

ALA SoCial Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter

October 15, 1970 No. 10

COMMUNICATION

The new Action Council of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table met with its Clearinghouse Committee at the close of the Detroit conference. Action Council met again in August and in October. Council, sensing the increasing importance of direct action and exemplary behavior, is coordinating the work of a number of Task Forces based on specific projects or constituencies, as well as the strengthening and increase of local action by Affiliate Groups. Action Council's top priority is the maintenance of an extensive communications network for the Affiliates, the Task Forces and the SRRT membership. When action is needed, the response can be called for quickly.

The new Clearinghouse Committee of SRRT is an elected and volunteer group of individuals formed to facilitate action and information communication. Every SRRT member and group is part of this communications network. This newsletter is one effort to provide the environment for action and is a direct result of membership and group feed-in. This basic newsletter will be issued again before midwinter. There will be a combination post midwinter and spring action issue, and, finally a pre annual conference issue. All ALA SRRT members, those individuals who donated \$2.00 for a subscription, as well as recognized Affiliate Groups, will receive this newsletter.

Clearinghouse maintains a mailing list of ALA SRRT members, newsletter donors, and interested individuals, and can provide names and addresses for your geographic area or contacts for your field of interest. Clearinghouse can also provide copies of bibliographies, project reports, newsletters, meeting reports, etc., mentioned in this newsletter upon request.

Communication is a complex and varied thing. It is important that everyone read and write (and discuss) the library media because much SRRT and Movement action is reported there. Relating to other action groups and media will give us a broader perspective for analysis and action. Meeting and corresponding with individuals is another realistic and sustaining approach to communication. Let people know what you are doing, what you have to offer, and what your needs are.

SRRT has attempted to meet the communications needs of its constituency since its inception. This newsletter was begun before SRRT became an official round-table of the American Library Association. Many Affiliate Groups issue their own newsletters. The Fourth John was a commendable experiment to provide for the felt need of a "letters" journal. From time to time, librarians have issued their own newsletters. A current example is the Liberated Librarian. SRRT people have always wanted an action newsletter that would expedite news and needs faster than the traditional media and the resources for such a newsletter, we hope, are in the near future. Our current experimental project is the formation of a contact network called The Librarians Tribe. This involves the setting up of a national network of librarians to distribute social action information, materials, bibliographies, etc., and, in turn, to feed back information from their geographic area. Sanford Goin has volunteered to serve as secretary for this project and we would appreciate any ideas you may have about the project and/or possible contacts.

JOIN OR START AN AFFILIATE IN YOUR AREA

There are presently over twenty five active SRRT Affiliate Groups across the country. Several new groups have formed recently which gives SRRT a broader national action coverage. Affiliates are basically groups of activist individuals in a geographic area that meet regularly. They have joined SRRT under its bylaws by submitting an initial report and one dollar. Here are briefs of the reports from some newly formed or on-going groups.

SRRT Round Table of the Finger Lakes developed an action group to deal with the November elections and the support of students who will become involved with election campaigns. An Election Packet was produced and action was taken through groups and institutions. A second action group was forming around the issue of the recent intrusion by the U.S. Treasury Department into the circulation records of public libraries.

SRRT in Ohio, one of the original Affiliates, reconvened for action at the Ohio L.A. conference. It is also working on developing a conference on the Alternative Press and the formation of a second Affiliate in Ohio. A regular newsletter is issued to members.

Bay Area SRRT formed this summer with librarians of public, academic, and school backgrounds and sent 25 donations to the Clearinghouse for the newsletter. Members are discussing the ACONDA Report, concentrating effort on the upcoming Calif. L.A. Conference, esp. on the day concerning correctional institutions.

Champaign Urbana SRRT is a group of university librarians. An initial project was the investigation of hiring and promotion practices of the U. of Illinois libraries, and is currently opening out into the broader library community. Another state Affiliate, Illinois SRRT is reorganizing and planning the upcoming year's activities.

Maryland Library Association JMRT has produced a bibliography on women and a list of materials on sex education. This group also has an on-going job placement service. A second Affiliate, Metropolitan Washington-Maryland SRRT was formed this summer.

New York City SRRT is planning a program for the N.Y. Library Club to respond to a request for an evening of "What the Young Turks Want". There has been discussion of the feasibility of a job placement service and methods of servicing local community groups for action toward their local library institution.

COLT (Colorado Librarians in Transition) is a focus for discussion and action in community and seeks to promote the professional development of the individual. They have been concentrating on activities for the October Colorado L.A. Conference. A newsletter is available.

Missouri SRRT planned programs and meetings for Missouri L.A. The group is working on the reorganization of the state associations. Other activities have centered around communication between members of minority groups and librarians.

Philadelphia Area Librarians SRRT has business meetings and programs, and issues its meeting minutes as a newsletter. It has had success in relating to outside groups through programs and activities. The group has several operating Task Forces; one has produced a booklist and form concerning controversial materials and is surveying local libraries, another, concerned with the recruitment of minorities is producing a recruiting brochure, and a task force on women is preparing bibliographies and surveying library employment practices.

