

Minutes of the Exhibits Round Table Board Meeting

January 26, 2014

ALA Midwinter Meeting - Philadelphia, PA



The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Gene Shimshock, at 7:10 am.

Board members in attendance:

Gene Shimshock, Chair
Melissa Brechon, Librarian Vice-Chair
Heather Blaine Wiegand, Vendor Vice-Chair
Jay Askuvich, Treasurer
Osha Saylor, Secretary
Alice Knapp
Jason Wells
Janet Nelson
Kelly Coyle-Crivelli
Kevin Stewart
Brian Brehm

Others present:

Paul Graller, ALA Conference Services

Members absent:

Joseph Eagan

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded that, "The board approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2013 board meeting". The motion was approved on a unanimous vote.

Work on ERT Website

The Chair acknowledged Brian's efforts on updating the website.

Treasurer's report

Jay Askuvich, ERT Treasurer, reported that ALA reported numbers differently than in the past and there might be additional reconciliation need. Received total figures but differ from figures seen over past 5 years. Decline in membership could be due to PLA year but numbers have slightly gone down.

The Treasurer discussed the limit/requirements that ALA Round Table Boards needed to keep in reserve and a discussion ensued on how best to use the \$30K in the ERT Fund. One possibility under consideration was to use some portion to provide a grant to the Hoy Scholarship. The Chair tasked the Treasure with investigating policies dictating expense management practices and the procedures to move monies to the Hoy fund.

Report from the Committees

Programs Committee:

Melissa Brechon Program Committee chair reported on committee planning: Deadline for ERT sponsored program submissions will be March 3rd. The librarian members will vet the programs. Programs need to be submitted by ERT Members of good standing. Working with Conference Services, five ERT-sponsored programs would be held in the same room keeping costs to approximately \$500/session. Information on the process will be posted to the website. Approved session will require a signed release that the sessions will be recorded.

Chris Hoy Scholarship Committee:

Kelly Coyle-Crivelli, Hoy Scholarship Committee Chair reported on the 2013 Auction results. There were 11 Quilts and 20 items in Artist Alley. She is investigating possible additional sponsorship opportunities. The 2013 Hoy Scholarship Recipient was Antionette Rose Solis Mendieta, Yolo County PL

Membership Committee

Jason Wells reviewed the "new exhibitor outreach" process. Several board members were planning to visit their assigned exhibitors later in the day. Jason also discussed the ERT Brochure and his plans to update the brochure.

Librarian Relations Committee

Alice Knapp, Librarians Relations Committee, co-chair discussed her activities at the New Members Round Table.

Report from Conference Services

- Registration numbers were 8,091 Paid, 3,763 Exhibitors for a total of 11,854. This was about even with Seattle in 2013 (11,736) and Dallas in 2012 (11,408).
- There were no changes to the future conference schedule discussed:
- Several new programs are under consideration.
- ALA is currently running Las Vegas promotions on the Exhibit Floor., Book Buzz this year was working well.
- There will be no virtual conference this year as ALA is considering
- For 2016, the process by which programs are selected to encourage more cooperation between units to help select themes. The goal is to make it easier for librarians to attend and make choices among sessions.
- Working through issues with Vegas (hotel room blocks, transportation, convention meeting & exhibit space).

Elections/board Succession plan

Gene, Jay, and Osha will be termed out at the end of the current term. Joseph Eagan term will end but he is eligible for a second term. So, the Board needs to think about filling roles which we will discuss on the monthly Board calls. As with the normal process, an email blast will be sent to the ERT membership list to determine if there are any interested parties to fill empty board seats. The Chair stated that he would work with the Membership Committee Chair on the Elections process.

Board members were asked to actively recruit individuals to participate or get individuals involved on committees. The Board was asked to consider maintaining a balance of vendor sizes and types as they considered their recruiting activities.

Code of Conduct at ALA Conferences

Code of conduct: attendees do not have to agree to it but they read it and it's there to view. The ALA lawyer said they cannot make attendees but it at least gives people a formal in-writing report on how to handle it.

Mailing List Issues

Several of the Board raised concerns about the relatively small numbers of attendees available on mailing lists. Paul discussed some issues with opt-in steps which may have resulted in lower numbers on the list.

Housing Registration

Discussion/question around advance housing registration—confirmed that there are separate blocks for exhibitors and attendees and both open at the same time. An OnPeak rep will be at Monday's meeting to address questions.

Membership Meeting Preparation

The Chair discussed the agenda for the Membership Meeting scheduled for Monday, 1/27. Several issues that may be brought up at the meeting include:

- Stickers on carpet not sticking
- Labor policies
- Internet not available until Friday am which made set-up difficult
- Cold in hall
- Band troublesome for vendors trying to do presentations
- Traffic level seemed low
- Vendors appeared to be exhausted by Friday opening
- Significant differences in internet depending on hall
- Vegas labor should be pretty good—just seems to be a problem when numerous shows going on and labor gets stretched
- Need to remind vendors about the restrictions on halogen lights

Upcoming Meetings/Calls

- ALA ERT Membership Meeting (Monday, 8am, Jan 27, 2014)
- Schedule Board call session at PLA in Indy with conference line

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 am.

Minutes prepared by Osha Saylor, Board Secretary.