

GODORT Publications Committee
Minutes from GODORT Publications Committee Meeting
Philadelphia Convention Center
1/29/99
3:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Presented by John Shuler, Editor of DttP

Action Item Number One: Status of Issues

March 1997 - This was published as scheduled.

June 1997 - This was printed, but was it ever distributed? We do not think so. This issue will be formatted to PDF and posted to the GODORT web pages.

September 1997 - This issue is sitting in Albany, NY at mailers. The project manager from the Center for Disabled has quit. Jill Moriearty has been in contact with the Center many times, but having little success with their lack of communication. She has asked Mary Redmond to go there and pick up the mailing list.

December 1997 - This remains unpublished.

March 1998 - This remains unpublished.

Action Item Number Two: Financial State of DttP

Documents to the People is in a financial hole. Although details are being worked out, some discussions need to be had about which volumes (present or past) take priority. With the current monies allocated for DttP, we can either publish the two "missing" volumes or publish the next two volumes of 1999, but not all four. Judy Horn suggested we use some of the GODORT reserve money to complete all of the publishing that is behind. Andrea Severson suggested that the two unpublished issues be combined to create one larger issue, thus only paying for one issue. John pointed out that if we can publish the missing two issues, that our publication is then back to being continuous.

Action Item Number Three: Distribution of the Publication DttP

The current distribution is a mess. These problems have caused constant delays. Recently, John contacted GODORT and asked for help. He suggested a colleague, Lori Mon, help him coordinate the distribution responsibilities. This was given the green light. In the future, distribution services will be handled by ALA. ALA will also handle all future claims. The charge for these services is \$1000/year. (Before this hand over of responsibilities, John and Lori will straighten out the current mess. John is estimating that this will take about six months.)

Some good news is people are renewing their subscriptions. Individuals and corporations are showing their faith in DttP by this effort and we need to not let them down.

Action Item Number Four: Staffing of the Publication DttP

John is now lonely at the helm and is asking for GODORT to O.K. some positions that will give him moral support. Ben Amata is willing to continue as Associate Editor. His duties will include conference updates, a column and help with other functions. We will create a job description for Ben. John has contacted the other columnists and several will be returning (Linda Johnson, Maggie Parhamovich, Marcia Meister, Chuck Eckman, Deborah Hollis, Mary Alice Baish and Susan Anthes).

John asked for a better description of how to deploy the editorial staff. He would like to add another Associate Editor who would help with issues of copy editing, the remaining distribution problems and provide back-up support. John is suggesting Lori Mon. John says that with the help of Ben and Lori, better quality issues will be produced.

Action Item Number Five: Future Design of the Publication DttP

Troy Linker, ALA's new Director of Publishing Technology and Christine Squires, the ALA staff member who handles the editorial flow and production, have been working with the publications committee on ways to redesign DttP. This redesign would include a new look for the cover and inside pages, as well as thinner paper. The publications committee has chosen the future look for DttP and it will be unveiled with volume 28 beginning in March 1999. A minor change proposed (although not for catalogers) is that DttP switch from months to seasons. This gives a little leeway for both the editors and the production staff at ALA. This was approved. Mock-ups of these changes will be presented to Steering.

This new look and the fact that ALA will be taking over distribution, mailing and claims, will save GODORT 10% of what it previously spent. The committee is happy with the changes.