

SRRT Action Council I  
New Orleans, LA  
January 10, 1998

## MINUTES

PRESENT: Wendy Thomas, Coordinator; Dotty Granger, Treasurer; Elaine Harger, Secretary; Mark E. Martin, at-large Action Council member; Toni Bissessar, at-large Action Council member; Michael Nitz, GLBTF; Wayne Mullin, GLBTF; Bonita C. Corliss, GLBTF; Lynn Andersen; Kristin Carlson, FTF; Veronda Pritchford, FTF; Alison Hopkins, Action Council representative to Education Assembly; Michael J. Miller, GLBTF; Ceci Chapple, FTF & GLBTF; Chris Dodge, MNSRRT, AIP, etc.; Ann Sparanese, IRTF; Linda Pierce SRRTAC-L owner; Kim Edson, MNSRRT, HHPTF; Fred Stoss, TFOE; Anne Gruel, new SRRT member; Jessamyn West, newsletter co-editor; Nel Ward, at-large Action Council member; Carolyn L. Garnes, at-large Action Council member; Steven Harris, at-large Action Council member; Charles Willett, AIP.

## INTRODUCTIONS

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL APPROVED

## SRRT BUDGET

Wendy introduced discussion of SRRT budget to describe how SRRT is funded and the nature of its financial relationship with ALA. Until Satia Orange of OLOS arrived, SRRT seldom received information about budget, and apparently SRRT is now in red by \$5000 to \$6000 even though we've always approved budgets that appeared to be within SRRT's budget. Dotty described this as not a good, but not a dire situation. Bonitta asked if any other unit of ALA is in a similar situation. Wendy said that apparently no other unit is in similar situation. Michael suggested the current situation is a result of past disfunction of the OLOS office. Wendy said it's worth our time to find out how the deficit arose. Dotty said ALA won't take SRRT financial documents as evidence of our claims to have approved budgets in line with what we thought was our actual income.

Wayne described this as a very frustrating situation, and asked whether or not changes to SRRT's budgeting process will ensure the prevention of future problems. Wendy noted that the funds available to SRRT come only from dues income and an ALA-allocated amount of \$1500/year for programming. She also informed us that, in the eyes of ALA, accounting is done down to Round Table level, not sub-divided into task forces. Part of the reason SRRT is in a difficult situation, is that we do so much programming compared to other roundtables.

Dotty reported that the bad news is that SRRT needs to pay back the \$5000 to \$6000 debt to ALA. Task forces that are making money will bear most of the responsibility for debt payment. ALA has agreed that SRRT can pay its debt in installments. Also, an agreement has been made that SRRT can have \$5000 for its 1998 annual program, given that we promise to pay back funds. SRRT will have responsibility for tracking expenditures and income. We must use low income figures in determining current budget allocations.

Wendy announced that OLOS personnel have scheduled a meeting during midwinter to explain budget reports. Task force chairs should attend.

In regard to newsletter funding, Jessamyn reported to have received "nebulous" budget explanations and reports from ALA. She thinks SRRT dues probably cannot fund the full cost of the newsletter and asked for more information. ALA takes money out of SRRT budget when newsletter is printed and labels are ordered for mailing.

Dotty said, in response, that we might have to change the newsletter production schedule.

Fred asked if can we sell advertisements. GLBTF decided to accept advertising to get funds. Wendy recommended that the Newsletter Advisory should consider ads. Carolyn noted that the Black Caucus accepts ads, and uses the funds for various activities. Dotty informed us that ALA is encouraging SRRT to explore ways to bring more money into our budget. Mark asked, if we raise funds, can we track the income? Dotty said the thought ALA would, but SRRT could too. Mark asked if we would know by annual if the new reporting process is working. Ed noted that the Sci/Tech section of SLA brings in a lot from advertising, and someone added that task forces should not compete for advertising that SRRT would go after. Linda noted we need to coordinate advertising solicitations. Theresa added that we did have a recent discussion about advertising inserts in the newsletter, and we decided against. She thinks the Newsletter Advisory Board should launch a new discussion regarding ads placed directly in the newsletter. Mark asked if task force newsletter editors should be members of the editorial board? Wendy noted that Editorial Board members are elected to Action Council and the implementation of Mark's suggestion would require long-term constitutional change.

Carolyn raised the problem with the timing of ALA's fiscal year, which is Sept. through August 31 of each year. Dotty noted that revenue comes in continuously. Wendy, ALA takes 5% of dues for overhead. Because SRTT has about 1500 members we should think of budget based on membership dues. Looks like we get annually \$13,000 in individual and institutional memberships.

