

# MLA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

## *General Information for Delegates*

### **Responsibilities of Delegates**

Delegates are expected to represent the professional interests and concerns of their colleagues, particularly those whom they represent. There are currently [298 delegates in the assembly](#): (a) 157 forum delegates; (b) 56 regional delegates, distributed among seven geographic regions; (c) 57 professional-issues delegates, who ensure representation responsive to the professional concerns of the MLA's membership; and (d) 28 ex officio delegates, including voting members of the MLA Executive Council and of the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee and official representatives of each of the six regional MLAs.

Delegates will advocate for the association on their campuses and within their professional communities. Copies of policies and statements from the association and its standing committees will be made available to delegates so that they can share these and keep colleagues and administrators apprised of the association's current projects and efforts on behalf of MLA members. Delegates are encouraged to act as a point of contact on their campus between members and the association.

### **Election of Delegates**

Their term of office is approximately three years (in this instance, 12 January 2026 through the close of the January 2029 convention). Regional, professional-issues, and forum delegates are elected for terms of three convention years. Regional delegates are elected by MLA members in the respective regions. Professional-issues delegates are elected by the general membership. Forum delegates are elected by the MLA members who have a primary affiliation with the relevant forums.

Delegates are expected to participate in the meetings of the assembly held during their term of office (the January 2027 convention will be held in Los Angeles; the locations of the January 2028 and 2029 conventions have not yet been determined).

### **Work of the Delegate Assembly**

The assembly meets once a year, during the convention. Most of the delegates' work is done shortly before and during their meeting; delegates receive in

advance meeting documents (reports from association committees, some of which require that the assembly vote on proposed actions, and an annual report from the executive director). The assembly also

1. elects two members of the Executive Council and five members of the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee;
2. elects the Nominating and Elections Committees;
3. elects honorary members and fellows; determines the dues structure of the association, subject to confirmation by the Executive Council;
4. recommends actions to the Executive Council regarding the conduct of association business and the association's direction, goals, and structure;
5. approves amendments to the MLA constitution; and
6. supervises its own organization and operation.

The participation of all elected delegates is essential to the success of the assembly. Financing of the costs of travel or attendance is generally **not** available from the MLA. The MLA is willing to send a letter from the Executive Director to whatever officer a delegate may designate at his or her institution, urging local support. (Note: Delegates who are graduate students, non-tenure-track faculty members, unemployed members, or regular or life members residing outside the United States and Canada may be eligible for a grant to help defray the cost of travel to the convention. More information on these grants can be found [online](#).)

### **Governance Opportunities for Delegates**

Delegates in their second year of service in the assembly are eligible for nomination to the Executive Council (if one of the assembly's seats on the council needs to be filled that year). Delegates in their third year of service in the assembly are eligible for nomination to the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee.

The MLA constitution is [available online](#). Sections relevant to the Delegate Assembly are articles [9](#), [10](#), [11.B](#), and [11.C](#). The Delegate Assembly's bylaws are also available on the [website](#).