# Report From the ACB Resolutions Ad-Hoc Task Force

**Prepared by: Ray Campbell, ACB Second Vice President and Task Force Chair**

**The ad-hoc task force created to take a look at the ACB Resolutions Process and recommend changes is pleased to share our report with the ACB Board of Directors. The task force met three times to discuss the current resolutions process, and to identify changes that should be made. Once we had developed our framework of what the updated resolutions process should look like, we held an ACB Community Event to discuss our recommendations and gather input from interested ACB members. At all of our meetings, there was active participation and much sharing of ideas.**

**Our recommendations for process changes centered in three major areas:**

1. **How far ahead of time to ask that resolutions be submitted,**
2. **Reading and adoption of resolutions during each ACB Conference and Convention, and**
3. **Prioritizing resolutions.**

**How early should resolutions be submitted: we recommend that resolutions be submitted not less than forty-five days prior to the day of the opening session for each ACB Conference and Convention. Additionally, we recommend that notice of this deadline be communicated not less than ninety days prior to the day of the opening session. For our upcoming convention in 2021, this would mean that notice would go out in all ACB Communications channels by April 27, and that resolutions would need to be submitted to the resolutions committee by June 10, 2021. Of course, we all know that issues come up that we may need to prepare resolutions on closer to the conference and convention. The committee will exercise discretion and will work very closely with those wanting to submit resolutions less than forty-five days prior to the conference and convention. We have prepared two amendments to ACB Bylaw 6, Section B to codify these deadlines and to ensure that all resolutions submitted and accepted by the committee will be presented to the conference and convention with or without recommendation.**

**Having resolutions submitted ahead of time has many advantages. The committee will be able to begin its work earlier. They will be able to put in more time and work with those submitting resolutions to make sure that the intent of the resolution is preserved. They’ll be able to have a community event and share what resolutions have been submitted to gather input from interested members prior to the conference and convention. They’ll be able to make online and in the case of in-person conventions, hard copies of resolutions to be considered available for members to read to help them understand what they’re voting on.**

**Presentation of resolutions during the ACB Conference and Convention: the task force felt strongly that we need to work with the ACB President and Program Committee to make sure resolutions are presented for discussion and adoption throughout convention week. Having most of them ahead of time should make that easier. We also talked about a couple of things we would like to see to speed up the presentation. For resolutions that have a lot of background in the “whereas” clauses, we could simply present the “resolve” clauses and if someone had a question, we could read the appropriate whereas clauses to verify that it is addressed. The other thing we could do have the committee chair summarize the whereas clauses and then read the resolve clauses. We feel reading the resolve clauses is essential because that is where we’re asking ACB to take action on the issue being presented.**

**Resolutions prioritization: ACB’s Professional staff is in a particularly good position to know how long things may take to get done. The prioritization process we have been using wasn’t really specific about what constitutes a 1, a 2 or a 3. For example, the vast majority of 2020 resolutions came out priority 2. The staff will be able to tell us which items can be addressed immediately, and which might take longer such as doing research or working with a committee to draft a position paper. If we feel strongly that a specific priority needs to be put on a particular resolution, that can be done as part of the resolve clauses. For example, if a letter needs to go to a Government agency by a date certain, we can include that in the resolve clauses. ACB Staff and the Resolutions Committee chairs will work to keep track of work going on to implement resolutions and regularly report to the ACB Board. We could also look at providing status on each resolution on the ACB Website, and on reporting out to future conventions what happened with the resolutions adopted at the previous convention.**

**Two other important things. We feel that the resolutions committee should actively make themselves available to work with ACB members to draft resolutions that they want to submit. We realize not everyone is an expert at writing resolutions, and this might encourage more members to come forward with ideas for resolutions. One task force member shared that she had something she felt very passionate about but had never written a resolution before and having someone who knew how to write one really helped.**

**Secondly, not every resolution has to wait till a conference or convention to be adopted. ACB Bylaw 5 gives the board authority to prepare and adopt resolutions. We want to see the board use that to address important topics that come up between conferences and conventions.**

**In conclusion, we feel we have put together a good framework to encourage more members to submit resolutions while making the committees’ work easier and giving members more input throughout the process. Change is always difficult, but we hope that it can be further resolved that more individuals and affiliates feel they can participate in this important part of ACB’s work. I had a great co-chair and task force to work with, and while a lot of serious work came out, we had plenty of fun and laughs along the way.**

## Atts. Amendment to ACB Bylaw 6, Section B

**Amend Bylaw 6, Section B, by adding the following after the second sentence:**

**"The Resolutions Committee shall require that any resolutions to be considered be submitted not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the day of the opening session of each conference and convention. It shall communicate this deadline using the ACB Braille Forum and other ACB Communication channels not less than ninety (90) days prior to the day of the opening session of each conference and convention. It shall, however, have discretion to accept resolutions submitted after the forty-five (45) day deadline."**

**Current language: B. Resolutions Committee: The president, within sixty (60) days after the close of each national conference and convention, shall appoint a chairperson and not less than four (4) additional members as a Resolutions Committee. This committee shall receive and prepare resolutions to be considered at its opening meeting in conjunction with the ensuing national conference and convention. All resolutions submitted to the committee shall be reported upon with or without committee recommendation, unless the resolution is withdrawn by its author or an individual representative of the author designated in writing. If a resolution is adopted by the conference and convention, and during this process, any conflicting previously adopted resolutions are not rescinded, the most recently adopted resolution on the subject shall take precedence.**

**Proposed language: B. Resolutions Committee: The president, within sixty**

**(60) days after the close of each national conference and convention, shall appoint a chairperson and not less than four (4) additional members as a Resolutions Committee. This committee shall receive and prepare resolutions to be considered at its opening meeting in conjunction with the ensuing national conference and convention. The Resolutions Committee shall require that any resolutions to be considered be submitted not less than forty-five**

**(45) days prior to the day of the opening session of each conference and convention. It shall communicate this deadline using the ACB Braille Forum and other ACB Communication channels not less than ninety (90) days prior to the day of the opening session of the conference and convention. It shall, however, have discretion to accept resolutions submitted after the forty-five (45) day deadline. All resolutions submitted to the committee shall be reported upon with or without committee recommendation, unless the resolution is withdrawn by its author or an individual representative of the author designated in writing. If a resolution is adopted by the conference and convention, and during this process, any conflicting previously adopted resolutions are not rescinded, the most recently adopted resolution on the subject shall take precedence.**

**Amend Bylaw 6, Section B by adding “(within the 45-day deadline or that have been exempted from that deadline by the committee)” before the word “shall” in the fourth sentence.**

**Current wording of the fourth sentence of Section B: All resolutions submitted to the committee shall be reported upon with or without committee recommendation, unless the resolution is withdrawn by its author or an individual representative of the author designated in writing.**

**Proposed wording of the fourth sentence: All resolutions submitted to the committee (within the 45-day deadline or that have been exempted from that deadline by the committee) shall be reported upon with or without committee recommendation, unless the resolution is withdrawn by its author or an individual representative of the author designated in writing.**