Carolyn reported that to raise funds the Coretta Scott King TF sells seals, wall calendars, pamphlet and books, some of the income comes back to SRRT. SRRT needs to be able to track income from these sells. The CSKTF breakfast pays for itself, and makes a little money. SRRT members should encourage libraries to purchase items. Libraries all over country need to purchase the pamphlet, and at every opportunity publishers should be encouraged to use CSK Award seals for books that win award.

Wendy, SRRT members as of August total 1509, of which 1432 are personal memberships, the rest institutional.

Charles noted that AIP has a booth, and encouraged anyone to bring materials to display at the booth. Fred has books to raffle off to new members, all on environmental topics. TFOE will have 12 books at annual for raffle. Linda asked if Louisiana has any laws against raffles? Theresa noted this isn't really a raffle, we're not selling raffle tickets, but providing free gifts for new members.

Wayne asked if we are all convinced that we know just how big the SRRT debt is? [See minutes of AC II for answer, EH]

Dotty passed round budget preparation sheet for task force chairs, and asked chairs to fill out the form and break down expenditures and income on a monthly basis. Need to do monthly analysis for ALA of SRRT expenditures.

Linda asked why SRRT was never informed of this debt. Dotty speculated that someone was incompetent and that ALA probably knows what happened. Maybe funds didn't get deposited into SRRT's budget, but somewhere else. However it happened though, from now on OLOS, task force chairs and SRRT AC will know what funds are coming in and going out.

Dotty also passed out reimbursement forms for all task force chairs. These will help us know what all is going on financially. The form is similar to ALA's. We're starting from now on with this process. If task force chairs don't know account numbers, they should fill out the forms anyway, and Dotty will supply the official account numbers.

Charles wanted to know why reimbursements are not being made. Dotty said that anyone not being reimbursed must let her know and she'll try to find out why. Carolyn suggested that it is ALA's FY schedule that poses the main problem. Heaviest expenditures occur in July, the FY ends in August, and oftentimes bills don't get paid in a timely manner.

Dotty asked task force chairs to include on budget forms a narrative explaining requests.

Wendy reminded us that we have \$1500 from ALA for programming. We must look at dues income and use it to determine funds available. When we have budget proposals submitted on Monday, we'll work with a projected budget of \$13000. Debt service will need to be included. Dotty wants budget reports on Sunday so she can review for Monday.

Wendy informed AC that during the budget conference call, GLBTF noted a very large photocopy expenditure that no one could account for. Every task force chair should decide which one person is authorized to make copies.

Linda recommended a letter to OLOS director, thanking Satia, expressing concern that ALA did not handle funds appropriately, noting that SRRT will pay its debt, but we are not totally convinced by the explanation provided of the budget situation.

Michael asked whether or not we can go to big funders to raise money? Wendy recommended we get advice from Satia on that.

#### SRRT RECRUITMENT

Wendy suggested that the best way to raise more money is to increase membership. She is in communication with new membership coordinator, Ron Landskroner, about ways to do this. After 6-months of constant inquiries, ALA has finally sent e-mail addresses for new SRRT members. Ron can e-mail new members with a "welcome to SRRT" message, web address, "got questions? - call". He will also be able to contact renewing members and dropped members. Ron can report on membership growth. Wendy suspects that membership is decreasing, not increasing, and noted that at the OLOS table are packets for each task force chair of membership forms. We need a mechanism to get the people who attend SRRT meetings and programs to join.

Michael asked if task forces could get e-mail addresses too. Wendy said that the information from ALA doesn't provide any indication about which task force/s the new member is interested in. The new SRRT brochure is updated, but we have not heard from ALA yet how much it will cost to reprint. Wendy requested that figure 6 months ago, and was only just a few days ago informed that those numbers will be available here at conference.

Task force chairs should get reports into Newsletter. Let readers know what everyone is doing.

Jessamyn requested that each task force provide her with at least a two sentence report. If she receives nothing, she warned that she'll make up a report. Any format is fine, e-mail, disk, writing.

#### REPORT FROM ROUND TABLE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wendy reported that the round table coordinating committee met. Discussion revolved around the issue of *American Libraries* carrying news column on round tables.

#### AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Anyone who wants to run for SRRT Action Council next year, must let Wendy know by next Friday and provide her with a brief biographical sketch and statement of concern. There will be four vacancies on AC with Dotty, Al, Nel and Mark's terms expiring.

