectives as outlined in [WNYLRC's Strategic Plan of Service – currently July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2026](#). The Board is responsible for approving committee charges. Any proposed changes to existing committee charges must be approved by the Board and the proposal must include both the current and the proposed new charge. Committees are encouraged to review the plan of service annually.

Additionally, any services or projects developed by standing committees must adhere to the five strategic principles.

- Strategic Principle 1: WNYLRC facilitates collaboration
- Strategic Principle 2: WNYLRC embraces experimentation
- Strategic Principle 3: WNYLRC cultivates learning
- Strategic Principle 4: WNYLRC advocates for libraries
- Strategic Principle 5: WNYLRC builds community

### **Required Committee Charge components**

- Scope – the charge must include the committee's focus and for what purpose it was created and what committee goals it will address. It should also demonstrate how the committee will address and incorporate DEI principles
- Tasks, activities, concepts that will be addressed by the committee in bullet form

### **Committee Charge Format**

**[Current Committee Name]**

**[Proposed Committee Name if applicable]**

**[Current or Old Charge]**

**[Scope Statement]**

**[Proposed Charge: list as many as needed]**

- Tasks, activities, concepts that will be addressed
- Tasks, activities, concepts that will be addressed
- Tasks, activities, concepts that will be addressed
- Tasks, activities, concepts that will be addressed

**[Date revised]**



#### Version Control:

*2001: Established June 18, 2001.*

*2005: Revised and Approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 September 2005.*

*2006: Revised and approved by the Board of Trustees on January 31, 2006.*

*2008: Revised and approved by the Board of Trustees on June 24, 2008*

*2011: Revised and approved by the Board of Trustees on April 27, 2011*

*2011: typos fixed August 18, 2011*

*2012: Revised August 6, 2012, approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2012*

*2014: Revised March 2014, approved by the Board of Trustees on March 25, 2014*

*2014: Revised May 2014, approved by the Board of Trustees on September 23, 2014*

*2015: Revised November 2015, approved by the Board of Trustees on April 20, 2016*

*2017 Revised May 2017, approved by the Board of Trustees on May 24, 2017*

*2019: Revised November 2019, approved by the Board of Trustees on January 21, 2020*

*2021: Revised April 2021, approved by the Board of Trustees on June 15, 2021*

*2021: Revised July 2021, approved by the Executive Committee on July 15, 2021*

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