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TASK FORCE ACTION

ALTERNATIVE BOOKS IN PRINT

After sending out 1500 letters to left-wing and "Movement" organizations, the Task Force now has approximately 250 lists of non-serial materials to make up an Alternative Books in Print. Materials will be listed in the guide with subject headings based on the Alternative Press Index.

The Task Force has gone to considerable expense in printing and mailing and would appreciate any contributions to the project. Contact; Susan Coolidge, 3441 Haber Terrace, Uniontown, Ohio, 44685.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Bibliographies on subjects of interest to women, i.e., day care, birth control and abortion, legal status and history are needed. If you would like to work on a bibliography or have items to contribute, please contact Kay Cassell, 1060 Stuyvesant Avenue, #A7, Trenton, New Jersey, 08618.

If there are any SRRT Affiliate Groups with action groups or task forces concerned with women's liberation, please send the name and address of the coordinator to Kay.

The first issue of the Task Force Newsletter appeared in August. It contained a petition asking ALA to promote the status of women... (Yes, Virginia, we've been here before, but you never can tell when something like this might help.)

If you would like to distribute the petition, or you would like to be placed on the newsletter mailing list, write to: Linda Robson, c/o Undergraduate Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

New York area women; if you would like to meet soon to rap and get a few projects off the ground, get in touch with Barbara Winch, c/o Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11210, or call eve., 622-7717 or day, 780-5338. Projects proposed so far include: 1. Special reference services for women's studies, problems, etc. 2. Setting up a liaison with other women's groups. Your ideas are needed!

The National Woman's Party needs a part-time volunteer to work in the Florence Bayard Hilles Library. It contains a collection of materials on woman's suffrage and equal rights movements which is open to the public without charge. The NWP is also interested in contacting an archivist or librarian to plan the organization of the Party's archives. For further information, please contact; National Woman's Party, Library Committee, 144 Constitution Ave, N.E., Washington D.C. 20002 or Barbara Winch at Brooklyn College.

LIBRARY SCHOOL AFFILIATES

It will be the goal of this Task Force to establish some kind of continuing personal contact with the student associations of each library school for the purpose of having them become Affiliate Group members of SRRT.

In order to establish the kind of contact with student associations we would like, the Task Force needs students, librarians, and library school faculty members located in or near the library schools to serve as contacts and resource people for the schools in their area. This will involve speaking to student associations about SRRT: what it is and does, why it is a good idea to join it, etc., and maintaining regular contact with them to provide further information, answer questions, keep their interest up, and so forth. An especially important aspect of this activity will involve establishing some means to insure that continued affiliation with SRRT is maintained from year to year as new student governments are formed.

Persons wishing to volunteer to work with this Task Force should send their name, address and phone number (both home and office), as well as ideas and suggestions, to the Task Force Coordinator; Nancy Hanssen, Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn, New York 11205.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The stated purpose of the Task Force this year is "to act as a pressure group on ALA, State Associations, and individual libraries in the support of intellectual freedom." The emphasis will be on action rather than just information, and six "Programs of Action" have been outlined.

I. To urge the adoption and implementation of the ALA policy statement on Intellectual Freedom included in American Library Association Policies-Tenure in Libraries.

II. To urge the adoption and implementation of the ALA Executive Board statement on the privacy of library borrowers' records.

III. To obtain a hearing and discussion of the documents called The Librarian's Bill of Rights and Statement of Professional Ethics.

IV. To broaden the coverage of the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom, published by the ALA IF office.

V. To encourage the presence and recognition of high school, college and university, and military dissent underground newspapers in libraries.

VI. To join with the ALA IF Committee and ALA IF office in co-sponsoring the intellectual freedom program in Dallas.

There is obviously a tremendous amount of work to be done by this group, much of it in state associations. To volunteer, and get recommended procedures, write Jean Anne South at 2401 Calvert St. N.W., Apt. 217, Washington D.C., 20008.

The editors of the ALA Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom would like to establish a network of interested librarians to help them compile bi-monthly bibliographies of publications, esp. periodical articles, on intellectual freedom and censorship. Contact; Editors, Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Illinois, 60611.

GAY LIBERATION

The Task Force on Gay Liberation was organized at the Detroit Conference. In subsequent meetings, a statement of goals was formulated and activities were begun; the cumulation of bibliographies, plans for Los Angeles and the Dallas conferences, review and revision of library classification schemes and subject heading lists, encouragement of collection building among libraries and improvement of access to resource collections and job discrimination in the field of librarianship. Individuals interested in working with any of the above mentioned areas, or in any area not mentioned, should contact the Task Force. It is not necessary to attend meetings to participate. The next meeting of the Task Force will be on November 14 in New York City. Contact; Israel Fishman, 340 E. 11th St., New York, New York 10003

IN SOURCE CATALOGING

This Task Force is hard at work developing a position paper. Contact; Bernadine Hoduski, 515 E. N. Florence, Lees Summit, Missouri 64063.