#### REPORT ON "MORPHING THE LIBRARIANS"

Wendy, SRRT has received a request from Mary K. Chelton, to take action, perhaps in resolution form, on new developments at UC Berkeley library school. Wendy, Nel and Elaine will meet to review documentation and bring to AC II a recommendation.

#### ALA INTERNAL REVIEW POLICY

Wendy informed AC that a draft of COO's proposal for internal review is available. This process would review charge of ALA bodies, will ask how body meets the goals of ALA, if there any overlap will find ways to reduce duplication of efforts, might body be better in ad hoc format, should body be discontinued? Review would be submitted to COO for action. SRRT should investigate the ramifications of this proposal, which was distributed at annual 1997. COO wants comments during midwinter and hopes to present final version to Council at annual 1998. Council will approve in Washington.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Linda reported that the listserv is now open to everyone. Total of 80 subscriptions, about 30 are AC members, about 20 are familiar names, the rest are new. Linda said we should encourage more to join. She'll start keeping monthly statistics about listserv use and make reports.

Ann reported on a humanitarian aid shipment to Cuba, organized by Pastors for Peace, a branch of the Inter-religious Committee for Community Organizing. They have sponsored five years of aid shipments to Cuba. The caravan this summer will be a bookmobile one, filled with all kinds of materials the Cubans need: medicine, computers, etc. Ann requests that SRRT endorse the caravan and encourage librarians to participate in it. She noted that it is illegal, but "that's life." Pastors for Peace is in touch with the ALA group that focuses on bookmobiles. Ann will have a resolution on this issue for AC II.

Fred noted that the World Data Centers established in 1957 for the dissemination of environmental and geophysical information might be able to get around embargo, and suggested to Ann that she recommend that Pastors for Peace look into the regulations established for that body.

Lynn distributed information about a UNESCO program that involves libraries in international dialog with one another. Lynn's Alternatives Library in Ithaca NY is one of only two U.S. library members. The program gives libraries the opportunity to have international partners. Lynn's library has partnership with a library in Senegal and they supply and share information. Lynn has found it most interesting to see the extent to which many participating libraries are involved within their communities. She also distributed information about an EcoArts Festival in Yoff, Senegal.

Fred reported that TFOE now has a homepage, and asked how ALA makes homepage links.

Mark made a plug for Martin Gomez, who became the first ALA presidential candidate to visit GLBTF task force for endorsement.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Elaine Harger, 1/17/1998

SRRT Action Council II  
January 12, 1998  
New Orleans, Royal Sonesta, Ballroom South

## MINUTES

PRESENT: Wendy Thomas, Coordinator; Elaine Harger, Secretary; Mark E. Martin, at-large Action Council member; Toni Bissessar, at-large Action Council member; Michael Nitz, GLBTF; Wayne Mullin, GLBTF; Gary M. Klein, GLBTF; Bonita C. Corliss, GLBTF; Lynn Andersen; Kristin Carlson, FTF; Veronda Pritchford, FTF; Bill Delzell, FTF; Michael J. Miller, GLBTF; Sherman Banks, GLBTF; Ceci Chapple, FTF & GLBTF; Chris Dodge, MNSRRT, AIP, etc.; Ann Sparanese, IRTF; Herb Biblo, LILRC; Mary Biblo, U of Chicago Lab. Schools; Al Kagan, IRTF; Shari Clifton, OK SRRT; Kim Edson, MNSRRT, HHPTF; Fred Stoss, TFOE; Anne Gruel, new SRRT member; Charles Willett, AIP; Jessamyn West, newsletter co-editor; Nel Ward, at-large Action Council member; Carolyn L. Garnes, at-large Action Council member; Steven Harris, at-large Action Council member.

## INTRODUCTIONS

### ALA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PRESENTATION

Sarah Long, candidate for ALA president, introduced herself and made a three minute presentation on her qualifications and interest in the ALA presidency. Mark Martin asked about GLBTF's efforts to raise funds for its book award. He noted that GLBTF must raise \$25,000 to put in an ALA account from which 2% annually will go to the actual award. He wanted to know how Long, as president, would deal with such a problematic situation. Long said she'd work on the immediate problem, and suggested that there is "something funny here," obviously ALA wants to give awards. She also noted that she is chair of the Awards Committee and said there's got to be a way out of this situation. Mark noted that it has taken six months to get anything done about this in ALA. Long agreed that it shouldn't take so much time. Kim asked that since Long is the current chair of the Awards Committee couldn't she perhaps help GLBTF out? Long: "Sure!"

