

## **SRRT Action Council Virtual Meeting May 25, 2021**

### **Agenda:**

- Action Council Introductions
- Update on SRRT Chair Program for Annual (LaJuan Pringle)
- Update on SRRT Afternoon of Social Justice Program (April Sheppard)
- Update on the SRRT/COL meeting (April Sheppard, Sherre Harrington, Al Kagan)
- Gaza (Al Kagan)
- Forward Together (Tara Brady)

### **Attending:**

**Al Kagan/AC, Jane Cothron, April Sheppard/AC (SRRT Coordinator), Sherre Harrington (AC/SRRT Coordinator-Elect), Wendy Stephens, Monica Chapman (ALA staff liaison), Scott Hudnall, Tara Brady/AC, ALA Council liaison, Charles Kratz/AC, LaJuan Pringle/AC, Julie Winkelstein/AC, Olivia Scully, Tom Twiss/AC, Gerardo Colmenar/AC, Mark Hudson/AC**

**I. Update on SRRT Chair Program for Annual. LaJuan Pringle.**

**II. Update on SRRT Afternoon of Social Justice Program. April Sheppard.**

1. **Need to decide date for when to hold the program. Thursday, July 8, 2021.**
2. **Julie: needs to find out about honoraria for speakers; Al: each task force gets \$2000 which may be used for honoraria (Monica: cannot be offered to ALA members or ALA staff)**
3. **Need to set schedule for speakers.**

**III. Update on the SRRT/COL meeting (April Sheppard, Sherre Harrington, Al Kagan)**

1. **Al: new and inexperienced COL leadership; were receptive to SRRT representatives.**
2. **Sherre: reported on SRRT and ALA Council resolutions that were passed and not acted on by the Washington office.**
3. **April: COL lacks institutional memory of past resolutions; suggests a spreadsheet of resolutions along with actions by Washington Office to track what is being done.**
4. **Meet with COL again in mid-August. COL will meet with Washington Office beforehand.**
5. **Washington Office only acts on state legislation if specifically requested.**
6. **Charles Kratz is a COL member. Please let him know if there is something that SRRT wants to have on their agenda. (Others note that COL has been reluctant to change their agenda after it is set.)**
7. **Sherre: Legislative days have become public library focused; librarians need to be able to express why legislation affects libraries of all types.**
8. **April: COL wants to focus on library issues.**
9. **Mark: public library directors are more often using liberal language to cloak their actions, but enforcing conservative policies, especially in terms of labor.**

10. Julie: we need to expand the focus to the ways that issues affect libraries: homelessness is a library issue, homophobia is a library issue, hunger is a library issue
11. Sherre: COL could not conceive of how to talk with legislators on how social issues are also library issues. It would be good to have talking points to take to COL/Washington Office/legislators. Al had a great summary of resolutions that had passed by had not made it to the COL agenda. Why are they not looking at everything they do through a social justice lens? Broadband access is a huge poverty issue.
12. April: will send out notes from COL meeting to AC members and incoming members

#### IV. Gaza (Al Kagan)

1. April: reported on conversation with Ed Garcia: should focus on Resolution; SRRT resolutions have been very close to passing in Council. Also, there is a statement on who can speak for ALA
2. See Draft (in appendix to notes) Moved to endorse in principle: April, Sherre 2<sup>nd</sup>. Question about quorum; vote of remaining meeting members supported the sense of the resolution. [Monica warns that SRRT may not issue statements that might be construed as speaking for ALA. Statements to be approved by governing body. Official statements have to go through proper channels before publishing. Al: found the policy statement in his research and will send it to Monica.] [Sherre: ALA One Voice policy discussion in SRRT Newsletter, vol. 140, September 2002 <http://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org.rt/files/content/SRRT/Newsletters/srrt140.pdf>]
3. Middle East Library Association is not a part of ALA. Sherre: the association is affiliated with ACRL and [another organization, but I missed the name].

#### V. Forward Together (Tara Brady)

1. Resolutions are on the way to Council. Content currently not known. Likely to have some sort of legislative body, but have been acting under the assumption of eliminating Council, pressure to shrink Council, questions about Council membership/numbers/composition/representation. Very sketchy and vague. Wants to make sure that this body sets policy for ALA and has oversight of Executive Council. Will have regular review of bylaws and wants to keep that under the purview of the governing body.
2. Al: 2 points. First, in the SCOE plan, round tables had 1 representative on governing body. Push to have representatives for each of the large round tables, not just a single person. Second, it seems redundant to have both a governing body and leadership assemblies. Tara: it's important to have an elected governing body with teeth for policy [oversight].
3. Al: Round Table resolution: unified dues structure. Not to have free student membership would hurt SRRT directly. April: draft includes option for free or reduced

membership dues; Tara: it would not be free on SRRT's end, but would be already paid for

- VI. **1619 Project: ALA is creating a toolkit being developed for the 1619 Project**
  - 1. **Tom: will this include teaching of critical race theory; April: will be included in the toolkit**
- VII. **Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences (see in appendix)**
- VIII. **Next meeting: June 24, 2020 11:00am-12:00pm Central**

