

GODORT Membership Meeting I
ALA-Midwinter, 2002, New Orleans
DoubleTree Hotel, Crescent Room B
Meeting began at 3:15 p.m.

Present: Karen Russ (chair), Erhard Konerding, Cheryl McCoy, Kathryn Ehrens, Barbara Costello, Julienne Wood, and Edward Kownslar

Introductions

All members present introduced themselves

Approval

McCoy made a motion to approve the agenda. Costello seconded the motion. Russ made one change to the agenda and moved the mentoring report to the end of the meeting (she was hoping that the chair of the committee, Earl Shumaker, would arrive before the meeting concluded).

Approval of Minutes

Russ distributed two sets of minutes: one from ALA-Midwinter in Washington, D.C., and the other from ALA Annual in San Francisco. Russ made several clarifications about these sets of minutes. The Membership Committee actually met twice during ALA Annual, but minutes were taken only at the second meeting. At the first meeting, the members met to discuss the status of the committee's chair, and no actions were taken at the first meeting. Costello made a motion to approve the minutes, and Russ stated that the minutes were approved by general consensus.

New Orleans Local Arrangements Update

Russ said that, so far, no complaints have emerged about the GODORT Hotel (Hotel Monteleone), but committee members should be alert for any problems that might occur. Russ also commended Cheryl McCoy for all of her work on the New Members Lunch, which will take place on Saturday. McCoy will also bring promotional flyers to the lunch.

Web Page Update

Russ presented a report from Becky on several changes that need to be made to the Web site:

The minutes from Midwinter 2002 will need to be put online.

She needs to remove the "Conference Tips" page for San Francisco and put up a page for the Annual Conference in Atlanta.

The font size for the vendors who supported the GODORT reception in San Francisco needs to be changed.

Should the Membership Committee create a Web page for its own conference activities?

Committee members need to send documents to Becky in MS-Word or text.

Russ also reported that people trying to access the Web page may be having some problems. If viewing problems occur, they should click on the "Refresh" button. In addition, Russ suggested that the committee put information on the Web page about the benefits of GODORT

membership. Lastly, Russ suggested that a link be added to the Continuing Education Committee's page.

Mentoring Report

Russ reported on behalf of Shumaker, who could not attend the meeting. So far, Mentoring has paired up 21 people with mentors (a total of 42 participants). She mentioned that mentees do not have to be members of GODORT, but mentors must be GODORT members. Russ stated that the next step for mentoring is to design a means to assess the success of the program. She also said that the Membership Committee should retain the Mentoring program for at least two years to get a clearer picture of its effectiveness. Shumaker would like to survey the participants, and he should have the information compiled by the Annual Conference in June. Another question that emerged concerned when the relationship between mentor and mentee should terminate. Russ recommended that the relationship last at least one year, but the committee should not set a deadline.

Other Business

For the Annual Conference in Atlanta, the committee has reserved the Margaret Mitchell house and museum for the reception. The committee will need to discuss options for catering. In addition, CIS has agreed to pay for 2,000 copies of a flyer that celebrates GODORT's 30th anniversary. She passed around a draft copy and said that she would like to mention the mentoring program in that flyer. In addition, for the Atlanta conference, the committee will be compiling the lists and biographical information of the GODORT founders and long-term members, as well as a photo collage.

Membership in GODORT is down 2.36 percent, while ALA membership is increasing. She said that the committee needs to encourage membership, and she said that some possibilities to increase membership included reducing student dues.

The GODORT Nominating Committee is still seeking candidates for office.

Russ will obtain a current list of ALA-accredited schools and contact them about recruiting for GODORT membership. The Membership Committee should also send promotional materials to the Public Library Association, including an article for their newsletter. Russ asked if everyone was receiving email through the listserv. She added that all committee members will be kept informed if the Membership Committee works with other GODORT committees on various projects. In addition, she already includes the current GODORT Chair on these messages, but she will also include the GODORT Chair-Elect.

A suggestion has been made to put the Past-Chair of GODORT on the Membership Committee, rather than the Publications Committee. This issue will be discussed further.

Several issues have emerged about the GODORT booth, including requesting money to purchase new boards and paying for the furniture at the booth. In addition, one suggestion that has emerged is that the Silent Auction Committee could handle the paperwork for reserving the booth.

Russ and Shumaker will attend the ALA Membership meeting and bring up the "Virtual Membership" issue. Specifically, does the "virtual" status conflict with the requirement that committee members actually attend the conferences?

Meeting concluded at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Kownslar