## BUDGET

Budget discussions were postponed pending the arrival of SRRT treasurer. Wendy suggested we proceed with the agenda and return to the budget when Dotty gets back.

## SRRT NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Jessamyn gave a brief report, and noted the upcoming deadline of January 20. Once again she warned that any task force that does not get a 10-word or more report to her, she will write her own version of the task force report. She thinks a book review editor has been found, and asks that people a look at the new format and give input. SRRT now has website [www.jessamyn.com//srrt](http://www.jessamyn.com//srrt). If anyone has anything they'd like on the site, send it along, task forces too. Website is linked to ALA homepage and to worldwide progressive librarian groups.

## SRRT 1998 PROGRAM

Al distributed the program information sheet. Title of the SRRT 1998 program is Social Responsibilities Around the World. Librarians from sister organizations from around the world will participate in a panel discussion. Countries sending speakers include Japan, Germany,

Austria, Sweden, UK and South Africa. Presentations by one member of each group will focus on activities and projects, discussion will follow. A special dinner is planned for AC members & speakers, also special meeting of AC will be held to formulate ideas for joint activities. One problem is that the scheduled time for the program conflicts with the ALA President's Program. Wendy and Al will try to work out a new time for the SRRT program.

#### AIP REPORT

Charles reported that the 1997, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the directory of alternative publishers is now available. Also, Counterpoise began to review alternative press publications this year. Another book is forthcoming on the Hawaii outsourcing issue.

#### HAWAII WORKING GROUP REPORT

Charles gave some background on the HWG as a temporary sub-unit of AIP to assist Hawaiian librarians on the outsourcing conflict. The program at 1997 annual organized by AIP on outsourcing was very successful. Charles expressed deep concern that no members of the HWG were invited to be on the ALA Outsourcing Task Force. He wants to continue the HWG for next two years, saying there is still a need for assistance to Hawaiian librarians.

Herb noted that SRRT AC has a member on the ALA Outsourcing Task Force. Wendy is that member, and she reported that she inquired as to why no one from HWG was invited to serve. Supposedly names of OTF members were selected by the ALA Executive Board. Wendy was given no reason as to why no one from HWG was invited. Herb noted that it was most likely Pres. Ford who made those appointments.

Chris reported hearing about the open testimonies at an OTF meeting. He said Jan Desirey, who attended, reported that there were some patronizing things said about Pat Wallace.

Wendy noted that the OTF meeting on Saturday and Monday were official meetings with formal testimony, and they are open to anyone who wants to listen. On Sunday the OTF held an open forum for anyone to make a presentation to OTF members. Wendy noted that the format was rather strict, no dialog was allowed, but anyone in room did have an opportunity to speak. Pat Wallace wanted to speak two or three times and was cut off. But after everyone who hadn't spoken was given an opportunity, Pat was finally allowed a second comment, as were several others in the audience. Wendy noted that another open forum will be held in Washington. Larry Heiman is attending OTF meeting held now and taking notes for Wendy. OTF is creating a listserv for task force members, and it might be open to non-tf members in read-only format. Herb noted that the listserv \*\*\*must\*\*\* be open to reading, because ALA's policy is for open discussions.

Al expressed concern that the OTF may be moving toward making recommendations on "how to do outsourcing good" rather than simply conducting an initial investigation. Wendy concurred that that seems to be the direction, but noted that some task force members are opposed to that tack.

Charles reported that AIP is doing a follow-up program in Washington on Hawaii II.

Wendy noted that the OTF chair has been very good about distributing information on outsourcing to task force members, and she encourages everyone to put forward items for distribution. Wendy will post OTF charge on the SRRT listserv.

## ACRL, PROGRAM

Michael reported that ACRL's program committee is putting together its 1999 program on citizenship information that will address questions such as: what does citizenship mean, how to put information into action in the political arena; what kind of information do libraries need about citizenship, legislation, statistics, think tanks, industry, etc?. ACRL wants co-sponsorship from SRRT, PLA, and GODORT. Several AC members questioned Michael on the motivation of program planners, their definition of "citizenship" and other matters. In general, however, and pending further information SRRT AC tends to agree to co-sponsorship.

## TASK FORCE REPORTS

Veronda reports that the Feminist Task Force is working on a big program. On June 28<sup>th</sup> its authors' breakfast will address issues related to aging.