Affiliates cont'd from p. 1

New Jersey Librarians for Social Responsibilities has concentrated its actions on peace, women, intellectual freedom, community services, and pressuring the state association. This summer, one of their task forces sent out lists of its draft materials and draft counseling agencies to 150 public libraries in the state and will follow up with a survey in the fall. This Affiliate issues a substantial newsletter of broad interest.

You can start a local SRRT - yes, you can - with a little help from your friends. Just contact the Action Council liaison with Affiliate Groups and you will get a list of SRRT members in your area, together with a large packet of materials and suggestions for organizing. Act now! Write to; Jackie Eubanks, Action Council SRRT, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, New York 11210.

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SPEAK OUT!

Two organizations are currently seeking money to defend librarians who get into trouble on matters of censorship and intellectual freedom. As of July, the larger group, The Freedom to Read Foundation, had collected about \$6,000.00. It had made three grants of \$500.00 each to people involved in such hassles. According to the Fund's Board, a vigorous campaign to raise money from foundations as well as from individuals will be undertaken this year. It will be interesting to see how much money comes in from these outside sources. At the moment, anti-censorship positions are not the most popular causes around. President Nixon has disavowed the President's Commission on Obsenity and Pornography evidently because its report goes against the silent majority's conventional wisdom concerning the effect of such material on adult readers. Vice President Agnew has taken out after the lyrics of popular songs, and although he claims not to be a censor, others are taking up the cudgels to restrict such expressions in music as "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" and similar recordings.

The cost of taking a reinstatement case to court, or just retaining legal counsel to negotiate with a school district or municipality can run into hundreds of dollars. If an appeal must be taken, the cost quickly vanishes out of sight. The National Freedom Fund for Librarians, though it can respond quickly and directly, cannot accumulate enough funds to sustain more than one or two cases at a time. Its contributors come, for the most part, from the younger (and more poorly paid) members of the profession.

Will the large foundations, themselves under increasing pressure from conservative forces in Congress, lay it on the line for such a cause?

Over the years, Librarians have dropped the "bake sale" approach to funding their institutions. They have taken the position that libraries are part of the educational resources of any community and, as such, must be put on a solid financial base. Doesn't this philosophy apply to a concern which ALA members have repeatedly put at the top of their list of priorities? Are we really committed to intellectual freedom to the extent that we will use our professional organization's resources in its defense, or will we do so only if someone else picks up the tab?

N. Ladoff

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Action Council is getting requests from Library Schools, professional organizations and local groups for speakers on SRRT and other social action topics. You can speak for SRRT if you will! If you would like to participate or want more information, please contact: Patricia Schuman, SRRT Coordinator, School Library Journal, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York.

SRRT ANNUAL ELECTIONS

This year, we will elect five new members to Action Council and three to Clearinghouse, to take office following the annual conference in Dallas.

The election procedures will be quite similar to last year's: candidates for each office must VOLUNTEER and a statement concerning socially responsible action must be written by the candidates and will be the basis upon which they are elected. The full election procedures will be spelled out in the next newsletter along with the topic or topics upon which the statements must be written.

Hopefully you will have already decided whether or not you intend to volunteer. If not, start thinking about it now and send a statement of intention by Nov. 15 or as soon thereafter as possible, to Dick Ackeroyd, Special Collections Dept., Wilbur Cross Library, Storrs, Conn. 06268. You need only indicate whether you are volunteering for Action Council or Clearinghouse along with your name, address and phone number.

ALA SRRT CONTACTS

Action Council Coordinator
Patricia Schuman

Action Council Affiliate Coordinator
Jackie Eubanks

Action Council Task Force Coordinator
E. Gay Detlefsen

Clearinghouse Secretary
George Hathaway

Clearinghouse Members
Ann Kalkhoff - Mailing List
Miriam Crawford - Affiliates
Elaine Parker
Judith Mowery - Task Forces
Joan Goddard

Clearinghouse Projects
Sanford Goin - Tribe Contact Network

AVAILABLE FROM CLEARINGHOUSE

SRRT Bylaws - Free

SRRT Detroit Newsletters - Free

Affiliate Organizing Packet - Free

Copy of Affiliate Group Newsletter - Free

Copy of any Task Force Report - Free

Action Council Minutes - Free

Mailing List Interest Forms - Free

Geographic or Interest Addresses - Free

Buttons; Libraries to the People, Pu*k
Censorship and American Ladies Assoc.
\$.50 or write for group discounts

SRRT Detroit Preconference "In Search
of Soul" tapes at cost - \$8.00
Make check out to Avram Rosenthal

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
George Hathaway, Secretary
Brooklyn College Library
Brooklyn, New York 11210



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JOIN or START an **SRRT** and get involved.