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Q&A: ALA Personal Member Dues Adjustment Proposal
January 22, 2018

1. What is the personal member dues adjustment proposal?
The proposal

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The ALA Membership Committee is charged to assess needs and make
recommendations concerning membership dues. The ALA Membership Committee is
now recommending an adjustment to dues in September 2018 (see chart in question 1),
followed by using the CPI to adjust dues from 2019 to 2022. The adjustment in
September 2018 will provide an additional $85,000 to support the Strategic Directions.

Since the 2013 ALA election and the implementation of using the CPI to adjust dues
amounts, ALA has aggressively implemented the goals of ALA’s Strategic Directions,
developed with input from thousands of ALA members. ALA’s Strategic Directions call
for an increasingly active and proactive association, and though great progress has been
made, ALA has reached its financial limit. A dues adjustment is necessary to continue
the work that has begun.

Like our member libraries, ALA works continuously on reducing its expenses and
improving efficiency. ALA will continue to seek cost savings and generate as much non-dues revenue as possible, but the small proposed dues adjustment is also needed to
meet our goals.

3. How will using the Consumer Price Index affect my dues?
If the Consumer Price Index goes up, your dues could go up by that percentage if the
ALA Executive Board approves the change. If there is no change or a decrease in the CPI,
your dues will stay the same. Basing dues rates on an index allows for small, incremental
increases as opposed to larger increases that are necessary if the adjustments are made
only every 5-10 years. With an average CPI increase of 2% a year, this would translate
into $1-$3 based on your membership type. These small increases spread over
thousands of members will provide ALA with consistent financial resources to help
advance the goals in the ALA Strategic Directions.

4. If this proposal is approved, the new rate in September 2018 for third-year+ members
would be $145. How does this rate compare to dues for other national associations?
Here are the current dues amounts for other national associations:
x American Association of Law Libraries: $242
x American Society of Information Science and Technology: $140
x ISTE: International Society for Technology in Education: $125 (basic); $305
(premium)
x Medical Library Association: $195
x National Council of Teachers of English: $50
x Special Libraries Association: $200

5. If the dues are adjusted, what added value will my ALA membership offer?
This dues adjustment would allow ALA to augment valuable work on the goals in the
ALA Strategic Directions, including:

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x Life Membership, offering personal members the opportunity to join now as a Life
Member and save money in the process. These dues range from $1,400 to $2,000
depending on the member’s current age.

8. Who needs to approve this dues proposal?
ALA members must approve the dues proposal via the ALA ballot. To appear on the
ballot, it must be approved by the following member groups: the ALA Membership
Committee, the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC), the ALA Executive
Board, and ALA Council. The Membership Committee approved the proposal on August
1, 2017, BARC approved it on October 26, 2017 and the ALA Executive Board approved it
on October 28, 2017. The proposal will be reviewed