Kim reported that the Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force, Washington program is entitled "Must the poor always be among us?" It will focus on welfare reform. They hope to get Paul Wellstone as a speaker, but he hasn't responded to requests. Kim next reported that OLOS has new committee to implement the Poor People's Policy, but no one is showing up at meetings. Kim alerted AC to look for an upcoming article in *American Libraries* on the Poor Peoples Policy with information for action and list of resources. Also, the task force plans a pre-conference in 1999 in New Orleans. McFarland will then have a new book out on these issues edited by task force member Karen Venturella.

Carolyn reported from the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force that 1998 award winners are Sharyann Draper for *Forged by Fire* (author winner). The illustrator award went to Jabaca Steptoe for *In Daddy's Arms I am Tall*. He is the son of John Steptoe, who died just before being given the CSK award for *Muletto's Beautiful Daughter*. The CSK Breakfast is on June 30, at 7:30 am, SRRT members should attend. Again, Carolyn urged AC members to spread the word encouraging libraries to buy CSK pamphlets, seals, and breakfast tickets.

Bonitta reported that the Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Task Force will co-sponsor at annual the YALSA program "Information: it's for young people." GLBTF's book award breakfast is on the Monday of annual. They've had lots of last minute submissions for the award, winners will be announced on the GLBTF listserv. Michael reported that GLBTF is working towards its 2000 program which will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the task force. Gary reported that the Wilson Index Committee hasn't updated the *Readers Guide* in years. GLBTF is hoping to encourage the Committee to review publications for inclusion.

Charles reported that Alternatives in Print will have three programs in Washington, one on *Counterpoise*, the Free Speech Buffet and Hawaii II. AIP is trying to find a sponsor for the Jackie Eubanks Award. The AIP Booth recruited three new SRRT members. Chris added that the Sunday morning AIP program is entitled "Infoshops, Street Libraries and Alternative Reading Rooms."

## ALA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PRESENTATION

Martin Gomez, candidate for ALA president, introduced himself and gave three-minute presentation on his qualifications and interest in becoming ALA president. Mark asked the same question regarding GLBTF award. Martin answered that he didn't know all the particulars of award funding, but said that as a member of the ALA Exec. Board he will raise the matter and see if it can be resolved. He noted that the problem is probably widespread.

Herb commented that up until recently the ALA Executive Board did not engage in secret deals like the one made with Ameritech, and asked Gomez if he would pledge that there would not be secretive agreements under his presidency. Gomez answered that he could give no such assurance because there might be circumstances that require confidentiality. Herb noted that under ALA policy only personnel and real estate discussions can be conducted behind closed doors, and reiterated that deals like the Ameritech one are not supposed to be made in private. Gomez agreed, and said there should be full disclosure of such agreements. He added that sometimes such situations are the result of poor communications between ALA divisions. Herb noted that all financial agreements of the association should be open to members.

#### BUDGET

In absence of treasurer AC postponed budget action.

MOTION: to conduct an informal discussion of budget in order to prepare for a full discussion and official action via listserv. Motion approved.

FTF, Veronda requests \$2000 for breakfast, \$500 for *Women in Libraries* (newsletter)

HHPTF, Kim requests \$200 for pamphlet and \$600 for program

AIP, Charles requests \$300 for AIP, \$500 for program, \$500 for alternative publishers directory, \$500 for Jackie Eubanks Award and \$1500 for Counterpoise

IRTF, Al requested \$1000 for international program follow-up

GLBTF, Bonita requests \$2000 for two awards, \$2500 for speakers' travel, \$3000 for breakfast, and ??? for ???, a TOTAL of \$9200

CSKTF, Carolyn reported an expectation of \$55000 in revenues and expenditures of \$37000.

TFOE, Fred requests \$1700 for conference program.

After discussion it became apparent that budget requests must be made with full information available.

Motion made to extend meeting till 4:30

#### NEW BUSINESS

Endorsement of ALA presidential candidate. MOTION to endorse Martin Gomez. Passed unanimously.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Resolution on Pastors for Peace Bookmobile Caravan to Cuba, presented by Ann Sparanese

Motion made to endorse, passed unanimously.

Resolution on non-discrimination in library and information science master's programs.

Motion to table, pending further investigation, passed unanimously.

Resolution on SRRT budget situation

Motion to pass as amended, passed unanimously.

Letter from the Biblio's will be posted on the listserv for discussion.

Al reported that SRRT has been invited to send a representative to Washington for meetings concerning Title 44 legislation. We need a SRRT member in the Washington area to attend. Listserv will be used to recruit.

Motion to adjourn. Passed

Meeting adjourned 4:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Elaine Harger, Jan. 17, 1998