#### **Appendix:**

#### **DRAFT: DO NOT FORWARD OUTSIDE ACTION COUNCIL MEMBER LIST.**

##### **Draft Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries, Schools and Bookshops in Gaza**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) “deplores the destruction of libraries, library collections, and property, and the disruption of educational process by that act, whether it be done by individuals or groups of individuals, and whether it be done in the name of honest dissent, the desire to control or limit thought or ideas, or for any other purpose” (ALA Policy B.2.8);

Whereas on June 19, 2002 ALA Council passed a “Resolution on the Destruction of Palestinian Libraries, Archives, and other Cultural Institutions” (CD#18.8 of 2001-2002), in which the ALA deplored the destruction of Palestinian libraries and cultural resources in the spring of 2002, and called “upon the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations to prevent further destruction of libraries and cultural resources and to provide material assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of these resources”;

Whereas on January 28, 2009 ALA Council passed a “Resolution on the Connection Between the Recent Gaza Conflict and Libraries” (CD#18.1 of 2008-2009) in which the American Library Association called for the “protection of libraries and archives in Gaza and Israel” and urged “the US Government to support the United States Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict”;

Whereas in Gaza in 2014 Israeli military forces destroyed the library of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), and damaged the Tamer Institute for Community Education;

Whereas in 2014, two Gaza public libraries were completely destroyed, five public libraries were partially destroyed, and there was full or partial destruction of 175 school libraries and 85 private libraries by Israeli forces;

Whereas according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), during 2014 twenty-two schools in Gaza “were completely destroyed”; according to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, “at least 244 schools were damaged or destroyed; and according to UNESCO 133 kindergartens were damaged and eleven totally destroyed;

Whereas in 2021, libraries and educational centers belonging to the Islamic University were destroyed with the destruction of the 13-story Kahil building in Gaza;

Whereas the offices of the Associated Press, Al Jazeera, and other news agencies were also destroyed in the Kahil building;

Whereas the Samir Mansour Bookshop, the largest bookshop in Gaza with over 100,000 books, and at least 2 other bookshops were destroyed in the latest bombing of Gaza;

Whereas in 2021, at least 50 Gaza schools were destroyed and at least 19 school children were killed in the latest attacks;

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA)

1. deplores the destruction and damage of cultural institutions, including schools, libraries, and book shops in Gaza during the recent conflict there;
2. again calls for the protection of libraries and cultural resources in Gaza, and urges the US Government to support the United States Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict”; and
3. calls upon the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to provide material assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of these libraries and schools.

Mover:

Secunder:

## **Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences**

1. Whereas ALA Council adopted Sustainability as an ALA Core Value in January 2019 (ALA CD37, Council Documents 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference);
2. Whereas it is recognized<sup>2</sup> that conferences/events generate a substantial carbon footprint for in-person events and generate a technology-based carbon footprint for virtual events;
3. Whereas ALA divisions and units are aware of the need to address the carbon impact and other sustainability aspects of conference gatherings but initiatives are inconsistent<sup>3,4,5</sup> ;
4. Whereas the ALA Executive Board implemented a voluntary carbon offset fee for conference attendance beginning with Midwinter 2020 (in-person);
5. Whereas ALA Conference Services has purchased carbon offsets for ALA Midwinter and Annual equating to about 50% of estimated carbon footprint generation, beginning with Midwinter 2020;
6. Whereas continuing ALA's ongoing voluntary efforts and strengthening these efforts through a measurable goal and supporting policy would be a strong way to demonstrate ALA's and members' commitment to sustainability;

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA) including its Divisions, on behalf of its members

1. shall pursue a goal of carbon neutrality for all ALA conferences by the year 2025 and shall remain carbon neutral for these events thereafter;
2. shall delegate the ALA Council's Sustainability Committee to investigate the mechanisms and processes by which to achieve this goal;
3. shall charge the ALA Council's Sustainability Committee to propose policies for Council consideration that result in ALA achievement of the stated goal.

## **References/Pertinent Background Information**

1. ALA Council, "ALA Council Minutes 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting Seattle, WA." American Library Association, January 27, 2019, [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%202.1%20Midwinter%20Minutes\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%202.1%20Midwinter%20Minutes_FINAL_0.pdf)
2. McGee, Regina, "Meetings and Climate Change," *PCMA Convene* 26 February (2016), <https://www.pcmaconvene.org/features/cmp-series/meetings-and-climate-change/>

3. Tracie Document

4. "Sustainability," ACRL 2021, Association of College and Research Libraries, Accessed December 17, 2020, <https://conference.acrl.org/registration/sustainability/>

Hutchens, Kate, "Carbon Offsets and RBMS Conference Travel," RBMS 2019, ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, <http://conference.rbms.info/2019/2019/04/10/carbon-offsets-and-rbms-conference-travel/>